

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

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 24th June 2015  
In the Clubhouse commencing at 19.00 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  
Martin Lawson (ML) Winch Master  
Steve Jones (SJ) Membership Secretary

Also present Cath Haynes

Apologies for Absence. None

Approval of Previously approved Minutes for meeting held on 27th May 2015

Those present agreed the minutes unanimously.

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

TMG Planning. The latest position is that the application is expected to be heard on Aug 7th

### **Open Day**

Congratulations must go to Paul Robinson for organising a very successful open day.

The PR for the club was fantastic both on the day and in the local press with front page coverage in the Daily Gazette and a full page in the East Anglian Daily Times, with a picture of Ken Taylor celebrating the fact he is still flying at 90.

Everybody we spoke to at the event had nothing but positive comments to make regarding the club and its activities which can only help towards our relationship with our neighbours and the planning application.

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

Membership Renewals. 131 membership renewals were issued

12 members have confirmed they will not be renewing, 8 full members, 1 FPTS, 3 Junior. Five members have not responded. I believe at least one of these will be renewing.

This list excludes cadets and five of these had not responded as at 7th June. This has been taken up by George Green and I understand that two of these will definitely renew, two are pending confirmation and one will not renew.

So it seems that we have lost about 15 members in the renewal process.

Cath is now dealing with those who have not renewed as debtors if appropriate.

New Members. We have achieved 11 new members since the beginning of the year. In the last few weeks: Leslie Jordan (FPTS), Bradley Short (Cadet), Mitchell Mussard (Family), Gary Morris (Social) and Adam Ayala (Cadet). Welcome to all of these.

Trailers. All private trailers now have numbers.

Open Day. Our special offer for the open day attracted five new temporary members. One new Cadet member joined on the day and there is potential for another.

New Member Procedures. At present we ask new members to pay a full year's membership irrespective of the time in the year that they join. Their next year's subscription is then adjusted to allow for the months they have not used of the 12 month fee.

I can see very little benefit in this system. It has a number of disadvantages:

- It is difficult to explain to new members;
- There is resistance from new members to paying a full year, particularly when the new member is joining late in the membership year;
- We have a situation (as we have at the moment) where members who have joined during the last year have not renewed but we have to continue their membership to give them the benefit of the full year that they have paid for;
- I have had complaints from members who have not understood the system and can't see why they should pay again within 12 months of their original payment; and
- It complicates the annual renewal process and results in errors.

I propose that new members should be charged an initial fee proportionate to the number of months remaining in that year, rounded to the beginning or end of the current month as appropriate. They will then pay a full fee in the next year.

This was discussed at the meeting and agreed to be a sensible and worthwhile change.

### **Secretary's Report DW**

I have been asked by Dennis to bring to the attention of the committee the problem we will soon face regarding the manufacture of cable parachutes.

Colin who has done a great job for many years now appears less keen and maybe it's time we find some help for him.

Rob Harts wife who is a seamstress, and is used to working on industrial projects is willing to help but is not familiar with our sewing machines.

Bob will speak with Colin and it is hoped that he may give her some instruction, if not it was suggested that Franklins of Colchester the agents for the sewing machines may be able to help with the setting up and operating of the Machines.

The Committee has been asked to quantify how long a soaring flight is for the benefit of those operating the launch point.  
It was agreed that any flight in excess of 15 minutes would be considered as a soaring flight.

### **Technical Officers Report MH**

DVB is now close to having its repair finished and it is hoped that it will be back in service within a week.

One of the the undercarriage doors on KEE has been damaged during tow back behind a buggy probably because the towing angle was in excess of 45deg. This will need to be repaired in the near future.

The Grob 103 trailer upgrade will not be complete before it goes to a competition in July. This does not mean it can't be used but extra care must be taken.

We desperately need somebody to look after the motor vehicles. MH will email the membership to hopefully find someone who will take on the role.

