

MEETING NOTES – BGA SAFETY COMMITTEE 14TH JANUARY 2017

Present: Hugh Browning, Tim Freegarde, Pete Stratten (Chairman)

Apologies: Mike Fox, Gordon MacDonald, John Hull

1. Introduction

PS noted unavoidable absence by Mike Fox, John Hull and Gordon MacDonald who would be provided with notes as soon as possible following the meeting.

2. Analysis and Trends

HB summarised the overall situation and long term trends. Headlines include;

- Incident reports have increased from around 20 to 50 pa – a welcome development
- No significant changes in overall trends from previous period
- During 1 Oct 15-30 Sep 16, 1 fatal, 6 serious injury and 66 substantial damage
- Noted that TL/introductory flight accidents are experienced by all instructor ratings. There are 39 reports in the 5 years from 2012 to 2016. The instructor qualification was stated in 27 instances. Half were by assistant/full instructors (14 out of 27).

In summary;

- Stall/spin continues to be a concern
- No mid-air collisions
- Few winch launch accidents/incidents
- High number of ground accidents The 2016 total and the prior annual averages (as on the presentation chart) of substantial non-flying accidents are:

Year	Accidents
2016	13
2006-2015	6.9
1974-2005	2.9

Actions from discussion around detail of HB's presentation;

- Discuss ground accidents with insurers suggesting they could advise owners to take more care noting impact on premiums, etc – action PS
- 'Managing Flying Risk' to be printed and circulated to as many pilots as possible – action PS/Office
- Develop calendar schedule of safety communication based on associated known risks – action PS/All
- Develop ideas to improve effectiveness of targeted safety messages – action KA
- Promote existing Aerotow Performance safety leaflet and add note to CFI's re are pilots adequately thinking about aerotow eventualities? – action PS/KA
- Review and re-issue safety leaflet re control confusion – action HB/KA

Next steps for stall/spin campaign following 2016 development/engagement;

- S&G article – action TF
- Safety leaflet – action TF
- Slides for CFI's – action TF
- Slides for instructor coaches – action TF

3. 2017 Priorities for Safety Committee

In addition to ongoing work in support of clubs and existing initiatives, the priorities for 2017 were agreed as;

- Trial lesson/Introductory flights
- Inadvertent stall/spin
- Develop and improve safety communication

4. Review of Accident Investigation Recommendations Summary

Referring to previously circulated detail, a review of outstanding actions took place, noting;

- “Periodic check of pilots understanding of soaring procedures and protocols”
It is clear that a club checking process is impractical. Subsequent to this recommendation being made (following a collision), the soaring protocol has been updated and included in a newly published safety leaflet which is periodically promoted to all pilots via their clubs. Item closed.
- “Pilots to be reminded of the need to refer to the available aerotowing performance guidance”
This recommendation will be addressed under “actions from discussion around detail of HB’s presentation”. Item open.
- “Remind pilots that it’s their decision to launch”
Pilots are reminded through the natural course of events as part of established BGA training. Item closed.
- “Re-issue Safety Alert re control confusion inc how to react if unexpected result after moving control”
How to react if unexpected result after moving control is deemed to have potential complexities that may generate confusion, so that element is closed. The remaining element of the recommendation will be addressed under “actions from discussion around detail of HB’s presentation”. Item open.

The Instructor Committee chairman will be reminded about three actions regarding the Instructor Manual. Items open. – action PS

The request from the Executive Committee re control tactile differences and contact with Type Certificate holders was discussed. – action PS to discuss with, and action via, GMD

5. AOB

a. AAIB visit.

The visit to AAIB by HB and PS was discussed, noting;

- AAIB appreciate BGA support
- AAIB feedback to date re their investigations indicate satisfactory existing BGA guidance
- It is possible that further information from AAIB could appear that may inform existing BGA guidance on abandoning a glider
- FLARM aerial performance feedback has been addressed

- b. Inflatable Cushions
Recent information indicates that a number of (older) gliders may have inflatable seat cushions. The safety leaflet re energy absorbent cushions will be reviewed and updated to reflect the dangers of inflatable cushions – action HB
- c. Winch Operators Handbook
It was noted that the winch operators handbook is significantly out of date. Andy Holmes (Flight Operations sub-committee winch expert but very busy with a new family!) would be approached for advice on a potential volunteer expert who could carry out an intelligent review and update – action HB
- d. Aerotow Guidance
There is a need to align BGA guidance on aerotow rope lengths between the aerotowing notes and managing flying risk publications – action PS
The recently published detail (Gliding Int) on LoC on aerotow was considered. A short paragraph describing the phenomena will be drafted for insertion under safe aerotowing guidance in managing flying risk – action TF/HB
- e. CSO support contact details
It was agreed that TF, JH, BGA office and SRE contact details should be made more obvious on the online CSO toolkit – action PS

A meeting then took place to agree the detail around the three planned Club Safety Officer Seminars at Lasham, Husbands Bosworth and Pocklington.

Pete Stratten
Chairman
BGA Safety Committee