

Booker Gliding Club

Newsletter

July
2026



Wayne Aspland – page 9



Sideslipping as usual

Achievements – lots of them – page 3

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Members' achievements

Our ace cross-country pilot **Tim Scott** achieved **Silver** in the recently finished **24th FAI European Championships**, a brilliant result. On the penultimate day he finished first and received this very impressive trophy.

His result means that he automatically qualifies for the British Team for the next Europeans in 2028 in Slovenia.

Meanwhile, Our Juniors are doing well, **Alexandre Lomondais** and **Tim Jenner** have both achieved that significant milestone of **first solo**.



Alexandre



Richard Ashton has discovered quite how nice the **Pegase** is to fly.



Tim



And **Ashley Birkbeck** has completed the BGA towing syllabus to join the Tug Team.

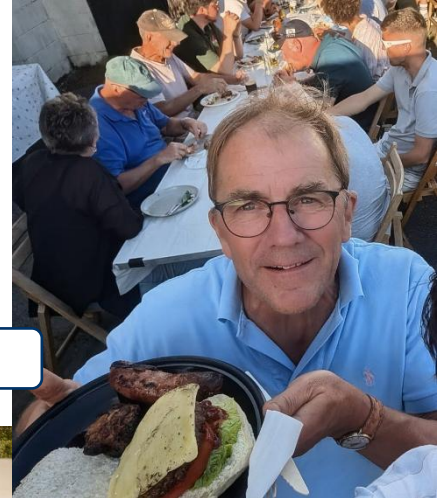


Tasks, vintage gliders, BBQ

The weekend of 4th / 5th July was a busy one. The weather on Saturday was an interesting mix of wave and thermal which made progress difficult, but former member Howard Joseph flew up from Lasham and joined Steve Williams on a task. It was a little too breezy for the vintage gliders to fly. There was a short pause around lunchtime for a flypast by a Douglas DC3 Dakota which gave us an extra twirl after it had circled over the Booker Common Fete.

In the evening we were treated to an amazing BBQ organised by Rembrandt Niessen and cooked up by Duncan Reed. It was a very impressive operation with excellent food and everyone had a great time.

Rembrandt



Chef Dunk

On Sunday the wind calmed down and the Whispering Wardrobes came out to play – lots of colourful wood and canvas on display. One surprise guest was Richard Moyse who flew up from Lasham in his Slingsby Sky T34 and hitched a tow back home with GH.

Richard Moyse's
Slingsby Sky T34



Robin Willgoss's
Kirby Kite 2 – also
by Slingsby



Graham Saw's Slingsby
Petrel, one of only three built
and the only one flying



Rob Kehr's Super Javelot,
built by Wassmer Aviation



Rembrandt Niessen's
Schleicher Ka 6E

Cross-country task days

The weather on the latest task day on 12th July was an interesting mix but Paul Brice's carefully set tasks provided opportunities for good flights. Don't miss these opportunities to improve your cross-country performance, gain confidence and have fun in a supportive atmosphere.

The remaining dates:

1st August – task day

15th – 23rd August – task week

Note that this is a week earlier than previously notified.



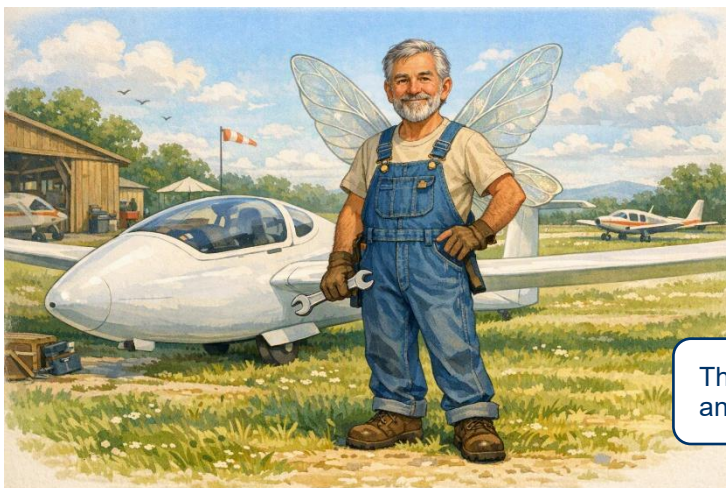
Words from the Workshop

Solo pilots will be pleased to hear that Pegase 318 is back online. Unfortunately, ASW19 319 suffered a bit when it hit a hole on the ground run and the towrope back released and caused damage to the underside. This will take a little while to fix, plus it needs an ARC.

