

## ESSEX AND SUFFOLK GLIDING CLUB LTD

### **Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 In the Clubhouse commencing at 19.00 hrs.**

#### **Present**

Robert Godden (RG)	Chairman
Dave Wallis (DW)	Secretary
Alan Bilby (AB)	Site Officer
Martin Lawson (ML)	Winch Master
Steve Jones (SJ)	Membership Secretary
Jonathan Abbess (JA)	Chief Flying Instructor
Paul Robinson (PR)	Publicity Officer
Mike Haynes (MH)	Technical Officer

**In Attendance**            Mike Burcher

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Ken Ward    Eddie Leach

#### **Approval of Previously approved Minutes for 8th April 2015**

Those present agreed the minutes unanimously.

#### **Matters arising**

##### Sport England Grant Application RG

Mike Burcher was in attendance and presented the committee with several facts he had discovered since the last meeting.

If the application is for less than £70k it is considered not to be important to offer any contribution in kind by the club.

After much discussion it was decided to apply for a grant of £58k +VAT. This was split £23k for MT shed ext. £5k Toilet refurbishment, £10k Kitchen refurbishment and £20k for general clubhouse area and briefing room. All +VAT

Mike and Bob will work together on the electronic application.

In addition we can apply for a small grant of £10k - £20k anytime to cover instructor training (coaching) and radios for the gliders which will soon become essential.

If this is not successful we discussed a plan B which would involve a loan from the Philip Wills Memorial Fund which was thought could be achieved with an interest rate of just 2% over a 5 year period.

Mike also brought up the possibility of a grant from the EU ERASMUS fund, this could be possible for instructor training but would involve some form of twinning arrangement with a Dutch or German club for the purpose of exchanging ideas etc.

This concluded the discussion on Grants. Mike was thanked for his input and left the meeting.

## Membership Renewal SJ

Steve reported that 30 members were still to renew their membership and they had all been informed that they would not be able to fly until they had. However the committee decided that they would be allowed to fly for a short extended period but would incur a penalty of £8 per day flown.

Web MH – BT spent a considerable amount of time at the club looking into our line problem. They eventually found a fault in the cable under the field and effected a repair, there was nothing else of significance to report.

TMG Planning RG – Bob has acquired the specification required for the noise measurements and these will take place shortly. Readings will be taken from the 3 nearest residents locations, this is seen as a positive step as the council are looking for reasons to approve the application.

Peri Track AB - Alan is to arrange for the pot holes to be pressure cleaned and filled with glass reinforced concrete as soon as the farmer is able to help with some man power. A budget of around £500 has been allocated.

## **Membership Secretary's Report**

### Membership Renewals

About 128 membership renewals were sent out. The success rate as at 19th April was that:

- (a) all but about 50 have renewed.
- (b) only 5 have stated that they will not be renewing

I have contacted each of the members who say they will not be renewing. They all have valid reasons and I cannot persuade any of them to stay on.

I sent emails to all of those who have not renewed on 21st April asking them to renew by the end of April otherwise they will not be able to fly.

I hope to be able to give an update on the renewals at the meeting as the data here are a bit old, depends on Cath's access to the internet to renew members who have paid.

### Medicals

Jonathan published a circular letter from the BGA in the General Burble Forum on 9th March 2015. This related to new medical requirements and my understanding of these is that many members will not now need to obtain a medical certificate – all they will need to do is present a valid EU driving licence.

Where this applies I plan to accept a copy of the driving licence which will be kept on file and the renewal date for the medical will be the expiry date of the driving licence.

I note in passing that other BGA documents do not take account of the new medical requirements. For example the requirements listed on the application form for the Gliding Certificate and Solo Endorsement include a NPPL medical or better. I suppose these are out of date and the new Laws and Rules apply.

### Trailers

I have been in touch with John Shannon regarding moving his trailer. He has advised that he has been able to repair the wheels/tyres such that he will be able to move it shortly. I have asked him to put the trailer along the northern boundary. He may need help to move it

At the committee meeting Jonathon reminded us that pilots who are passenger carriers will still need a LAPL medical.

### **Secretary's Report**

DW had nothing to report which wasn't covered elsewhere.

### **Technical Officers Report**

Instruments.

Nothing to report

Launch Point

We have not experienced problems with Battery charging this month, and each morning when I have checked the battery terminal voltage it has been correctly 13.6V so no evidence of a charger problem – Will continue to monitor.

The rear roller shutter has been replaced. My thanks to Mike Burcher and Dick Skinner without who's help this would not have been possible in a single day.

To replace the shutter required removal of all of the items stored in the rear of the launch point and I have a number of observations.

