

## **ESSEX AND SUFFOLK GLIDING CLUB LTD**

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 27th May 2015  
In the Clubhouse commencing at 19.15 hrs.

Present

Robert Godden (RG) Chairman  
Dave Wallis (DW) Secretary  
Alan Bilby (AB) Site Officer  
Jonathan Abbess (JA) Chief Flying Instructor  
Paul Robinson (PR) Publicity Officer  
Mike Haynes (MH) Technical Officer  
Eddie Leach (EL) Safety Officer  
Ken Ward (KW) Treasurer

Apologies for Absence

Martin Lawson (ML) Winch Master  
Steve Jones (SJ) Membership Secretary

Approval of Previously approved Minutes for meeting held on 29th April 2015

Those present agreed the minutes unanimously.

### **Matters arising from those minutes**

- Sport England Grant Application RG

The figures for the winch shed extension and the clubhouse refurbishment were finalised at £23k + vat and £17k +vat respectively.  
The refurbishment budget will now also include a sum for the treatment of the outside walls.

- TMG Planning RG

The planning application is now all in, the case officer and the new chairman of the Wormingford Parish Council are both positive and we are expecting a favourable decision at the July Meeting.

- 50th Anniversary arrangements PR & AB

Paul Robinson is arranging the collection of the simulator, the Air Ambulance will fly in, and they will also have a stand on site.

The BBC & ITV local stations have been approached and we are awaiting a reply.

Essex County Standard are covering Ken Taylor's 90th birthday story and will also promote our open day.

Dennis Heslop has produced some colour brochures which will be a useful aid if anybody has a location that could use one please see Paul Robinson. There is also an electronic version and members who use FACEBOOK are encouraged to circulate it around their contacts.

## **Membership Secretary's Report SJ**

### Membership Renewals

128 renewal notices were sent out and a good number of members renewed on time and without fuss.

Reminders were sent on 30th April to those who had not renewed by that time. The present status (as at 20th May) is that:

- nine members have stated that they will not renew. This is six full members and three junior/youth members;
- three members have stated that they are or have been sick and they will renew later. These are all full members; and
- fifteen members are outstanding. This list comprises five cadets, two junior/youth members, two FPTS members and six full members, one of whom is an instructor and three of whom have gliders on site.

I am sure that many of these will renew so we stand to lose around 15 members this year. I have sent personal emails to most of those who are not renewing encouraging them to maintain their membership. I have advised George Green of the (rather disappointing) number of cadets who have not renewed.

I sent final demands on 21st May to those who had not renewed by 20th May. This advises that the concession for them to fly at a day rate of £8 will be removed on 31st May, their membership will then lapse in the log system and they will be removed from the SAGE accounting system. We will then consider those not renewed as debtors.

I have been checking log sheets since 1st May – only one of the members not renewed on 20th May has been flying so far this month.

### New Members

Welcome to Andy Greenhalgh, John Wells, Philip Simpson and Pat Noler who have joined since 1st April. Also to Charlotte Simpson who joined on 30th March.

We also have three members flying as temporary members who I hope will transfer to full membership in due course.

### Trailers

John Shannon's trailer has been moved. Thanks are due to John for the effort he has put into this.

I have now identified all the trailers on site (with many thanks to Dick Skinner who started this action and Paul Rice who seems to know everything). I will be preparing a site plan showing the location and ownership of all the trailers.

## **Secretary's Report DW**

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

## **Technical Officers Report MH**

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## Batteries

We again seem to be running into problems with batteries and charging.

I perform a capacity test on all of the batteries last Autumn and any which showed a significant drop in capacity were replaced. However I'm aware that on several occasions batteries were left in a discharged condition which can drastically shorten their lives, so what looked like a good battery 6 months ago is now approaching the end of its life.

I will repeat the capacity tests and replace the failing batteries

I also have under construction a new battery charger which will provide 10 outputs. This is sufficient for all of the batteries in the club aircraft, without members having to perform the difficult task of removing fully charged batteries associated with aircraft which have not flown on a given day to free up a charging point.

