

**Booker Gliding Club**

# Newsletter

September  
2025



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## Member achievements

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Andrew



**Andrew Pritchard**, who is on a course, has *re-soloed* after a number of years.

**Rembrandt Niessen**, whom we reported last month as having *re-soloed*, has now *converted to the Pegase*.



Rembrandt

Tony



**Tony Greener** has been continuing his solo career and has now achieved a *one-hour flight*.

**Dean Miller** has achieved his *Silver Distance* with a flight to Enstone – just the height and duration to go.



Dean



**Alex Phillips** has added another medal to his collection of trophies with the *Silver medal in the Intermediate Class* at this year's *National Glider Aerobatic Championships*, held at Saltby. This is also a feather in the cap for his coach, Graham Saw.

*Congratulations to all!*

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## 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 – what's new?

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From **1<sup>st</sup> October 2025**, there will be several changes because of the introduction of the **Sailplane Pilot Licence**.

### **Pre-solo trainees**

The syllabus will remain the same and training will continue as now.

An **amended Progress Card** will come into use.

**The club is required to keep Progress Cards for all trainees** – they will be stored on the bus.

### **Solo pilots without a Sailplane Pilot Licence**

Solo flights by students without a licence will need to be **authorised by an instructor** who will sign the **daily solo authorisations form** and **the student's logbook**, so make sure you bring your logbook with you.

Solo students will also need a CAA **Pilot Medical Declaration** (PMD), or a Class 2 or LAPL medical certificate. The PMD is free of charge. To make a declaration you must be medically fit to fly and not have a disqualifying medical condition. You will need to create an account with the CAA's portal called Cellma. There are special arrangements for those under 15. The BGA's [webpage](#) contains full details of the process, including a link to Cellma.

### **Pilots with a Sailplane Pilot Licence**

To keep your SPL valid, you must have a **medical** and comply with the **rolling recency requirement**. On the date you are intending to fly, you must have recorded in your logbook, in the **last 24 months**:

- 5 hours flying
- 15 launches
- 2 instructional flights with an instructor

If you do not meet these requirements, you can either fly with an instructor or fly under supervision until you do meet them.

### **All Instructors**

To exercise your ratings privileges, you must **keep your SPL valid** as above and comply with the **90-day rule**, that is:

- 3 launches in the previous 90 days

*The following additional requirements apply to BI(S) and FI(S):*

#### **Basic Instructors BI(S)**

To maintain your rating, you must in the **last 24 months** have completed:

- 20 hours or 40 launches as PIC
- a demonstration of instructing ability to an appropriately qualified FI(S)

#### **Flight Instructors FI(S)**

To maintain your rating, you must in the **last 36 months** have completed:

- 30 hours or 60 launches
- refresher seminar
- every **9<sup>th</sup> year** a **proficiency check** with an examiner.

**NOTE:** for the rolling recency calculation, the requirement starts on **1<sup>st</sup> October** but flying in the months before then counts, that is, the clock does not start on **1<sup>st</sup> October**.



Cross country weather  
on 9<sup>th</sup> September

## From the Treasurer

We are now getting towards the end of a good season with some great gliding weather. I am delighted that we have had Adam with us for a second year and his enthusiasm and hard work has helped us to increase activity and attract new members. *The membership year comes to an end on 30<sup>th</sup> September and so subscription fees become due.* The committee has decided to reward our loyal members by holding membership fees the same as last year, when paid on time, despite the increase in costs for the club. We have made a small change to simplify the fee structure, which is to incorporate the BGA fee into the membership fee, rather than charge for it separately. The fees for this year are as follows:

### Full Flying Members

Year to 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2026 (including BGA fee of £37)	£732
Current members rejoining after 15 Oct 2025	£782 (inc £50 joining fee)
DD payers from 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2025	9 x £89 pm
Full members joining from May will pay one sixth of the full fee for each month remaining until 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2026, plus the £50 joining fee and BGA fee.	

