

**Essex & Suffolk Gliding club Ltd.**  
**Minutes of committee Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

**Those present :-**

Jonathan Abbess (JA) CFI  
Alan Bilby (AB) Site  
Robert Godden (RG) Chairman  
Mike Haynes (MH) Technical  
Steve Jones (SJ) Membership  
Paul Robinson (PR) Publicity  
Trevor Smith (TS) Safety  
Ken Ward (KW) Treasurer

**Apologies for absence :-**

Martin Lawson and Dave Wallis

**Approval of Minutes** – minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016 were approved.

**Matters arising** – from minutes of the previous meeting :-

**Aerotows for competition weekend** (JA) - Dennis has advised that the RAT tug can be available for the comp grid launch only. Richard knows of a possible alternative.

**Introduction of priority on daily flying list for two seater instructional flights** (RG) – this was agreed at the last meeting and needs to be implemented .

**Spreadsheet development for commercial flying booking** (MH) – a number of problems to get around but further investigation in progress.

**Astir trailer purchase** (MH) – nothing suitable seen as yet. Insurance will provide £ 2,500 for the written off trailer within which a suitable replacement can be funded.

**MT shed project update** (DB) – construction should commence in about 4 weeks and price is confirmed at £15K including construction.

**Club Officers Reports :-**

**Membership Secretary (SJ) - Welcome to new members Stuart Cleverley and Will Weichhart, as full members.**

**I am working on trailer labels. Updating the trailer database for this year is complete and new labels will be attached to trailers in the next week or so.** attached.

**Site Officer (AB) -** Order now placed for the MT Extension so work will start shortly and it will be complete

by the Autumn, We can then start demolition of the old grass cutting equipment building so volunteers will be required to undertake this task.

The drainage septic tank back filled with ground water over the open weekend so a pump was purchased to reduce the level to enable the drains to flow and this seemed to have worked.

There are still some soft spots on the runway so care should be taken when driving vehicles across or over the grass.

– crane will be present for about three weeks. Contractors spoken to about preventing the jib from slewing across the runway edge.

**Winch Master** (ML) – nothing to report.

**Safety Officer** (TS) – Pretty uneventful month.

Mike pointed out to me that some old fire extinguishers are still on site. I propose that these are discharged and disposed of in the general rubbish if nobody can think of anything better.

**CFI** – Congratulations to Vernon for completing the “D-module” to attain an assistant instructor rating and to Mark for completing the “C-module”. Unfortunately we are still short of instructors which is causing major problems trying to compose the rota.

The number of trial lessons booked per day is again causing disharmony at the launch point as club member’s flights are delayed. Further thanks are due to a small number of BI’s who regularly fly additional trial-lessons (or GE or DC) beyond their duty days.

Dennis has agreed with Rattlesden that their tug will be used to launch the Wormingford inter-club competition, but it will only be available for the duration of that launch process.

Tibenham may be selling their remaining K13 and will then be relying on the Puchaz for training.

**Treasurer** - (KW) – the poor first half year revenue will have a significant effect on end year numbers and it is hoped that better weather for the second half year will go some way towards redressing the situation.

However, will be a moratorium on any further capital projects until the position becomes clear. A specific meeting will be arranged – KW/RG/CH – to agree a revised budget forecast for the year.

Contribution from the Kitchen fund to the clubhouse refurbishment costs highlighted that the Kitchen funds are accounted separately from the main accounts, the reason for which appears to be lost in the mists of time. It was agreed that steps should be taken to incorporate into the mainstream sage accounting process.

Absence of Paul Rice highlighted that there is no deputy for the banking role and this needs to be fixed – KW prepared to cover the banking aspect.

**Secretary** (DW) – nothing to report.

**Technical Officer** (MH) **Log System**

Nothing to report this month,

Rob has taken a recent copy of the database and is working to implement the major change to how we handle membership classes

Changes to the launch point program carried forward:-

- i. Add active field on members, gliders so that we can reduce what is displayed to the information which is relevant.

- ii. Fix Voucher number always visible. Voucher number should only show on the first day a member flies.
- iii. Remove the ability to create/edit members in anything other than temporary/temporary reciprocal classes.
- iv. Fix the bug in the Control Panel program which prevents the creation of flights in the Office (should a flight not get recorded on the laptop).
- v. Add categories for Remote take-offs by TMG
- vi. Additions of the new membership classes

## **Computers and IT**

The SeeYou installation on the Briefing Room Computer has been upgraded to the latest version. It has a new front page but underneath much looks the same. This does give the club support for the latest loggers and also the connection through to Top Meteo for task setting.

Unfortunately we cannot make use of this feature at present as the club's Top Meteo account appears to be locked to some other copy of SeeYou.

A support call is open with Navitar asking them to remove the association of Top Meteo account "chairman" with whatever SeeYou account it is currently tied to.

**IP Webcams** Without me doing anything it appears then live video can now be viewed again using IE.

Perhaps we can attribute this to a Microsoft update fixing a bug they introduced some 9 months ago.

## **Club Website**

Work continues on the online booking and calendar but with no specific progress to report this month.

## **Glider Trailer Refurbishment**

K21

Rust damage to the front frame no progress

Grob:-

Nothing to report this month

Sf27:-

Nothing to report this month.

Astirs:-

Following the accident on the A12 Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> of May, the insurers have accepted photographic evidence that the trailer is a write off. Furthermore they have accepted our offer of £50 to buy back the salvage (this includes all of the glider fittings). Sourcing of a replacement trailer is ongoing. The first possibility was a German back to front trailer which loaded over the towbar, this has been rejected as too difficult to

convert to take both Astirs. More recently a Kestrel trailer has become available but I believe this to be a 19m variant so the box is too long, - awaiting photos.

