

BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 21st October 2017

PRESENT: Peter Harvey - Chairman
Nick Bowers
Neil Goudie
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
Charlie Jordan

41/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The notes from the 20th September 2017 meeting were approved and will be signed by the chairman at the next opportunity.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten, Peter Harvey

42/17 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

Those present spent time considering in detail a number of previously agreed topics. A summary of the discussion is noted below.

Club Health

Referring to BGA data, Dave Latimer described a number of trends and issues, including that against a background of a total full flying membership hovering around 6900, 50% of clubs are growing while the other 50% are shrinking. It was agreed that where data indicated that a club was declining, it may be appropriate for the Development Committee to offer guidance before the decline accelerates and Dave Latimer agreed to development that approach with the Development Officer.

Status: Open Action: Dave Latimer Due: November 2017

It was agreed that club data should be collected through an online application and Pete Stratten agreed to build that into ongoing development work. It was agreed that the need for timely submission of accurate club annual return data should be briefed during the Club Management Conference.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: September 2018

Noting the routinely stated advice that BGA does not get involved in club politics, it was agreed that in fact it may be appropriate, dependent on circumstances, for the BGA to offer facilitated resolution to such issues. It was noted that clubs should in any case put in place a code of conduct for their members. There is a template in the BGA club policy template pack.

The age distribution and trends were considered and it was agreed that ongoing efforts to involve younger pilots with instructing should continue.

Site security was discussed in some detail noting that the Thames Valley area is particularly vulnerable as only one club in the region owns its site. Dave Latimer noted efforts to identify reasons why it would be difficult for developers to attempt to redevelop gliding airfields, including formal recognition as playing fields and SASPs.

Gliding Operations

The ongoing safety performance that will be briefed to the membership during a number of forums over the winter was considered, including that it has been identified that ground based and 'pilots forgetting' incidents and accidents are increasing and that the Safety and Instructors committee are considering how to address that. The fatal accidents during 2017 were discussed including whether or not this indicates a systemic issue or a spike. The recent analysis by the Safety Committee that it is most likely that a cluster occurred and ongoing trends would be revealing was accepted. The draft AAIB report into the fatal accident involving an ASW24 at Brent Tor was discussed and those present agreed that a number of identified points should be fed back to the AAIB.

It was noted that while instructor numbers are fairly stable, it is apparent that instructor engagement at clubs is reducing. The instructor survey is resulting in actions. The new resources for instructors now available were briefly described and welcomed by those present. The ongoing reduction in take up of instructor courses since the modular course was introduced and a recent trial to reduce potential travel commitment during the course that will be extended during 2018 were noted. Those present were disappointed that the misconception remains that the modular course is complex and excessively time consuming. It was agreed that the facts should be established, and that the course should appropriately be packaged and marketed, including with a very short video describing how the process works.

It was suggested that individuals are less enthusiastic about attending classroom sessions for theoretical knowledge training and that online training for the Bronze endorsement is likely to be the right way forward accompanied by youtube video material. Pete Stratten agreed to discuss how that could be progressed with the Training Standards Manager and Chairman of the Instructors Committee.

Status: Open: Pete Stratten Due: October 2017

Management Accounts

Tony Smith and Pete Stratten spoke to the draft 30 Sep 17 management accounts including comments on variances between budget and actual. Those present discussed the detail and accepted the accounts which will be subject to audit during November. The draft budget for 2018/2019 will be presented to the Executive Committee for discussion during late November. Tony Smith noted that the intent is to get the budget as close to accurate as possible. It was agreed that the airspace budget should be significantly increased.

Marketing

Pete Stratten spoke to a recent marketing review and the key observations, including the need to engage with those who had taken out a club temporary membership among other important detail. The planned recruitment of professional marketing support was discussed noting that there has been interest in the recent BGA marketing role advertisement.

It was noted that there is a potential opportunity for BGA to provide support to club efforts to follow up initial contact with potential members but that previous attempts to persuade clubs to share the relevant data had been unsuccessful. It was noted that there are examples of clubs that do follow up with some success. Dave Latimer reminded those present that the FFVV has had some success with its 'Discover Gliding' campaign including use of ambassadors facilitating repeat visits by potential new members of clubs. Dave Latimer described how an FFVV official will be attending the CMC to describe their approach following which it is anticipated clubs may be convinced to work collectively on the topic.

Dave Latimer noted how the Glide Britain initiative had resulted in online engagement with tens of thousands and had generated some local TV interest, particularly in Yorkshire, although the value of the impact has not been quantified. It is clear that there is a hunger for this type of activity and that the BGA can support club efforts to promote themselves. Glide Britain proved a concept that needs further development. It was noted that Simon Grice and others in the team are continuing to work on the anticipated output of the Glide Britain tour. It is clear that short bursts of high quality video material is popular and can significantly add to club marketing campaigns.

Airspace

The ongoing situation of lower airspace developing in an ad-hoc manner based on the perceived needs of airports, the resulting significant increase in risk to traffic operating outside of controlled airspace within increasing numbers of choke points, and no strategy or engagement by the CAA to manage that despite their role and responsibilities was discussed at length. It was noted that CAA had not yet responded to the legally informed letter submitted to CAA by the BGA chairman. The letter had been confirmed as being received and verbal comment indicated that given time available by the CAA legal team, a reply could be expected from CAA during early November. It was agreed that the Peter Harvey will speak to the CAA CEO during November noting the BGA intention to progress the issue with the DfT in concert with the wider GA community.

