

## ESSEX AND SUFFOLK GLIDING CLUB LTD

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 16th November 2016  
In the Clubhouse commencing at 18.45 hrs.

Present

Alan Bilby (AB) Site Officer  
Ken Ward (KW) Treasurer  
Dave Wallis (DW) Secretary  
Paul Robinson (PR) Publicity Officer  
Robert Godden (RG) Chairman  
Steve Jones (SJ) Membership Secretary  
Mike Haynes (MH) Technical Officer  
Jonathan Abbess (JA) Chief Flying Instructor  
Martin Lawson (ML) Winch Master

### **Apologies for Absence.**

Trevor Smith (TS) Safety officer

### **Approval of Previously approved Minutes for meeting held on 19th October 2016**

Those present agreed the minutes unanimously.

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

#### 1) Juniors

Andy Winton shared with us what transpired from the Junior workshop he recently attended at the the BGA conference. He came to the conclusion that the BGA would like to ratify a set of operating practices based on what a number of clubs are already using including ESGC. These included that only solo pilots over the age 16 years should drive the winch unsupervised, and then only after assessment of maturity and comprehensive training. The same goes for juniors over the age of 14 being allowed to drive the buggies and Kia tow out vehicle but without the necessity of being a solo pilot.

Regarding Junior supervision it is considered appropriate to have a parent on site maybe on some form of rota ( Duty Parent ).

In order to give the juniors a voice RG has spoken with George Green who has agreed to set up and chair a Sub committee of juniors, which should include one or more of the junior members parents. Once this is set up George will advise us of its members.

Andy Winton has kindly agreed to set out a proposal to present to both the BGA and insurers covering the above.

He has also suggested he work with local schools to promote the club and apply for a grant to fund some of the junior training.

#### 2) Response from winch driver recruitment.

*This has largely fallen on deaf ears but SJ & DJ have had some success by directly speaking to some members*

#### 3) Sub Committee re. Future charges

*This is on going and Paul Foulger has offered his help.*

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#### 4) Jack Petchley Foundation Award Scheme

*RG is to contact Kate Ahlner who has kindly offered to make an application on the Club's behalf and manage it through.*

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

#### New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

Sylvano and Teddy Nebel (Full and Junior) and Lez White (Full)

#### Winch Drivers

The letter was sent to members who are qualified to drive the winch but are not on the rota. No direct response but Doug and I have been canvassing those on the list with some success.

*Following a discussion with one of our new members, it is suggested that we have a committee page on the website with photos of all the committee, so new members can recognise who to contact if they so wish. MH to action with Andreas and John Wells. Also to include photos of instructors*

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

We have the 5 year planning meeting on Nov 26th and DW asked all committee members to let him have any items they would like included on the agenda.

### **Technical Officers Report MH**

#### Launch Point Windows

Action ongoing.

#### Computers and IT

Testing of the Point to Point link with various configurations has now settled at a reliable 7 Mbits/s regardless of where the launch Point is positioned.

This is only 15% slower than the club's incoming ADSL connection and will be more than adequate to facilitate the Electronic Record Card system along with some casual Web Browsing. Its not going to support multiple HD video streams so please be mindful of your browsing when at the Launch Point.

#### Log System

All of the Junior members paying Monthly have now been moved over to the new "Junior Monthly" category.

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.
- iiii. 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. Partly resolved --- Additions of the new membership classes
- vii. Fix Bug which deletes P1 when you add a new member as a TL etc.

Electronic Record Cards.

Nothing to report

IP Webcams

Nothing to report

Club Website

SSL certificate on the "Application Server" expired this month resulting in no new flight information being uploaded to the Website. This has now been resolved.

Glider Trailer Refurbishment

K21

Nothing to report this month.

Grob:-

Nothing to report this month.

Sf27:-

Nothing to report this month.

Astir's :-

Colin's first attempts to straighten the damaged Astir trailer were not too successful but he has not given up yet.

K6

In K13 trailer no progress.

Carried forward:-

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

Organise with the volunteers for trailer maintenance.

Glider Instrumentation

Testing of the ageing pneumatic instruments has not progressed this month

Investigation Ongoing.

Much of my time this month has been devoted to the 8.33KHz radio upgrade. With last months agreement by the committee to purchase 4 radios this year, these have been ordered. As of the meeting date we have received the two seat versions but are awaiting delivery on the single seat versions along with new microphones. Its the microphones which are holding up the delivery.