Please note that the Workshop Fairies are on short hours at the moment, so fly safe and look after your equipment as any repairs will take longer.

Thanks for your continued support and help

[The Workshop Fairies](#)



Robin removing some of the damaged filler on 319

That double undercarriage is an interesting innovation



*an online system made
for all solo glider pilots*

WeGlide offers an easy way to track your gliding progress on-line from your first solo. It is easy to use, and Booker pilots should give it a try once they have a few solos under their belt. After each flight you just submit a recording of your flight (an IGC file) and WeGlide does the rest. Making the recording, and posting it, can all be done with within the [WeGlide Co-pilot App](#) with little other user input required, you do NOT need access to your phone in flight. Of course, you can load files from other logging devices fitted to club gliders via your PC or Mac.

You can submit comments to remind yourself about the flight, and to tell other people a story. Sometimes a good story will be what makes the flight most memorable, so do tell if there is one. Once you have more solo experience you can also submit photos, though you will need to be able to take these safely.



WeGlide is free to use, there are paid upgrades to get additional training features as your experience and skill level increase, but the free version has all you need to get started. A good reason to get on board with a free account is that it takes some time to adapt to the user interface and get used to everything that the system offers. For instance, you should set up what appears on your home screen and follow a few other pilots to see what they are doing.

You can [Register here](#), don't forget to set your club to **Booker Gliding Club**.

WeGlide has many features including some designed to encourage early solo pilots. This useful [Getting Started guide](#) describes, surprisingly, how to get started.

The system cumulatively adds all your solo gliding hours, glider types, airfields etc (though it is not a full logbook). It will also credit you with distance flown even for very short local cross-country flights. You can download a list of all your flights for Excel.

A built-in badge system: a way of generating a bit of fun and as a motivational tool. You are automatically awarded badges, some are a little trivial, but most would flag a significant achievement particularly amongst your peers. Many WeGlide badges can be obtained while local soaring.

Notifications when your friends load a flight: much like other social media, you can track your mates and get a notification when they load a flight. This can be club colleagues, people who fly the same glider type, pilots who might be role models or competitors or that you have met at

training courses, competitions or expeditions. You do not need to share your flights, but it is more fun if you do.

Automatic calculation of how far you have been: Free Distance - you do not need to declare anything in advance, just go somewhere, and if you flew for more than two hours, what your best average speed was - **Sprint**, over your best two hours with no overall height loss. You can use this as a personal way to set some general gliding targets each season or to monitor whether you are doing enough soaring! For instance, if you did a total of 150 kilometres flying out of range in your first season, you may decide to increase your XC experience by doing a total of 600 kilometres in the next, or to get your average sprint speed above 60kph on your top three flights.

The 'Free' and 'Sprint' scores provide a good simple introduction to measuring cross-country performance.

WeGlide also provides automated scoring for many national leagues and ladders (Germany, France, USA and many more) but you can ignore all of these unless you fly in those countries.

There are numerous other features, perhaps the subject of a future article, but you'll discover these anyway if you start using the system.



In the UK the **BGA Ladder** is also used by most cross-country glider pilots. This is a separate web-based system. Of all the worldwide national leagues the **UK BGA Ladder** provides the most sophisticated way to score a cross-country flight against others on the same day (outside a rated competition). Many top UK pilots

record their flights here and you should post yours if you are keen to extend and measure your cross-country gliding skills.

Aboyne expedition 2026

Expeditions are a great way to extend your experience by flying from a new site in different conditions, as well as an opportunity to gain badges – and to get to know your fellow members and have a holiday in beautiful scenery.

The Aboyne Expedition for 2026 is as follows:

Week 1: 11-17 October

Week 2: 18-25 October

Aboyne in Aberdeenshire is home to Deeside Gliding Club and is THE place to go for **wave flying**. The Cairngorm scenery is stunning, whether viewed from ground level or from alongside a wave cloud. It's a day's easy drive from Booker, or you can fly to Aberdeen and hire a car – though someone has to take our gliders there and back.

