

BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 19th MARCH 2020

PRESENT: Andy Perkins – Chairman
Richard Brickwood
Bill Brittain
Rebecca Bryan
Nick Garland
Peter Hibbard
George Metcalfe – Vice Chairman
Matt Page

IN ATTENDANCE: Pete Stratten - Chief Executive Officer

APOLOGIES:
Pete Bennett
Tony Smith – Treasurer and Company Secretary

12/20 INTRODUCTION

Andy Perkins welcomed the new members of the Executive Committee and introduced this extraordinary meeting which was called to further consider the needs of gliding in respect to the evolving COVID19 epidemic. The February meeting notes will be considered at the next routine Executive Committee meeting.

13/20 COMMUNICATION

Pete Stratten described the BGA's communications to date which have emphasized Government guidance and have been promulgated using email and BGA website news which is repeated on social media. He noted that periodic updates will be published subject to Executive Committee agreement. He went on to note engagement with sub-committee chairmen where appropriate including to date the Development Committee and the Instructor and Examiner Committee, as well as the CAA regarding the need for flexibility and exemptions.

14/20 GOVERNANCE

Andy Perkins reminded those present that the BGA supports the independently run member clubs. It was agreed in respect of the COVID19 situation that BGA support and guidance for clubs should continue to address the safety of people and the long-term success of the sport. Several points were identified by those present including:

- safety of people is the highest priority
- the situation is evolving rapidly along with Government guidance, and that BGA guidance will also need to be regularly reviewed and incrementally updated.
- not all clubs have yet provided their members with clarity regarding changes to club operations.
- flying in club and two-seat aircraft presents a significant risk of transmission.
- public perceptions of what appears to be business as normal for gliding clubs apparently in the face of other activities temporarily closing.
- supervision of existing gliding operations is unavoidably impacted by a reduction of participating instructors and senior pilots.
- financial imperatives, particularly for clubs, eg ongoing fixed costs including insurance, loans, rent, and the risk of a sharp membership reduction if members do not support their club through a difficult period.
- potential opportunities in concert with the Philip Wills Memorial Fund and external funding.

Actions:

- a. Andy Perkins agreed to engage with the Development Committee chairman in respect of potential national COVID19 contingency support of the sport and leisure industry and ongoing club business support, and separately to plan club chairmen engagement opportunities.
- b. George Metcalfe agreed to further develop existing modelling of future membership that will inform future Executive Committee discussion.
- c. Matt Page agreed to take a lead working with the BGA training standards manager to develop and implement online pilot engagement opportunities.
- d. An updated club guidance document will be promulgated on Monday 23rd March that will be drafted by Pete Stratten for Executive Committee approval.
- e. A further Exec Committee call will be held on 26th March.

Status: Open Due: 23rd March 2020 Action: All

The next meeting will be on the 26th March 2020. Andy Perkins will circulate details.