## Log System

On Saturday 16th May we suffered our first significant problem with the main SQL Database since the system was installed.

The root of the problem was traced to the "Launch Charge" table where the entry for a standard member winch launch was missing. As a consequence when the "Log Sheet" program attempted to look up the charge for a which launch it threw an unhandled exception.

It is not clear how the launch charge table became corrupt but it is suspected the corruption occurred during the synchronise Friday evening.

To recover normal operation the system was restored from Wednesday 13th Backup and normal logging was achieved on Saturday 16th (early flights were re-entered. Restoring the backup lost the flying entries for Friday 15th these were re-entered from the paper print out.

## Office PC and IT

Nothing further to report on the Broadband problems, this seems to have settled down following BT's repair last month.

See also Club Website.

## Briefing Room PC

Mounting the projector on the ceiling is still ongoing.

Last Month it was decided not to mount the ageing projector on the ceiling but to wait until another more modern projector can be purchased.

Following this decision I have looked on line periodically but the attractive prices seen back in April seem to have disappeared. I will continue to progress this action.

## IP Webcams

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. This is not easy to do at this time of year as we don't tend to be at the club after dark.

## Club Website

A meeting was held to discuss the website, many of the items from this meeting are now AOB items for the meeting.

From the technical perspective I feel I should ask approval from the Committee to purchase the additional computer to act as the firewall as we open the Log System Database to the website. This computer needs to be a little more powerful than the old Briefing Room PC so it is not possible to re-use the motherboard/CPU from that computer.. I will be looking to purchase a new machine for around £250.

FLARM Radar  
Waiting delivery.

#### 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  
Fault not seen for the last 3 months removing item from future reports.

#### 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

New Battery Boxes have been purchased for the Grob Acro and the update to the installation commenced. I also have the new mounts to allow the Oudie PNA devices to be installed in the Grob for training purposes.

As part of this installation a 5 V supply needs to be added to the glider. It is hoped both actions should be complete in the next 3 weeks or so providing we get some rainy days when its not flying. The mounting cradle for the Oudie is not particularly strong and is probably easily damaged by careless kicking as individuals get in and out of the glider.

The mounts have been selected and fitted such that the whole assembly will fold away from the operating position lying almost flat on the side of the instrument panel combings. If you see the cradles left in the operating position when there is no intention to fly with the Oudies please fold them away.

#### PLEASE NOTE

The new Battery installation in the Grob will provide the capability to carry two batteries. It is ONLY necessary to fit two batteries if the Oudies are being used for cross country training/competition. For a normal club flying/trial lesson one battery will be sufficient to run from 0900 to 1800.

##### SF27

Nothing to report.

#### ASTIR HKM

Battery connector failed – this has been replaced.

The battery box has also been replaced to take two standard 7Ahr batteries rather than 1x10 Ahr and 1x7Ahr — The 10 Ahr battery was low on capacity in the most recent capacity test and these are not a preferred size any more limiting the choice of vendor and the price.

#### ASTIR KEE

Pending for ARC time

ii) Provide ballast weight option.

#### DOA

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 further glue failure has been detected around the forward attachment point

Despite this additional work it is still hoped to completion of the fin re-build, to install/align on the fuselage and to get DOA back in the air in the next couple of weeks..

#### Other Items

##### Oudie 2

An additional Oudie has been purchased for the club so now we have two devices available.

Several club members also took up the offer of a discounted purchase allowing us to put together a reasonable size order to Navboys. There service was excellent and now we have a solid business relation I hope we can negotiate similar discounts in the future.

#### **Chairmans Report RG**

Sport England - I'm still in the process of catching up with the additional points of information highlighted by Mike Burcher in respect of both the Inspired Opportunities and the Small Grants sections of our bid. There is a good deal still to be done but I shall be concentrating on this item in order to meet the deadline of 8th June for submission. I may need to get a forum together prior to submission date as this will be before the next meeting.

