

Meeting Opened at 1300 hrs

MINUTES FOR ROYAL AIR FORCE GLIDING AND SOARING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIA BT TELE-CONFERENCE/SKYPE ON 15 MAY 20.

Present	Gp Capt C Peters Wg Cdr N Atkins Sqn Ldr A Swan Sqn Ldr J Arnold Sqn Ldr M Williams FTRS Flt Lt L Dale Flt Lt (VR) M Pike Cpl W Amor Fg Off B Wightman	Chairman Team Manager Safety Member Fleet Manager Expeditions Member Publicity Member Operations Member Information Manager Secretary
Apologies	AVM J Stringer Sqn Ldr A Watson	RAFGSA President Treasurer

Item	Context	Action
1	<p>Notice, Apologies and Quorum</p> <p>1. This meeting was held via tele-conference dial-in and skype webchat due to COVID-19. The following apologies for the meeting were received from President AVM J Stringer and Treasurer Sqn Ldr A Watson; Quorum was noted.</p>	
2	<p>Interests in proposed and existing transactions and/or arrangements with the company</p> <p>2. None Declared.</p>	
3	<p>Chairman's Address</p> <p>3. Chairman opened with an update on communications with RAF Sports Board. Sports Board are awaiting direction from AOC 22 Grp (as head of sports) for direction to proceed with sporting activity.</p> <p>a. As an activity with governance, direction is being sought from DfT, RAF Sports Board and BGA before Gliding can commence.</p> <p>b. Club OIC's will be given responsibility to contact their HoE for permission to begin Ops but all other governing bodies guidance will need to be satisfied before any output can begin.</p> <p>c. Chairman spoke with AM Sturley, President of the Malcolm Club Fund ref a grant to support the RAFGSA to allow clubs to operate and for essential fleet maintenance. AM Sturley provisionally agreed once an assessment of the RAFGSA is conducted. An approach can be made autumn 2020 if funds are still required.</p>	

	<p>d. The Chairman will address the RAFGSA community and Club Execs with an update as a result of the widely publicised DfT guidance coincidentally issued on 15 May 20 outlining the current position of the RAFGSA and the next steps of the process for a return to ops- Action</p>	Chairman
4	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>4. The minutes of the last meeting held in Apr 20 were held to be a true and accurate record noting no changes.</p>	
5	<p>Matters arising from previous minutes</p> <p>5. Matters arising from the previous meeting:</p> <p>a. RAFGSA Governance including Charities Commission. The Sec and Chairman continue to hold an outstanding action to release the GSA Handbook. After a review and distribution to the RAFGSA Execs, a deadline of 29 May has been set for any final recommendations before finalising. A release of the Handbook will follow at which point the Chairman will approach the President of the RAFGSA to contact DIO regarding Defence estate user entitlement- Ongoing</p> <p>b. GlideX management system. Glide Ex (an alternative to Logstar which is no longer supported) could assist the clubs reporting info centrally. Sqn Ldr Arnold has investigated a licence to support all RAFGSA clubs and will cost £2100 for setup and £300 annually. Will be trialled at Bannerdown GC with a view to purchase after COVID-19 lockdown. With a return to Ops approaching, the Execs agreed that implementing GlideX would benefit clubs from the start- Ongoing</p> <p>c. RAFGSA Van. Treasurer to contact the Nuffield Trust in ref to selling the asset in the future- Ongoing</p> <p>d. Bicester Cup Location. Bicester Cup is still un-located. Sec has contacted clubs but no response. It was suggested to the Sec that re-purposing an old Trophy would be the best alternative as a replacement for the Bicester Cup. Sec to contact clubs for any suggested silverware- Ongoing</p> <p>e. Club Respite on Capital Levy. Capital levy is £20,000-£30,000 a year, an option would be to return this money to the clubs. Period of reduced levy suggested by the Chairman instead. Run a levy of 50% or less for 12 months to allow clubs to re-build funds and focus on club strategy, Go for Solo. Illustrations/graphics of plan to be produced and sent around to the Exec Committee via email. Decision deferred as not enough information collated so far due to lockdown- Ongoing</p> <p>f. WG Motorglider Engine. Once engine is repaired, Kevin Dilkes who fitted Halton MG engine will install the engine. Possibility of RAFGSA qualified engineers to complete work to</p>	<p>Sec/Chairman</p> <p>Fleet Manager</p> <p>Treasurer</p> <p>Sec</p> <p>Treasurer</p> <p>Ops Member</p>

