

ESSEX AND SUFFOLK GLIDING CLUB LTD

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18th June 2014 in the Clubhouse commencing at 19.00 hrs.

Present

Robert Godden (RG)	Chairman
Paul Foulger (PF)	Secretary
Andrew Booth (AB)	Treasurer
Mike Haynes (MH)	Technical Officer
Dick Skinner (DS)	Membership Secretary
Clive Stacey (CS)	Site Officer
Jonathan Abbess (JA)	Chief Flying Instructor

Apologies for Absence

Martin Lawson (ML)	Winch Master
Eddie Leach (EL)	Safety Officer
Adrian Tills (AT)	Publicity Officer

Approval of Previously approved Minutes for 10th May 2014

The minutes were agreed unanimously by those present.

Matters arising

<u>Clubhouse Porch.</u>	Ongoing
<u>Hard standing for Club Trailers</u>	Ongoing
<u>Risk Assessments</u>	Ongoing
<u>CASC</u>	Ongoing

Website - There was discussion regarding the website in that the "Team" to assist Dennis Heslop, i.e. Mike Haynes; Jonathan Abbess; Andreas Rieder and Dick Skinner needed to meet up with DH in order to move forward with a number of ideas. It was agreed that a feature of 'ring up and fly today' this would need to be after consulting the day's bookings. There was often spare capacity on a Sunday afternoon and would help to generate much needed cash. It was also suggested to sell a Trial Lesson at £75 and get a Gliding Experience at £30 as an incentive.

Membership Secretary's Report

1. Membership Numbers: I will report at the meeting on the current membership numbers. The current system of dealing with recently joined members (between 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2014) is that, assuming they have paid the full year's membership, their renewal date will be the anniversary of their joining date and until that anniversary is reached they will be considered members. This is unrealistic in some cases where we have not seen them for some time or they have actually told us that they do not intend to re-join. There were currently circa 100 members, however there was further work to be done to verify who were currently members. RS to organise a meeting with Amy to take this forward.

R.S.

2. There are a numbers of members whose status is uncertain I will try to have a list prepared so that I can request information from the committee on whether they have actually been seen recently on days when I am not in attendance.
3. Charging for hanger and workshop space: I understand that there used to be a system and a schedule of charges for this but I am unaware of the details. If we are to impose such charges they must be made known to the membership. I seek the committee's opinion on such charges. It was agreed that there were occasions when gliders were kept in the workshop for more than the normal 2-3 days. It was agreed that the Technical Officer would monitor the situation and that there would be a charge of £2.00 per day for use of the workshop by a glider that did not belong to the club or a club member, or it was deemed that there was an excessive time period of use. If similar use was made of the Hanger then the charge would be £3.00 per day.
4. Wethersfield: We have been approached by Wethersfield to see if we can assist with keeping their instructors current while they have administrative problems and cannot fly. After discussions/e-mail exchanges with various people including Jonathan it would appear that their instructor ratings are so different to ours that it would be impossible to accept them as instructors or even P1 passenger carriers at our club. Their presence in any numbers, while it might be beneficial financially, could also affect club members' access to gliders and flights. It is proposed that I respond to their request with a "regretful NO". However, it was agreed that members of Wethersfield be invited to join E&SGC as normal members.
5. Aldham Open Gardens Day: Martin, Bob and I spent an interesting day at Aldham with my glider on a front lawn, along with the display boards. We did not sell any vouchers (which do not surprise me as it was unlikely that gardening fanatics would have cash in their pockets for impulse buys of that nature) but a large number of leaflets were taken and a number of "expressions of interest" were made. I anticipate that there will be some vouchers sold as a result but it will be hard to identify them. We had promised Aldham 10% of any sales made on the day – which equates to £0.00 so I suggest we should make a voluntary donation of £25 to their fund raising as a gesture of thanks. A Booth to arrange. **A.B.**
6. Log/Membership Computer System: Robbie continues to work on and improve the system. Of late the main problems have arisen from members who have not paid their fees or whose medical is out of date, and whose name therefore does not come up on the list. If they are then entered as a new member and given a new membership number this causes chaos! We need at least clear instructions as to how to deal with this situation and preferably a system that shows the reason for the member not being shown on the list and gives on screen instructions as to what needs to be done.

Secretary's Report

Aerobility Raffle. – A letter had been received from Aerobility, asking if we could sell raffle tickets at E&SGC. All agreed that the offer should be declined.

