

Minutes

Date issued: 23 July 2023

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MINUTES FOR ROYAL AIR FORCE GLIDING AND SOARING ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD VIA TEAMS ON 21 JUL 23

Present	Gp Capt C Peters (Tr)	Chairman	Chair
	Gp Capt Atkins	Strategy Member	
	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 C Tagg (Tr)	Fleet Manager	
	Cpl W Amor	MCT Member	
Apologies	AM J Stringer (Tr)	President	
	Flt Lt L Dale (Tr)	Publicity Member	
	Fg Off J Dutton	Competitions Member	
Secretary	Flt Lt B Wightman (Tr)	Secretary	Sec

Meeting opened at 1303 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 and Flt Lt Dale. Quorum was noted.	
2. Interests in proposed and existing transactions and/or arrangements with the company.	a. None.	
3. Chairman's Address	a. A meeting was held between AM Sturley and the Chairman regarding the MCT Trusteeship. It was agreed by AM Sturley that AM Stringer and Gp Capt Atkins would be the most suitable candidates and a letter to the MCT from the chairman was to be written to formalise the agreement. b. AM Sturley agreed in principle to increase the Go for Solo budget giving more scope for new Service Personnel to take up	Chairman

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	<p>Gliding, if the demand was significantly high enough.</p> <p>c. Correspondence with Kestrel GC has been ongoing in regard to the Club's struggles for new membership and fleet affordability.</p>	
4. Presidents Address	a. No comments.	
5. Minutes of the last meeting	a. The recording of the minutes from the meeting held in May 23 were deemed to be accurate and were ratified by the Exec Cmttee.	
6. Matters arising	<p>a. K-21 Spin Kits were ordered but no invoice had been received by the RAFGSA Treasurer. Dep Fleet Manager to chase but the alternative is to go direct the Schliecher- Ongoing</p> <p>b. Proposal of RAFGSA Award modernisation to include smaller clubs and more relevant awards- Ongoing</p> <p>c. Fenlands Hangar at RAF Marham now valued at around £20,000 after research. A chipmunk group at Husbands Bosworth are interested in the structure and the RAFGSA is awaiting a bid. - Ongoing</p> <p>d. FIS vs Asst Cat standardisation discussion and research likely to take place towards the end of 2023- Ongoing</p> <p>e. A formalised agreement with Skylaunch for the loaned RAFGSA winch usage and maintenance responsibilities is to be written and agreed. 2FTS are hiring the GSA spare winch from Skylaunch for LPG trials- Ongoing</p> <p>f. R1 quotes being tracked and a decision will be made closer to the time as to where the Glider is sent for refurb- Closed</p> <p>g. Paperwork for R19 and TMG KE now received- Closed</p>	<p>Dep Fleet Manager</p> <p>Strategy Member</p> <p>Dep Fleet Manager</p> <p>Ops Member</p> <p>Dep Fleet Manager</p>

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	<p>h. Invoice of £900 for the 26 Oxygen kit paid to Chilterns GC from the £2,500 underspend from the Sisteron Expedition- Closed</p> <p>i. K-18 R49 has sold to a Mr Skews for £7,000. Money has been received by the buyer- Closed</p> <p>j. Parachute re-packing guidance has been sent via email from the Ops member reminding clubs of the best practice- Closed</p> <p>k. Sisteron 2024 meeting is scheduled for 31 Jul 23- Closed</p>	
<p>7. Secretary Correspondence</p>	<p>a. NSTR.</p>	
<p>8. Finance</p>	<p>a. Accounts up to Dec 2022 are with the new accountant.</p> <p>b. The accounts are in a positive position as a result of the disposal of some assets.</p> <p>c. The £4,500 successful bid for Inspector Training required the RAFGSA to accept a contract from the central fund for a return of service on those receiving funding. The initial proposal by the RAFGSA was rejected by DRS/Central Fund. A counter proposal would be submitted by the Treasurer in the coming weeks.</p> <p>d. A number of clubs contacted the Sec and Treasurer in reference to the aircraft hire charges that currently exist. The current rate is £15 per day per seat but clubs are concerned they are losing out on money as the maintenance costs outweigh what the club receives in return. It was agreed by all of the Cmttee that the hire charge would increase to £20 per seat per day to offset the costs to the clubs. This is to be published in the Handbook and clubs to be informed.</p> <p>e. Bannerdown have sourced a new turbo hub replacement for Duo Discus 16 at a cost of £1800. It was pointed out that Chilterns received support to pay for their</p>	<p>Treasurer</p> <p>Treasurer</p>

