

ESSEX AND SUFFOLK GLIDING CLUB LTD

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 7th June 2017 in the Clubhouse commencing at 19.00 hrs.

Present

Martin Lawson (ML) Winch Master
Trevor Smith (TS) Safety officer
Ken Ward (KW) Treasurer
Mike Haynes (MH) Technical Officer
Paul Robinson (PR) Publicity Officer
Alan Bilby (AB) Site Officer
Jonathan Abbess (JA) Chief Flying Instructor
Steve Jones (SJ) Membership Secretary

Apologies for Absence.

Robert Godden (RG) Chairman
Dave Wallis (DW) Secretary

Approval of minutes of meeting held on 10th May 2017

Those present agreed the minutes unanimously.

Matters arising from those minutes

A) Virgin Reinstatement SJ – still waiting to hear from Virgin (Acorne). SJ to chase again. **Action SJ**

B) Commercial flying meeting SJ. Still pending. The committee is concerned about the lack of uptake of commercial flying, particularly during the week – and the effect that this could have on our finances – **Action SJ**

C) Hedge cutting at club entrance AB - Completed

D) Winch drivers and current rota ref Doug Johnson's email. Agreed that DW should draft a letter (in liaison with Doug) to go to all non winch drivers on the action list. **Action DW**

Membership Secretary's Report SJ

New Members

Nil

Commercial Flying

Sales in May were in line with May last year. Sales to date this year are similar to those last year.

Still no response from Virgin re reinstating us on their website. I have emailed and phoned. I will keep trying.

I have been in touch with "Into the Blue" on the recommendation of other clubs who have found them to be responsive and bring in a reasonable amount of business. They are able to market our vouchers on the basis of a 20% commission on our charges.

Agree in principle to go ahead with this. SJ to respond to Into the Blue to get a better deal on charging rates. *Action SJ*

Marketing to previous Group flyers

SJ and Kaz have written to all the previous customers asking if they would like to visit us again

Go Pro cameras

Other clubs have go pro cameras fitted to gliders used for commercial flying and sell SD cards of flights. Bicester, for example, charge £15 for a SD video and make a lot of money. Should we copy this idea? Agreed that we would not pursue this

Secretary's Report DW

I have emailed Kelvin Hughes for a list of their testing dates as requested by Cath but have not as yet had a reply. I will chase when I return from holiday if I have not had a reply by then. MH noted that he had received an email from Kelvin Hughes asking for another date. He will deal with this and remind them to contact DW in future. *Action MH*

Technical Officers Report MH

Launch Point

Nothing to report

Launch Point windows action ongoing.

Computers and IT

The TopMeteo Subscription has been renewed.

The new subscription has new logging information – username “silverxkr” along with a new password. As previously this is set-up on the Briefing Room Computer under the “esgc_members” account with the password saved in the Microsoft Edge Browser only.

The previous login details for the “chairman” account have been removed.

Log System

Nothing to report this month

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 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).
- iii. Add categories for Remote take-offs by TMG
- iv. Fix bug which prevents instructor paying when the other pilot is on the Junior Fixed Price scheme. Flight is always zero charged.
- v. Fix bug which deletes P1 when you add a new member as a TL etc.

- vi. Update system to work online to the SQL database removing the need to “SYNC” at the end of the day. This change is needed by the revised Record Card architecture agreed December 2017.

Electronic Record Cards.

No further progress to report this month.

IP Webcams

Nothing to report.

Club Website

Nothing to report. Note from SJ – the website has been updated to reflect this year's charge rates and the changes to the Juniors' scheme

Glider Trailer Refurbishment

K21

The repair to the front frames is now complete.

Outstanding is to clean out the junk at the front and check on the lights.

During the week of the 29th May we moved all of the trailers to cut the grass and discovered that the brakes the K21 near side have seized.

THIS TRAILER IS OUT OF SERVICE until this can be resolved.

Although I have not had time to investigate the problem with the brakes, these were serviced a couple of years ago when all 4 brake cables were replaced. I therefore suspect the seize is nothing more than the effects of parking the trailer with the handbrake on.

If you move a club trailer for any reason (or your own for that matter):-

DO NOT APPLY THE HANDBRAKE

Grob:-

Nothing to report

Sf27:-

Nothing to report

Astir's:-

Good progress has been made this month to ready the new Astir Trailer for duty.

Outstanding from the original list present in May:-

1. Fix the brakes – handbrake ratchet has been released. Brakes still need adjusting.
2. New nose cone fitting – Two different Fibre Glass nose cones have been moulded one for KEE and one for HKM. These need to be finished and felted and then mounted to the existing pole/track.
3. We will use the fuselage mounted tail plane fitting from the damaged trailer. Unfortunately this cradle mounted the tail too high and it fouled on the roof. The cradle has been modified, but still needs a little work
4. New felt in the fin box to prevent damage to sides of fin.

Carried forward:-

Conduct a training session for members on how to use the old/small Astir Trailer.
Organise with the volunteers for trailer maintenance.

K6

In K13 trailer no progress.

Glider Instrumentation

The installation of the new 8.33KHz Transceiver into the Grob 103 was completed week ending 14/05.

I have received conflicting reports of problems with this radio and initially thought this was low battery issues as it always seemed to work OK when tested.

On the 7/6/17 it again presented as faulty with a fully charged battery and I was able to conduct a more thorough test. Long and the short the TY91 transceiver module has been identified as faulty

Please Note:-

I did not have time to build the circuit boards for the remote power switching modules but all of the wiring is in place. Without the active components of the power switch module, HKM, KEE and KMT radios are only powered from Battery 1 at this time regardless of the position of the Master Switch.

