

# BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 3<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2025

### PRESENT

George Metcalfe – Chair  
Tim Barnes  
Rebecca Bryan  
Mark Fielding  
Nick Garland  
Craig Lowrie  
David McGrath – Vice Chair  
Matt Page  
Lucy Wootton

### IN ATTENDANCE

Bob King – Director Windrushers GC Ltd  
Maria Mitchell – Director Windrushers GC Ltd  
Sam Lazenby - Treasurer  
Pete Stratten - Chief Executive Officer

### 01/25 DONATED CASC FUNDS

Following introductions, George Metcalfe welcomed Marie Mitchell and Bob King to the meeting and invited them to describe to the Executive Committee their concerns regarding CASC funds donated from Windrushers GC (WRGC), which are noted in the BGA's audited accounts as a creditor 'donation for site development following closure of Windrushers GC'.

Marie Mitchell described significant work delivered by WRGC volunteers between 2004 and the club's forced closure at Bicester in 2019 resulting in a thriving gliding club with a large fleet of aircraft. She went on to highlight the physical and personal challenges associated with the closure; said that the club's members had been unanimous that the funds should go to PWMF to be put to long term benefit to gliding and not 'disappear'; that to achieve that the funds should be transferred via the Governing body; that the BGA had asked for a proposal in writing; that the funds had been handed over to the BGA in 2023 with the expectation they would be lodged with the PWMF; and since then issues had resulted in the current situation where the funds are still retained by the BGA.

Bob King highlighted the WRGC view, i.e. that the funds should be used in a manner that would not diminish their future value and utility and that the funds should be managed by the PWMF as they can meet WRGC aims. He went on to note that recent correspondence between BGA and HMRC indicates that it is possible to donate the funds to the PWMF; that PWMF is set up to manage these kinds of funds but the BGA is not; that the funds were not donated to the BGA but put in safe keeping with the BGA for passing on to the PWMF and should not be allowed to leak away; his concern with the BGA's draft CASC funds policy document; and insisted that the funds are transferred to the PWMF without delay.

A small number of questions were raised by those present and responded to by Marie Mitchell and Bob King, who noted that in the event of the funds not being transferred to the PWMF, the funds should in their view be returned to WRGC Ltd.

George Metcalfe and those present thanked Marie Mitchell and Bob King for their time and valuable contribution to the discussion following which they both left the meeting.

George Metcalfe spoke to a presentation describing options that take into consideration the views of WRGC Directors expressed during 2023/2024 and clarified at a meeting in December 2024 attended by George Metcalfe and Pete Stratten and reinforced earlier in this meeting. The options were considered in detail by those present. In doing so, those present noted the WRGC expectations and aspirations for the donated funds and the importance of addressing their wishes, and further considered the options against several criteria including ensuring the funds provide an effective strategic value to gliding and the legal obligations relating to transferring and use of CASC funds as informed by written exchanges between BGA and HMRC.

A potential way forward was identified, and it was agreed that following further detailed input to the option which will be led by George Metcalfe, a further meeting would take place in January 2025 to agree the next steps.

Status: Open Action: George Metcalfe Due: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025