

BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE BRITISH GLIDING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 17th DECEMBER 2014

- PRESENT: Peter Harvey - Chairman
Nick Bowers
Ron Bridges
Bill Craig
Lisa Humphries
George Metcalfe
Andy Perkins
- IN ATTENDANCE: Les Kaye – Treasurer
Pete Stratton – Chief Executive
- APOLOGIES: Dave Fidler
David Latimer
John Williams

63/14 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The notes from the meeting on the 25th October 2014 were approved subject to the word principles being replaced with metrics within item 62/14.

Status: Closed

64/14 CASC UPDATE

Peter Harvey spoke to notes supplied to the meeting by Dave Latimer, which provided an update on the HMRC changes to CASC, and Les Kaye, who had commented on related financial considerations. Recognising the importance of this issue for the significant number of clubs who currently benefit from rate relief through CASC status and the BGA's joint work on CASC developments to date with the Sport and Recreation Alliance, those present considered detail relating to HMRC interpretation of full club member status, red-tape issues some of which have been raised with government and the anticipated implementation timeline for the revised CASC requirements including a transition period with penalty amnesty. Those present agreed that Les Kaye should liaise with Dave Latimer regarding related financial considerations, and thanked Dave Latimer and the development committee team for their work to date.

Status: Closed

65/14 COMPETITIONS

Peter Harvey noted that a paper describing proposed developments around the scope of Competition Committee would be presented ahead of the next Executive Committee meeting. Peter Harvey reported on the planned EGC 2017 noting that a number of key documents were being worked up including an operational agreement for the period of the competition that had now been accepted by Lasham but had yet to be reviewed by the IGC, and the FAI agreement that in due course will need to be signed by FAI, RAeC, BGA and Lasham. He went on to note that a lot of work is required to put forward a viable proposition bidding for the WGC at Tibenham in 2018. Pete Harvey noted that he would be assisting the Norfolk gliding club developing that bid. Pete Harvey noted that the Competitions Committee has decided to support Steve Jones entry into the 2015 EGC 20m class and that decision has been noted in competitions committee minutes that the Executive Committee will be reviewing in due course.

66/14 GOVERNANCE

Pete Stratten spoke to a number of previously circulated governance points associated with the AGM on 7th March 2015. He went on to describe:

- a) That the annual audit had been completed, that the draft accounts will be available for consideration in early January and that they will need to be signed off by the end of January ahead of circulation to clubs.
- b) That the Articles require that Dave Fidler retires from the Executive Committee resulting in one vacancy. Clubs have been advised and supplied with a nomination form and a closing date that provides time for an election if required.
- c) That the Operational Regulation consultation document has been supplied to club chairmen and secretaries, and that a small amount of feedback has been received. Any changes resulting from the consultation will need to be addressed by the Executive Committee ahead of a proposed set of changes to BGA Operational Regulations being proposed ahead of the AGM.
- d) The timeline leading up to the AGM including key decision and action points.

Those present noted their satisfaction with the arrangements.

Action: All Status: Open Due: January 2015

67/14 ACTIONS AGAINST THE BGA

Pete Stratten spoke to previously circulated detail. He noted that an action against the BGA in respect of advice to a club member had resulted in a drop-hands settlement and costs payable by the claimant to the BGA's insurers. He went on to describe the other action against the BGA including a recent meeting with a barrister representing the BGA's insurers and noted that further developments could be expected in the first quarter of 2015.

68/14 BGA POLICY ON TRAFFIC COLLISION AND WARNING SYSTEMS

Pete Stratten spoke to previously circulated text that resulted from discussion at 60/14. George Metcalfe proposed a revision to the last sentence largely following Dave Fidler's suggestion circulated previously. Those present agreed the revised text proposed verbally to the meeting, which should be circulated to the Executive Committee for agreement by email.

Action: George Metcalfe, Pete Stratten Status: Open Due: January 2015

69/14 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES – FEBRUARY AND SEPTEMBER 2014

Those present reviewed and accepted the two sets of meeting notes with thanks.

Status: Closed

70/14 MEMBERSHIP TRENDS

George Metcalfe spoke to a previously circulated presentation describing membership distribution. Using pilot age data supplied by Hugh Browning and BGA statistics, he explained how he has forecast membership numbers based on retirement each year over a 20 year period for each age group over 60, and that the resulting data curves follow the actual trend. He noted that recruitment tackles natural turnover, but not a decline caused by pilots retiring. He went on to note how, to sustain the number of members at clubs, the forecasts indicate the need for a significant annual input of members over a 20 year period, and that retention reduces the recruitment requirement. He described how there is good work underway, notably through the Participation Group. He noted that big challenges lay ahead for gliding among the other air sports also experiencing reducing participation and asked a number of rhetorical questions relating to options going forward.

Those present thanked George Metcalfe for his further development on this vitally important issue. It was noted that membership is a strategic priority, that great work is underway both within the Participation Group and emerging marketing initiatives, that there are some excellent local initiatives underway resulting in modest growth at some clubs, and that although persuading people to try gliding is relatively straightforward, the historically 1% who convert from introductory experience to full member will not sustain the membership going forward.

Following a suggestion by Peter Harvey, those present agreed that in parallel with ongoing initiatives around participation and marketing, a small working group reporting to the Executive Committee will form under George Metcalfe to consider strategic options and contingencies relating to membership trends. George Metcalfe agreed to draft some brief terms of reference and contact a number of individuals who had been suggested as potential contributors to the working group.

Action: George Metcalfe Status: Open Due: March 2015

The next Executive Committee conference call will take place on 28th January 2015.