Planning - I had a message from the new Chairman of Wormingford Parish Council whom I know. He is onside in regard to the TMG application and wanted to check answers to various questions being raised with the PC in regard to our revised application. His understanding of what we are seeking is spot on so I hope he will be a help in getting our points across.

As many of you will already be aware we are planning an open day for June 20th to mark the 50th anniversary of the Club and 25 years of operations at Wormingford.

Paul Robinson ( Guppy) is leading the project and plans are already fairly well advanced.

Attendance by Essex Air ambulance, the club's chosen charity, plus various entertainment more

fully described in a leaflet (soon to be circulated) is part of the event and we shall be offering glider flights to the general public.

Could we ask for maximum support from members. There will be a list of functions needing volunteers and those offering their time should be in touch with Paul. Whilst this is a club day, we need to prioritise the open day activities including the flying.

The following day will be the longest day and we hope to fly from dawn till dusk.

To encourage members from their beds at an unearthly hour we are offering flights at £5.00. From dawn until 0900 and from 18.00 hrs until dusk.

RCG

### **Site Officers Report AB**

We have had two estimates for the peri-track repairs of £8072 & £4825 both of which are too expensive and we will seek alternative quotes.

The Grass cutting team led by Dick Skinner is doing a great job and our thanks go to them.

The new members workshop is coming on, the electrical components have been sourced and Mark Butcher has offered to install them.

The hire charge has been agreed at £5 day with a maximum of 1 week at a time. A booking system will be put in place and extensions over 1 week will only be considered if nobody else has it booked, however the increase charge for subsequent days has been scrapped and will remain at £5 day

A slot meter for the electric will be installed to stop the possibility of heating etc being left on for days at a time running up a large bill.

### **Winch Masters Report ML**

Nothing of significance to report

### **Safety Officers Report – EL**

Safety officer report 270515

One item to report damage due to contact between the rudder of DOA and the wing of a glider being towed to the launch point.(minor damage).

When towing to the line of gliders at the launch point please stop well clear and manhandle the glider into line.

I have noticed recently that we (myself included) when retrieving into the line of gliders due to launch tend to continue too close to the other gliders in the line, the above is a reminder to us all that it only takes a moment to damage a glider but even if the damage is minor (or worse) it will make the glider unserviceable until checked by an inspector.

### **CFI's Report JA**

Congratulations to Robert Walker for his solo on May 1st and to Andy Greenhalgh for a re-solo on May 11th.

A BI course has been arranged on 20th June for two of our club members. I am still trying to arrange an IFP course for two others

We discussed third party trial lesson vouchers which Jonathan had scheduled for AOB, but was brought up by Mike at his point in the meeting. It was decided that Cath would photocopy the new style vouchers for an information sheet in the launch cabin.

### **Treasurer's Report KW**

Treasurer's Report - 27th May 2015

I now have on-line access to our Bank of Scotland Accounts. Thanks go to Paul Foulger for facilitating this. I should also have access to a cheque book very shortly.

As would be expected at this time of year deposits far outweigh withdrawals and it is interesting to note that the current balance is some £20k higher than at this time last year.

Main expenses in the last month or so:

- Airplan Flight - £416 (an annual expense. What is it?). (Transpires it is for the purchase of air charts)
  - Walter Wright Accountants - £911 (small increase on last year).
  - Marsh - £1,325. Insurance?
  - Winch - £743. Offset by £750 extracted from SkyLaunch by Martin Lawson from sale of spares.
- Many thanks Martin!

Upcoming Expenses:

- Crispin Spears - £6,177. Insurance.
- Strathern - £4,734. Quarterly rent.

Thanks to:

Steve Jones for getting to grips with the Membership and extracting their fees.

Cath for grappling effectively with the books, it can't have been easy.

