Shalbourne Gliding

Committee Meeting 13th February 2014

Minutes

Present: Colin Baines, Steve Barber, Pete Smith, Steve Ottner, Jon Garner, Nigel Burt , Phil Morgan

Apologies: Jim Clark

Correspondence

On Line correspondence relating to TAG Farnborough

Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were approved

Matters Arising:

A cable tow out trailer has been obtained and seems to be working satisfactorily.
Winch Fire Extinguishers – Suitable ones found on line at £10 to £15
JPC work is close to completion
The Winch Driver manual is being prepared by Pete Smith
The phone landline no longer exists, a note has been posted on the Yahoo Group
Security – Colin is still to contact Martin Hoskins
Poor Turn Outs were discussed at the instructors meeting. It had been agreed to include all instructors on Airpost.net so they can easily advise members if flying is scrubbed.

Officers Reports:

Treasurer – Steve Barber

Steve produced the updated financial spread sheet summarising the year (2012-2013).

On the revenue account, we finished up just £342 on the turnover of £49k. On the capital side, although we made an admirable £600 on the launchpoint bus, we spent rather more on purchases - crane, launchpoint caravan and spare winch engine); however these will appear as assets in the books.

I don't see any need to adjust any prices at this stage. There is of course the usual caveat that in the event of unexpected changes in costs we may need to react before the 2015 AGM. Currently, the main threats are insurance premium, field rent and loss of CASC status resulting in loss of 80% waiver of non-domestic rates if HMRC invokes the new rules as proposed and we can't meet them.

It was questioned as to the cost of the work on JPC. Material costs of £1200 have been paid. The labour costs will be around £4000 for the recover and then a further £1000 for rectifying glue failure and delamination. In addition, new hooks were needed. These costs are being met from available funds.

Discussion took place on the current membership fees as we have been operating a neutral budget on revenue and so there has been nothing set aside for capital items. It was agreed that as the fees

were not increased last year the fees should be increased to £325 with concessions at £275. The trailer parking fee will remain at £165.

On the insurance front, currently there is an agreement in place that we would only have two K13s out at the same time on 25 occasions during the year. During the insurance year to date there have been 22 occasions with 3 months still to go. However, the insurers have agreed to review the cost at the end of this period in the light of the final number of occasions once this is known.

CF **I – Phil Morgan**

Flight Crew Licensing:

With the transition to life under EASA looming we need to be converting our current BGA licenses over to LAPL's or SPL's. To qualify for this new license you must have at least your bronze and XC endorsement. A few members are currently transitioning their licences over so we should soon know if we are following the correct procedure.

Some members have started the transition process and it is advised not to leave this until the last minute. Phil advised that the CFI, Chairman or Treasurer can sing off currency confirmation.

Encouragement needs to be given to solo pilots who have not completed their Bronze to try and do this before transition. The cost of doing so after April 2015 could be around £450.

Cloud Flying Endorsement:

I recently attended a CFE seminar at Lasham and now only need to fly with a SRE to add this additional instructor rating to my FE rating. It is expected that we will be able to offer FFE training to suitably qualified pilots in the near future. Rated instructors will be able to coach for this rating but only a FE or FIE with a CF instructor rating will be able to test and issue a certificate of competence. I now have all the necessary presentations and test records available so only need to obtain the cloud flying goggles or hood and brief the instructor team.

Phil advised that he would encourage all members to go for this sooner rather than later. This will involve 2 hours ground school and 2 hours flying training. It is likely that the rules will change in time.

CFI meeting at Lasham:

Back in early December I attended the CFI meeting at Lasham where a fair amount of time was spent going over the annual safety report. I intend to give a short presentation of its findings during the forthcoming AGM.

Pete has kindly agreed to complete the Winch Driving Manual

Incident Reporting

This covers many areas and a draft of the requirements will be sent round. It relates to safety observation and reporting of any incident.

Equipment – Colin Baines

Skybrid still awaiting engine replacement, present unit still holding out. Complications with engine/transmission interface for Pontiac engine being investigated by James Hunniman. New cable guards fitted to prevent further damage to cable catch cage. Tow out brake mechanism redesigned for better efficiency. Fitting of new cables to be organised by Treasurer.
Reserve winch needs to be used regularly to ensure serviceability.
Winch fire extinguishers still out of date

Pajero #2 u/s. Newish battery found flat and beyond repair. Suspect alternator needs replacing.
Land Rover floor rusting. No known problems.
Trooper front seat collapsed, needs to be removed and repaired.
All launch equipment serviceable.
All vehicles/winches serviced in October.