Cable and components for the installation have been ordered and received.

Work has commenced on the K21 installation and as a consequence this glider has been removed from service for approximately 2 weeks.

## Gliders

### K21

The minor problem with the ballast weights rotating around the fixing bolt when under negative 'g' conditions, has been resolved with the addition of a nylon wedge.

The rear wheel has been replaced with a new nylon wheel.

While the glider is out of service for the radio upgrade we have removed the Harnesses. These have been dispatched to the manufacturer for service and/or replacement depending on inspection.

The scrape damage to the left wing (from last winter) has been discussed with John Gilbert. He is very busy at present but hopes to be able to complete this work in the latter part of December.

Carried forward:-

Minor scrape damage (approx £300 ) from last Winter to be repaired by John Gilbert at a date & price tba

### Grob Acro

Nothing to report

### SF27

Nothing to Report

### ASTIR HKM

HKM has a new ballast installation. This comprises two weights fitted to the bulkhead underneath the pilots left leg (the same location as KEE). There is no box the weights are simply installed with long bolts.

Initially both weights were identical, however one had to be reduced in hight so that it doesn't rub against the pilots calf muscle. If you install the weight(s) into HKM ensure the larger weight is fitted first against the bulkhead with the smaller weight in front (if required).

The larger weight weighs 20lbs and the smaller 17lbs. The effective weight is close to  $37 \times 1.5 = 55$ lbs giving a min cockpit weight of 95lbs.

At the time of writing the calculations and new Placard's are being finalised.

### ASTIR KEE

KEE will be the second glider to have its radio upgraded.

Now that HKM has a ballast option enabling all pilots to fly it, KEE has been de-rigged to make space in the Hanger for winter maintenance, and its radio upgrade.

DOA  
Nothing to report

DVB

Excess play in DVB's tail plane attachment. (incorrectly reported under DOA last month)  
Schleicher reported that the mounting spigot is not a close tolerance fit into the tube of the fuselage frame. The small amount of play seen may have been present from the date of manufacture, taken out by the torque on the nut.

Carried forward:-

The Ballast installation in both K13s continues to be problematic. Since the mass of the weight was increased we have suffered problems with miss-alignment and stripping threads in the captive nuts. The long term plan is to split the weight into two smaller weights which will make for easier installation.

K6 DRD

Nothing to report.

Pirat

We have sold the wreckage of the Pirat to Surrey Hills Gliding club. They have two Pirats on their club fleet and will use it for spares - these are hard if not impossible to obtain.

## **Chairmans Report RG**

Notes of BGA management conference 11th Nov. 2016

- Philip Wills Memorial Fund loans have increased but funding limited so message is the apply sooner rather than later.
- Caroline Trust - support for younger pilots – need donations £250 would be a helpful sum.
- European Gliding Union are talking with EASA regarding easement in regard to sailplane licensing.
- Radios – the EU (via CAA) are to fund 20% including costs of installation for all radios purchased between Feb '16 and Dec '17. CAA still working out how to administrate.
- Gliding Promotion Year in 2017 – More to follow from BGA. A Gliding Week is to be determined probably in late July / early August and it may be a good idea for clubs to time their open days etc for this time.
- FUNDING sub group – did not deal with individual sources but there is a site “trustfunding .org” to which the BGA have an access license which is accessible by e mailing Alison Randle, development officer at BGA. This site shows the particular purpose of each fund so that clubs can be selective according to the type of project they wish to fund. Alison will be setting up a funding group so that info can be exchanged. Police Commissioners Fund ( local – aimed at activities for younger people - look at and see if it has a relevance).
- Facebook – seems to be the most effective way of getting our name etc known – especially among the younger generation. Should consider a facebook strategy ?

- JUNIORS – a separate session which Andy Winton attended. Pete Hibbard also there as a leading light. We must prepare a programme of events etc for our juniors particularly as some will be solo and ready for something different next year.
  - AIM HIGHER – courses held at the various clubs have been successful and will be continued – should we consider hosting one ? 2 day ground school / 5 day club coaching air / ground.
  - Trial lessons – some new guidelines will be ready soon and the BGA will circulate.
  - Member survey – a short presentation showed that these can be helpful and “survey monkey” for which a small fee is payable was recommended.
  - Publicity – National Gliding Week will be fixed for 2017 and BGA will be in touch with clubs in December this year to ascertain commitment. Interesting presentation also from Simon Grice of Rattlesden who has produced a promotional video ( access and have a look – may be something we should be doing) and is working with some media contacts to put together a documentary for national television.
- RCG 12/11/16

### **Site Officers Report AB**

MT Extension is now complete so we will be shortly demolishing the old the old grass machinery building so volunteers will be required.

