

BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 15th OCTOBER 2016

PRESENT: Peter Harvey - Chairman
Nick Bowers
Bill Craig
Dave Latimer
George Metcalfe
Andy Perkins – Vice Chairman
Tony Smith – Treasurer and Company Secretary

IN ATTENDANCE: Pete Stratten - Chief Executive Officer

APOLOGIES: Neil Goudie
Lisa Humphries
Charlie Jordan

47/16 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The notes from the 12th September 2016 meeting were approved and will be signed by the chairman at the next opportunity.

48/16 WORKSHOP

(a) UK GLIDING TRENDS AND BGA STRATEGY

George Metcalfe reminded those present that this work stream aims to identify what central support member clubs may need from the BGA over the coming decades. He went on to present an interim report into the work to date which has resulted in 200 comments from 15 club chairmen that have been distilled into a number of significant trends and their implications. It was noted that the next step is to discuss detail at the forthcoming club management conference, including the implications of not addressing the significant negative trends and to emphasize that there remains a need to collect information and guidance from clubs.

Those present discussed the topic at length, including; the emphasis on a club led approach; that the sport of gliding is evolving; the increase in external regulatory threats; the benefit of site security; the balance of complex group activity against just a gliding operation; the possible evolution of larger clubs with an emphasis on training alongside smaller clubs; potential opportunities around diversification at gliding sites that could attract external funding; and that it should be possible to address some of the tactical issues identified during the strategy work. It was agreed that a pre-club management conference survey would help to gather more data and also help to front-load delegates on this important topic.

Those present thanked George Metcalfe for the work to date and agreed that the issues and associated challenges should be made clear to delegates during the planned presentation by George Metcalfe at the forthcoming club management conference.

Status: Open Action: George Metcalfe

(b) CLUB HEALTH UPDATE

Dave Latimer provided an update on a number of headline club health indicators that were discussed in detail by those present and will be communicated in headline terms during the club management conference, including; club membership totals; the detail behind recently closed

clubs; age distribution; site security; growth; non-official aerodrome safeguarding; and ownership of sites.

Dave Latimer went on to discuss a potentially helpful outcome from the flight logging working group; how club member survey tools for internal use by clubs had been developed and would be made available; and how the Development Committee rating group had been reformed to assist clubs with any challenges associated with the latest rates revaluation applicable from 2017. It had been identified that the use of professional secret shopper facilities is expensive. Following discussion about the overall <1% conversion rate from introductory flight to member, it was agreed that subject to club interest, a secret shopper facility and post-experience survey could be offered as a BGA facilitated service to clubs.

Status: Closed Action: Dave Latimer

(c) CLUB MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Dave Latimer described the agenda and content of the various elements of the club management conference which will be facilitated on the day by Dave Latimer, introduced and closed by Andy Perkins, and supported by various BGA contractors and staff. Details had been previously circulated to clubs.

(d) ROYAL AERO CLUB / FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

Pete Harvey described the relationship between sporting bodies such as BGA, their national aero clubs, eg the UK's RAeC, and the FAI. He noted a key concern related to FAI plans to spend significant amounts on events without clarity of purpose and realistic outcomes, and how the RAeC is attempting to influence that with the aim of ensuring appropriate and cost effective work by the FAI.

(e) GENERAL AVIATION ALLIANCE

Pete Stratten reminded those present of the GAA's role, previous BGA concerns about representation and engagement, associated discussion with air sport chairmen, and various conversations with the GA Alliance facilitator. It was noted that representation and engagement with GAA members appears to have improved and all those present agreed that the situation should continue to be monitored, and that where required the working practices of the GAA should be constructively challenged.

(f) REGULATORY

Pete Stratten spoke to a previously circulated paper describing issues, opportunities and risks around regulatory developments including; the Basic Regulation; Part M light; Part 66; FCL; operations; pilot training; 8.33; medicals; the UK CAA GA programme; airspace change process; and airspace developments. Those present discussed the detail including;

- Ongoing derogation from and potential impact of EASA regulation noting that 8th April 2018 is currently a key implementation date for EASA FCL, medical and pilot training requirements, all of which are subject to ongoing developments influenced by BGA alongside EGU and EAS.
- Airspace, noting that as one of the greatest threats to gliding this topic will increasingly absorb significant amounts of cost, time and effort and that it is inevitable that professional support will be required; that the Future Airspace Strategy VFR Implementation Group (FASVIG), which ensures the needs of non-commercial airspace users are included within FAS development, has questions over its funding beyond 2017; and that there is an ongoing need to work closely on airspace matters with others within air sport and GA, including funding of collaborative effort where that supports the needs of gliding.