- 1) Please don't use it as a general rubbish dumping ground.
- 2) We have lost several of the Orange Cushions.
- 3) Ensure ballast weights are returned to the storage box.
- 4) Never store parachutes in the rear.

I suspect some of the Orange Cushions may have found their way into members private gliders please return these to the launch point.

In the past it may have been accepted practice to store parachutes in the rear of the launch vehicle e.g. when a two seater is flown solo, I'd like to change this:-

The problems with storing chutes in the rear are:-

- 1) Its dirty in the back, so the chute pack also becomes dirty, especially when thrown on top of the ballast bags rather than placed up on the shelf
- 2) Parachutes are often left in the back at the end of the day. Maybe not a great issue in summer but days/weeks in the back during a long wet spell in winter is detrimental to their life.

Going forward this practice must change:-If a chute is not required for a solo flight please store it on the shelves inside the launch vehicle and ensure that it is returned to the club house at the end of the day

Log System

Duplication of members continues to be a problem.

I believe some of this is due to a miss-understanding that Trial lessons need to be re-entered into the log system as “Temporary Members” if they choose to fly during their 3 month free memberships. This is not the case as each trial lesson automatically becomes a “Temp Family/reciprocal member when the system is synchronised at the end of the day and hence it should not be necessary to re-create them. A notice has been added to this effect on the laptop.

#### Office PC and IT

We have again experienced problems with the BT Phone line to the club house, After several visits BT have now fixed the line but we did not get the new cable I was hoping for.

BT dug up the joint at the old caravan position on the threshold of the runway this was no mean feat as it was 1.2 m down at some unidentified location in the field. Here they found that there were 4 spare pairs, in a 5 pair cable. These have now been connected through to the club house giving us

- One faulty, pair (the line we were using until 27/04/15)

- Three spare pairs

- One active pair

As of 28/04/15 I have seen the modem re-syn just once so this is much better than the every minute we had been experiencing.

#### Briefing Room PC

Mounting the projector on the ceiling is still ongoing. See below.

#### IP Webcams

The new Security Web Cam has been fitted to the MT shed (look along the drive) and the CCTV recorder up and running.

I still need some time to adjust the night time settings as it is currently difficult to read number plates with the glare from headlights.

#### Club Website

Dennis has been on vacation delaying the introduction of some new features and upgrades. That said he has been working in the background on some significant upgrades to the Website, these are not available in the live site as yet but will be coming soon.

#### FLARM Radar

It was agreed last year that ESGC should have an OGN basestation so that our location is added to the national/international coverage of gliders you can see on:- <http://live.glidernet.org>.

Sourcing a suitable high gain omni directional antenna proved to be more of an issue than I had expected, and I did not seem to find time to build one.

Recently Paul Ruskin Chairman of Cambridge GC came to the rescue with an offer to procure suitable Antenna's and I have added ESGC to the bulk order he is progressing. These antenna's come direct from China so it is still going to be a couple of months before we can add ourselves to the OGN network.

#### Glider Trailer Refurbishment

Rust damage to the front frame of the k21 trailer ongoing.

Work to improve the K21 Tow Out gear preventing damage to the rear of the fuselage boom has commenced.

Work has commenced on the wing dollies for the Grob trailer

#### Skylaunch Speed Transducers for DOA/DVB

The Skylaunch Transducer for DOA is still under investigation.

#### Gliders

##### K21

ARC Completed. The winch hook needs to be replaced in the near future as it at the end of its service life.

##### Grob Acro

The battery installation in the Grob caused an issue when the single battery which fits this glider was not charged.

As the battery box is a custom design building a second one would require a significant amount of time. To circumvent this a new installation where all of the clamping is part of the box and nothing special is attached to the batteries (like KEE/HKM) will be implemented.

SF27 The frequency display module on the Radio has developed a fault, once the radio is on the correct frequency it transmits and receives fine. The radio is currently set to 129.975 -- please do not adjust or you will not immediately be able to retune to 129.975.

##### ASTIR HKM

Nothing to report

##### ASTIR KEE

Replacing the hook in KEE has reduced the instance of premature release during a winch launch.

Pending for ARC time

ii) Provide ballast weight option.

DOA

A new wheel has been procured to replace the one with the slipping bearing, this will be fitted in due course.

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

No progress on this action

DVB

Work on the fin is progressing but was delayed by an unexpected construction where the ply steps abruptly from 2mm down to 1mm. Schleicher have now confirmed this is correct with drawings. In addition there is some further damage and a poor repair where the elevator crank attaches at the front of the fin.