Wormingford Village – The local Vicar would be attending the club on Saturday 28th June, Adrian Tills would be meeting him and other members should join in if possible to give support to the village activities which seemed to be being received enthusiastically. AT had provided a Gliding Experience

vouch in respect of the local Family Fun Day. We had the offer of supplying a Tug of War Team; however those present felt that we should decline the offer.

Christmas Dinner Saturday 20th December 2014. – The landlord at the Thatcher's had moved on and the current tenant was receiving rather adverse reports. PF would cancel the event at the Thatcher's and had secured a booking at the Holiday Inn at Eight Ash Green for a room on our own at a cost of circa £30.00 per head.

Pilot Licences – As one of three authorisers for applications at the club, PF was concerned that very few members so far had made an application. Time was marching on and with applications taking a minimum of 2 months to be processed he would write to members reminding them that this needed to be completed sooner rather than later.

P.F.

Technical Officers Report

Instruments.

Action outstanding to send the older instruments to Mike Huthinson for service/scrap.

Broadband

No reports of failures to backup the SQL this month, however on looking at the router statistics it has only been up 4 days in short we are still seeing periodic reboots.

Will continue to monitor

Office PC and IT

Nothing to report

Briefing Room PC

Nothing to report.

IP Webcam

Clive assures me he will be working on the cat 5 cabling in the near future.

Am still seeing static images on the Website even though the new Camera is functioning correctly.

Glider Trailer Refurbishment

Progress on the new Astir trailer has still been somewhat. I now have the initiative to complete this task in the next couple of weeks.

Launch Vehicle Batteries

The new Varta LDA85 AGM Batteries have been fitted to the launch vehicle and no further problems with running out of power towards the end of the day have been observed.

Skylaunch Speed Transducers for DOA/DVB

Investigation of the Skylaunch receiver in the winch revealed that the manufacturer had folded the aerial to fit it inside the case. The consequence of this is the aerial was out of tune reducing the range. The receiver was modified with and SMB connector and an external aerial has been fitted to the English, I will equip the German winch in due course.

Subsequent to this transmissions from the k21's speed transducer were received flawlessly, but both k13's still exhibited intermittent reception.

Suspecting shielding caused by the aluminum floor plate both transmitters were also equipped with remote aerals located inside the glider, under the rear floor, this resolved the problem and good reception was achieved over the length of our airfield.

Gliders

All of the ARC inspections/renewals for 2014 have now been completed (including the Grob)

K21

Rear PPT switch wiring broke below the switch, maybe the bored instructors sitting in the back twiddling the switch, repaired.

K6CR

No progress to report

Grob Acro

John G has now closed the new wing tip and after re-fitting the aileron has only finishing and painting to do. Expectation now is the aircraft should be finished by the end of June.

SF27

Front canopy bolt, open position detent re-cut to prevent bolt springing closed.

Note to SF27 pilots.

There is no need to close the front bolt when the aircraft is in the ground it is just unnecessary reaching trough the DV panel, with the associated risk of breakage.

Also if you experience difficulty closing the canopy check that it has not slid forward by a 1 or 2 mm.

Pirat

Nothing to report

ASTIR HKM

Severn Valley Sailplanes let us down with delivery for a new tail wheel. The new wheel has now been received and fitted.

ASTIR KEE

Nothing to report

DOA

Has a reported problem with its Red Box FLARM creating distracting noise. I have not been able to re-create this on test

Elevator stop for full forward is becoming rough and this can be felt in the aileron circuit

No progress on this action

Discrepancy between front and back ASI in DOA has been verified.

DVB

Red Box FLARM GPS module developed a fault, unit has been returned to LX for service, expect back next week. In the meantime have swapped the Red Box from the Pirat.

Chairman's report

1. **Planning application – motor glider.** I have a cost indication from Raymond Stemp, the planning consultant following his familiarisation visit to WRM . The cost would be £1,500 plus VAT for full report preparation and presentation and one further meeting.
He does mention that in his view an independent noise report would carry more weight with the council. It would be a good idea for us to consider whether or not we change our mind on this. Stemp associates have offered to supply some names and costs which I will advise to the Committee when received.
I seek the Committees agreement in principal to move this on under a budget of say £3,000 to include independent sound reporting if decided upon. It was agreed to take up the offer of Colchester Council's planning dept. to hold a pre meeting for the purpose of guiding applicants through the process, this would consist of RG, RS and MH. The cost is about £170 but I am not sure that we need this. I have offered that the two planning people involved, Jane Seeley and the Environmental Health Officer, Rita Parkin visit WRM when we are conducting the sound measurements so that they can get a better idea of what we are talking about.
2. **Business plan / grants** – we are scheduled to get into this area by the Autumn and I would just want to remind members that we need individually to have developed some fairly refined and costed proposals for capital expenditure in their areas of activity.
3. **Extra Sunday T/L slots** – We need to agree on this now. It needs to have some instructors willing to volunteer to form a pool to take the specific additional trial flights. JA to write to Instructors.

