

Minutes

Date issued: 25 February 2023

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MINUTES FOR ROYAL AIR FORCE GLIDING AND SOARING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIA TEAMS ON 24 FEB 23

Present	Gp Capt C Peters (Tr)	Chairman	Chair
	Gp Capt N Atkins (Tr)	Strategy Member	
	Sqn Ldr A Swan (Tr)	Safety Member	
	Sqn Ldr J Arnold (retd) (Tr)	Fleet Manager	
	Flt Lt VR(T) M Pike (Tr)	Operations Member	
	Flt Lt L Dale (Tr)	Publicity Member	
	Sgt P Mclean	-	Fenlands GC
	Cpl W Amor	MCT Member	
Apologies	AM J Stringer (Tr)	President	
	Wg Cdr A Watson (Tr)	Treasurer	
	Sqn Ldr M Williams	Expeditions Member	
	Flt Lt C Tagg	Fleet Manager	
	Fg Off J Dutton	Competitions Member	
Secretary	Flt Lt B Wightman (Tr)	Secretary	Sec

Meeting opened at 1302 hrs.

Item	Minutes	Action
1. Notice, Apologies and Quorum.	a. This meeting was held via MS Teams. Apologies for the meeting were received from AM Stringer Wg Cdr Watson, Sqn Ldr Williams and Fg Off Dutton. Quorum was noted.	
2. Interests in proposed and existing transactions and/or arrangements with the company.	a. None.	
3. Chairman's Address	a. Marham Aero club had expressed interest in the Fenland GC hangar however had retracted their bid after finding it was not compatible with their aircraft. b. Chilean exchange was successful and reciprocal invite to the UK accepted by Chilean Air Force.	

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	<p>c. ASSWG being held at RAF Halton in coming weeks.</p> <p>d. AGM moved to allow the President of the RAFGSA to attend in person whilst in UK.</p> <p>e. A meeting to be arranged to finalise slide pack for the AGM and agree on award recipients.</p>	Secretary
4. Presidents Address	a. No comments.	
5. Minutes of the last meeting	a. The recording of the minutes from the last meeting held in Jan 23 were ratified by the Exec Cmttee and one amendment was requested for the MCT Data figures. Amendment conducted and annotated as such.	
6. Matters arising	<p>a. K-21 Spin Kit quote £436 +VAT per kit. Avenues being explored for funding options. £1000 for installation and aircraft weigh, 4-week lead time. Exec agreed to pay for 3x kits but on the proviso outstanding fleet items need advertising for sale to pay for the upgrades. - Ongoing</p> <p>b. R1 Spigots and refinish work is required. Quotes still being chased by Fleet Manager- Ongoing</p> <p>c. Proposal of RAFGSA Award modernisation to include smaller clubs and more relevant awards- Ongoing</p> <p>d. Sec forgot to add Tucano PFLARM bidding to Fenland GC items list, Email sent by Ops Member to clubs requesting bids- Ongoing</p> <p>e. Facebook marketing still running and invoice for total will be sent to the Treasurer once complete- Ongoing</p> <p>f. RAFGSA AGM booked and arrangements made- Closed</p>	<p>Dep Fleet Manager</p> <p>Fleet Manager</p> <p>Strategy Member</p> <p>Ops Member</p> <p>Publicity Member</p>