### **Chairmans Report RG**

- TMG – SWAT were to conduct a noise survey on the 20th and the results are supposed to be posted on line by the end of this week. I wonder if they will be there if they simply endorse our own findings. The additional comments have now been sent to the Planners. Looks like we are still scheduled for the 7th August planning meeting.
- Open Day – Congratulations to Paul Robinson on a big success.
- Sport England – apart from the acknowledgement of our application, no more as yet from them.
- Expeditions - Would like to see at least one organised by the Club. This is one area where we have been inactive for years now. Eden might be a good bet – any ideas ?

### **Site Officers Report AB**

Work continues on the electrical rewire of the workshop by Mark Butcher and have now purchased a slot meter for 13amp power to the main area.

Inspected and cleaned the gutters on the hangar but found that the main box gutter over the main doors is badly corroding and this will need attention before the winter.

Probable that it can be treated with a gutter sealant product that I will purchase and get a jobbing builder to apply the system cost will be in the region of 500 pounds.

### **Winch Masters Report ML**

Now that the soaring season is well underway two new 6mm Dyneema cables have been fitted to the English winch.

The best of the old cables will be saved to make a "winter" cable as we only generally need one thus saving the wear of the new set.

I must ask everyone to please take great care of the new cables and just take a second to think of the consequences of their actions. The classic being when demonstrating and practising low level cable breaks. Please do this on the second cable whenever possible to reduce the chance of cable crossing and burning of the outer sheaves.

The English winch has had its Spring service with the oil and filters being changed. Two new Exhaust silencers with modified mounting brackets have been fitted. The new brackets should give better support and extend the life of the silencers.

The German winch gets ever closer to completion, painting is virtually complete and the fitting of gas struts to the bonnet lids is well underway.

The intention is to carry out proving trials once these minor jobs are complete and then hold the winch as a spare as the English winch is so much more accommodating for winch driver training.

Following our purchase of two redundant Tost winches from Wattisham for spares we now have a complete spare differential to give us peace of mind. We have also managed to sell the other differential to Skylaunch for £750, thus reducing our outlay.

### **Safety Officers Report – EL**

A number of safety checks need to be actioned.

Electrical checks on the Gas compound

Gas checks on the boiler, cooker etc.

Fire extinguisher checks.

A reminder to the membership that ALL damage to gliders no matter how small must be reported to either the safety officer or the CFI

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

Well done! To:

Kaz who achieved a Silver (distance, height and duration) whilst in Poland at the beginning of the month.

Bruce Grain joins E&SGC instructor list as a BI on 4 June

Richard Hayhoe Tibenham for 50k on 6 June

Andreas completed Bronze on 6 June

Bob Godden and Mark Butcher completed their BI Course 20/21 June

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

Treasurer's Report - 22nd June 2015

The Club's bank accounts currently show a healthy balance of £97,126. Whilst this is very encouraging it must be borne in mind that traditionally balances are high at this time of year following membership renewals.

On or around the 1st July we will be paying out some £6,000 of regular bills including the quarterly rent for the airfield.

On Open Day we sold 74 Gliding Experience flights many of which were flown on the day. However due to heavy demand and the fickle weather we still have to honour many of the flights in the coming months. We had very few punters ask for their money back.

Net income from Gliding Experience, SLMG flights and the raffle amounted to £1,495.

The total net profit for the day after deducting expenses amounted to £1200.

Our donation to the Air Ambulance will be £500

### **Publicity Officers Report PR**

Paul was very pleased with the open day which attracted far more people than we had hoped for.

Thanks go to everybody who helped in so many ways to make it successful and it is planned to make this an annual event probably over a complete weekend so the weather is less likely to interrupt proceedings.

### **Any Other Business**

The question was raised regarding charges for club gliders while being used for for competitions. It was decided that there would only be no charge if used in the " inter club league "

It was decided that parents of cadets and junior members would automatically become social members.

Finally the raffle was drawn for the trial lesson, the winner was Tricia.

There being no other business to discuss the meeting closed at 21.26 hrs.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting 15th July 2015 COMMENCING AT 19.00 hrs. in the clubhouse.

DW 24-06-15