

BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 27th AUGUST 2020

PRESENT: Andy Perkins – Chairman
Pete Bennett
Richard Brickwood
Bill Brittain
Nick Garland
Peter Hibbard
George Metcalfe – Vice Chairman
Matt Page

IN ATTENDANCE: Dave Latimer – Development Committee Chairman (33/20)
Pete Stratten - Chief Executive Officer

APOLOGIES: Rebecca Bryan
Tony Smith – Treasurer and Company Secretary

29/20 PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES

The Executive Committee meeting notes of 2nd July 2020 were approved and will be signed by the chairman at the next opportunity.

30/20 AIRSPACE UPDATE

Pete Stratten described the current situation regarding the Airspace Modernisation Strategy, recently proposed airspace changes, GNSS approaches, and Temporary Danger Areas. He went on to note UK aspirations re the drone industry, how CAA airspace policy is leaning in that direction including re electronic conspicuity, the CAA's intention to mandate ADS-B equipage by 2024, and technical and economic issues associated with that. All those present agreed the need for a technically and economically viable electronic conspicuity roadmap that is ideally aligned with GA Alliance partner views and can support ongoing engagement with Govt and the regulator. Pete Stratten agreed to raise the issue with the GA Alliance and seek a prompt response.

Status: Open Due: October 2020 Action: Pete Stratten

31/20 BGA ACTIVITY AND FINANCE UPDATE

Pete Stratten described several operational and business issues and developments that occurred during the Covid19 lockdown and described how all BGA staff will be returning to contracted and Covid-safe working arrangements with effect from 1st September. He went on to describe the year-end financial forecast that at this stage indicates a modest surplus rather than the budgeted break-even outcome. Those present discussed the detail including that the impact of Covid19 on membership income will become apparent during the financial year starting 1 October 2020 and how that and the noted surplus will be taken into consideration during the planned October review of the 2020/2021 budget. Andy Perkins thanked the BGA staff for their supportive approach throughout what has been a difficult year for everyone.

Status: Open Due: October 2020 Action: Tony Smith, Pete Stratten

32/20 FIT FOR THE FUTURE

George Metcalfe reminded those present of the agreed Terms of Reference that aim to ensure that the BGA is prepared for any future downturn and to review BGA services and support in terms of both quality and efficiency. He described next steps that he and Pete Stratten are undertaking including identifying and prioritizing opportunities, noted that there is no intention to rewrite the 2018-agreed strategy, and undertook to update those present in the Autumn.

Status: Open Due: October 2020 Action: George Metcalfe, Pete Stratten

33/20 GLIDING ASPIRATIONS

Andy Perkins reminded those present of discussions earlier in the year describing potential opportunities to encourage greater engagement within the organization including connecting with individual aspirations. Dave Latimer provided a Development Committee perspective, reflected on internal and external marketing including the Glide Britain project that highlighted a latent frustration regarding exposure of our sport and noted that support of club marketing should be a key part of future BGA-led marketing activity. Noting the consistently low conversion rate (<1%) from introductory flight to full member, those present considered how the sport needs to be open to new people and their aspirations which inevitably means the sport and clubs must adapt and evolve.

The conversation moved towards three issues that can facilitate growth at clubs, ie introductory conversion and retention, training resources, and BGA support including guidance. Several points of detail emerged including plans to recruit a marketing lead, development and use of videos during training, the need to improve the uptake of instructor training and IFP training, and revisiting the FFVP 'Discovery' initiative that had been previously considered. Turning to the need to seek views from around the association, it was agreed that a wide-reaching survey will be developed that presents the vision, signposts to the strategy noting things will change and seeks to better understand individuals as well as member clubs aspirations and ideas for the future of the sport. Andy Perkins agreed to collate initial inputs to a draft survey ahead of delegating the task and requested inputs from those present.

Status: Open Due: September 2020 Action: All

34/20 AoB

- a. AAIB Update. Pete Stratten noted that a recent discussion regarding accident investigations had subsequently highlighted potential inconsistencies between changes to EU regulation and the existing signed MoU between the AAIB and the BGA. As a result, the BGA had met with AAIB during August to discuss the detail. The AAIB noted that the MoU is misleading (for example AAIB can no longer 'delegate' accident investigations but instead 'refer' them), identified the EU regulation that now underpins BGA investigation of reported occurrences and the handling of related reports and data, agreed in future to consider taking on investigations of accidents where requested by BGA, agreed to facilitate bi-annual training of BGA investigators, and will provide a revised draft MoU before the end of 2020. BGA processes and procedures have been updated to reflect the information supplied at the meeting by the AAIB.
- b. Director Training. Andy Perkins reminded those present that Director training (eg via the S&RA) can be facilitated if required.
- c. AGM 2021. Andy Perkins sought agreement in principle that the 2021 AGM could if necessary be delivered online. The company Secretary had previously confirmed that method of delivery is aligned with the Articles of Association. All those present were supportive.

There was no other business. The next meeting will be held during September 2020. Andy Perkins will circulate details.