

BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 19th NOVEMBER 2022

PRESENT Andy Perkins – Chairman
Richard Brickwood
Bill Brittain
David McGrath
George Metcalfe – Vice Chairman
Matt Page
Lucy Wootton

APOLOGIES Rebecca Bryan
Nick Garland

IN ATTENDANCE Tony Smith - Treasurer and Company Secretary
Pete Stratten - Chief Executive Officer

42/22 PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES

The Executive Committee meeting notes of 7th September 2022 were approved.

43/22 REGULATORY ISSUES

Pete Stratten described the CAA's pilot licensing and pilot medical declaration consultations and noted published BGA guidance to the membership which supports members in responding and reflects the BGA agreed position and that club member responses are being encouraged. He went on to describe how the CAA's approach to Part-66L theoretical knowledge examinations has led to no sailplane inspector progressing under that process and that the issue and a potential ICAO-compliant solution has been proposed to the DfT, and that in response to the UK not accepting Form 1s from maintenance companies that are not UK CAA approved (eg Tost) from the end of 2022, the BGA has for months been pressing CAA and DfT for a solution and last week DfT stated that the department is actively looking for a solution.

Status: Open

44/22 OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Pete Stratten reported that over 25% of clubs have to date taken advantage of the BGA facilitated desktop risk management review, that positive feedback has been received from participating clubs, and that the BGA published 'any gliding club operations manual' template is an outcome from the initiative.

Status: Open

45/22 FINANCE

Tony Smith described the year end forecast, which indicates a break-even outcome, and noted; few variations from budget of significant note other than the badges and certificates line, which is a sign of a good soaring year; inflationary issues and efforts to mitigate those; the budget development process to date and that the draft will be circulated to those present ahead of a single subject meeting to agree the detail; and the recent difficulties faced by an air sport body that had been scammed and noted a review of existing BGA controls and action taken within the office to raise awareness. Those present discussed several points regarding BGA financial controls and Pete Stratten agreed to check a specific item.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: December 2022

46/22 MARKETING AND PROMOTION

Following previous conversations, Bill Brittain presented his thoughts on updating the BGA website including its role in the awareness and engagement pathway, in supporting active participation, and document management and accessibility. Those present supported the approach, the need to refresh

the BGA website, and that the work should be progressed. Pete Stratten agreed to arrange an online meeting with Bill Brittain and the website support contractor.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: January 2023

Dave McGrath noted that the highly successful MS Flight Simulator product now includes gliding that will expose millions of worldwide users to a new aspect of aviation simulated flight and that this could be an opportunity for gliding. A discussion took place following which those present agreed that a related company could be contacted on behalf of the BGA and that a briefing note would be prepared for the next Executive Committee meeting.

Status: Open Action: Dave McGrath Due: January 2023

It was noted that the WWGC2022 wash up meeting included a decision to roll out promotional, event, and local engagement good practice guidance to clubs starting with The Gliding Centre sharing its experience with other interested clubs that would be expected to share their experiences with others, and that two leading volunteers involved in the WWGC2022 organisation will be presenting the opportunities during the Club Development Conference in November. Having seen the wash up meeting notes, those present asked to see additional comments subsequently supplied by the TGC chairman which Andy Perkins agreed to circulate.

Status: Open Action: Andy Perkins Due: December 2022

47/22 BGA STRATEGY

George Metcalfe reminded those present of the association-wide input into the published BGA Strategy document and proposed a way forward to provide an update informed by multiple sources ahead of the BGA conference on 25th February 2023. The proposal was supported by those present.

48/22 DIRECT SUPPORT TO CLUBS

- a. Facilities funding. Andy Perkins described how the external grant funding and charitable fund landscape is constantly evolving and noted that clubs could benefit from a BGA resource that could identify and support club's access to opportunities. Those present agreed with the principle and proposed that as a starting point existing funding expertise within the BGA should be approached via the Development Committee chairman. It was noted that local engagement (as described at 46/22) and meeting governance standards as promoted by the Development Committee are fundamental to success with external funding opportunities.