The important work to develop responses to a number of ongoing consultations by a number of gliding club volunteers in various regions was recognized with thanks and viewed as an important and effective development in the way gliding responds to an increasing number of proposed airspace changes. John Williams work to co-ordinate and provide guidance to those groups was also noted with thanks.

The need for ongoing legal support was discussed including the need to develop a GA fighting fund including a BGA contribution. Peter Harvey agreed to discuss that with John Allison of the GA Alliance.

Status: Closed Open: Peter Harvey Due: November 2017

EASA Update

Pete Stratten described the current situation where the EU Commission legal team are blocking a number of EASA rulemaking initiatives including the proposed extension of the opt-out from FCL for sailplanes until 2021 that will provide space for the roll out of revised, simplified FCL and Operations rules for sailplanes. The CAA and DfT support the need for the extended opt-out and will vote accordingly at the October EASA Committee meeting. Significant lobbying efforts have been made across Europe, but there are no guarantees the vote will be helpful. It was noted that the BGA message re EASA licencing remains valid, ie conversion is required by 8 April 2018, but an opt-out extension announcement is expected by the end of 2017.

The leaving the EU related issues were noted including the DfT plan for the UK to remain a member of EASA, with a plan B in the event of that not being possible of adopting 'cut and paste' EASA regulation. In either case, the UK will no longer have a vote on the EASA committee.

Executive Committee Succession Planning

Referring to the Articles of Association, Tony Smith noted the requirement for a number of changes to the Executive Committee at the next AGM including the requirement for the Chairman to stand down. Pete Stratten noted that information would be supplied to clubs during December as a routine element of the AGM arrangements. It was agreed that the first meeting after the AGM will be a face to face meeting.

43/17 CLUB MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE UPDATE

Dave Latimer described plans to date including the main event, a club treasurer forum led by Tony Smith, a CFI forum led by Mike Fox, and a Junior forum led by the Juniorgliding team. Noting a gap in the programme, it was proposed that Mike Thorne, who led the regional development of a response to the Exeter ACP, should be asked to speak about that experience. Nick Bowers agreed to make the request.

Status: Closed Action: Nick Bowers Due: October 2017

44/17 AIR CADET FLYING

Pete Stratten spoke to a previously circulated briefing describing a No 2 Flying Training Squadron (2 FTS – previously known as the RAF Central Gliding School) offer to include gliding at 14 BGA clubs (of which 7 are RAFGSA) within their Cadet Aviation Package. The clubs will be selected on

a regional-needs basis. The detail includes the need comply with the ACTO 35 requirements where Cadets fly on duty, ie where organised/facilitated by the Air Cadet organisation, BGA suggested amendments to those requirements accepted by 2 FTS, the flying is to be limited to introductory flights, and no requirement on minimum numbers as that will be solely at the discretion of the club. The BGA has completed the first action by noting the detail of the meeting and submitting that to 2 FTS to confirm our understanding. The next step is to discuss in detail with clubs.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: November 2017

45/17 BGA STRATEGY UPDATE

George Metcalfe noted that the v1-final version of the BGA Strategy has been adopted and that all BGA committees and working groups future thinking should be consistent with the strategy. The next steps are to advertise at the CMC, publish the document on the BGA website and to establish a revision cycle. Those present were reminded that this is a live document that will evolve over time.

Status: Open Action: George Metcalfe, Pete Stratten Due: November 2017

46/17 UK AVIATION STRATEGY - UPDATE

Neil Goudie described progress to date in responding to the UK Aviation Strategy consultation including the round table event with DfT. He noted that the discussion was open and recognizes the need to establish how the GA Strategy fits in, and that in due course airspace needs to be brought into the mix, and that after the event a written BGA submission to the DfT consultation had been made that included the point that BGA will continue to contribute to the ongoing process alongside and with the GA Alliance. Neil Goudie agreed to remain engaged with the project on behalf of BGA. His offer was accepted with thanks by all those present.

Status: Open Action: Neil Goudie

47/17 S&RA GOOD GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES - UPDATE

Pete Stratten spoke to a previously tabled item that identified the potential benefits of adopting the S&RA revised good governance principles. Following a detailed discussion including that the BGA has adopted the previous governance assurance approach proposed by the S&RA and the BGA's ongoing commitment and actions to maintain good governance, it was agreed that the BGA is supportive and will continue to evolve its governance with the aim of adopting as soon as it is established that there is synergy between BGA governance and the latest S&RA principles.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten

48/17 AoB

a) Royal Patronage. Andy Perkins noted the need to establish the way forward following the decision by the BGA Patron to step down from public life. It was agreed that Andy Perkins will write to the Palace thanking the BGA Patron for his support over many years and seeking his guidance on the way forward.

Status: Open Action: Andy Perkins

b) RAeC, FAI and IGC Awards. Peter Harvey noted that nominations are required asap for international and national awards. Pete Stratten agreed to promote the topic and seek nominations.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten

The next meeting will be in late November and subject to a poll.