

ESSEX AND SUFFOLK GLIDING CLUB LTD

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 9th September 2015
In the Clubhouse commencing at 19.00 hrs.

Present

Alan Bilby (AB) Site Officer
Dave Wallis (DW) Secretary
Jonathan Abbess (JA) Chief Flying Instructor
Mike Haynes (MH) Technical Officer
Ken Ward (KW) Treasurer
Paul Robinson (PR) Publicity Officer

Apologies for Absence.

Robert Godden (RG) Chairman
Steve Jones (SJ) Membership Secretary
Martin Lawson (ML) Winch Master
Eddie Leach (EL) Safety Officer

Approval of Previously approved Minutes for meeting held on 19th August 2015

Those present agreed the minutes unanimously.

Matters arising from those minutes

Fire extinguishers

E L has quantified the quote for the Fire extinguishers and the letter is in his report.

The committee discussed this at some length and it is thought that the quote maybe some what expensive. It would workout to around £725 to have the units supplied and installed by the Matchless Fire Protection Co.

PR has looked into purchasing the same units on line and it is thought that they could be sourced for around £332. This would obviously give us a substantial saving.

It was decided to discuss this with EL to see if he thought this was the way to go, and to be sure that we don't have to have them supplied and installed by a registered company for legal reasons.

Backlog of trial lessons

Johnathon has contacted the instructors and has had five replies volunteering to take on some extra duties in order to reduce the backlog.

Angus is now reworking the rota to accommodate the extra trial lesson capacity at weekends. As soon as this is available it will be useful to pass the information to Lyn Bone ASAP so she can start scheduling these extra slots.

We also discussed the possibility of training "Introductory Flight Pilots" (IFP,s) who would be able to fly gliding experience customers where no form of hands on instruction was required.

The committee unanimously approved the proposed amendment to our accounting practice - that subscriptions be deemed fully earned at 31st December.

Membership Secretary's Report SJ

Welcome to new members HOFFIE Hoffman and Michael Robarts, both Full Members. Also to John Singer who has converted from Temporary to Full member.

Secretary's Report DW

Today I received a letter of intent from Robert regarding the land swap. The committee were satisfied with this and I signed the deed giving up the land for the Gas Plant. This was witnessed by Paul Robinson.

Technical Officers Report MH

Glider Batteries

The failing K13 battery has been replaced.
Testing of all the batteries continues.

Launch-point Batteries

On at least one occasion during the last month the launch-point batteries have run down to the point at which the radio becomes inoperative. This indicates either the batteries are near the end of their life or that club members have simply forgotten to plug the caravan in at the end of the day. Unfortunately unless we can be sure the launch cabin was charged overnight its not possible to deduce which of the above is the current problem.

We have seen the Launch point not connected to the mains at the end of the day periodically in the past and to counter this I will add a remote monitor to the launch point in the next few weeks.

Once we pass the height of the soaring season I will conduct a battery capacity test. If the batteries are again at the end of life then this needs to be followed up with Vata as we have clearly not seen anything close to the 800 cycles they quote for the AGM Batteries.

Log System

Carried forward:- Fix Voucher number always visible, should only show on the first day a member flies.

Log Keepers

i) Duplicate members continue to be created

ii) It should be a very rare action to create a Temporary Member". If you find yourself needing to do this please check with the Duty Instructor.

iii) Never create members in classes other than Temporary/Temporary-Reciprocal using the Launch Point Laptop (The ability to create in other classes will be removed in the future)

Computers and IT

Following the addition of the extra firewall I have little progress to report on the connection between the Website and the Log System.

Ongoing:-

Briefing Room PC

Mounting the projector on the ceiling is still ongoing.

Sourcing a second high resolution projector is ongoing.

The current best price I see on the Web (For a projector with a warranty and capable of 1024 x 768) seems to be about £250. As an alternative Dave Bolsdon believes his company has some surplus projectors and is investigating.

