

# BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 22<sup>nd</sup> OF JANUARY 2024

### PRESENT

Andy Perkins – Chair  
Bill Brittain  
Craig Lowrie  
David McGrath  
George Metcalfe – Vice Chair  
Matt Page  
Lucy Wootton

### APOLOGIES

Richard Brickwood  
Rebecca Bryan  
Nick Garland  
Tony Smith - Treasurer and Company Secretary

### IN ATTENDANCE

Pete Stratten - Chief Executive Officer

#### 1/24 PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES

The meeting notes of the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 were approved.

#### 2/24 COMPETITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK REQUEST

George Metcalfe spoke to previously circulated detail relating to a Competitions Committee request for feedback on draft competition rules, noted that in his view the Competitions Committee has taken on board the feedback supplied in response and that they should go ahead with the 2024 competition rules consultation. All those present agreed and Pete Stratten agreed to inform the Competitions Committee chair.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: February 2024

#### 3/24 UPDATES

- a. Informed consent. Pete Stratten reported that as requested, suitable text was agreed and supplied to clubs as guidance on establishing or reinforcing existing informed consent ahead of participation in a 'first flight'. A minor revision to the existing 'template' temporary membership form had highlighted other issues with the form which are being addressed with the Development Committee.
- b. Part-66L examinations. Pete Stratten reported that after three years of pressing CAA on the issue and an unwillingness by CAA to accept the gravity of the situation, a further meeting with CAA was held in January which has led to CAA agreeing that there is a problem and that a review process and update of the Part-66L examination questions with the support of a BGA subject matter expert will take place and is expected to be completed during the early part of 2024. It was noted that the availability of suitably qualified and experienced inspectors will be an ongoing issue.
- c. AGM. Pete Stratten described the timeline, actions and arrangements to date, noting that the financial audit has been completed and that at the closing date for nominations, the number of Executive Committee nominations from member clubs equals the number of vacancies and therefore no election is required.
- d. Conference. Pete Stratten noted that the conference organizer Liz Pike is working hard on developing what is shaping up to be an enticing conference programme and that the event is being promoted through BGA news and social media.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: February 2024

#### 4/24 COMPETITION RISK

Pete Stratten spoke to a previously circulated brief that noted there was a tragic fatal accident during a competition in August 2023, where two gliders collided in a thermal whilst on task resulting in the death

of one of the pilots. He noted that AAIB and BGA had met to discuss in confidence the investigation findings to date and went on to remind those present of the outcome of the December meeting between the Competitions Committee chair and Safety Committee chair which had been shared with the Executive Committee.

As a result of those activities, it was noted that:

- BGA 'Managing Flying Risk' guidance now includes 'Flying in gliding competitions', which will be increasingly promoted ahead of the competition season.
- BGA competition rules have been amended and further changes are being considered.
- A competition safety video for presentation at competition mandatory safety briefings is being considered.
- A 'changing pilot behaviour' presentation by Brian Spreckley (IGC) is planned for the 2024 BGA conference, which considers the proximity tool being used in IGC competitions this year and which is of interest for use in BGA rated competitions.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: February 2023

5/24 RAeC, FAI and EAS (Europe Air Sports)

Pete Stratten spoke to a previously circulated brief describing a recent RAeC council meeting decision to review the benefits of RAeC member subscription fees passed on to the FAI and EAS. As the BGA does not have an informed view on that topic, Pete Stratten proposed and all those present agreed that a small group should be consulted ahead of developing a proposed BGA position on the matter for Executive Committee consideration and, when agreed, discussion with the RAeC council.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: March 2023

6/24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a. Following on from a recent email exchange regarding potential deposit options, it was agreed that a detailed comparison of deposit platforms will be developed and circulated to Executive Committee members.

Status: Open Action: David McGrath Due: March 2023

b. Andy Perkins noted that as he is required to step down at the AGM, he wanted to take the opportunity to state how he had enjoyed his time working with the Executive Committee. He went on to thank all those who have served on the Executive Committee during his time as BGA Chairman, and described how he has valued the collegiate and productive nature of Executive Committee business.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, George Metcalfe thanked Andy Perkins for his contribution and leadership over many years. He went on to also thank Executive Committee members Bill Brittain and Richard Brickwood for their service and support, both of whom will also be required to step down at the AGM having completed the maximum term permitted under the Articles of Association.

The date of next meeting will be advised.