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	<p>replacement and it was agreed that it would be fair to support Bannerdown in the same manner. It was agreed that 50% of the cost would be paid by the RAFGSA (£900).</p> <p>f. It was recognised that Kestrel GC is under significant pressure and struggling to generate income. The TMG has only flown 11 hours since Nov 22 and it is felt that the club has a fleet too big for its operational output of 1 day a week. The fleet size is adding the extensive outlays the club has. At present, the club owe the RAFGSA a significant amount. The Chairman will contact Stn Cdr RAF Odiham to discuss the support needed by the Stn to keep the club open. The Treasurer will contact OIC Kestrel to present a timeline for a route to green by Oct 2023 when another assessment of the Clubs position will be assessed by the Exec Cmttee.</p>	<p>Chairman & Treasurer</p>
<p>9. Club Overviews</p>	<p>a. Bannerdown- Access issues to the airfield during midweek since JHC took control of the airfield, negotiation are ongoing. Contract for the airfield manager is being negotiated. All airfield bookings are currently being managed by the Army. Wheels up landing damage to 27 has now been repaired and the glider is back serviceable.</p> <p>b. Chilterns- CFI Martin Langford has gained his Regional Examiner qualification. Six club members in various stages of instructor training from FI to Asst Cat. New membership has had to be paused to assess the training capacity at the club with 20 already undergoing pre-solo training. A successful Aim Higher week was conducted with some members from Kestrel joining. A task week is planned for the end of Aug. More clarity was sought on the instructor funding and whether this could be paid to the club upfront. The RAFGSA Treasurer agreed this could be done but any underspend of the amount that wasn't used if the member was to leave would have to be paid back to the RAFGSA.</p>	

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	<p>c. Cranwell- Finances are good and club membership remains healthy. Despite good turn outs from the membership, instructor numbers are down at present. Stn CO's inspection went well with positive feedback from the Stn. Recent fuel inspection highlighted the diesel bowser may need to go on wheels but more discussions taking place. 12 Sqn completed an FD day where 5x SP flew with funding from CGY gym. More planned in the future. Gp Capt Bews and Sgt McCormack soon to be rated BI instructors. Sqn Ldr Adam Youle has agreed to take on the CFI role in 2024 from WO Tim Davies. There are 9 Go for solo applicants waiting to fly with the club.</p> <p>d. Fenlands closure- NTR.</p> <p>e. Fulmar- OIC Sqn Ldr Thomas is completing his part 2 Instructor course at Portmoak. Flt Lt Matt Dutoy and AM Gale completed their Bronze XC endorsement. Cpl Dickie Bowlt (go for solo student) has flown solo. Most of the achievements have come from the support of Chf Tech Norm Potts and the Soaring Eagle scheme, another course is being run in Aug.</p> <p>f. Kestrel- No update received but the Sec met with the OIC during deployment on Ex NOCTEM WARRIOR. The club continues to function and focus is on the administration of the club including DBS certificates. The Strategy member has been approached regarding the MOU and GAI 1048. Issues with the grass cutting contract are still present. Lack of Inspectors means Glider maintenance is being outsourced at great cost to the club.</p> <p>g. Shawbury- The club delivered a flying and static display at Cosford air show including the BGA simulator and plans the same for the RAF Shawbury Families day on 10 Aug 23. K-13 R38 has now been sold and the club has completed the ARC on ex-Marham K-13 R46. The club is in the process of upgrading the fleet to Lx S80 varios. Although funding remains taught, fees will increase again at the start of the FY</p>	
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	<p>1 Nov 23. It is confident the club remains on an improving trajectory. The next challenge will be to continue to operate whilst the runways at Shawbury are refurbished expected in 2024.</p>	
10. Aircraft Fleet	<p>a. Chilterns are potentially looking at relinquishing Duo Discus 26 due to the costs of the Glider. It was agreed by all of the Execs present that the Glider would be retained in the RAFGSA fleet and placed on the ground risk insurance due to its value and desirability for Expeds/cross-country flying. Chairman will discuss the Chilterns GC Treasurer at the ISRGC.</p> <p>b. 2x non-airworthy K-13's have been advertised for sale.</p> <p>c. G109B still for sale after interest disappeared.</p> <p>d. The Pawnee engine remains for sale. Initial interest had waned as the engine is to a particular modification standard. Fleet Manager continues to advertise.</p> <p>e. Dep Fleet Manager visited Halton Airfield to check the RAFGSA store and look at what assets could be sold. Various Pawnee parts have been located with significant value that can be placed for sale. A G109B engine is in the store and there is a potential interested buyer.</p> <p>f. Cranwell GC have requested a replacement Astir for R57 due to the limitations of the aircraft. It is due its 3000hr maintenance package. Astir's are harder to find for sale at present but the search is ongoing. It is requested that Cranwell GC bring R57 down to the ISRGC so Tim Dews can assess the issues with the tow hook to assess the complexity of the 3000hr maintenance.</p>	Chairman
11. Operations	<p>a. Due to the recent wheels up landing incident at Bannerdown, the topic of undercarriage alarms was discussed once more. It was agreed by the Exec that a note should be sent to Clubs and CFI's to</p>	Ops Member

