

MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE MEETING

Date Saturday 22nd April 2023 commencing 2.00 p.m.

Venue EGC Clubhouse Ridgewell Airfield

Those Present

John Whitwell (Chairman), Tony Brook (Treasurer), Dave Hertzberg (CFI) Steve Jessup (Secretary) Will Burry, Callum Hitchings. Vince Earl

Apologies

None as all committee members present

Minutes taken by Steve Jessup

1. Minutes of committee meeting 8.1.2023

These were agreed

2. Matters Arising from the minutes

- a. Steve had purchased the materials for stabilising the simulator caravan and intended to do the work on the forthcoming work day when there would be others around to assist if required.
- b. The meeting re ecological issues was outstanding however the consensus on the committee was that any action in this regard must not be to the detriment of our operational use of the airfield.

3. Treasurers report

Tony had circulated his spreadsheet of income and expenditure including a forecast of the current year end. The club was in a healthy financial state.

4. Membership

Tony was also dealing with membership issues. Allowing for a degree of indecision we have about 3 members who have not rejoined and do not intend to and about 6 who have yet to rejoin but intend to do so. Some concern was raised about whether or not we will have sufficient strength to run gliding weeks. It was noted that attendance by reciprocal members from Wattisham during gliding weeks had assisted in recent years.

Decision

We should seek to encourage attendance from Wattisham and Rattlesden at our flying weeks. Flying week dates to be advised to both clubs and told their members would be welcome to attend (Action CH for Wattisham, DH for Rattlesden)

There was a long discussion about the worth of the training package concept and the complexity of running the scheme Tony thought that the upfront cost of the package was putting off people from joining. It was noted that there was a pay as you go joining option but this might not be generally appreciated by prospective members. . General consensus was that the training package was of little benefit to the club or new members.

Decision

The training package offer for prospective members will be discontinued with immediate effect. Remove from website (Action CH)

Ways of enabling prospective members to try gliding more before making a significant financial commitment were discussed. It was felt that the vouchers scheme temporary membership and the ability to use it for a limited number of additional flights at member rates, together with the partial refund of the trial flight after joining as training member were not very well publicised.

There was also discussion around the formal acceptance by members that membership was subject to the Club's Rules and Codes of conduct. Generally agreed that this should be done at the time of joining and that the membership forms should have suitable wording included

In connection with this it was also noted that the clubs rules and policies as available on the website needed to be reviewed for completeness and currency.

There was also discussion around BGA code of conduct recently circulated by John

Decision

Draft new membership forms to be prepared for circulation for comment/approval by the committee (Action SJ)

Draft rewrite of joining part of website to be prepared and circulated to Committee for comment/approval (Action SJ)

Approved version to be posted on website (Action CH)

SJ/JW to Review Policies and Codes on Website and agree ensure complete up to date set provided to CH for posting on website (Action SJ/JW/CH)

SJ to laminate copies of BGA code of conduct and fix to Clubhouse notice board and in launch point caravan (Action SJ)

5. Fleet

It was noted that our Astir CJW together with its trailer had been written off in a road accident. Fortunately no injuries were sustained in the accident. Our insurance company had paid the claim and gifted us the glider for salvage. There some discussion o regarding a modern permanent replacement. Various potential gliders were discussed. DH thought maybe an LS4 would be suitable but there were other options.

Decision

All to look out for a potential single seater and to advise DH of any possibilities for his consideration. (Action DH/All)

We have purchased a K13 (HVW) from Rattlesden to bolster our 2 seater fleet. This comes with an ARC (but no trailer) and Vince confirmed that he had all the paperwork. The glider is currently at Wattisham.

We have also purchased a Skylark 4 (BSH) from a Wormingford member. This is an interim replacement for the Astir as club single seater. This is also freshly ARCD and Vince has all paperwork. The glider is in its trailer at Ridgewell.

KRX is currently at Wattisham the ARC is current but some work has been identified and this is in hand with Wattisham inspectors. Also to be polished. When the work complete aim is to return glider to Ridgewell asap probably by aerotow

KRU is at Wattisham. Also ARCD but minor work and polishing to be done before return to Ridgewell by trailer.

EOE needs to be derigged and transported by Steve to Les at Swindon for ARC. All paperwork has been prepared by Vince for this but now dependent on ground condition for access to T hanger and availability of trailer. Tony said k13 syndicate trailer can be used once 'Donald' (currently in it) is rigged and put in T hanger.

It was felt that since we had two K13's then the club needed at least one enclosed K13 trailer of its own.

Actions

Chase up prep work to PW6s at Wattisham and to arrange for the return of them and the K13 to Ridgewell (CH/DH)

Rig Donald, Derigg EOE and put it in Donald's trailer. (TB/SJ)

Notify Les and take EOE to him for ARC (SJ)

Place advert on Glider Pilot net for K13 Trailer wanted (DH)

6. Maintenance of Club Gliders

Les at Swindon has been doing our Arcs but that is rather a long way to take them and there was discussion about various alternatives. No conclusion was reached but the matter is not urgent as Les has already been asked to do EOE and once that is done we do not have to make a decision for some months as the whole fleet will have current ARCs

Decision

Defer to a future Meeting (Action VE/JW)