Status: Open Action: Andy Perkins and Pete Stratten Due: December 2022

- b. Instructor training. Those present noted the now established flexible approach to delivering instructor training and considered how the activity could be further supported. Pete Stratten noted that there is a related workshop taking place during the Club Management Conference and feedback will be provided. He added that the Training Standards Manager is actively seeking feedback from CFIs on BGA facilitated instructor training requirements for 2023.

Noting that simulated flying may not replace the required flight training, the value of simulated flight training of instructors was discussed both in terms of improved learning of airborne teaching techniques and significant efficiency savings in flying time and cost. Reflecting on how simulated flying can make all club pilot training far more efficient, other potential benefits were considered. Those present agreed that a briefing note will be developed with the aim of BGA identifying how to encourage and reasonably support wider use of club-based simulators.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: January 2023

It was noted that the 'Royal Air Squadron' has generously offered seven bursaries for instructor training by under-25's and that this very welcome bursary opportunity will be launched in early 2023.

- c. Discover Gliding. Pete Stratten referred to a previous conversation describing how triaging and other process can result in the best approach being taken in each case when a potential member turns up at a club, is a known successful way of attracting new members and suggested that associated guidance may need to follow other initiatives currently underway.
- d. Sub-Committee support. Andy Perkins highlighted that the BGA sub-committees provide vital support to clubs and their members, and it remains important to ensure they are appropriately supported. It was noted that that BGA committee working methods are evolving with more ad-hoc or single subject engagement and less formal committee meeting activity, which can mean it is challenging for the Executive Committee to follow progress but that is recognized as an understandable and evolving situation. Those present agreed to remind the sub-committee chairman that they are always welcome to join an Executive Committee meeting and that Andy Perkins will arrange a series of zoom meetings to ensure each sub-committee chairman has an opportunity to discuss any support or other requirements as well as to consider thoughts on succession planning.

Status: Open Action: Andy Perkins Due: December 2022

- e. Aspects of a great gliding club. Andy Perkins described a Development Committee initiative in developing an interactive matrix that can be used to support clubs in demonstrating or identifying the positive attributes that make a great club including to increase its attractiveness to current members, potential members, and to external funders and other key stakeholders.

49/22 INDIRECT SUPPORT TO CLUBS

- a. STEM. The BGA's engagement with DfT and CAA initiatives around promoting interest in aviation skills including via STEM activity was noted, along with the indirect benefits associated with that activity. Pete Stratten noted that he and Liz Sparrow are actively engaged in supporting specific CAA STEM activity that follow meetings with the CAA STEM lead and that resources developed for the WWGC2022 will be used going forward with that work with CAA. Andy Perkins noted that Richard Brickwood and Liz Sparrow are developing an application for DfT supplied and CAA-led STEM outreach funding with the aim of meeting the funders objectives while supporting BGA club's engagement and links to local communities and aviation businesses. The funding decision should be made in early 2023.
- b. Sustainability. It was noted that the EGU recently identified and agreed with the UN sustainability priorities most relevant to gliding, that the FAI publishes a view on environmental sustainability and air sport and that BGA should develop its strategy to address its sustainability responsibilities, identify suitable guidance for clubs, and as a result update and promote its published information.

Status: Open

50/22 FUTUREPROOF

Andy Perkins reminded those present of the 'futureproof' project which aims to identify how to support any club with developing a gliding site and that sustainable business modelling is fundamental to establishing and sustaining a freehold site. Dave McGrath presented a business model template that he has produced in support of the project. In presenting the detail noted that a future development is likely to require a commercial arrangement with gliding alongside, that the model is one side of the equation and that having funding lined up is the other, and that the project needs is looking at a 10-15-year horizon. Those present strongly welcomed the work to date, considered whether there are synergistic businesses including those associated with innovative aviation eg RPAS and UAS related, and recognized the long timelines and iterative nature of the project.

Status: Open

51/22 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be during December 2023. Date to be agreed.