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	encourage the use of the LX function which provides a verbal warning 'check gear' rather than using a warning horn or alarm.	
12. Safety	<p>a. Responsible person for any RAFGSA DASORs has now changed to the Chairman Gp Capt Peters as DDH which reduces the burden placed on the RAF Stn's.</p> <p>b. Keevil Airfield is now recognised as its own entity on ASIMS so their DASORs can be managed by the Safety Member.</p>	
13. Expeditions	<p>a. It has been confirmed that Robson Academy and RAFC Cranwell will not provide either financial or admin support for Sisteron 2024. There is yet to be any nomination to take on the Exped.</p> <p>b. Chile 2024 is forecasted to be 15-26 Jan 2024 for 3x SP plus AM Stringer. AM Gale has expressed interest and would carry out 3 days of Defence Engagement during the visit.</p> <p>c. Cmdt 2FTS has agreed to support the Chilean visit to the UK providing the airfield and winch launches at no cost.</p>	
14. Strategy	a. NSTR.	
15. Marketing & Publicity	a. NSTR.	
16. Malcolm Club Trust	a. NSTR.	
17. ISRGC	<p>a. Last planning meeting held before the competition.</p> <p>b. The number of competitors now sits at 40 after a few dropouts.</p> <p>c. It was requested by Bannerdown for the RAFGSA Chairman to open the competition which he agreed.</p> <p>d. A late positive uptake from AGA VIP's has increased the numbers attending the VIP day.</p>	
17. JSAT & Eagle Schemes	a. All future JSAT courses will be flown from RAF Syerston in 2FTS Vikings for	

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	<p>compliance with regulations. 2 courses will be held at Easterton to avoid the need for participants to travel and consume T&S.</p> <p>b. It was suggested that an approach to the MCT for support in funding 1-week soaring eagles courses could be an option.</p>	
19. AOB	<p>a. The Expeditions Member asked if RAF Branded clothing had been ordered for ISRGC. The strategy member mentioned the delays with Gilmour Sports and that Debbie Kitchen should be contacted. The Treasurer confirmed that the Team pilots would have their apparel funded by the Association. Contact to be made and an order placed.</p>	Expeditions Member
20. Next Meeting	<p>a. The chairman suggested another meeting be held in Sep due to the long duration until Oct. Sec to speak with Chair to find a suitable date and publish to the Exec Cmttee.</p>	Sec

Meeting closed at 1609 hrs.

[Electronically Signed]

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

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