

Minutes

Date issued: 01 July 2023

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MINUTES FOR ROYAL AIR FORCE GLIDING AND SOARING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIA TEAMS ON 26 MAY 23

Present	Gp Capt C Peters (Tr)	Chairman	Chair
	Wg Cdr Watson (Tr)	Treasurer	
	Sqn Ldr A Swan (Tr)	Safety Member	
	Sqn Ldr M Williams	Expeditions 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	
	Cpl W Amor	MCT Member	
Apologies	AM J Stringer (Tr)	President	
	Gp Capt Atkins	Strategy Member	
	Flt Lt C Tagg (Tr)	Fleet Manager	
	Fg Off J Dutton	Competitions Member	
	Cpl W Amor	MCT 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, Gp Capt Atkins, Fg Off Dutton and Cpl Amor. Quorum was noted.	
2. Interests in proposed and existing transactions and/or arrangements with the company.	a. None.	
3. Chairman's Address	a. A successful AGM held at RAF Cranwell was a refreshing change from the norm of MS Teams meetings. Pete Stratten (BGA) seemed optimistic of the RAFGSA's current position and health of the association. b. Malcolm club presentation at the AGM by Cpl Amor sparked discussion and	

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	<p>potential for Eagles style support in the future.</p> <p>c. New AOC 22 Gp taken post AVM Townsend.</p> <p>d. ISRGC VIP day invite has been sent out to all nominees from the RNGSA, AGA and RAFGSA.</p>	
4. Presidents Address	a. No comments.	
5. Minutes of the last meeting	a. The recording of the minutes from the AGM held in Mar 23 were recorded on MS Teams for future reference. All points/actions have been ratified by the Exec Cmttee.	
6. Matters arising	<p>a. K-21 Spin Kit quote now £454 per kit. Orders will be placed by the Dep Fleet Manager for R12, R22, R23 & R28. Kits need to be paid for upfront and have a 4-6 week delivery time- Ongoing</p> <p>b. R1 quote from Shire Newton of circa £25,000 for refurbishment. Work can be carried out early spring 2024 at the earliest. Quotes still being chased for best value for money before committing- Ongoing</p> <p>c. Proposal of RAFGSA Award modernisation to better consider smaller clubs and more relevant awards- Ongoing</p> <p>d. Anglia Sailplanes still hold the aircraft paperwork for R19 and KE. Aircraft cannot be used until paperwork has been returned. Invoice for work has been paid by RAFGSA Treasurer- Ongoing</p> <p>e. 3x Tucano PFLARM bid by Bannerdown and email sent out to other Clubs- Closed</p> <p>f. Facebook marketing still running and invoice for total will be sent to the Treasurer once complete- Closed</p>	<p>Dep Fleet Manager</p> <p>Fleet Manager</p> <p>Strategy Member</p> <p>Safety Member</p>

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	<p>g. A meeting to be arranged to finalise slide pack for the AGM and agree on award recipients- Closed</p> <p>h. Handbook updates completed, uploaded to SharePoint and added to RAFGSA website- Closed</p> <p>i. Incident with glider damaging private car whilst being towed at RAF Cranwell GC not covered by RAFGSA insurance and club member informed- Closed</p>	
7. Secretary Correspondence	<p>a. The secretary asked for feedback from the Exec for the AGM. With the reduction of authorised sporting fixtures from 2 events to 1 event per annum, it was suggested that the AGM will be held virtually for 2024. More discussion is to take place within the Exec Cmttee but a F2F meeting would be preferred.</p>	
8. Finance	<p>a. Chilterns GC have contacted the Treasurer for £900 after refitting Duo 26 with a new oxygen kit but this has not been forecasted in the financial plan for the year. It was agreed by the Exec Cmttee that the RAFGSA would pay for the kit as it advantaged the RAFGSA Sisteron Expedition. Payment to be sent to Chilterns GC.</p> <p>b. Successful bid of £4,500 each for both inspector and instructor funding and £7,000 for K-21 spin kits was agreed by the Central Fund.</p> <p>c. It was agreed that Instructor funding bids for SP will be automatic and civilian members would be considered based on Club need and spend available. Agreed funding was set at £500 for Asst Cat, £250 for Full Cat and £500 for BI. Treasurer to contact clubs for nominations.</p> <p>d. Treasurer reminded RAF Team pilots to submit grants to the Central Fund for ISRGC.</p> <p>e. SP applications for Shennington Nationals is approved by the Treasurer.</p>	Treasurer

