

BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 16th NOVEMBER 2024

PRESENT George Metcalfe – Chair
Tim Barnes
Mark Fielding
Craig Lowrie
David McGrath – Vice Chair
Lucy Wootton

APOLOGIES Rebecca Bryan
Nick Garland
Matt Page

IN ATTENDANCE Sam Lazenby - Treasurer
Pete Stratten - Chief Executive Officer

32/24 PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES

The meeting notes of the 5th September 2024 were approved.

33/24 BGA INSPECTORS AND PART-66L

Pete Stratten spoke to previously circulated detail describing how BGA inspector requirements remain unchanged; that the Part-66L licence requirement is unattractive to new entrants and why; a twin-track approach of work completed and underway to establish an improved Part-66L licence application process while additionally seeking to establish certification of Part 21 aircraft maintenance under the BGA CAO without a Part-66L licence. He went on to describe how Pilot-Owner maintenance is being promoted and that the CAA has been approached regarding the disproportionate Part-66L licence renewal fee. Those present discussed the topics in detail and agreed that the CAA should be given some time to address the issues put to them and that BGA should be prepared to escalate should that be required.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: January 2025

34/24 SAILPLANE FLIGHT CREW LICENSING

Pete Stratten spoke to previously circulated detail describing the licence conversion process and progress as well as a programme of work that includes BGA, club and CAA dependencies in anticipation of the change to SFCL by 30th September 2025. It was noted that the BGA aims to have the necessary resources available for clubs by mid-2025. Those present discussed the issues in detail including BGA office resources and noting that the Instructing and Examining Committee should aim to provide the equivalent level of examining capacity currently enjoyed by clubs under the existing BGA system.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: June 2025

35/24 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Sam Lazenby described options for complying with limited company auditing requirements, the associated costs, and companies house requirements. Those present considered the current arrangement and agreed that the BGA would continue to require the annual accounts to be audited at a competitive cost.

Status: Open Action: Sam Lazenby, Pete Stratten Due: Feb 2025

36/24 RESERVES INVESTMENT

David McGrath described the protection, structure, terms, operation, access, fees, benefits and risks associated with investment platforms. An illustration based on one preferred platform was considered in

detail, resulting in agreement that Sam Lazenby and Pete Stratten should recommend to the Executive Committee an amount to be invested ahead of opening the agreed platform account.

Status: Open Action: Sam Lazenby, Pete Stratten Due: December 2024

37/24 CASC FUNDS

George Metcalfe re-capped work carried out to date on a draft BGA policy regarding donated CASC assets. He noted that following subject matter expert guidance, a response had been recently received from HMRC that indicates their acceptance of the BGA draft policy and clarified restrictions and responsibilities. Those present discussed conditions for disbursing received CASC funds via delegated entities; taxation liabilities; contingencies; and strategic needs in support of community sport gliding and in particular site purchase. A hybrid approach to disbursing available funds was adopted, i.e. conditionally disbursing around 20% of the currently available CASC donated funds via a suitable delegated entity for supporting clubs' improvements (e.g. ground equipment, aircraft), and the rest held by the BGA as a strategic fund giving priority to assisting clubs with site acquisition. George Metcalfe agreed to meet with relevant parties to discuss the BGA position.

Status: Open Action: George Metcalfe Due: December 2024

38/24 SAILPLANE AND GLIDING MAGAZINE

Pete Stratten spoke to previously circulated detail describing the long-term trend in S&G magazine's commercial performance in the context of the long-term trend for all printed magazines in the UK, noting that S&G remains profitable. He went on to describe alternative approaches taken by other subscription magazines within recreational aviation that include online opportunities such as combining news feeds and promotion of gliding via open access. Those present discussed the topic and agreed that while continuing to produce and publish S&G as currently delivered, work should be carried out to identify how S&G could move from its present form to where it needs to be in due course.

Status: Closed Action: Pete Stratten, Susan Newby

39/24 RAeC, FAI and EAS

Pete Stratten described the flow through of donations made by the BGA to the RAeC that includes a proportion of the RAeC payment to the World air sport federation (FAI) and to Europe Air Sports (EAS); the financial impact of one RAeC member organisation resigning earlier this year; FAI International Gliding Commission funding; and that the BGA is a paying member of the European Gliding Union (EGU). Those present discussed the implications of not being a part of the FAI and EAS. It was agreed that a detailed description of the benefits of RAeC membership and what the BGA needs from the RAeC as well as the FAI should be established ahead of agreeing the way forward.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: March 2025

Those present discussed a recent short-notice communication from the RAeC regarding a proposed nomination for the FAI President and concluded that, on the limited information available and without the opportunity to discuss with BGA representatives who may be more closely informed about FAI affairs, they were not able to take a position. Pete Stratten agreed to communicate the BGA position to the RAeC.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: November 2024

40/24 AGM 2025

George Metcalfe described the required retirement and opportunity for re-election of specific members of the Executive Committee as well as the existing vacancies and went on to note the formal nomination process that begins in December 2024. Tim Barnes agreed to draft a short prospective for use by potential Executive Committee members. Sam Lazenby offered to take on the role of BGA Company Secretary, which was agreed with thanks by all those present.

Status: Open Action: Tim Barnes, Sam Lazenby Due: January 2025

41/24 AOB

- a. BGA Operational Regulations. All those present agreed that changes to BGA operational regulations associated with SFCL will require an EGM during mid-2025.
- b. UK JuniorGliding. Lucy Wootton noted that the 'Winter Series' continues to be popular and that the UK JuniorGliding organisers include Anne Soltow and Jonno Bradford, with others involved as part of a succession plan.
- c. Management accounts. Those present agreed that a quarterly review of the management accounts would be helpful.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: February 2025

The date of the next meeting will be advised.