

BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 10th JUNE 2021

PRESENT: Andy Perkins – Chairman
Pete Bennett
Richard Brickwood
Bill Brittain
Nick Garland
Peter Hibbard
George Metcalfe – Vice Chairman
Matt Page
Tony Smith – Treasurer and Company Secretary

IN ATTENDANCE: Lucy Wootton
Pete Stratten - Chief Executive Officer

APOLOGIES: Rebecca Bryan

19/21 PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES

The Executive Committee meeting notes of 9th April 2021 were approved and will be signed by the chairman at the next opportunity.

20/21 SAFETY MATTERS

Pete Stratten spoke to a previously circulated note describing engagement with AAIB leading up to and following the publication of the draft AAIB report into the 2019 SB5 accident at Eden Soaring. He went on to note that the BGA's concerns about the objectivity and accuracy of the draft and final report have been noted by the AAIB. Pete Stratten described subsequent positive engagement with AAIB and ongoing BGA support of AAIB activity, where requested and aligned with the recently updated BGA/AAIB memorandum of understanding.

Status: Closed

21/21 CLUB UPDATE

Those present discussed the situation at one club that expects to cease operating during September 2021 due to irrecoverable differences with the site owner. It was noted that BGA Development Committee and other support is being deployed where requested to support the local efforts to maintain gliding activity at the site.

Those present discussed a separate situation impacting one club where the club chairman has advised that insurers have to date refused to renew the club's insurance policies because of insurers concerns about potential exposure following several accidents. The BGA has offered additional risk management support to the club.

Status: Closed

22/21 FINANCIAL REPORT

Tony Smith spoke to a previously circulated brief describing the mid-year financial situation. He noted that club full member income reflects the 25% 'Covid' discount provided to clubs, membership reductions based on member returns and the loss of Bicester GC. He noted that reduced activity due to Covid meant that the BGA received support by CJRS (Furlough). This combined with effective cost control measures across the business is expected to result in a year-end financial position which is aligned with the budget. Those present thanked Tony and the BGA staff for their ongoing diligence and effective cost controls.

Status: Closed

23/21 BGA UPDATE

Pete Stratten spoke to previously circulated headlines noting that; BGA staff adopted a mix of home-based working and furlough for much of the pandemic and all BGA staff returned to contracted working arrangements from 1st May 2021; implementing DTO and SFCL requirements is an ongoing project, including developing course programmes for CAA approval, and there may be need to increase office capacity via overtime as SPL applications build in advance of 8th December; the student pilot manual is reaching an advanced stage of production in readiness for late 2021; the Club Management Conference will take place face to face during October or November; the BGA Conference, dinner and awards event will take place on 12th Feb 2022 at the Nottingham Belfry; and the AGM will be held online on a date during March 2022 to be agreed later this year. It was noted by Peter Hibbard that a video celebrating the 2020 BGA trophies and awards winners will be published online during June and the details will be widely promulgated.

Status: Closed

24/21 BEHAVIOUR RELATED POLICIES AND ACTIONS

Pete Stratten spoke to a previously circulated briefing that followed discussion relating to several individual club members experiences. He went on to note several actions, including; it has been agreed that the relevant BGA policies will be reviewed and if required, updated; that applying those policies will be highlighted as a requirement; that BGA advisors have been asked if the existing 'blue card' that provides child and vulnerable adult protection may be expanded to address wider needs; and that the new instructor course will introduce guidance on how great care is needed with respect to the instructor/student pilot 'gradient' and extending that beyond instructing activity. Those present supported the actions noting that specific guidance should continue to be developed. Pete Stratten went on to note that a thread of work is emerging regarding mental health awareness in gliding, and that should provide potentially helpful guidance and signposting to professional expertise.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: Autumn 2021

25/21 SUSTAINABILITY, MARKETING AND SPONSORSHIP

Andy Perkins and Richard Brickwood spoke to previously circulated papers describing long term gliding sustainability and associated marketing and sponsorship activity. It was noted that experts in marketing have advised that the WWGC 2022 gives an opportunity for a four-year legacy which could lead into the BGA Centenary in 2030 as a significant opportunity for the sport. It was agreed that with association wide acceptance and buy-in in mind, the topic needs wide publicity, and that an S&G article and BGA e-news article will be produced and published.

Status: Open Action: Richard Brickwood Due: July 2022

26/21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Development Committee meeting notes and proposed revised ToR's. Andy Perkins spoke to previously circulated meeting notes and proposed revised ToR's. Those present accepted the meeting notes with thanks. In reviewing the ToR's, those present agreed with the revisions subject to a recommendation to the Development Committee that item 4 should be modified to read 'To provide guidance on sourcing appropriate specialist advisers', and item 5 should be deleted as that is self-evident for all sub-committees as they operate on behalf of the BGA Executive Committee.
- b) UK University Sailplane Development. Noting the highly successful Akademische Fliegergruppe (Akaflieg) groups of aeronautical engineering students from individual German technical universities, Lucy Wootton noted that she had met with two university aeronautical engineering subject matter experts who are keen to progress opportunities for UK engineering universities, and that she intends to liaise with several university gliding clubs seeking engagement with the initiative.

The next meeting will take place in July. Date to be advised in due course.