

BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 24th FEBRUARY 2017

PRESENT: Peter Harvey - Chairman
Nick Bowers
Neil Goudie
Charlie Jordan
Dave Latimer
George Metcalfe
Andy Perkins – Vice Chairman
Tony Smith – Treasurer and Company Secretary

IN ATTENDANCE: Pete Stratten - Chief Executive Officer

APOLOGIES: Bill Craig
Lisa Humphries

06/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The notes from the 5th January 2017 meeting were approved and will be signed by the chairman at the next opportunity.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten, Peter Harvey

07/17 SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

- a. Competitions Committee January 2017. The meeting notes were reviewed and received with thanks. Pete Stratten noted that earlier comments from Executive Committee members in response to the draft competition handbook had been fed back to the Competitions Committee chairman.
- b. Safety Committee January 2017. The meeting notes were reviewed and received with thanks. In response to questions about the progress of a number of actions within the meeting notes, Pete Stratten noted that those are in progress as part of ongoing safety committee activity. Positive feedback on the recently delivered Club Safety Officer seminars was noted.

Status: Closed

08/17 AIRSPACE

John Williams joined the meeting for this item. Pete Stratten described how the government is now focusing on airspace capacity, particularly in the south east, and identified three related, DfT sponsored, strategic-level consultations with an associated rationale for change. It was agreed that BGA would need to be involved in responding to the consultations in partnership with the GA Alliance members and that BGA would initially lead on that by developing a strategic position on airspace needs in co-ordination with the FASVIG. An offer of support by Patrick Naegeli in developing that strategic position was accepted with thanks. Pete Stratten spoke to previously circulated detail regarding NPA 2016-09 re ATS requirements, which includes a definition change that without intervention could result in significant implications for class G airspace. It was agreed that the BGA will respond to the NPA in alignment with the FASVIG view on this issue noting that the definition change is unacceptable and why. John Williams went on to describe why he has concluded that more CAA involvement in the airspace change process is vital and described how he intended to reflect that at the forthcoming BGA conference and in conversation with CAA contacts. Engagement by all ACP stakeholders at the front end of any application is vitally important, with numerous past and more recent airspace change applications clearly

demonstrating the need for that consultative approach. It was noted that CAA are about to implement a revised change process with more CAA intervention, but that CAA are learning that there is a limit to their authority, and that this issue should also be included in our strategic response.

John Williams noted that Nick Norman had agreed to join the wider volunteer airspace team as the Scottish representative. Noting the significant workload and expected increase in activity over coming years, BGA use of professional airspace expertise was discussed and again supported in principal. Pete Stratten agreed to further develop the theme with other air sports with a view to joint funding.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: March 2017

09/17 PROMOTION

Dave Latimer updated those present on the developments so far around the Go Gliding initiative. While the BBC documentary opportunity is still alive, unfortunately there are no current plans for BBC to move that forward. Those present discussed a welcome proposal by Simon Grice to work with clubs to produce a series of promotional videos that highlight what gliding is about. Following discussion around potential outcomes and risks, those present supported the idea in principal subject to interest and engagement by clubs including letters of intent to commit. Tony Smith described how a legal entity could be formed to support the activity with governance and agreed to provide further guidance, if required. It was agreed that the planned approach with social media and clubs etc worked up with Effect Digital should be progressed including any associated trial activity, eg Red Nose day 2017. Those present thanked Dave Latimer for his work on this important topic which would be discussed with club delegates at the BGA conference and noted during a presentation to the wider conference.

Status: Open Action: Dave Latimer Due: March 2017

10/17 VEHICLE INSURANCE

Pete Stratten spoke to previously circulated detail describing the European Court of Justice 'Vnuk' decision regarding vehicle insurance that had become the subject of a recent government consultation. It was noted that expert advice received to date indicates all gliding club vehicles and trailers would be affected resulting in a significant negative impact. It was agreed that the BGA should seek to ensure gliding operations are included in any government proposed exemptions.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: March 2017

11/17 AoB

- a) Charlie Jordan noted recent discussion around Junior championship funding within the competition committee, noting that he and Andy Perkins would discuss with the Junior group ahead of an expected final decision on an historic payment issue.
- b) Pete Stratten described the conversations to date that had led to an agreed code of conduct for those involved in BGA facilitated Junior activity that the 'UK Junior Gliding' organisers also intend to utilise. The code refers to existing BGA safeguarding guidance. It was noted that a similar code may be appropriate for all competition flying and Pete Stratten agreed to pass that view to the Competitions Committee.

A doodle poll of potential dates for three annual face to face meetings and the next call will be circulated.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: March 2017