



## INTRO COURSE

## WHAT NEXT?

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## MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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Having had your first taste of gliding you may be wondering how to learn more and enjoy the wealth of opportunities that gliding offers. Apart from your time in the air your Intro course brings with it:

- Free Membership – one month
- Flights at standard member's rates – about £40 for a half hour lesson
- Club open 7 days a week
- Flying on weekday evenings – quieter and more relaxed

Just ring or email the office to get your name in the diary. Flying must be paid for on the day.

## UPGRADE TO ANOTHER COURSE

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We offer a range of courses\* to help you progress. If you are serious about learning to fly, your best choice is the Get Your Solo. This offers a year of club membership and the flying you need to go solo\*\*, assuming you fly regularly. The Flexi course offers 3 months' membership and 32,000ft of aerotow, equivalent to 16 launches to 2,000ft.

You can upgrade your Intro a Flexi or Get Your Solo at any time during the membership period, you will only pay the difference in price, which represents fantastic value for money.

## SOLO AND BEYOND

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The first achievement is to go solo. Once you have gone solo you be 'on checks' for a period. This means that when you come to the airfield you will need to fly with an instructor who will decide whether you can handle the conditions solo on that day. In time you will reach the stage where you can decide for yourself whether you can manage the conditions – if in any doubt, ask for a check flight. You should also have a check flight after a lay off.

You will fly your early solos in a two-seater training glider, and then progress to single seaters. First comes the Pegasus (318), followed by the ASW19 (319) which has a retractable undercarriage. At this stage you will be working towards your first cross country flight.

Your training will follow the BGA syllabus for trainee pilots. It usually takes between 25 and 45 flights to go solo, although this depends very much on your motivation and how often you fly. A couple of flights at least every two weeks is a good target. As well as learning to control the glider you will also develop your safety awareness both on the ground and in the air. Do not be discouraged if occasionally you seem to be getting nowhere, or an aspect of flying gives you particular trouble. It is part of the normal learning process – remember how it was when you learned to drive. You will work through the British Gliding Association badges from Bronze to Diamond. For more information see Notes for New Members on [www.bookergliding.co.uk](http://www.bookergliding.co.uk)

The process of learning to glide need not be frustrating. There is a lot to learn on the ground as well as in the air and spending time at the launch point helping to get others airborne and becoming part of the Booker team is a rewarding and enjoyable experience in itself. And, maybe sooner than you thought possible, you will be sent solo and a whole world of gliding will be there for the taking.

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

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You can broaden your flying experience and improve your skills by getting involved in other aspects of flying.

### *Competitions*

Gliding competitions are usually last for 9 days and involve the competitors setting off on a pre-set task suited to the weather on the day. The winner is the pilot who completes the task in the shortest time – or gets the furthest if they all land out. Scores are handicapped to allow pilots flying gliders with different performance to compete. Booker, along with several other clubs, hosts a regionals competition every year, and there are also nationals competitions for the various classes of glider.

### *Task weeks*

Booker usually holds a task week each year to enable members to develop their cross-country skills together and to practise competition flying in a relaxed atmosphere.

### *Aerobatics*

Aerobatic flying is an excellent way to explore the flight envelope and build your confidence in handling the glider in unusual attitudes.

### *Instructing*

Another way to extend your skills is by training to be an instructor, which has the additional benefit of helping out your club.

### *Expeditions*

Every year we visit other clubs, for a holiday and also to experience flying in different conditions. In the autumn we go to Aboyne on Royal Deeside, the UK's premier wave flying site and a good place to try for height gains. And in the spring we visit Llewenni Parc in North Wales for wave and ridge flying. The expeditions are open to all levels of experience, including pre-solo. For an explanation of wave, ridge and thermals, see our website [www.bookergliding.co.uk](http://www.bookergliding.co.uk).

### *Vintage*

Some club members are also members of the Vintage Gliding Club, an international body devoted to the preservation, restoration and flying of Vintage, Oldtimer and Classic gliders. VGC rallies are often held at Booker, giving you an opportunity to see historic aircraft in the air and on the ground.

## SHARE THE FUN

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If you enjoyed your course, why not bring along your friends? We have special rates for groups during the day or in the evening. Ask the office for details.

\*Our courses change from time to time, please check [www.bookergliding.co.uk](http://www.bookergliding.co.uk) for the latest details

\*\*Course allows for 57 flights (114,000ft of aerotow). Fair use applies.