

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

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 15th July 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  
Mike Haynes (MH) Technical Officer  
Ken Ward (KW) Treasurer  
Martin Lawson (ML) Winch Master  
Steve Jones (SJ) Membership Secretary

Also present Cath Haynes

Apologies for Absence.

Paul Robinson (PR) Publicity Officer

Eddie Leach (EL) Safety Officer

Approval of Previously approved Minutes for meeting held on 24th June 2015

Those present agreed the minutes unanimously.

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

- Making of cable parachutes

Colin Downs is happy to carry on with the manufacture of the cable parachutes for the time being

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

Very brief report from me this month:

Welcome to the following new members who have joined in the last few weeks:

Pat Noler, Full Member  
Les Jordan, Full Member  
Mitchell Mussard, Junior Member  
Bradley Short, Cadet  
Gary Morris, Social Member  
Adam Ayala, Cadet  
Ben Miller, Junior Member  
Chris Williams, Full Member  
George Lipington, Full Member  
Tony Deakin, Full Member who has converted from Temporary Membership.

Also welcome to Piers Douglas and Luke Taylor who have joined us on sponsored packages for the summer period. Piers is sponsored by the Air League and Luke by the Honourable Company of Air Pilots.

## **Secretary's Report**

It was agreed to move the August Committee meeting from the 12th to the 19th and to move the 5 year planning meeting to some time in November, I will contact the committee members regarding a date.

The BGA Development Committee has published a new template document, Model Articles for Gliding Clubs as Private Companies Limited by Guarantee. This is available on the BGA web site at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/?p=22484>

## **Technical Officers Report MH**

### Batteries

Capacity test still to be performed on all batteries (hope to do prior to meeting).

Some of the 10 Ahr batteries purchased last August are already showing signs of failing. This is either due to them being of poor quality or abuse by club members leaving them fully discharged for extended periods. My intention is to replace these with the standard 7Ahr batteries which are available at less than half the price we paid for the 10 Ahr batteries as this has now become a non preferred size.

This will require minor modifications to the K13 Battery trays and a new battery box/clamp in HKM.

No significant progress on the new charger since the last meeting.

### Log System

With the trial lessons season in full swing processing vouchers has become a small issue.

There are several items here but these can broadly be classified as:-

- 1) Accepting invalid vouchers
- 2) Not understanding the third party vouchers and giving the wrong type flight e.g Air Experience, Trial Lesson or Day Course.
- 3) Not recording the voucher number making it difficult to associate a voucher with a given trial lesson.

Items 1 and 2 are covered by a new Trial Lesson User guide which can be found in the launch vehicle this shows all of the voucher types and explains there relation to our normal AX, TL or DC flights. If in doubt how to process a voucher please consult this guide.

Recording Trial lesson voucher numbers in the log system. When you create a new pilot for a trial lesson the log system offers a box in which the voucher number should be entered please complete this.

In the very near future the log system will be updated to show this information on the main screen. Any flight with a zero charge and no voucher should then be immediately obvious.

### Computers and IT

The Club network has been re-arranged to include an additional firewall between the router and the internal network. With this box in place the hardware now exists to open parts of the log system SQL Database to the ESGC Website, allowing such things as browsing your flights from anywhere to be implemented.

The introduction of the additional machine into the network should have no impact on most users at the ESGC with one minor exception – the CCTV camera mounted on the MT shed is no longer directly accessible from the internet.

#### .Briefing Room PC

Mounting the projector on the ceiling is still ongoing.

Sourcing a second high resolution projector is ongoing.

#### IP Webcams

The South and West facing webcams were moved to provide a better view of launching and the sky to the west.

I'm not 100% happy with this new view, the south facing camera is on the wonk with a sloping horizon and the west camera is now pointing so skyward its rain shield does nothing to keep the lens clear.

#### Club Website

The latest information from Den regarding the website is as follows :-

Over the last 6 months the following changes have been made

Migrated the site which is currently residing on one of our\* Tsohost servers.

Upgraded to Wordpress 4.2.2.

Upgraded framework to 6.2.0.

Installed Canvas 5.9.6.

Developed a Child Theme to run concurrently with Canvas.

Re-developed the Home page with 'one-click' product purchase buttons.

Re-processed the Home page images.

Added Families and Couples products with images, descriptions and links to Paypal.

Reformatted the menus to be more responsive to popular browsers and mobile devices.

Rebuilt the forum interface and layout with matching colours and typography.

Fixed the forum HTML buttons.

Partial redevelopment of the forum back end - ongoing.

Reinstalled SMTP using a new plugin and fixed the forum subscription email notifications.

Dennis is currently testing a couple of alternative Booking Calendar plugins as the one I started to integrate now refuses to sell and support within the European market because of Brussels VAT red tape!!

The important points from the bullets are:-

Re-development of the "forum back end" and the SMTP plugin fixing email notifications from the forums. Once this work is complete we should be able to go back to using the website as a primary method for communicating with the membership so no more personal computer emails distribution list to maintain and painful emails when we want to send a message to the whole membership. Also any broadcast messages should become easier to find as they will exist as posts on the

website, hopefully this can avoid confusion over such things as free flights after groups, since the policy would have been announced to the membership via the website.

--- Maybe we should have a "policy" forum

#### FLARM Radar

The aerial and the basestation were received on the 6/7/15 and installed on the 7th. My thanks to Paul Ruskin from Cambridge GC as all that was required was to install the aerial and connect up, Paul had configured the PI and pre-registered UKWRM with our location so it was ready to connect directly with Open Glider Networks servers.

