

BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 9th APRIL 2024

PRESENT

George Metcalfe – Chair
Tim Barnes
Mark Fielding
Nick Garland
Craig Lowrie
Matt Page
Lucy Wootton

APOLOGIES

David McGrath – Vice Chair
Rebecca Bryan

IN ATTENDANCE

Pete Stratten - Chief Executive Officer

9/24 WELCOME

George Metcalfe welcomed the new members of the Executive Committee, noted the responsibilities of Directors, and described the general approach to Executive Committee business and decision-making using the variety of experience of Executive Committee members.

10/24 PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES

The meeting notes of the 22nd and 30th of January 2024 were approved.

11/24 BGA TREASURER

George Metcalfe spoke to previously circulated detail describing the process of identifying a potential BGA Treasurer and proposed that Sam Lazenby should be co-opted as a non-voting Executive Committee member and BGA Treasurer. All those present agreed with the proposal.

Status: Open Action: George Metcalfe Due: May 2024

12/24 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT FUND TRUSTEES

George Metcalfe spoke to previously circulated detail regarding the need to consider the reappointment of the four PEF trustees. Those present discussed the purpose and operating model of the PEF and its relationship with the BGA. All those present agreed to reappoint the four trustees. Pete Stratten agreed to inform the PEF lead trustee, Diana King.

Status: Closed Action: Pete Stratten Due: April 2024

13/24 TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM A CASC TO THE BGA

George Metcalfe spoke to previously circulated detail that described the circumstances of a £300k transfer of funds from a CASC gliding club that was liquidating its assets on closure to the BGA as the Governing Body and potential options going forward. It was noted that the BGA had met with a CASC subject matter expert to discuss and seek guidance on specific issues relating to the transfer. Those present noted several considerations including the fundamental requirement to comply with the CASC rules, the preferred use of the funds as expressed by the donor club, the relevant experience and expertise of a trust associated with the BGA, potential opportunities for gliding, and associated risks.

All those present agreed that the BGA's and donor club's aspirations are aligned, that the BGA has ultimate discretion over use of the funds, that the funds should be held by the BGA to address a strategic need, and that George Metcalfe would encapsulate the position for further consideration by the Executive Committee.

Status: Open Action: George Metcalfe Due: June 2024

14/24 STRATEGY – MONITORING AND PRIORITIES

George Metcalfe noted the background to the BGA Strategy and its purpose and the subsequent Fit for the Future document that details the related BGA projects. He went on to note that a recent review indicates that project work is moving in the right direction, that the priority issues are identified, and that the BGA Executive Committee may wish to routinely monitor and manage alignment and progress with the strategy, as well as review the priorities and redirect if needed. It was agreed by all those present that a statistics scorecard will be developed for routine use and reference by the Executive Committee.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: June 2024

George Metcalfe noted that a project is under development led by Craig Lowrie looking at ways of addressing the long-term membership decline, working directly with the Development Committee and in due course clubs that choose to be involved. Noting that club overheads are increasing while in general club membership numbers are reducing, those present supported the initiative and agreed that ongoing engagement with and support of the Development Committee will be necessary, including the development of a club-accessible knowledge base of good practice.

Status: Open Action: Craig Lowrie Due: November 2024

15/24 PARTNER GROUPS

Pete Stratten built on a previously circulated note describing how there are several independently run groups or entities that support gliding and in doing so work closely with the BGA but without any formal agreement in place. It was agreed by those present that to ensure clarity around independence and expectations around BGA support and engagement, a memorandum of understanding template would be developed and consulted on ahead of agreement by the Executive Committee.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: June 2023

16/24 COMMERCIAL PROMOTIONAL AND ADVERTISING RELATIONSHIPS

Noting previously circulated information including a contact by a glider pilot working for a company exploring a partnership arrangement, those present discussed the benefits, risks and other considerations around a variety of extant or proposed relationships with commercial companies. It was agreed that the BGA will limit its commercial promotional and advertising relationships to sponsorship or paid advertising, subject to the usual due diligence and written agreements.

Status: Closed Action: Pete Stratten Due: April 2023

17/24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Matt Page requested an update on the BGA response to the draft AAIB report into an ASW24 accident during 2023. Pete Stratten noted that following a discussion with the BGA Safety Committee chair, the previously circulated draft note including the concern about AAIB report writing was used to inform an email exchange with the head of the AAIB, that the BGA's final response had been written in part informed by that exchange, and that the BGA response would be made to AAIB on 10th April 2024.

Status: Closed Action: Pete Stratten Due: April 2023

The date of the next meeting will be advised.