Current estimate for completion of the fin re-build, to install/align on the fuselage and to get DOA back in the air is now the end of May.

Other Items

Oudie 2

Following the discussion last month concerning the purchase of an additional Oudie 2

I have been in contact with Navitar and more recently with Navboys

For club use Navboys are offering ESGC a 15% discount :-

Oudie 2 complete with lifetime SeeYou Mobile License @ £ 423 inc VAT

This is based on 3 or more devices ordered at the same time and is open to club members who wish to order through the club

Purchase of another Overhead Projector.

Following the decision last month to purchase another overhead projector I have looked on line a couple of times but the attractive offers I saw last month do not seem to be around at present I will continue to progress this action.

P.S

Ricey and I are away for the first week of May so please can someone else make sure the Log Sheets are reviewed, Motor Glider charges added etc.

The towing of Gliders by the buggies was discussed and MH recommended that at no time should the towing angle be any greater than 45 degrees. This is to avoid damage to the glider towing hooks.

### **Chairmans Report**

Most of RG's report is covered elsewhere in the minutes, but he did Submit a draft letter explaining the accounting anomalies brought up at the AGM. This was unanimously agreed by the committee and will be sent out to the membership shortly.

He also presented a budget for the coming year which was again unanimously agreed by the committee.

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**Site Officers Report** – A B The new workshop is coming together but needs wiring. PR has ordered new locks and will be fitted when they arrive.

The committee discussed a booking scheme for members to use the new facility, and it was agreed that a daily fee of £5 would be charged for the first week, increasing to £10 a day beyond a week.

It was brought to the committees notice that some tarmac plainings had been laid above ground in the trailer parking area, there is concern that these could damage the mowers. If they are to be used at all they should be dug in flush.

**Winch Masters Report** – ML Had nothing further to report.

### **Safety Officers Report** – EL

1 item to report:

whilst helping with the retrieval of the winch cable a club member placed his feet on the cable as it was being pulled in on tick over to give the cable a bit of tension. the result was the soles of his shoes were cut by the Dyneema close enough to have caused injury had he continued. However he wasn't aware of the problem until he removed his shoes after returning home. See photos.

Please inform the membership of the situation and insist that under no circumstances is the Dyneema to be put under tension by standing on it.

SEE PHOTOS BELOW





JA

Congratulations to new solo pilots:

- \* Steve Jones (April 10th)
- \* Pablo Martinez (April 19th)
- \* Mark Wilshaw (April 25th)

and to Kaz' Fuks for a completed Bronze cross-country endorsement (April 24th).

I am still in the process of arranging courses for two BI's and two IFP's. I have now had confirmation from Mike Fox that Mark Wright may run these courses, but I am waiting for him to agree dates.

Worryingly, some E&SGC pilots still seem to be unaware that the Southend airspace is now established in spite of the many notices that have been displayed in the club house for a considerable time.

**Treasurer's Report** – RG has been looking after the treasures post on a temporary basis since the AGM and has now clarified the queries brought up at the AGM.

Ken Ward will take over the post as of May.

### **Publicity Officers Report** PR

Re. Open Day .June 20th

1. Simulator Booked, needs to be collected and returned to Booker.
2. Details of open day will be in S&G June/July with I hope the 1985 group photo, of which only 4 still members.
3. Military Vehicle Trust contacted, the chairman Terry Till has suggested contact local group and I have contacted Colin Tebb of Essex group, waiting for reply.
4. Essex air ambulance contacted, Sabi Blyth, and we have a form to agree and return, no promise as yet for landing.
5. Essex County Standard contacted, Andrea Collitt, chief reporter, and they will be interested in a story re. 50/25. also they will come for Ken Taylors 90th. On Wednesday 10th. June. To follow up 80th. Story.
6. Publicity budget.

After much discussion it was agreed that considerable publicity for the open day should be sought and suggestions were that we approach the TV companies with a view that they may well be interested in Ken Taylors story and the link to our open day.

It was also agreed to contact the following magazines:-

Colchester Connect

Various Parish magazines

Higgler Magazine

The local WORM

Paul hopes that we can keep four 2 seat gliders busy giving flights to the public at £20 / flight and is looking for volunteers to help with the organisation of briefings, parachutes etc. Members should be aware there will be no club flying on this day.

The aim is to extend a warm welcome to our neighbours and present the gliding club in a good light.

### **Any Other Business**

Thanks to Dick Skinner who has volunteered to take over the organisation of the mowing operation.

There being no other business to discuss the meeting closed at 10.30 hrs.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting 27th May 2015 **COMMENCING AT 19.00 hrs. in the clubhouse.**

**DW 29-04-15**