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	<p>f. A 48% rebate per club for BGA Levy bills was agreed by the Exec Cmttee.</p>	
9. Club Overviews	<p>a. Bannerdown- No report.</p> <p>b. Chilterns- Successful Aim Higher week completed. TMG Engine service completed ready for the aerotow season. 26 Annual now being outsourced to Dunstable. A new OC Ops has taken post so early engagement is taking place. The OIC has agreed to take R77 & relinquish k-18 R49.</p> <p>c. Cranwell- New OIC Flt Lt Matt Dearden taken over from Flt Lt Dale. WO Tim Davies has 12 months left in post as CFI before stepping down. R57 going through 3000 hr service and R4's LX issue has been fixed. S80's now fitted to the K-21's and the MT from Fenland GC has been collected and in use. Application for funding from the gym for new tail dollies and Dynema cable accepted, awaiting to order. AS1 Todd went solo and 8x Go for solo applicants received.</p> <p>d. Fenlands- Hangar Sale fell through with the Aero club. Advertisement to be placed on gliderpilot.net.</p> <p>e. Fulmar- 4x SP travelled and took part in Sisteron. JSAT courses working well and keeping the club stable.</p> <p>f. Kestrel- cracks in R23 K-21 gel-coat were discovered and Dep Fleet Manager has offered the surplus R19 as a replacement. Repair on the wings has taken place and invoice is between £5,000-£6,000.</p> <p>g. Shawbury- Bus from Fenlands GC now in use. The club is able to operate both days on a weekend. Another go for solo student flew solo AS1 McNeill. The club is providing a static display, BGA Sim and Air display with the club K-21 at RAF Cosford with a flying display from CFI Ian Gallagher. Shawbury families day attended and was a success at promoting the club. A 16-year-</p>	<p>Safety Member</p>

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	old member has gained her BI rating and has flown her first trial lesson. Finances still tight but are on an upward trajectory.	
10. Aircraft Fleet	<p>a. Cranwell want to replace R57 due to the restrictive seat weight limit.</p> <p>b. Grob 109B TMG re-advertised after deal fell through once again.</p> <p>c. Pawnee engine has 3x interested buyers after being advertised online. Awaiting final offers.</p> <p>d. R38 advertised on gliderpilot.net.</p> <p>e. R49 to be advertised on gliderpilot.net after Chilterns relinquishing in favour of Astir R77.</p> <p>f. R7 has 2x interested buyers but awaiting further contact.</p> <p>g. S80 avionics upgrades being fitted across fleet and receiving positive feedback from the clubs.</p>	Dep Fleet Manager
11. Operations	<p>a. A discussion on Parachute re-packing practices was held. After deliberation, it was agreed that the recommended best practice for clubs is to re-pack parachutes every 6 months but no later than 12 months. A note is to be pushed out by the Ops Member.</p> <p>b. FIS vs Asst Cat training was discussed and whether this should be the new standard practice for clubs. It was agreed that FIS has more value with the new CAA legislation however more research and advice to be sought from the BGA before being pushed out to clubs.</p>	<p>Ops Member</p> <p>Ops Member</p>
12. Safety	a. DASOR received for a Glider at Chilterns GC flying in controlled airspace above 3500ft. Investigation is still ongoing.	
13. Expeditions	a. Chile expedit invite for 2024 is expected to be sent in the coming weeks. Both legs will be funded for up to 4 SP.	

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	<p>Higher level DE expected with the Chile DA requesting a Gp Capt or above to attend.</p> <p>b. Sisteron proved to be very successful with great work from Sgt Craney as the ProjO. 3x SP dropped out last minute due to work commitments but the RAFGSA President was able to attend for a few days gaining a well-deserved break from NATO HQ. All students flew solo, 88 flights conducted and 207 hrs flown.</p> <p>c. Sisteron for 2024 will be 20 Apr- 5 May but with no funding support from Robson Academy or RAFC Cranwell. A planning meeting is to be held in the coming months for 2024 funding.</p> <p>d. There was an underspend of £2,500 for the Sisteron, it was proposed that the Oxygen kit purchased by Chilterns for Duo 26 at £900 could be used to pay for the upgrade instead of the club. The rest of the money would be placed into the Chile fund for 2024. This was agreed by the Exec Cmttee.</p>	<p>Expeditions Member</p>
14. Strategy	a. NTR.	
15. Marketing & Publicity	a. NTR.	
16. Malcolm Club Trust	a. With Wg Cdr Salter stepping down earlier in the year, AM Sturley (retd) also intends to step back from the trust. This leaves the fund requiring a new trustee. Gp Capt Atkins has expressed interest in nominating himself for the fund. Sqn Ldr Arnold (retd) has also expressed interest in becoming a trustee for the MCT. It was suggested that the President AM Stringer is offered first refusal for Trusteeship for the MCT and a second is selected by the President. The Chairman will write a letter to the President to discuss the nominations.	
17. ISRGC	a. Funding for the VIP lunch is expected to be £100 per association for 25 persons. It was agreed that the funds are to be released from the RAFGSA budget.	

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17. JSAT & Eagle Schemes	a. It was highlighted that the MCT could fund Eagles schemes in 2024. This option is being explored before a proposal is sent to AM Sturley (retd).	
19. AOB	<p>a. Shawbury GC spare winch on loan to Skylaunch. Winch is at Saltby GC and a £1,800 bill was received by the club for servicing. A formalised agreement with Skylaunch is to be established for the offset costs of work and servicing.</p> <p>b. It was suggested that a UK based RAFGSA Exped could be formalised instead of individual club expeditions but Sports Board funding and club buy-in may prove challenging.</p> <p>c. Treasurer suggested that a nominal levy of £200 per participant to the Chile Exped is to be given to the RAFGSA Chile pot as hosting funds for future reciprocal visits.</p>	Dep Fleet Manager
20. Next Meeting	a. The next mtg will take place on Fri 21 Jul 23 at 1300 hrs via MS Teams.	

Meeting closed at 1607 hrs.

[Electronically Signed]

**Flt Lt Ben Wightman
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Distribution (electronically*):

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