	<p>save costs. Rotax back to work and beginning work on the engine- Ongoing</p> <p>g. Contacts List. Awaiting responses from 3 clubs before adding to LTD SharePoint area. Sec to speak with Information Manager regarding access rights to LTD area- Ongoing</p> <p>h. Pawnee.G-SATN work still ongoing with Booker. Fleet Manager to send Exec Cmttee update once received from Booker- Ongoing</p> <p>i. Chief Engineering Member replacing Support Member position. Mr P Moslin has resigned as Support Member, This position is now vacant however is not required. Exec Cmttee discussed the creation of a Chief Engineering Member role to replace the Support Member role on the Cmttee. Any suitable candidates to be nominated at next mtg- Ongoing</p> <p>j. Additional funding streams. Question asked by Safety Member ref Sports Board and if there is a contingency fund available for sports to utilise/bid for. Treasurer unaware of any such funds but will look into other potential funding streams- Ongoing</p> <p>k. Access to Clubs. Engine ground runs maybe an issue for clubs. MG engines need to be ground run every 28 days to allow lubricants to flow around the engine and for air to circulate. Request by Publicity member (OIC Cranwell GC) for Chairman to send out email to HoE to allow access for clubs to carry out this essential task. Chairman agreed to send out an email- Closed</p> <p>l. Club Membership breakdown. Flt Lt Pike to request more detailed membership breakdown from clubs to aid DIO entitled user of defence estates. All RAFGSA membership collated and sent to the Chairman- Closed</p> <p>m. Malcolm Club Fund. Chairman and Treasurer to contact AM Sturley once flying and operations begin after COVID-19. Discussions based around support for the RAFGSA operational costs and grants will be the main agenda- Closed</p> <p>n. Engine Insurance. Fleet Manager to contact Insurance broker ref policy of including engine cover. No engine cover will be given as part of any insurance quotes.- Closed</p> <p>o. Insurance. Fleet Manager has contacted the insurer based on COVID-19 pausing flying activity. 50% rebate of Insurance from 23 Mar 20 to when flying resumes. Once Ops begin, the Broker will calculate how much RAFGSA has paid and pay back at the end of the year- Closed</p> <p>p. Winches. Club Winches to be inspected during the year. Task being completed on club inspections- Closed</p>	<p>Sec</p> <p>Fleet Manager</p> <p>Exec Cmttee</p> <p>Treasurer</p>
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6	<p>Club overviews</p> <p>6. Club Updates:</p> <p>a. Bannerdown. Club seeking Auth to commence Ops from OC Ops BZN. Working on club rulings for social distancing and wearing of PPE. Looking at sourcing supplies through official channels but difficult due to supply demand.</p> <p>b. Chilterns. On track for return to flying. Chilterns OIC asked for £10k from RAFGSA for the cockpit refurb on duo discus. Discussions taking place with treasurer for funds to be sent but Chilterns will foot the costs initially with re-imburement.</p>	