J.A.

Site Officers Report

Outstanding and ongoing items.

Double Cross Sign. Completed, item closed.

Club House Porch. New window frame is now installed. The carpenter who supplied the frame has been advised that it is ready for his glazer to come and fit the glass. He now needs a gentle reminder, the anchor points in the concrete base is still outstanding.

Loft hatches. Protective surrounds within each hatchway are an outstanding item.

Security System for Container and MT shed. Work has started again on the cable containment system

IT System. Delayed while other tasks need to be progressed.

Shower and Toilet Block. Back in service.

Grass Cutting. Ongoing continuous activity. It was agreed that the mower should be left on the Tractor for the time being and also at weekends. Winch Drivers should be notified of this and how to move the tractor with the cutter in place. It was suggested that the Tractor and Mower be parked in front of the rear door of the MT shed to avoid having to move the equipment. CS to liaise with ML. **C.S.**

New matters actioned or arising.

Shower block. Repair and maintenance to both doors will need to be under taken when work to the porch is completed.

Club House to Patio Steps. Three flag stones need to be re-bedded onto mortar, as they are now loose. The French doors will have to be kept closed for a four day period.

Buggy No 1. The gear box has finally failed as a result of changing gear when still in motion. I have discussed this issue with Trevor Smith and advised I would like to assist him when we have settled on a route and method to expedite a return to service. Chris Price has offered to contact his son on the clubs behalf in order for us to determine the best course of action.

Westwood mower. This is temporarily out of service as the cutting deck is out of level and is one of the causes, for the cutting belt to run off its pulley wheel.

It was reported that there were a number of deep ruts that required some attention.

Winch Masters Report

In the absence of ML there was nothing to report.

Safety Officers Report

Club test and inspection is ongoing

PAT testing is due. Commence on return from Eden

Gas Compound electrical test is due. Commence on return from Eden

Fire Extinguisher test and inspection due?

Is the gas appliance test due.

North peri - track sign: sign has been received I have spoken to Clive re: position of posts.

Do we need another similar sign facing towards the clubhouse on the corner of the rigging area.

On another note: Last week a member of the public was on a bicycle with 2 dogs neither dog on a lead.

Do we need a sign at a prominent position i.e. gate to warn that dogs must be on a lead, if they are not and the dogs stray onto the airfield the owner will be responsible for any mishap that may occur?

The situation would be monitored and if it was seen to be a continual problem then a sign would be considered.

CFI's Report

Congratulations to Simon Barnes who has regained his Assistant Instructor rating.

My recent attempts to get two more of our members through a B.I. course where frustrated when the course was cancelled.

After inspection by John Gilbert it has been decided that we will not buy the Oly' 463 as an Annex 2 glider.

Flying Week – It was agreed to hold a flying week commencing 11th August

Treasurer's Report

There is nothing of any interest to report this month.

We do not have an interim Trial Balance as Amy has not yet closed the accounts for 2013. Once she has done this, I will obtain an interim balance and see if anything can be reliably interpreted from the data to see how we are doing.

The cash status at the bank today is more satisfactory compared to the same time last year I am not aware of any significant income or expense to-date this year.

Group activity (delivered/planned) is up from last year. My guess is that membership, flying and TL's are all slightly down vs. last year. I am assuming that overall we are on track to make a small loss again this trading year, in line with the budget we agreed earlier this year.

A general discussion took place on how we review the accounts each month, and whilst we may have been looking into too much detail, we would look again once the accounts for 2013 had been closed.

Any Other Business

Caravans – There was currently planning permission for 10 Caravans to be on site. It is known that Dave Aherne currently has two on site making 11, but he has been made aware that the second one must be removed from site as soon as possible. With the current planning proposals for TMG use it was agreed that this was the wrong time to look at any extension of planning for caravans.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.25 hours.

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 16th July 2014 at 19.00 hrs. in the Clubhouse

PF/19/06/2014