

BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 13th MAY 2025

PRESENT

George Metcalfe – Chair
Tim Barnes
Mark Fielding
Chris Fox
Craig Lowrie
David McGrath – Vice Chair
Ellen Packham
Lucy Wootton

APOLOGIES

Matt Page
Nick Garland

IN ATTENDANCE

Sam Lazenby - Treasurer
Pete Stratten - Chief Executive Officer

22/25 PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES

The meeting notes of the 11th March were approved.

23/25 CASC FUNDS

George Metcalfe provided an update noting that ahead of the closure of WRGC by its directors, they have indicated that further residual WRGC funds will be transferred to BGA. As previously agreed by BGA Executive Committee and recently confirmed by PWMF, these will be transferred to the PWMF on the same basis as previous WRGC transfers.

Status: Open Due: September 2025

24/25 COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE

George Metcalfe noted that he had written to three people who had complained about the recent changes to glider handicaps stating that due consideration had been given within Comps Committee processes and that the matter is now closed.

Status: Closed

25/25 RAISING AWARENESS OF GLIDING

Craig Lowrie reminded those present of the background and reported on subsequent project activity and the related budget. Noting the high level of social media reach and engagement, effective budget control, and club engagement, Craig Lowrie proposed that the funded work is extended for a further period. Those present agreed to extend the current project until the end of September 2025. It was suggested that clubs should be asked to capture data on new members to better understand the effectiveness of the project.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: June 2025

26/25 OPERATIONAL REGULATIONS UPDATE

Pete Stratten spoke to a previously circulated briefing note describing updates to BGA Operational Regulations that are necessary in advance of legislative changes effective from September 2025 as well as amendments that reflect club and other needs. Those present approved the draft changes ahead of consultation with member clubs and a subsequent general meeting. The unchanged operational regulation describing minimum combined liability insurance was noted and it was agreed that clubs should be advised to consider with their insurance broker whether a higher level of cover would be appropriate. Pete Stratten agreed to circulate the necessary information to clubs.

Status: Open Action: Pete Stratten Due: July 2025

27/25 BGA CHAIR TENURE

Speaking to a previously circulated briefing, David McGrath, Vice-Chair, who has previously announced his intention to stand down in 2026 due to a move to another country, discussed the implications of George Metcalfe's tenure as chairman which the Articles of Association require to end in February 2026 unless a special resolution is passed. Two options were proposed: either hold elections for chair as well as vice chairman and other retiring directors or pass a special resolution to extend George Metcalfe's term for another three years. The latter option would ensure continuity and stability on the Executive Committee. George Metcalfe expressed his willingness to continue serving provided that was supported by the Executive Committee and the membership. Those present expressed their support for a resolution that will extend George Metcalfe's term by three years starting from February 2026. David McGrath agreed to lead the drafting of the special resolution for the member clubs to vote on. Those present agreed that an EGM will be held on 12th August with a deadline for giving notice of the resolution of 21st July. The EGM will also address the proposed changes to BGA Operational Regulations described in item 26/25 above.

Status: Open Action: David McGrath, Sam Lazenby Due: July 2025

28/25 AOB

- (a) Part66L. In response to a question about progress on Part66L matters, Pete Stratten provided an update on recent conversations with CAA on Part66L inspector licence initial issue process, CAA's Part66L licence renewal charges, the desirability of change to the law to facilitate release to service by BGA-approved inspectors on Part 21 sailplanes as an alternative to a Part66L licenced inspectors, and that the related issues had been raised at the highest levels at CAA and within DfT. A meeting with CAA has been arranged for 27th May with the aim of clarifying the CAA's actions within the Part66L licence approval process.
- (b) AAIB report. Those present noted the recent BGA response to an AAIB draft report as invited by the AAIB.