Bob for the Budget spreadsheet which should shortly be populated with some 'Actuals' for 2015.

Ken would like it noted that Martin did well to secure the sale of spares to Sky launch for £750

and also for Caths efforts with the bookkeeping - an excellent job.

### **Publicity Officers Report PR**

Re. Open Day. 20th June

IT SHOULD BE NOTED BY ALL THAT THERE WILL BE NO CLUB FLYING ON THIS DAY

1I need to check on vehicle size for towing the simulator. (The simulator can be towed by an ordinary car and as stated earlier in the minutes Paul will collect prior to the event.)

2I hope to have recontacted Colin Tebb of MVT by the meeting.

3Essex air ambulance will be landing and the EAA team with promo and sale items will have a stand.

4A 18x18 bouncy castle has been booked for the sum of £65.00 from a company in Caple they may come and erect on Friday night as they are fully booked for Saturday. We will be manning it ourselves. DO WE CHARGE ?. They want paying on delivery.

5Dads Army and WW2 Red Cross Reenactment societies will be appearing.

6Drinks sales will be handled by Marian & Cathy.

7AB has contacted ice cream and burger vendors with no entry charge but 10% of their profits to EAA.

8Have contacted both BBC & ITV Anglia, waiting for responses.

9Have looked at Colchester Connect which seems to be a social services site.

10Have placed via The Higglers an on line advert and also an on line event item with Essex County Standard.

11I have my family send out facebook details of the open day and have responses I feel we should ask all members on face book to also circulate.

12News For S&G. To be in by 5/6/15 So far have 6 solos inc. 1 resolo, 1 Bronze XC completed and 1 Silver Distance. Any thing else ?.

Paul also reported that he has booked a club focus with S&G magazine for Dec 2016 / Jan 2017

### **Any Other Business**

Mike Haynes had a meeting with Dennis Heslop concerning the website and how it can be best used to promote the club.

Rather than spend money directly with Google buying a higher presence on the search engine, we would try actively making more entries and changes on the site which apparently will have a similar effect. We need to have some members assigned to this task will interested party's please contact DW

There will also soon be a facility for potential customers to book trial lessons, day courses and gliding experiences on-line directly onto the calendar. Bob will set up a meeting with Dennis, Mike, John & Lynn Bone so that the online system and the personal support supplied by John & Lynn are compatible and do not conflict with one another.

Once this is operational DW will liaise with both John and Lyn Bone and Dennis to monitor the trial lesson booking and give guidance as to when our Web presence needs to be enhanced.

We discussed how the on-line system would allocate times for the various activities and Jonathan suggested that it was programmed with a points system eg:- Gliding experience 1 launch, Trial lesson 2 launches and day course 6 launches. The system would also be programmed to allocate the correct amount of launches for the appropriate day - less on club flying days and more on non club days.

There will also be provision for instructors to access the instructors Rota, and the Winch Drivers to access their rota.

Dennis reported that he had been conducting experiments in the background to allow a "Child Framework" to be used on the website. The use of a child framework enables us to make changes to the underlying code created by "Wordpress" confident in the knowledge that a future update will not wipe out all of our customisations.

Dennis has a major update to the website using the child framework on a test server at present and this should be transferred to the live site in the next few days.

At the same time we move the test site to the live site it will be re-located from "godaddy.com" to another host, recent response times from GoDaddy's servers have not been the best.

The new child framework should fix the problems with the burble room or at least allow us to make changes confident that they will not be lost at some point in the future.

The subject of ground handling was again raised and it is clear that the membership need refreshing on some aspects of this as the Grob Acro was recently left in the rain and got water in the pitot system, and the Motor glider was left out in the rain and should have been returned to the hangar.

The winch has now been fitted with new Dynema and it would be good to re-enforce the cable handling procedures.

There being no other business to discuss the meeting closed at 21.25 hrs.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting 24th June 2015 COMMENCING AT 19.00 hrs. in the clubhouse.

DW 27-05-15