Note to Aircraft Officer
All trailers need to be serviced ahead of the the new season.
The Puchacz trailer cover is u/s and needs to be repaired/replaced.
The Ka8 trailer is presently parked open to the elements and needs to be covered until it can be put back in the hangar.

Airfield – Colin Baines

The broken hangar roof panel has been removed and made safe, but the resulting hole cannot be repaired until there is a suitable calm period. In the meantime there is a risk to aircraft parked close to the front of the hangar.

Condition of the airfield - CB met with Ringo to discuss remedies for large depressions. Awaiting comments.

All water supplies have been drained for frost prevention.

Rubbish - local dealer will pick up scrap metal

Scrub on northern approach needs clearing

Vehicle parking near club house still causing inconvenience to those trying to work in that area

Bridleway signs have been erected by Phil Morgan

Generator stop system needs repairing. Also new exhaust hangers required.

New launch point control/cafe caravan is suffering from the weather and requires a reliable project manager. Needs to be covered to prevent serious deterioration.

Stainless kitchen furniture from Roundout Bus is in storage.

It was noted that James Walters has volunteered to set up the “kitchen” side of the new caravan. It was suggested that we go for the catering facility part now and then look at the control caravan later.

The generator stop system has since been repaired.

Safety Officer – Pete Smith

Two known incidents
Instructor late to take over. Resolved through SRE.
Ground handling accident - Reported to RSO. Action to be communicated to members on appropriate ground handling techniques.

General

Various offers in place for Safety Audit
First aid kits to be refreshed.
Fire Extinguishers - outstanding. Alan Holden has offered but no commitment. Need to arrange external service. It was agreed to leave this to Pete to arrange.

On the incident front concern was expressed at the length of time the ground handling incident took to be reported to the Safety Officer. This incident highlighted that it should be considered more important to protect oneself than the aircraft.

Safety Audit – Colin has looked at the BGA document and it seems we are most vulnerable in launch point activities and log keeping.

Publicity - Steve Ottner

Voucher sales for the year (i.e. from start of October are less than last year but last year was our best ever. The comparable year-to-date figures are

2014 £2,112

2013 £2,601

2012 £2,124

2011 £2,394

There does seem to be a higher proportion of half day course than in previous years (9 half day, 13 regular TL).

On the PR front very little to report:-

- Ad in the Newbury Weekly News Valentine special (thanks Steve)
- I took my condemned parachute along to a Beavers meeting to help John Turk out with talking to the children about gliding
- Today I turned down the offer of free space in a pull-out "do-something-different" supplement going in the Sun. Turns out the space, thanks to someone pulling out at the last moment, was free but there was the production costs to cover. Not sure just how genuine it was but national coverage is not something we need (and you may have your own opinion about the readers)
- There have now been 383 posts to our Blogg with 47,085 page views. That's since May 2010 but it still seems like a lot to me. In the last month there were 944 page views. Whilst the majority of hits are from the UK this week we have had viewers from USA, Ukraine, Brazil, China, Bangladesh, Colombia, Indonesia, Macedonia and Venezuela
- I believe Jon has been busy and successful with Facebook and Twitter but social media is not something I know much (anything) about from personal experience (OK, maybe the PR Officer should know something about such things).

It was queried whether we should run open week/days. Steve Ottner agreed to organise an open day in May. Phil will organise task week.

AGM

The AGM is to be on the 28th February 2014 in the Plough in Shalbourne at 7.30pm. Note the change of venue from the previous minutes.

Any Other Business

Phil advised that a trip to Port Moak is planned for April/May and he will circulate this shortly. The intention is to take the Vega.

To improve revenue, it was agreed that users of the workshop should contribute £10 per day for the use of the generator.

Lottery Bids – suggestions are being sought for an application to Sport England. Having the Puchacz re-finished is one option and Pete Smith is to enquire as to the cost.

Nominations are needed for new committee members – the key is that individuals are not expected to take on all the work involved but to organise others to undertake the jobs that need doing.

Bookings are already being received for Trial Lesson evenings. Jon Garner has agreed to organise these again this year.

Next Meeting

To be decided after the AGM.