

BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 22nd APRIL 2015

PRESENT: Peter Harvey - Chairman
Nick Bowers
Bill Craig
Neil Goudie
Dave Latimer
George Metcalfe
Andy Perkins
John Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: Les Kaye – Treasurer
Pete Stratten – Chief Executive

APOLOGIES:
Ron Bridges
Lisa Humphries

14/15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Subject to correcting a typo in 13/15, the notes from the 6th March 2015 meeting were approved and will be signed in due course by the chairman.

Status: Closed

15/15 ACCIDENT INVESTIGATING

- a. Recommendations. The investigators recommendations following the AAIB-delegated BGA investigations into collisions during 2014 were considered and discussed at length. Noting that a number of related initiatives and actions had taken place in the months between the accidents and the present, all the recommendations were accepted. Pete Stratten agreed to notify the investigators and the related Operations Group sub-committees regarding any related actions. It was agreed that the recommendation that proposes that 'the BGA examines a mechanism for the periodic check of soaring procedures and protocols among pilots' should be considered by the safety committee with a view to supplying an online training and refresher resource similar to that used by the safe winching initiative.
- b. Process. Neil Goudie described the background to his previously circulated paper proposing a review of BGA accident investigating. He described the Memorandum of Understanding between the AAIB and BGA and the related processes. He went on to note a supportive exchange with Pete Stratten regarding development work underway, that the BGA safety committee has previously agreed and published its priorities including the investigation of more accidents in support of deeper understanding of key areas of risk, and a helpful paper from Hugh Browning that encompassed the key facts and included a number of recommendations that effectively provides the review. Peter Harvey described and noted the importance of the BGA risk management approach and relevance to the future. All those present agreed that to provide more resource and positive succession planning it would be helpful for the BGA investigation team to be expanded as soon as practical. Pete Stratten would discuss this with the Safety Committee and current investigators for the most pragmatic approach to expansion and training of the BGA investigative team. Additionally, it was agreed that the Safety Committee and lead accident investigator should develop a set of draft BGA accident investigation protocols for consideration by the Executive Committee. Those present discussed and supported the planned publication of investigation reports in the interests of safety education and noted the need for an appropriate level of sensitivity. It was agreed by those

present that the BGA accident investigators should continue report to the BGA chairman as described in the terms of reference.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: June 2015

16/15 CORPORATION TAX

Pete Stratten and Les Kaye spoke to the previously circulated advice from Palmer Smith Tax Services. All those present agreed that Palmer Smith should proceed as described in their letter to the Executive Committee dated 8th April 2015.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: April 2015

17/15 COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE NOTES FEBRUARY 2015

Those present reviewed and accepted the meeting notes with thanks. Noting a potential impact on tracking during competitions, which is considered to be an important element in generating internal and external interest in competitions, it was agreed that Pete Stratten should ask the competitions committee chairman to keep the Executive Committee updated on the 'tracking position' described by the Competitions Committee meeting notes at item 6 'FLARM developments'.

Status: Closed Action: Pete Stratten

18/15 FEEDBACK FROM THE GA EVENT AT DUXFORD

Peter Harvey described the Government/CAA GA event held recently at Duxford that he attended with Pete Stratten for BGA. He went on to describe the event, which was widely reported in detail in the GA press, and noted previous actions, observations and statements made by Patrick Ky of EASA, Andrew Haines of the CAA, and Grant Shapps, Cabinet Minister without Portfolio that indicate an alignment of political and regulators views and associated opportunity for GA. The slowly emerging EASA GA Strategy and the UK governments established GA Strategy that followed the Red Tape Challenge were noted. All those present agreed the need to reinforce on EASA and UK CAA that prescriptive regulation for gliding is unnecessary and proving damaging, and to provide proposals that will inform and support a revised EASA approach to regulating gliding in particular through the emerging EASA GA Safety Strategy. It was agreed that the paper recently circulated by Pete Stratten to Executive Committee members describing high level principles should be formally submitted to the EGU with the intent that EGU will approach EASA with an agreed position as soon as practical. It was noted that the implementation of the Aircrew Regulation remains at 8th April 2018, that BGA preparations for that are continuing, and that national requirements apply in the interim.

Status: Closed Action: Pete Stratten

19/15 AIRSPACE UPDATE

John Williams presented a summary of current airspace activity involving the BGA Airspace sub-committee and GA Alliance colleagues. He went on to note chinks of light including emerging CAA decisions around N560. He identified the next critical point as ensuring that the CAA's flawed airspace change process is not applied to the Farnborough and other airspace change proposals. He went on to describe BGA, local club and GA Alliance activity related to Farnborough. The previously anticipated organisational and resource difficulties experienced by CAA were noted. John Williams noted that he will be attending the NATMAC meeting and GA Alliance airspace meeting on the 30th April 2015. Peter Harvey noted that he, Patrick Naegeli for RAeC and Pete Stratten will be meeting Andrew Haines in May. All agreed the need to maintain pressure on the CAA regarding its flawed airspace change procedures and related decision making, and to continue to work collaboratively to achieve appropriate outcomes. It was proposed that clubs would benefit from a regular airspace update. Pete Stratten agreed to discuss with John Williams how best to keep clubs up to date with the constantly evolving picture.

20/15 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

Peter Harvey presented the detail of the relationships, planned governance and responsibilities associated with the FAI European Championships 2017 which will be held at Lasham following a successful joint bid by the BGA and Lasham. He noted that he and the Lasham chairman are liaising regarding the agreement with the FAI that will in due course be signed by FAI, RAeC, BGA and Lasham and that he will keep the Executive Committee informed. The competition should result in positive publicity for gliding, excellent opportunities for sponsors and provide income in support of the British Gliding Team. Pete Harvey noted that the Team will be expected to take an active part in preparations and sponsor support. Those present agreed the need for the operational protocols being developed between the competition director and operational staff at Lasham. The arrangements for sharing any surplus or joint underwriting of any losses were discussed and it was noted that it would be inappropriate for the BGA to be liable for unlimited costs, regardless of how unlikely that scenario may be. Pete Harvey agreed to take the point back to Lasham during ongoing discussion.

Status: Open Action: Peter Harvey Due: July 2015

21/15 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PLANS

Pete Harvey proposed and all agreed continue the mix of a small number of face to face meetings, regular conference calls and an autumn Executive Committee workshop. Pete Harvey identified the need to move onto the offensive regarding regulation and airspace tying in closely with RAeC, EAS and EGU, and through those organisations to press other national gliding federations to adopt a similar approach to reducing regulation in Europe. It was noted that the BGA's ongoing proactive approach will remain coherent by working to the principles discussed at item 18/15, and those detailed within the Future Airspace Strategy VFR Implementation Programme (FASVIP),

22/15 AOB

a. ToR. Les Kaye reminded those present of the outstanding requirement to approve the BGA committee ToR's. All agreed to consider ahead of agreement at the next meeting.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: June 2015

b. CASC. Dave Latimer reported that the Development Committee is finalising the guidance for gliding clubs.

c. Club Support. Dave Latimer noted that the Development Committee is developing tools to support clubs in their efforts to improve how they present themselves and their member services.

d. Sub-Committee Chairmen. John Williams noted that sub-committee chairmen should be re-appointed and it was agreed that would be approved alongside the ToRs at the next meeting.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: June 2015

e. Director Induction. Neil Goudie agreed to contact Diana King to discuss Directors responsibilities.

The next Executive Committee conference call will take place on Wednesday 3rd of June at 7pm.