

BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 3rd JULY 2023

PRESENT

Andy Perkins – Chairman
Richard Brickwood
Bill Brittain
Nick Garland
Craig Lowrie
David McGrath
George Metcalfe – Vice Chairman

APOLOGIES

Rebecca Bryan
Matt Page
Lucy Wootton
Tony Smith - Treasurer and Company Secretary

IN ATTENDANCE

Pete Stratten - Chief Executive Officer

25/23 RESPONDING TO THE DRAFT AAIB REPORT RE G-CFRW

The Executive Committee met to consider and agree a response to the AAIB draft report into a fatal accident involving ASW20 G-CFRW.

Following an introduction by Andy Perkins, George Metcalfe and Pete Stratten spoke to a previously circulated briefing which was followed by a detailed discussion by those present regarding the AAIB draft report, a summary of BGA actions and safety promotion past and present relating to the risks associated with rigging errors, an analysis of options going forward, consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of existing process that should but due to human factors does not reliably capture rigging errors, the extant mix of gliders with and without auto-connecting controls in private and club fleets, potential liabilities on persons recording inspections, potential diminishing of BGA requirements, illustrative text for a potential modified operational regulation regarding inspecting gliders before flight, and proposals for a review of related BGA information, training and safety promotion.

Those present finally considered two potential options that are aligned with the AAIB report draft recommendation; 1. require all gliders operating from BGA clubs to have positive control checks recorded as part of the daily inspection, and 2. require gliders that do not have automatically connected controls operating from BGA clubs to have positive control checks recorded as part of the daily inspection. Noting the importance of drawing all operators towards good practice and an important discipline, it was agreed that on balance option 1 represents best practice and that a suitable amendment to the existing Operational Regulation will be proposed to the membership. It was also agreed that a review of the effectiveness of student pilots training for preparation for flight will be considered by the instructing and examining committee with any recommendations passed to the Executive Committee and a review of related existing and ongoing safety promotion will be addressed by the safety committee with their recommendations passed to the Executive Committee.

It was agreed by those present that the BGA Executive Committee response to the draft AAIB report would include several observations considered by those present regarding the draft AAIB report content.

Action: Pete Stratten

The next full meeting will take place at 7.30pm on 20th July 2023.