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	<p>g. Eng and Insp BC written by Jon Arnold and sent to Treasurer to explore funding options with Central Fund and associated costs with the Trg – Closed</p> <p>h. Email sent out by Ops member asking clubs for expedition bids- Closed</p> <p>i. Consolidated Fenland GC items list sent out to clubs for bidding/requests- Closed</p> <p>j. Fleet disposition list updated to reflect aircraft re-allocations after Fenland closure- Closed</p> <p>k. Navboys S-80 kit invoices for software updates sent to Treasurer to action- Closed</p> <p>l. Central Fund overspend application form sent to Strategy Member by the Chairman- Closed</p> <p>m. MCT stats collated and ready to present to MCT and and at the AGM- Closed</p>	
<p>7. Secretary Correspondence</p>	<p>a. Request in writing from Mr Mick Boydon for Mr Geoff Millward to be added as a Life Member of the association. After consultation, the Chair seconded the proposal and the Exec agreed. Chair to write a letter to Mr Millward.</p>	<p>Chairman</p>
<p>8. Finance</p>	<p>a. Anglia Sailplanes work on R19 is still awaiting an invoice payment form the RAFGSA due to the club closing. Aircraft paperwork will not be released until the invoice is paid. Safety member to engage with Anglia Sailplanes at the BGA conference.</p> <p>b. Handbook updates are being actioned by the Treasurer. Chairman will engage with Treasurer for an update.</p> <p>c. Forbes Insurance will not cover the damage caused to the private car towing R4 at Cranwell. Dep Fleet Manager to speak</p>	<p>Safety Member</p> <p>Chairman</p> <p>Dep Fleet Manager</p>

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	<p>with individual who owns the car to explain the insurance cover.</p> <p>d. Cranwell do not bill by tacho hours for the MG but instead bill by the 'flying hours'. This has caused confusion on the levy bills based of the stats collection per Quarter. It was agreed that this is a club discussion and for the club to set a local policy in line with the RAFGSA Handbook.</p>	
9. Club Overviews	<p>a. Bannerdown- 2x solos in the last month and 1x go for solo from the club has now joined at Cranwell. JHC meeting with Babcock for airfield decision making but happy with the clubs flying schedule for 2023 but 2024 will be reviewed. JHC land want a license rather than an encroachment agreement for the club to operate from the airfield, AC Fogden approached for guidance. Prop for MG due back and the Rotax agent had visited to resolve FD's engine. Replaced valves, cylinders and engine now working fine.</p> <p>b. Chilterns- Airfield Ops has stated there are too many gliders operating for the size of the airfield. Ongoing discussions with the club and Stn. Expedition planned for the Black mountains in Aug 2023. The club has gained a new club inspector but the MG will be sent to a 3rd party for ARC and annual maintenance.</p> <p>c. Cranwell- Training for 4x new Asst Cats has begun with CFI WO Tim Davies. Paddy Hogg funding request submitted for Ali Webb to support with instructor training. R4 incurred damage whilst being towed out to the airfield by a private car, investigation ongoing. R21 sent to Syerston as R19 deemed unfit to fly. R77 is not flying as club are assessing its utility. If Cranwell GC decide R77 is not required it will be offered to Chilterns GC. R8 back online after maintenance. New OIC has been identified but awaiting confirmation for the individual.</p> <p>d. Fenlands- K-21 Seatbacks and wheel fairings found and will be delivered to Cranwell for R19. Items not wanted by clubs</p>	

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	<p>are to be disposed of locally and 25MHz radios to be advertised for sale online but if they do not sell, they are to be disposed of locally. Calor gas tank needs removing from Stn and will incur a cost of £250-£300 of which will have to be supported by the RAFGSA. Marham Aero club expressed interest in the aircraft hangar.</p> <p>e. Fulmar- R1 requiring parts and repair to gelcoat, Fleet Manager still working on sourcing a suitable company to conduct work. O2 kit requires upgrading in R1, Ops Member to speak with Club to see if funding options at Stn level have been sourced. R67 not flown since Nov 2022. The spare winch is being used to full effect with Dynema and the club extends thanks for the support the RAFGSA gave for funding the upgrade.</p> <p>f. Kestrel- Successful 2PA audit, 3x student solos but lack of Eng/Insp is becoming an issue to maintain the fleet. Loss of Eagles schemes will hit the club financially as it was a good source of income. Sqn Ldr Potterton (7 Sqn) will take on OIC from MAcr Dewey.</p> <p>Shawbury- RAFGSA 2PA completed and awaiting the final report however a couple of points raised in the hot debrief are already being actioned. Have received G-FLKE TMG from Marham but are still waiting on the logbooks before it can be fully utilised. This is an increase to the clubs insurance and capital levy and although optimistic, it may have to be returned to the RAFGSA if it cannot be afforded. The club is hopeful for external income through JSAT to help offset the cost of the Falke. The club will have representation at Sisteron and ISRGC this year and intend to complete a soaring week at Denbigh Oct 23.</p>	
<p>10. Aircraft Fleet</p>	<p>a. R19 has been found to have damage to the GRP. A GRP course is running in the coming weeks therefore could be repaired along with R4 (LS8).</p>	