IP Webcams

Ongoing I'm not 100% happy with the new views provided by the Web Cams, the south facing camera is on the wolk with a sloping horizon and the west camera is now pointing so skyward its rain shield is ineffective in keep the lens clear.

Club Website

Nothing to report

Glider Trailer Refurbishment

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

K21 Jockey Wheel has been replaced. If you tow this trailer in the future please remove the jockey wheel after hooking onto the tow vehicle.

Work on the K21 Tow Out gear continues (slowly)

Grob:-

Both of the tip dollies are now complete and look very good.

We should replace the hinge on the right hand wing root clamp as per the left hand side and improve the fuselage restraint

Gliders

On a general note we are carrying a number of cosmetic repairs on the club gliders. As we move into the autumn it will be necessary to remove aircraft from service as we attend to these.

K21

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

Aero Tow hook is faulty and needs to be replaced/serviced.

SF27

Murphy has been about!

After Mark re-finished the nose of the SF27 it suffered minor damaged in a poor landing. The damage is superficial only effecting the fibreglass secondary structure around the nose. A permanent repair will be effected at the end of the soaring season.

Provision of a ballast weight specifically for Seb is ongoing.

ASTIR HKM

Nothing to report

ASTIR KEE

Nothing to report

Pending for ARC time

ii) Provide ballast weight option.

DOA

Main Wheel and brake has been replaced

DVB

Aero-tow hook is faulty.

The FLARM problem reported last month seems to have been due to a failed software update.

After re-loading the Version 6 software the device is now operational

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

Chairmans Report RG

Firstly, apology for absence as i am away as from tomorrow and shall be in Padstow on the 9th.

Items for the meeting are :-

1) the letter to the planning dept. of Colchester Council was sent by RSA today 2nd September. It is hoped that our application will now go forward to the Sept. 24th planning meeting.

2) the ashes of Ian Agutter were duly scattered at the threshold of r/wy 27 today and his long term partner Iris, her daughter Liz and husband Terry were present. I mentioned that we were thinking about an award in Ian's name and they were enthusiastic for this. I said we would advise once the form of the award had been decided. I think that suggestions should be invited from the Club and maybe a round robin could be sent inviting suggestions. I have already made mine which is the Ian Agutter Award for the pilot with the most P1 hours (excluding instructional hours) for the preceding 12 months, this to recognise Ian's forte in invariably staying aloft longer than most others on any given day.

3) We should hear this month as to whether our Inspired Opportunities Grant application has been successful.

5) As mentioned Ken and I aim to carry out a financial summary prior to the October meeting. Also, we need to look at the numbers attaching to commercial flying so that we can agree on a strategy for next year. I am not sure who deals with the likes of Virgin on pricing - does anyone know and what are the provisions for price changes?

(Cath believes that Paul Rice is the contact used by Virgin and other third party voucher suppliers)

6) Jim Strathern advised that their contractors for the Gas plant require an undertaking worded by a solicitor to cover the temporary suspension of our lease on areas E and F. I told him that they should have one drawn up and we will sign provided it reflects the intention as set out in our letter of intent already provided to the Landlord.

(This was received along with their letter of intent and duly signed and returned as stated in the secretary's report)

Site Officers Report AB

Nothing of significance to report other than the dishwasher waste has been replaced and the dishwasher is once again in operation.

Winch Master's Report ML

The German Winch has completed 2 launches successfully and trials will continue by the winch team only until further notice.

A new Mixer has been sourced for the English Winch which will be fitted on ML's return from holiday.

The Jeep has had a new water pump fitted and it is hoped that the vehicle will be replaced before it requires any more money spent on it.

Safety Officers Report – EL

THE MATCHLESS
FIRE PROTECTION CO
UNIT 8 CHARITY FARM ESTATE
CHATTISHAM
IPSWICH IP8 3QG
Tel/fax 01473 652888 M 07860939483
Email matchlessfire@aol.com
14th August 2015

Dear Sir

Following my recent visit to Wormingford Airfield and our subsequent survey of the fire fighting equipment, I am pleased to submit my observations, recommendations and quotation to bring the equipment up to BS5306 requirements.