49/16 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS RESULTING FROM 48/16

Noting the topics raised within 48/16, those present identified that the key additional budgetary consideration for the 2017/2018 budget that will be developed in Q4 2016 and presented to the

AGM in Q1 2017 relates to airspace. It was agreed that there are two potential budget lines; BGA airspace work that will need ongoing professional support and, separately, collaborative GA air sport work. It was agreed that John Williams should be further consulted on what form of professional support for BGA airspace work will be appropriate, and that a significant allocation should be made in the 2017/2018 budget for ongoing professional support of BGA airspace work. It was also agreed that the BGA should work with GAA and others to lobby for ongoing financial support for FASVIG and its independent work.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten, Tony Smith Due: November 2016

50/16 INSTRUCTOR COMMITTEE

Those present noted that following many years of service, the Instructor Committee chairman, Don Irving, intends to step down from the role this winter and that a potential successor has been identified. Those present welcomed and accepted Colin Sword's offer to take on the role.

Pete Stratten spoke to a previously circulated note describing a number of recent developments supported by Neil Goudie that followed the BGA instructor survey and conversations with club chairmen and CFI's, including concerns expressed about the time commitment to complete instructor training under the relatively recent changes to the course structure. He went on to note that a 'Training Standards Support Group' is forming within the Instructors Committee under Mike Fox to develop resources to support club instructors and that these resources should include online learning and testing facilities to minimize time and travel commitments during training. It was noted that the time needed to complete instructor training is fundamentally similar to that required in the past, but as the club-based element has now been formalized, there is an understandable perception that the time needed to complete the training has significantly increased. All those present recognized the importance of minimizing travel, time and cost commitments, and noted the importance of effective communication during change.

Pete Stratten agreed to notify Don Irving and Colin Sword of the Executive Committee decision and to ensure the changeover date is clarified in due course. Those present requested that Neil Goudie thank and welcome Colin Sword on behalf of the Executive Committee, and in doing so should advise that going forward, the Executive Committee would like the Instructors Committee to take into consideration;

- That adequate BGA instructor coaching and examining resources should be reasonably available to all clubs
- That the BGA instructor course and all other courses, seminars, assessments, etc, should be reasonably time and cost efficient for candidates and appropriately communicated to clubs and pilots
- The need for ongoing preparation ahead of EASA pilot licensing and training requirements replacing BGA equivalent requirements from 8th April 2018

51/16 RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

Nick Bowers reminded those present of the early 2016 proposal to rationalise BGA safety information and the BGA Recommended Practices. He reported that the BGA safety committee has established version control of the standard format safety leaflets that are developed based on SMS priorities, and has captured the relevant elements of Recommended Practices, previously accepted investigation recommendations, and other published good practice detail in an updated version of 'Managing Flying Risk', which is a section of BGA requirements and guidance published within 'Laws and Rules'. The resulting draft v1.4 of 'Managing Flying Risk' additionally requires a list of published safety leaflets and other relevant references, and final proof reading which Nick Bowers agreed to complete. Pete Stratten agreed to establish the final developments and noted the intention to circulate to clubs for comment. Following final publication of 'Managing Flying Risk' as described, 'Recommended Practices' will be discontinued. Those present agreed with the plan.

Status: Closed Action: Pete Stratten

52/16 EUROPEAN GLIDING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017 AND NATIONAL GLIDING WEEK

Those present note the EGC 2017 partnership arrangement involving Lasham Gliding Society, the RAeC and BGA. Lasham GS has agreed to supply sponsorship income from an established supporter. Andy Perkins and Pete Stratten noted how discussion had taken place around a BGA event during the EGC for Junior gliding donors and supporters and how that could be incorporated into a longer term, sustainable donor/sponsor opportunity. Those present agreed that with less than 12 months until the event, it would be realistic for BGA to approach its commercial partners and suppliers with a sponsorship offer of visiting the EGC and exposure through social media, website and a proposed one-off S&G edition. Pete Stratten agreed to progress the issue on that basis. Andy Perkins agreed to update his paper on long term donor and sponsor opportunities relating to the Team and Junior Gliding and circulate to the Executive Committee.

Dave Latimer noted that some years ago the BGA had organised a National Gliding Week with limited engagement by clubs. Those present discussed the potential benefits of a BGA promoted national gliding week and potentially leading into the EGC 2017, including BGA facilitated electronic marketing and media exposure. It was agreed that the subject would be raised at the club management conference with the aim of measuring club interest.

53/16 AoB

- a) Lasham GS. Pete Stratten spoke to another request from Lasham GC for financial support of airspace work underway. Those present noted the previous BGA donation and agreed to consider a further donation in due course.
- b) Planning and Environment Fund. Pete Stratten agreed to circulate details of the PEF to Executive Committee members.
- c) Meetings. Nick Bowers and George Metcalfe suggested that three physical meetings per year in addition to conference calls would be an effective minimum number. It was agreed that a full day meeting in the autumn, a meeting prior to the AGM/conference and a meeting in late March/April would be appropriate. Peter Harvey proposed and all agreed that the approach should be trialled.

The next meeting will be a conference call after the 20th November. Date to be notified.