

## **Cadet Scheme Information Sheet.**

The Booker Gliding Centre cadet scheme enables young people to learn to fly at very low cost and provides an enhanced ground training, mentoring and flying program. To join the scheme you must be between 15 and 21 years of age and in full time education.

As well as learning to fly, cadets also have the opportunity to gain experience in most other aspects of Gliding club operations, everything from managing the start line for a competition to briefing new members and course attendees.

The scheme can enable access to flying scholarships and many cadets have put the skills learnt through this scheme to good use in furthering their chosen careers in aviation.

### **How much does the training cost ?**

Free flying is earned by helping with the club operation on 'duty' days.

The more you put into the scheme the more experience you will gain and the more free flying you earn. In addition to earning free flights, you are also entitled to unlimited flying at around 50% of the normal club member rates. There is a small annual membership fee. Contact the Booker Gliding Club office for details of current charges.

Typically 'duty' days would be rostered such that, between March and September, you attend the club approximately one weekend day in every three to four weeks in order to assist with the day to day operation of the club. In addition you would attend for around five to seven weekdays during the summer holiday period. Arrangements during the winter will depend on the number of cadets in the scheme.

### **How do I apply?**

Fill out an application form and post it to the gliding club along with a short letter describing why you want to join the cadet scheme.

### **Can I try gliding out before I join?**

You should take a trial lesson or a half-day course at the club before signing up to the scheme. If you subsequently join there may be a small reduction in your annual membership fee. During the low season (October to Easter) there are sometimes reduced price trial lessons available for potential cadets.

If you visit the airfield we can assign a club member to tell you more about the scheme.

### **How does the flying training work?**

Flying training follows the standard British Gliding Association syllabus and is the same as for any other gliding club member. On joining you will be provided with a log book and a training progress card. The progress card and log book enable exercises to be recorded by the instructors. You can book training flights via the club office just like any other club member. You can also take training flights in the evenings and occasionally on your duty day. A typical training flight lasts from 15 to 30 minutes.

### **What are the restrictions on entry to the scheme?**

Cadets must be aged between 15 and 21 and in full time education.

Because of the design of the glider and controls there are some physical limitations, these do vary depending on the type of glider.

**Height** - Minimum is around 150cm (5') and the Maximum is around 193cm (6' 4")

**Weight** - Minimum is around 44kgs (7 stone) maximum is around 100kgs 16 stone.

### **Medical Conditions.**

It will not be possible for you to fly if you suffer from epilepsy, fainting or certain physical or mental disabilities. In addition if you have poor eyesight (such that you cannot drive without glasses) you may need to carry a spare pair of glasses when flying.

### How are the cadets selected?

The CFI and member in charge of the scheme will review the application form. Suitable applicants will be asked to come to the club for an informal chat and, subject to space being available, will select suitable candidates for the scheme and write confirming acceptance.

### What will I need to study?

A short and fairly simple examination needs to be taken before going solo. A basic knowledge of theory of flight, air law, navigation and meteorology will be required. The information required can easily be picked up during the training. There are a number of suitable books available from the gliding club office.

### How long will it take for me to go solo?

In order to succeed in any aspect of flying you need to commit time and energy, and in order to be a good pilot a responsible attitude and degree of self motivation is required.

New pilots often ask how long it will take to go solo. This will always vary from one person to another, it will also depend on how frequently you fly. As a rough idea you should complete most of the training if you manage to do 35 flights in a one year period.

The table below shows how the number of flights can vary depending on the frequency of training flights.

Elapsed time in weeks	Nr of flights to solo
4	22
12	27
25	32
52	38

Even after you have gone solo your training will continue for a number of weeks before you will have the experience, skills and confidence to deal with varying weather conditions on your own.

### What will I have to do on my duty days ?

The activities on any given day will vary. The table below provides an example of the sort of duties you would be involved in. These activities are carried out as required and shared with other members of the gliding club.

- Safety on the airfield, ropes, props, access, look-out
- Log keeping
- Moving and parking gliders
- Hooking on, signals, launching gliders
- Ropes, repairing, splicing, weak links, hooking on to the tug
- Using the radio at the launch point
- Setting up the launch point – radio, chutes, log board, etc.
- Packing up at the end of the day
- What to do in an emergency
- Introduction to course structure – what we offer
- Cleaning the gliders and canopies

For more experienced cadets

- Hanger packing and unpacking
- Basic launch point supervision issues –what to prevent
- Management of launch point personnel and students
- Assessment and preparatory training for basic instructor rating
- Basic rating completed (not before 17yrs of age)
- Training in running competitions