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	<p>b. R19 also to have been found with a flat tailwheel which is squared and damage incurred to the underneath fo the fuselage.</p> <p>c. R19 avionics to be assessed once it has returned to RAF Syerston but is currently not fit to fly.</p> <p>d. 506 refurb- airframe is painted and awaiting decals to be applied. Likely completion by mid-March.</p> <p>e. Fleet disposition can be found here.</p>	
11. Operations	<p>a. Kestrel 2PA signed off by the Chair after a successful visit by the Ops and Strategy members.</p> <p>b. Shawbury 2PA signed off by the Strategy Member.</p> <p>c. R4 towing incident will result in no policy changes to the Ops manual.</p>	
12. Safety	<p>a. DASORs submitted for incident with private vehicle towing R4 at RAF Cranwell.</p>	
13. Expeditions	<p>a. Sisteron funding awaiting signature of JSATF.</p> <p>b. Sisteron will have 2x Air ranks flying on the expedition raising the profile of the exped.</p> <p>c. Chile exchange visit went well with great flying conditions.</p>	
14. Strategy	<p>a. Need to consider the principles of funding Insp/Eng at clubs and the shortfalls of serving personnel vs civilian membership. Funding for civilian members may be questioned but Central Fund can clarify the rules at the AGM.</p> <p>b. Based off safe practice the preferred ratio for each club is 1x inspector per 2x aircraft.</p> <p>c. Funding has been agreed to support 2x FIC's per club generate more Instructors.</p>	

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	<p>d. Aspiration is to develop 1x examiner per club.</p> <p>e. It is encouraged that the Exec visit different clubs to see where to target funding for all of the above qualifications and look at all clubs equally.</p> <p>f. Central Fund have an underspend for 2022-2023 therefore parachutes at £3,500 each could be applied for.</p> <p>g. GAI1048 is due a review in conjunction with the RAFGSA Handbook. Feedback from clubs will be sought for any updates and changes that are required.</p>	
15. Marketing & Publicity	a. NTR.	Publicity Member
16. Malcolm Club Trust	<p>a. Encouraging JRs into the RAFGSA is a challenge and some Stn's such as Odiham have the highest number of JRs based on site in comparison to other clubs (963 JR's) but Kestrel struggle for membership. Could be to do with the Stn being a MOB and deploying regularly.</p> <p>b. The stations most deprived of gliding are Leeming, Marham, Honington and Cyprus. All locations had access to a club within the last 15 years but have since closed. The MCT Member proposed the fund be used to expand the sphere of influences of the remaining clubs so travel costs and accessibility do not become an issue creating a remote membership with suggestions of: T&S for travel, Grants to use at civilian clubs.</p>	
17. ISRGC	<p>a. 50 applicants subscribed to the competition.</p> <p>b. Names already on the reserve list for dropouts.</p> <p>c. Entry fees for RAF will be paid by the Association.</p> <p>d. Tug aircraft from across civilian clubs have been ordered.</p>	

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	e. Sponsorship still being acquired.	
17. JSAT & Eagle Schemes	a. Four JSAT courses planned in the coming months.	
19. AOB	a. AGM Slides out for Execs to populate in advance of the meeting. b. MCT Mtg to be held with MCT Member, Chairman, Treasurer and MCT Trustees prior to the AGM.	
20. Next Meeting	a. The next mtg will be the AGM and will take place on Fri 24 Mar 23 at 1100 hrs RAF Cranwell and via MS Teams.	

Meeting closed at 1515 hrs.

[Electronically Signed]

**Flt Lt Ben Wightman
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Mobile Air Ops Team Leader
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Distribution (electronically*):

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