### Juniors

Junior members (under 26 on 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2025)	£366
Current junior members rejoining after 15/10/24	£391 (inc £25 joining fee)
Junior members joining after 15 <sup>th</sup> October will pay the full fee, plus the £25 joining fee. On the anniversary of joining they will pay pro rata to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2027 to align with the membership year.	

Juniors under 23 on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 pay 75% of full price for launches and no soaring fees (not to be taken with other discounts eg aerobatic tow)

### Non-flying members

Associate	£80
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### Facilities Fees

Launch facilities plus glider in trailer park	£390
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**Launch fees** remain at last year's prices and soaring fees have been rebalanced between single eaters £43.20ph and two seaters £48ph to encourage solo pilots to fly the single seaters more.

You can pay your membership: **preferably by bank transfer** which avoids any bank charges. You can also pay by card in the office when Jenni is in, or by asking Jenni to take it by direct debit. Both methods involve bank charges

Thank you for your continued loyalty and commitment to our club.

**John Otty**

*Chairman and Treasurer*

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## Last chance to experience wave flying

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There's still just time to join the club's annual expedition to *Aboyne, home to Deeside Gliding Club* and seize the opportunity to:

- learn about wave
- fly over spectacular mountain scenery
- practise flying a circuit at a different site
- take off and land on tarmac
- get a height badge
- have a holiday to remember with your fellow club members

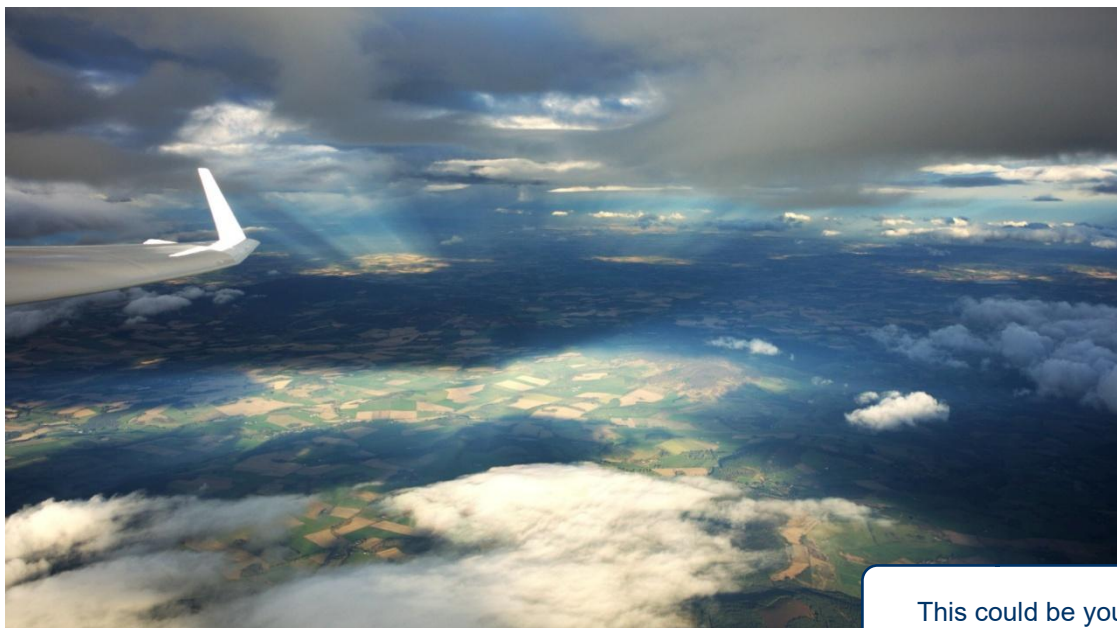


The expedition is from **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October**. All levels are welcome including pre-solo, and for the first week we will have the Duo Discus 315 for check flights and training. Week 2 will be for licensed pilots only, or you could arrange two-seater flying with Deeside GC.