As noted at the time there has been no maintenance carried out to the fire extinguishers for over five years. Based upon the BS service requirements this means that all the extinguishers require DT-Recharging. In addition all the fire extinguishers are 15 / 20years old and are therefore past their due date for pressure testing and full factory overhaul & re-valving.

The costs to carry out this work would be:

Service charge (to cover all ext on site)£40.00

Pressure test, refurbish & re-valve(per unit)£37.50

Plus the cost of the refill. (variable according to size and type price list attached).

The units currently on site are,

Lobby1 x 9ltr Water gas

Lounge1 x 9ltr Water gas

W/shop2 x 6kg Dry powder 1 x 2kg Co2

Hanger2 x 6kg Dry powder

Kitchen1 x 2ltr Foam

I feel that the most cost effective way of bringing the equipment up to the required standard for the long term would be to replace all units on a one off special price deal as follows:

Water gas, 2 of replace with 2 x 6ltr Foam spray ext @ £56.50 each

6kg Dry powder, 4 of replaces ext @ £62.40 each

2kg Co2 1 of replace ext @ £59.00

2ltr Foam 1 of replace @ £45.00

Note, There would be no service charge on the certificated installation of these units.

Additional locations which require the installation of fire extinguishers as discussed.

Launch veh1 x 6ltr Foam spray£56.50

Winches 2 of 2 x 6kg dry Powder @ £62.40£124.80

Gas compound1 x 9kg Dry powder£67.50

1 x ext cover£10.00

Future servicing would be carried out in accordance with BS5306 on an annual basis at a current cost of £40.00 per service visit plus the cost of any refills or spare parts required, (assuming that the extinguishers are not damaged or used it is unlikely that any additional spare parts or refills will be required for some years).

All prices are subject to vat.

A certificate of Inspection is issued on completion of each service.

I trust you will find this expectable and look forward to receiving your instruction. Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Christian HareThe Matchless Fire Protection Co

M 07860939483

(As noted under "matters arising" we have decided not to pursue this quote until further discussions have taken place with Eddie)

CFI's Report JA

Nothing to report

Treasurer's Report KW

There has been no Major un budgeted expenses.

Letters to club debtors will go out this week in the hope it will persuade them to pay. If not it is possible we will have to suspend their private flying until they are cleared.

Publicity Officers Report PR

Regarding replacement for the Jeep.

I have been in contact with James Claydon the sales manager at Toyota (Lancaster) Colchester, the group do not generally sell Hi-Lux at the price level of our budget, and even at £6500 with a discount for the advertising benefits is still under their lowest. He has however taken my details and if a Hi-Lux comes in for PE he will discuss things with me again.

(It was decided to see if any progress is made regarding this between now and the next committee meeting in 5 weeks time. If not we will probably try to source a vehicle on the open market.)

Elation and disappointment.

The Essex & Suffolk team won the East Anglian round of the inter-club league and went to the finals at The Gliding Center at Husbands Bosworth. The finals team members were George Green, Paul Robinson, Mark Butcher and Adrian Tills, all ably assisted by Dave Betts, Mike Haynes and Richard Robinson. The soaring conditions were not good and despite our best efforts the team finished third, not last by any means. I mean to do a press release on this presently.

Any Other Business

ML asked that the battery situation on the launch vehicle be discussed in his absence as he considered it to be a safety issue. - This was discussed and is covered in the Technical Officers report.

PR said that there was interest from some members to change one of the Astir's to a higher performance glider. We discussed whether this would be cost effective regarding the income it would bring in, set against the capital cost and increased insurance premium.

It was decided to look at the possibility again at the 5 Year planning meeting in November.

We also discussed whether we should increase the price of our trial lessons to bring them in line with other clubs.

It was also suggested that the price we charge for third party vouchers such as Virgin should be increased.

We decided to defer decisions until it has been researched a bit more.

There being no other business to discuss the meeting closed at 20.35 hrs.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is on 21st October 2015 COMMENCING AT 19.00 hrs. in the clubhouse.