The performance of the aerial looks to be very good tracking gliders in the 33-40Km range from Wormingford

All of the club gliders have been registered with Open Glider Network. This means the club aircraft should display their registration/type information on the display.

A display for the FLARM Radar has been added to the TV in the club room. This display is based on a "Raspberry Pi" micro computer with a stripped down web browser. The Web Browser is configured to only shows the "live.glidernet.org" website but you can zoom and pan the display using the attached mouse.

The TV needs to be set to display the HDMI input for the FLARM radar picture to appear.

If the display radar is unresponsive or stuck in some odd mode e.g. displaying Japan then reset the Raspberry PI by cycling the power on the plug next to the PBR Radio.

#### 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.

As reported last month the upgrade to the Grob trailer has not been completed prior to it traveling to the Club Class nationals. While the competition crew trialed de-rigging and loading the trailer it was discovered that the port wing root clamp hinge had fractured this was replaced prior to their departure on 10/7/15.

Work on the new tip dollies progresses with this concentrating on the metal frame to mount the wheels to the glass mouldings.

#### Gliders

##### K21

Nothing new to report

Carried forward:- the winch hook needs to be replaced in the near future as it is at the end of its service life.

##### Grob Acro

Final electrical work related to the Oudies has now been completed including the option to run the rear Oudie from the Redbox GPS/FLARM data stream.

This provides the capability to display the FLARM data on the Oudie. For this to work the Oudie, SeeYou Mobile configuration needs to be updated switching from the internal GPS on COM 1 to the External COM4 port. COM4 configuration 19200, 8 Bit, No Parity, 1 stop

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.

The above work has now been completed.

The radio microphone gooseneck has been broken. A new microphone has been fitted.

ASTIR KEE

Pending for ARC time

ii) Provide ballast weight option.

DOA

The Elevator stop has been serviced removing the roughness which could be felt in the aileron circuit with the stick fully forward.

Wheel brake is reported as ineffective

DVB

Has returned to service, following the fin repair. The “D” of DVB still needs to be re-applied. The ARC was also renewed at this time.

We will need to re\_ARC DVB during the late Autumn as mid summer is not a very convenient time to perform maintenance.

Wheel brake is reported as ineffective

### **Chairmans Report RG**

We have not been notified of any sound readings taken by SWAT on our open day. It is suspected that they may not have been able to take any readings at all yet alone any which would be damaging to our planning application. However as they had announced they were going to take some we think it only polite that they should furnish us with the results.

We think that we should revive our application for a small grant for such things as instruments as this can be done at any time and Mike Burcher has agreed to handle this.

### **Site Officers Report AB**

Barrier rope has now been placed in front of the last trailer along the road frontage to ensure a sufficient corridor for movement of gliders from the airfield to the east trailer park.

Plywood for the new workshop floor has now been purchased and will be laid shortly providing assistance can be pressed.

Policy needs to be drawn up regarding parking of caravans over the weekends.  
Volunteers needed for painting club house doors and hanging new doors to the shower block.

It was agreed that caravans which are not resident at the club site would be allowed for events such as our flying week, and open days, but not for general weekends as this would conflict with our planning permission.

### **Winch Masters Report ML**

Nothing of significance to report on the winches, but we do need to find somebody to take on the responsibility for the maintenance of the motor vehicles to include Jeep, Landrover and Buggies. It was agreed that this could be a full committee post, or a post which just reported to the committee, depending on the views of whoever was prepared to take it on.

RG will send out a letter to the membership regarding this.

### **Safety Officers Report – EL**

Apologies, I am at Eden soaring and will not be able to make the meeting.

4 items

Pat testing completed

Gas compound electrical testing complete.

Fire extinguisher service actioned.

Alan has the gas appliance testing been completed? NOT DUE UNTILL OCTOBER

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

Bob Godden and Mark Butcher have been added to the B.I. team.

Nothing else to report.

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

Income remains strong from all activities

Costs currently are under control

Our current account stands at around £82000 which compares favourably with the balance at the same time in 2014 at £59000

Known ongoing costs to year end have been identified at around £43000 and as a consequence we are establishing a sound footing for future contingency and development

### **Publicity Officers Report PR**

I have furnished the media with details of the cheque handover to Essex Air Ambulance with pictures and also an article about four ESGC pilots flying in excess of 500K on Thursday 9th.

I want to be sure that members are happy to be a part of the publicity for the club, so will any members who do not wish to be mentioned in the media please register with the committee in the very near future or I will presuppose that all are happy to be so mentioned.

### **Any Other Business**

Free flying on booked flying days was discussed as there seemed to be some confusion among helpers and instructors as to what the club policy was.

It was agreed that every member who helped on a booked flying day would have their flying account credited with one launch. All flights taken on the day will be booked at club rates.

Website payment page.

It is felt that the payment page on the website was sending out the wrong message to club members indicating it could be used by members to pay membership and flying fees etc. Paypal is solely for the public to use when purchasing trial lessons and day courses where the PayPal fees are included in the charges.

SJ is to liaise with Dennis to redesign the page to reflect its intended use. maybe it will be removed altogether as the trial lesson, flight experience and day course icons automatically connect to PayPal

Publicity for the flying week was discussed and the format needs to be decided along with tasks and instructors.

JB commented that we are all getting a bit Lax on security and asked everybody to be more vigilant for example making sure the MT shed is not left wide open while we are flying and that the parachute room door is closed.

There being no other business to discuss the meeting closed at 2040 hrs.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting 19th August 2015 COMMENCING AT 19.00 hrs. in the clubhouse.