Deeside is a popular tourist destination so there is plenty of accommodation available, self-catering, guest houses etc.

To cover the costs of arranging the expedition there is a fee of £80, which is non-refundable once you have confirmed that you are coming.

If you would like to find out more, ask to join the Aboyne 2025 Whatsapp group.



This could be you

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## Safety note on straps

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If you want to stay with the glider and not fly through the canopy, it helps if your straps are fitted correctly and can be tightened to hold you in.

The pic on the LEFT shows the wrong way, the one on the RIGHT shows the correct way.

The strap fits through the buckle in the same way as the chest strap on a parachute. If you are not sure how to do it, ask an instructor or an experienced member to help you.



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## GASCO safety evening

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On the evening of 3<sup>rd</sup> September, we hosted a GASCO (General Aviation Safety Council) safety evening run by Alex Trevett. It was attended by fixed wing, microlight and helicopter pilots as well as club members. The subject matter was a bit slanted towards power flying but there were useful issues raised which apply to all airspace users. It was also useful to meet other people based at Wycombe Air Park and to exchange experiences.



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## Scholarships and bursaries

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*If you would like a bit of help financing your flying, take a look at the opportunities below to see if you fit the criteria.*



### The Royal Aero Club Trust

advancing the cause of air sport and aviation

**The RaeC Trust** offers a range of bursaries for all types of air sports and aviation-related activities. Applicants must hold British Citizenship, be permanently resident in UK and aged 14-21 years. Applications accepted after 1<sup>st</sup> November with a closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. More details and application form [here](#).



**Launchpoint** administers awards made by the Caroline Trust and the Ted Lys Trust. Both trusts aim to provide opportunities to experience gliding and facilitating participants at all stages to expand their horizons in the sport. Applications are open to all. More details and application form [here](#).

The **Royal Air Squadron** will be offering bursaries to help those aged 16 to 26 to qualify as instructors. Look out for news of this in the coming months.



The **Air League** offers a range of scholarships for young people, more details [here](#). Applications open in early January 2026 and close on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026.



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## Dates for your diary

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### 2025 programme

The full programme of events additional to our normal flying operation can now be found on the [events diary](#) on the website.

For day-to-day ops, check the [duty rota](#).

Until the end of October we are operating 7 days a week. Adam supervises Tuesday – Friday, weekends are covered by the member instructor rota, and Mondays are for licensed pilots only – although instruction will be available if an instructor offers to cover the day

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### Club Communications

We use WhatsApp groups, as below:

**Booker Gliding Club** – general club information and notifications including details of online daily briefings

**Booker Instructors** – information and swap requests for instructors

**Booker Expeditions** – set up in the run up to each expedition.

If you wish to be included in any of these groups, contact the CFI.

**Booker XC** – for tasks, cross country discussion and feedback – contact Jane Moore or ask for a link on the main Whatsapp group

**Booker Chat** - for general chitchat – contact Jane Moore

**Condor Flyers** – for those wanting to join in Condor group sessions – contact Bob Smith or Henry Ross or ask for a link on the main Whatsapp group.

The **Booker GC website** at [www.bookergliding.co.uk](http://www.bookergliding.co.uk) has a Members Page. This contains the latest Club news snippets and links to previous newsletters, meeting minutes and several useful and informative Club documents. The Members' page is accessible to everybody (not just members) but certain documents, such as committee minutes, need a user ID and password. To obtain these, go to the members' page and click on the 'email Administrator' link. Don't forget to *include your name and membership number*.

**For the latest news about what's happening check out**

<https://www.facebook.com/bookerglidingclub>

**The Booker blog is no longer maintained but has a wealth of pics and stories from previous years**

<http://bookergc.blogspot.com/>

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\*\*\* All views expressed within the newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Club or committee \*\*\*

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome. If you would like to submit an article for a future edition, please send it to Jane Moore at [jxmoore@gmail.com](mailto:jxmoore@gmail.com)

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