

BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 22nd MAY 2023

PRESENT

Andy Perkins – Chairman
Richard Brickwood
Bill Brittain
Rebecca Bryan
Nick Garland
David McGrath
George Metcalfe – Vice Chairman
Lucy Wootton

APOLOGIES

Craig Lowrie
Matt Page
Tony Smith - Treasurer and Company Secretary

IN ATTENDANCE

Yvonne Elliott (for item 19/23) – Women’s Advocate
Pete Stratten - Chief Executive Officer

18/23 PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES

The Executive Committee meeting notes of 27th March 2023 were approved.

19/23 WOMENS ADVOCATE UPDATE

Yvonne Elliot updated those present on her role as Women’s Advocate, noted recent club visits, described the emerging aims and objectives of the Women and Inclusivity in Gliding (WinG) initiative, noted an associated and evolving checklist of club attributes, and identified how a network of Women’s ambassadors and volunteers can encourage and widen participation in gliding. Those present thanked Yvonne for her much-appreciated work, supported taking the described initiatives forward, and offered a view that examples of associated good practice could be shared when making clubs increasingly aware of the role of the women’s advocate and the WinG initiative.

Status: Closed

20/23 GO GLIDING

Richard Brickwood reported on progress with the Go Gliding project, noting that seven clubs are now committed, and the first event will be taking place at the end of June. Further events will take place following the school summer holidays. He noted that the Go Gliding team are in close communication with the CAA STEM team, the recently published CAA STEM gliding resources that had been informed by the BGA including resources developed as part of the WWGC22, and that with notable exceptions, few clubs had contact with their local schools/councils/county councils/industries/etc. Pete Stratten agreed to further highlight the STEM resources to clubs for their use in the context of local engagement.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: June 2023

21/23 UPDATES

Pete Stratten spoke to four previously circulated updates.

- a. Accident investigation and actions. Pete Stratten reported that the AAIB had concluded its investigation into the fatal ASW20 accident at Parham, that the BGA has responded to conversations with AAIB resulting in the safe rigging toolbox and a revised draft DI Book (currently with clubs for consultation), that the Executive Committee has noted in a previous meeting that it is minded to submit a proposal to the membership to amend an Operational Regulation, and that the AAIB draft report that BGA will be asked to comment on is likely to include a recommendation about mandating positive control checks. Those present agreed to review the topic at the next opportunity following the AAIB draft report.

- b. Dormant account. Pete Stratten reported that the BGA has responded to the NatWest bank's latest question regarding the submitted non-personal dormant account claim and is awaiting further response.
- c. Potential claim. Pete Stratten noted the latest contact by the BGA insurer's legal representatives.
- d. Website. Pete Stratten reported on exchanges with the website supplier, other developments underway that interact with and will potentially change the website requirement going forward and the decision to take a self-help route re the member information website and to consider the marketing website as a separate topic. The website needs will be reassessed once there is clarity on the way forward from mid-2025.

Status: Closed

22/23 IMPLICATIONS FOLLOWING SFCL DELAY

Pete Stratten spoke to a previously circulated Executive Committee email discussion regarding risk-related implications following the CAA announced decision to delay the requirement to fly a UK Part 21 sailplane using SFCL SPL privileges until September 2025. The following three topics were discussed.

- a. Instructor minimum age. There is risk associated with an under-18 BGA instructor supervising others that was due to disappear during Dec 23 with the implementation of SFCL. The Executive Committee agreed that the minimum age to qualify as a BGA Assistant or Full rated instructor shall be 18.
- b. Ridge soaring training. A previous AAIB report referring to risks to third parties associated with ridge soaring highlighted that SFCL includes a ridge soaring training syllabus. With SFCL delayed until 2025, the BGA Executive Committee agreed to implement an optional BGA ridge soaring syllabus (as well as optional wave soaring and thermal soaring syllabus), effectively mirroring the SFCL syllabus.
- c. Instructor rating validity. With many instructors holding an SFCL FI(S) certificate in addition to their required BGA instructor rating, there is confusion about the two differing sets of validity requirements. With SFCL delayed until 2025, the Executive Committee agreed to move to annual renewal requirements that effectively mirror the SFCL instructor rolling recency requirements, including the minimum (unchanged) launches and hours, a refresher seminar in the past 3 years, and an assessment (by an instructor approved for that task) in the past 9 years. The change will be accompanied by publication and promotion of clear guidance to CFIs on monitoring and managing instructor standards through proactive development of their instructors and guidance on addressing potential issues associated with ageing.

Pete Stratten agreed to discuss the decisions with the Instructing & Examining Committee and in doing so identify the least disruptive approach for clubs and instructors in implementing and promoting the changes.

Status: Closed

23/23 FINANCIAL

Andy Perkins described how he, Tony Smith and George Metcalfe had held a very informative exchange on the topic of contingency funding and the impact of inflation on financial reserves. Those present agreed that the topic should be captured as a BGA Fit for the Future project.

Andy Perkins described a potential opportunity to access professionally acquired grant funding with the aim of supporting clubs. Those present agreed to consider the supplied details including costs which will be followed up in a future meeting.

Status: Open Action: Andy Perkins, Pete Stratten Due: July 2023

24/23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- a. Disabled access & equity. Those present discussed comments recently supplied by a member of a BGA club regarding equitable access to gliding by individuals with a disability. It was noted that the pilot had been supported during 2022 in identifying and accessing a club that is equipped with suitably modified gliders, that clubs have previously been approached to engage with the topic, and that there is more that BGA and clubs could do. It was agreed that a suitably experienced volunteer advocate should be identified as soon as possible to take an informed lead with BGA support, and that the topic should be discussed with others actively involved including The Gliding Centre based disability gliding charity, the Scottish Gliding Centre based Walking on Air charity, and the Wyvern gliding club support of disabled military veterans and other members.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten

- b. Insurance renewal. It was agreed to renew the BGA policies based on the previously circulated quotations.
- c. QE approval. Those present noted that the BGA has been approved as a CAA delegated Qualified Entity for the purpose of recommending the issue of SFCL licences and ratings.
- d. Diploma request. Andy Perkins described a BGA Diploma nomination by a BGA club to be awarded during summer 2023 to align with a club event. Those present discussed the request. Noting the established process for receiving and considering BGA awards and the non-urgent nature of the request, those present exceptionally agreed to the award of a BGA Diploma as requested with formal notification of the award to be made at the BGA annual conference in early 2024.

Status: Closed

The next full meeting will take place at the end of June. Details to follow.