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

Gliders

K21

Nothing to report

Carried forward:-

Minor scrapes and chips damage to be repaired by John Gilbert. It is now likely that these will have to wait until the Autumn.

Grob Acro

As above radio replaced week commencing 15/5/17. This was also an opportunity to improve some of the other wiring.

At the same time with the glider de-rigged the ARC was completed – now valid until 11th June 2018.

Although the wheel-brake is fully functional and no fluid leaks are present at this time the master cylinder is possibly nearing the end of its service – will monitor.

SF27

Nothing to report

ASTIR HKM

Nothing to report

ASTIR KEE

Nothing to report

DOA

Front FLARM display replaced

DVB

Front FLARM display replaced

K6 DRD

Nothing to report.

Tyres-Tyres-Tyres

I'm sorry but its another whinge about checking tyres and tyre pressures when performing Daily Inspections on club (and private) gliders.

During the week of the 22nd of May we wrote off two tail wheel inner tubes, one on a K13 and the other on the SF27. The valves were ripped out of the tube as the tyres slipped on the rim due to under inflation. If you want to see what happens the tubes are by the bookcase in the club room.

To make matters worse:-

I'd brought the partly deflated K13 tail wheel to the attention of several club members as it sat in the hanger on the previous day --- but nobody took any action to inflate, and it was clearly not noted or rectified when next DI'd.

I was in the hanger at the completion of the SF27 DI with members about to tow the glider out to fly - nobody except me noticed the tail wheel was completely flat.

The SF27 had been DI'd with the manoeuvring wheel fitted so there was no weight on the tail wheel hence it was not obvious that it was completely flat.

Clearly no check on the condition/pressure of the tail wheel was made during the DI, which begs the question --- WHAT ELSE IS GETTING MISSED????

As many of you are aware the plastic sandwich box, kept in the Hanger Cupboard by the shed and containing the "Valve Extensions" went missing during the last month. I'm please to say this has now turned up (I also have more spares) and is back in the Cupboard.

In addition you will find a small plastic box has been bolted to the basket on the compressor containing just one valve extension.

Chairmans Report RG

Nothing much to report other than awaiting response from Sport England (i.e. payment) following my having completed the documentation in support of the Radios grant.

I would like to bring the Lease renewal to a conclusion as soon as possible and look forward to the information asked from the Met Office.

Agreed that we should proceed with the negotiation on the lease renewal on the basis that the winch track at the eastern end of the runway is a requirement. AB to check on costs for a sealed track.

Action RG/AB

Site Officers Report AB

Preparations are under way for the open weekend and I will need volunteers to undertake car parking duties so please step forward. I also need some one to deep clean the toilets and shower block on the Friday.

We also need a cleaner on a regular weekly basis for 3-4 hours to clean the club house building for which payment will be made. If any member knows of someone who could do this can they please contact AB

The entrance sight lines and adjacent ditch have been cleared along with general hedge cutting.

We have now placed a large mound of earth by the gate entrance to help prevent break ins as the farmer has had a water bowser stolen after gaining access through the side fence.

We are desperately trying to find the missing drogue chute which landed in the farmers Rye crop. **Besides costing £300, the rope and metal parts could do damage to the metal parts of the harvester when he cuts the crop for which we would be liable.**

Winch Masters Report ML

We are fitting new cables to the winch. One has been completed, the other is in progress.

We do not have any spare parachutes. ML is taking action to provide spares. *Action ML*

Safety Officers Report TS

The 1st batch of new cushions have arrived ready to be fitted, and I am awaiting details of Paul Rice's contact re fitted cushions for the K21 and others.

Gary Morris has agreed to act as joint safety officer. TS to invite him to the next meeting. *Action TS*

Agreed we would put a box of bandaids in the launch point. *Action TS*

CFI's Report JA

Nothing to add

Treasurer's Report KW

Bank account balances are still in good shape.

Agreed that we should purchase a new copy of SAGE and a new laptop. *Action KW/MH*

Publicity officers Report PR

Thank you to all the volunteers for the open weekend, posters are being placed around the two counties and a big thanks to Dennis for his printing expertise once again.

The media have been approached with a request to publicise, if any member has friends with sports or vintage cars please invite them to come.

Bouncy castle and burger van will be in attendance and the Cath cake stall will be overflowing as usual. A B-B-Q will be held on the Saturday night so please put your name on the list in the clubhouse or advise to a committee member if you wish to partake.

The club polo shirts have been received and most collected from the table in the clubhouse, all who ordered have been charged on their club account. If now you wish that a club shirt should be yours, if I can make up another order for at least 25 the price will still be £10.00 so let me know and I will start another list. The filming done at the club last October was shown on Sky Arts at the beginning

of May, the gliding sequence was very well filmed and the presenter was very enthusiastic about the flights, I have attached the video of just the gliding on the briefing room desktop for anyone who wants to look.

Essex Air Ambulance will send 6 collection tins plus banners and posters. They will advertise the event on their website.

I have included us on Active Essex website for the open weekend.

Members are reminded to promote the open day to all their contacts

Members are asked to turn out on Friday 16th to prepare the club for the open day

Any Other Business

George Green should be invited to sit in at committee meetings in his role of chairman of the Juniors Sub-committee. *Action RG*

There being no other business to discuss the meeting closed at 21.00 Hrs

The next meeting is on Wednesday 12th July 2017 commencing at 19.00 hrs. in the clubhouse.