July 2026

The expedition is open to absolutely everyone during the first week, irrespective of flying experience. For the second week there will be no formal instruction, although 315 will be available for any appropriately qualified pilots. You can also arrange to fly with Deeside's instructors if they have capacity. If there's sufficient interest, we'll take a club single seater.

If you want to know more, talk to Bob Smith or Jane Moore and they will add you to the inevitable Whatsapp group.

5-star review from school group!

Every year we welcome groups of school students for trial lessons, which makes for busy days for the instructors and ground crew members. We generally get good feedback on the day, and we have received the following email from Garth Hill College in Bracknell with a glowing testimonial.

Dear Jenni, Adam and all the INCREDIBLE volunteers!

On behalf of our students and staff, I would like to extend our sincere thanks for your generous support and organisation in making it possible for twelve of our students and two staff to experience a gliding day last Thursday 16 July at Booker.

Your support provided our students with a truly memorable opportunity to experience aviation first-hand, inspiring confidence, curiosity, and a sense of achievement. For many, it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that they will never forget.

The students thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of the day, especially travelling in the golf carts. One student described the experience as having "exceeded my expectations," while another simply called it "magnificent." Perhaps the most fitting summary came from a student who said it was "just incredible." The day had such an impact on them.

The Young Aviators club at Garth Hill College has a sizeable membership, approx 35 students, I hope it may be possible to offer the experience to a future cohort of students.

With our sincere thanks and best wishes,

Lisa Jarvis



Wayne Aspland

We have been deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Wayne Aspland at the end of June following a period of illness.

Wayne had been a member of the Club – and its predecessor club – since the 1970s when he joined then BEA, now British Airways, as an Engineering Apprentice. Building on qualities of extremely high competence, versatility and persistence, Wayne's professional career, and his gliding, flourished.

Professionally, Wayne transitioned from ground engineering to becoming a Flight Engineer on aircraft such as the Tristar, before stepping away from British Airways to train as a commercial pilot, ultimately returning to fly a range of aircraft, including the Boeing 747 'Jumbo Jet'.



Similarly, Wayne became an accomplished glider pilot – winning a range of regional competitions and a number of 'Top 10' placings in National Championships. This competition success sat alongside both instructing and tugging for the Club.

Wayne approached both his flying and ground-based work – such as glider maintenance – with meticulous care, and without fuss or drama. He even had the distinction of sharing an ASW19 '580' with the late Christopher Reeve – the actor who starred as 'Superman'.

In addition to his all-round competence – being effective at anything he turned his hand to – Wayne was a thoroughly decent man: kind, supportive, and modest, he brought a cheerful humour to the Club, often joining banter and stories around some gliding event or other, but never in a way which demeaned others.

As well as being enormously liked, admired and respected at the Club, Wayne was a deeply-loved family man who adored his long-term partner and wife Sue, and was a hugely supportive and encouraging father to his daughters Sarah and Caroline – of whom he was enormously fond. He was very much 'proud Dad' at Sarah's wedding to AJ, and it was heart-warming that he was able to hold his grand-daughter Martha before he passed away.

So it has been a huge loss to have had to say farewell to such a 'model Club member' and friend – whom a senior member of the Club fondly described as 'an all-round Good Egg'.

Our thoughts and condolences are very much with Wayne's family. We wish Wayne 'Blue Skies' – with enormous gratitude for all that he did, and for the wonderful person he was.

Paul Brice

Dates for your diary

Adam Berrisford is instructing **Tuesday to Friday** for the season. Mondays are for licensed pilots only. Member instructors cover weekends.

Task days are planned for every other Saturday (for dates see above), when soaring tasks will be set for all levels including pre-solo. There will be a **9-day task week 15th – 23rd August (note change of date)**.

For day-to-day ops, check the duty rota: <https://bookergliding.co.uk/rota>

Expeditions:

10 – 25 October – Autumn expedition to Deeside Gliding Club, Aboyne

Picture of the month



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 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/>

*** 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

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