## **K6**

As the K6 trailer deteriorated whilst the glider was being repaired this is not part of the Glider purchase – see below. Rather than burden the club with a further decaying trailer the plan is to use the K13 trailer to recover the K6 should it land out.

To do this we need a custom frame to hold the fuselage but little else. A frame should be fabricated in the next month or so, in the mean time please try not to land the K6 out. If the K6 should land out in the next few weeks I have an offer to use one of the private K6 trailers but it will not be a quick retrieve.

Carried forward:- Conduct a training session for members on how to use the old/small Astir Trailer.

The response to my request to all club members for assistance with maintaining the trailers was pretty poor, but more recently a few members have spoken to me in person. I now have a small group of volunteers willing to adopt a trailer.

## **Glider Instrumentation**

Testing of the ageing pneumatic instruments has not progressed this month  
Investigation Ongoing

## **Gliders**

### **K21**

Nothing new to report  
Carried forward:-

Harnesses need to be serviced/webbing replaced..

The winch hook needs to be replaced in the near future as it is at the end of its service life.Rear screen on “S-Nav” is not working.

### **Grob Acro**

GPS antenna replaced as the Redbox was losing GPS lock when turning in thermal.

**SF27** Nothing to Report

### **ASTIR HKM**

Nothing to report, but can whoever has the two batteries in their car or wherever please return them to the Hanger!!!!

### **ASTIR KEE**

My thanks to John Gilbert for the speedy repairs to KEE following the trailer accident

on the A12 on the 28<sup>th</sup> May.

The glider was returned to service on the 24<sup>th</sup> June.

As noted above under trailers the Insurers have all but completed the paperwork and payment minus the excesses should be made shortly.

### **DOA**

Nothing to report, save taile wheel see below.

### **DVB**

Front FLARM indicator is faulty, a replacement has been procured.

In recent days the Red Box has been reluctant to acquire GPS Satelites– investigation ongoing.

DVB has been fitted with a new split rim nylon tail wheel. This wheel has ball bearings and a much deeper rim than the existing Aluminium wheels. The hope is the deeper rim will prevent members pulling the tyre off by dragging the tail round. We have a second rim of this type for DOA but this needs some slightly different spaces before it can be fitted.

Carried Forward:-

Volume control on Vario is faulty

### **K6 DRD**

The club has re-purchased the K6 G-DDRD damaged when it ran off of the wide part of the runway and into the crop some 3 years ago.

The money has changed hands and the glider is now included on the clubs insurance, go and enjoy

Currently this glider is lacking a FLARM and has a ageing 360 channel radio, these deficiencies will be addressed in the coming months.

. MH to contact Matt Conway of Crawfords re DOA claim document requirements.

**Publicity Officer** (PR) My thanks to all who gave up their time to help at the open weekend. Alan Bilby was the rock on whom I leant for support, and special mention to Cath Haynes who again ran a very successful tea & cake stall producing a 100% profit ably assisted by the wives and mothers. Although Saturdays weather was against us on the flying front the displays of sports cars etc. filled the gap for all the visitors. Sunday however was perfect, lots of flying, lots of exceptional vehicles and in all a successful weekend with over 80 visitors flown and due to all the members who helped produce a smooth and friendly operation our presence in the community enhanced.

A press report and pictures have been sent to all local newspapers.

. The donation to the Air Ambulance Charity was agreed at £500 which, with the contents of the 6 sealed collection containers would give somewhere around £ 750 plus.

**Chairman (RG)** – Thanks should be recorded to Paul Robinson and Alan Bilby for their major contributions to the success of the open weekend.

I continue to have concern regarding the poor first half year revenue and propose we have a revised budget for the second half year before any further development of business plans. I know Ken is similarly concerned and it would be worth a specific meeting to restate our forecast for 2016 hence my proposal we hold a Committee meeting in August, the norm having been to avoid that month due to holiday absences.

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> 18.00 – 20.00 we have the first of two open evenings to which all the surrounding Parish councils have been invited. I have no idea how many, if any, we can expect to see but feedback I gained from chatting to people on the open weekend suggests little concern and, moreover, positive comment regarding the flying of the TMG. Our closest neighbor, and complainant, attended and made a point of telling me that he has been relieved at the way we have been operating of the TMG in that it has caused no disturbance and has cleared the airfield vicinity after take off. The Chairman of Wormingford PC advised that he has had no negative feedback about the TMG since planning was granted.

The renewal of the fleet insurance is due on the 6<sup>th</sup> and underwriters have offered to renew on an “as expiring” basis despite the claims of about £8000 in the past year. This also includes additions such as the new tractor and some upgrading of values on other items. They have also noted the DOA claim as a late advice and are willing to accept. Also we may still have a small amount of profit commission and I hope to provide the numbers as an addendum to this report because the broker is due to call me at 18.00 today.

#### **Any Other business :-**

**Duty Pilot Project** – ( Andy Sanderson ) – the proposal received full support . Those who might be considered for participation should not necessarily be solo pilots but simply those having sufficient experience of launch point functions and procedure. AS had agreed to base the protocol on an exiting document produced by JA.

**Club Fleet Insurance Renewal (RG)** – see Chairman’s Report.

**Member Participation** - on several occasions there have been insufficient members remaining at the end of the day to ease the tasks of packing away gliders and ground equipment. It was agreed to consider a system of E Mail advices to members to highlight such concerns more specifically than covered in the Committee minutes. (RG to draft)

Next Meeting - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August – Clubhouse at 19.00.