	<p>c. Cranwell. HoE being restrictive but gained access for essential maintenance last weekend with a select group of members. Email being sent to OC Ops CRN for Auth to begin autonomy and frequent access in line with Govt advise. R21 away for annual so OIC Cranwell GC asked for a spare K-21 to restore output of 2 seater gliders. Fleet manager offered R25 which was accepted by OIC Cranwell GC.</p> <p>d. Fenlands. No update.</p> <p>e. Fulmar. No update.</p> <p>f. Kestrel. No update.</p> <p>g. Wrekin. HoE RAF Cosford has given the go-ahead for solo flying to take place. Shawbury move still on track for 1 Sep 2020 with a visit to new facilities taken place last week. Club will officially change name from 'Wrekin Gliding Club' to 'RAF Shawbury Gliding Club' once move has been completed. OIC Wrekin has asked Chairman to email both HoE's of RAF Cosford and RAF Shawbury outlining the reason for the move.</p>	Chairman
7	<p>Finance</p> <p>7. Chairman and Treasurer discussed Malcolm Club Fund and contacted AM Sturley. Treasurer and Chairman assessing the RAFGSA situation after lockdown and to quantify the support required from the Malcom Club Fund.</p> <p>8. Exec Cmttee were in agreement to process the funds for GlideX software in preparation for clubs to return to Ops. Chairman is going to contact RAFGSA Treasurer to process the payments and liaise with Fleet Manager.</p>	Chairman
8	<p>Fleet Management</p> <p>9. Glider 27 due for refurb in Slovenia. Offer of company collecting would cost 2,200 euros but once ban is lifted Fleet Manager will make the journey to cut costs.</p> <p>10. Booker work on G-SATN progressing, awaiting update.</p> <p>11. Clubs are not to be concerned about Insurance, Fleet Manager will contact Insurance Broker to re-establish all gliders back on to the flying risk register for insurance.</p>	
9	<p>Operations</p> <p>12. 2FTS Safety Bowtie can be utilised and adapted if required to help mitigate and establish risks for the return to flying.</p>	
10	<p>Expeditions</p> <p>13. No contact from Chilean contingent, likely due to lockdown restrictions as they are 2 weeks behind the UK response. Visit due end of Jul 2020. Exec Cmttee in agreement with Chairman's suggested cut-off date of 5 Jun 20 for a response, if nothing received, cancel the exchange</p>	

	<p>and re-arrange for 12 months time. President has also expressed cancelling the exchange and re-arranging for 2021.</p> <p>14. Publicity Member suggested that if the Chilean exchange is cancelled, can the RAFGSA make use of the time slot for the RAFGSA team competition pilots using the Duo's at RAF Syerston. Sqn Ldr Williams is going to speak with Cmdt 2FTS for approval.</p>	Expeds Member
11	<p>ISGRG 2020</p> <p>15. Sports Federation keen for ISGRG to take place in Aug and supporting the competition in-line with Govt guidance.</p> <p>16. Social Distancing can be maintained if the competition goes ahead.</p> <p>17. With the return to flying in the next few weeks promising, all competition pilots should be competent and current to compete with the time frame.</p>	
12	<p>Mick Webb Life Membership</p> <p>18. Request from Chilterns GC CFI Mr M Boyden to recognise Mr M Webb for Life Membership due to his 50 years involvement with the RAFGSA. All Execs agreed to accept the request and for Mr M Webb to become a Life Member. Sec is to contact Mr M Boyden for any relevant achievements Mr M Webb has noted during his involvement. Chairman to send a letter to Mr M Webb to offer Life Membership in recognition of his services to the RAFGSA.</p>	Chairman/ Sec
13	<p>AOB</p> <p>19. Chairman received an email from a PTI asking about funding from the RAFGSA for the Army equivalent of JFACC (G). Chair asked if regional clubs could take up the training required for a course. Exec Cmttee identified only Bannerdown and Chilterns as suitable sites for this to take place. It would be subject to Instructor availability, but x2 instructors reside at RAF Syerston so we should utilise them for this type of trg and send around to the clubs to facilitate. At present, clubs would be unable to support this due to the focus on return to Ops after COVID-19.</p> <p>20. Chairman received correspondence from the RAF Sports Federation who want to run an Eagle Scheme to Normandy in 2021 for up to 200 Service pers. Would be ran as an RAFGSA Exped.</p> <p>21. Still awaiting guidance from BGA on return to UK gliding but AirFrago still stands until further notice.</p>	
14	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next Exec Committee meeting will be held on Wed 24 Jun 2020 at RAF Syerston (if conditions permit) as previously planned in the annual schedule.</p>	

Meeting Closed at 1418 hrs.

[*Electronically Signed*]

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