

BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 13th APRIL 2022

PRESENT

Andy Perkins – Chairman
Richard Brickwood
Bill Brittain
Rebecca Bryan
Peter Hibbard
George Metcalfe – Vice Chairman
Lucy Wootton

APOLOGIES

Nick Garland
David McGrath
Matt Page
Tony Smith - Treasurer and Company Secretary

IN ATTENDANCE

Pete Stratten - Chief Executive Officer

14/22 PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES

The Executive Committee meeting notes of 14th March 2022 were approved and will be signed by the chairman at the next opportunity.

15/22 WWGC22 UPDATE

Andy Perkins reported that the WWGC22 organising team had earlier in the day provided Executive Committee members with a comprehensive briefing on all aspects of the competition, external engagement, and legacy developments, following which a site walkaround provided a clear picture of the planned arrangements on the ground. It was agreed that the Executive Committee will be supplied with a copy of the meeting notes. Those present thanked the WWGC22 organizing team for their impressive work to date and for the earlier meeting.

Status: Open until September 2022

16/22 FUTURE PROOF

Andy Perkins described how several years ago, it was noted that against a backdrop of a significant change to planning law that a large area of central southern England with population growth and a shortage of building land includes several gliding clubs, all of which bar one operates on a lease. With the future sustainability of gliding in that area in mind, suitably experienced volunteers from some of those clubs looked at opportunities for secure airfield ownership in the area under the title 'Future Proof'. In parallel, volunteer contingency work has taken place to establish a viable theoretical business case for acquiring and operating an airfield that could accommodate a significant amount of gliding activity alongside commercial business activity, and to discuss potential military airfield disposals with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation. Andy Perkins went on to note that this contingency work is theoretical in nature, exploring potential opportunities for clubs, is not associated with any one particular club and will require engagement and consultation ahead of any future development. In recognising that the work has inevitably led to conversations and some conjecture about possible outcomes and that the work to date had now collected useful information and data, Andy Perkins noted that he intends to write an article on the subject for S&G.

Status: Open Action: Andy Perkins Due: July 2022

17/22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Pilot Network. Andy Perkins described how a small group of commercial pilots had set up a comparison website that considers flight training schools. The website owners are interested in offering their site to BGA clubs on a similar comparison basis. It was noted that several similar online

products are emerging and that while BGA is unlikely to recommend a particular website or product, the idea may be attractive to some clubs. It was noted that the pilot network team may need counselling on the nature of gliding clubs, which are very different than commercial flying schools and that gliding club activities are very much aligned with the wants and needs of their members. Andy Perkins agreed to feed that guidance to the Pilot Network team.

Status: Closed

- b. Club Update. Pete Stratten briefed those present on developments at a gliding club that has a long-running dispute with their landlord and the airfield operator resulting in almost no gliding activity for six months. He went on to describe various significant challenges faced by the hard-working club committee in establishing a temporary site, that the club had recently engaged with the BGA which in turn had responded to a request for planning guidance, that the BGA had offered other support, and that the club committee was considering several options including temporary hibernation with its members operating at other clubs in the area. It was agreed that continued close contact should be maintained with the club committee and that significant developments should be brought to the Executive Committee's attention.

It was noted that clubs should be reminded of the available expertise and urged to engage with the Development Committee early on in any potential site related crisis. Those present agreed that guidance may need to be developed around the topic of shared sites and mergers and as a result that will be discussed with the Development Committee.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: May 2022

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