The 12m strip has been seeded and we have been stone picking so thanks to all who undertook this task but one short length needs to be completed.

The contractor has agreed to repair the road with tarmac which he going to do when his sub contractor returns to site in approx 3 weeks ( second week of December)

*Many Thanks to all the members who turned out on 3 cold and damp days to pick the large stones from the new 12 meter strip.*

### **Winch Master's Report ML**

Remedial works on the Kia are progressing well.

Eddy is making good progress installing the electrics in the MT shed extension.

Repairs to English winch starboard paying on head are complete.

### **Safety Officers Report TS**

Another short report, no incidents over the past month that I have been informed about.

PAT testing has been done. There were several pieces of kit that could not be found from the old list, and several were found that were not on the old list. Several of the new appearances were in

the new workshop and obviously there for general use, so had to be tested. Maybe we need some sort of control over what kit is there for members general use.

We will undoubtedly have some remedial actions when I see the report, one of which will be a requirement for an earthing pit by the gas installation. I have mentioned this to Eddie and he says he could do it, probably with a bit of help.

*Due to the high cost TS will check what is legally required regarding PAT testing the club equipment.*

## **CFI's Report JA**

Congratulations to Julius Carter and Adam Ayala for their solo flights.

With the shorter and colder days approaching, please be aware of canopy misting and wing condensation problems. The fibre glass gliders are more prone to condensation and more susceptible to its effects so please stop flying sooner rather than later.

The BGA is re-emphasising wing-drop accidents and the need to avoid them: If you are the wing-runner and detect significant up or down forces on a wing tip then stop the launch until that force is removed, usually requiring a slight correction by the pilot. This should prevent a significant tendency for the glider to roll as soon as the wing-tip runner lets go. Refer to page 4 of the BGA leaflet: <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/safety/safe-winch-launching-booklet>.

And the PowerPoint "Stop the drop" at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/safety/stop-the-drop/>

## **Treasurer's Report KW**

Little change to report over last month other than the welcome period of good weather which served to keep flying income coming in.

I have been tracking our Current a/c balance over the past year and it is interesting to note:

Balance @ 12th November 2015£48,017

Balance @ 10th November 2016£50,850

The fact that we transferred a sum of £26,000 (made up roughly of last year's surplus plus a bequest) to our Deposit a/c in April last makes for good reading.

Deposit a/c balance currently stands at £66,480.

*The latest forecast for the year end is that the club should have a surplus of around £18k*

## **Publicity officers Report PR**

. I have been approached by an independent film maker who wishes to produce a small documentary about the gliding club. He has produced stuff for a local internet based TV company, Braintree TV and will if successful hawk it around the terrestrial stations also. We will also get the finished article that we can use on our web site FOC. His name is Robert Armstrong and he has flown gliders ATC and done part of a PPL. I have told him that he can come and film on the understanding that he clears what he wishes to do with the duty instructor and he does not get in the way.

*We discussed the need to get the permission from the parents to use any footage or photographs of any juniors who feature in this or any future film or feature.*

*PR is to check with the film maker if they have a child policy.*

### **Any Other Business**

*1) The committee would like to thank Mike Burcher, on behalf of the whole membership, for applying for, and obtaining, a sizeable grant of over £6000 from Sport England towards the replacement of the radios in the club gliders.*

*2) We discussed at great length the increase in costs to the club of running the TMG, primarily due to the syndicates decision to no longer contribute towards the insurance. It was eventually decided that we will have to increase the hourly rate to £70 for club members and £75 for non club members as from January 1st 2017 (This is in line with most other clubs.)*

*3) We Agreed that the contract MH had drafted with Kelvin Hughes, for use of the airfield for Radar Testing should go ahead, as this will not effect the club activities and will bring in £100 / day, for the days it is used.*

*4) We agreed that Brads Video depicting the actives of the club ( which is apparently excellent ) should be introduced to the club website. It can currently be viewed on you tube.*

MH to action.

There being no other business to discuss the meeting closed at 22.15 Hrs

The next meeting is on Wednesday 21st December 2016 COMMENCING AT 19.00 hrs. in the clubhouse.