**Shalbourne Soaring Society Ltd**

**Annual General Meeting – 26th February 2016**

The meeting opened at 1930.

**Present:**
Jon Garner (Chair), Steve Barber (Treasurer), Phil Morgan (CFI), Colin Baines, Nigel Burt and 19 club members.

**Apologies**

John Douglass, Liz Sparrow, James Hunneman, James Walters, Bob Boyd, Tony Plamer, Chris Bessent, Carol Pike

**Approval Minutes of last AGM**

The minutes of the last AGM on the 27th February 2015 were approved with no amendments. Proposed by Chirs Keating, Seconded by Pail Prentice

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

**Officers Reports**

**Chairman's Report**

**Chairmans' Report**

Fellow members of Shalbourne Gliding Club.
The year has been a good year for the club. We've had a good year of flying due to the good weather and we've had some enjoyable expeditions by some of the members across the UK to experience flying at other clubs.

Again we have offered gliding to the wider community either through Trial Lesson Evenings or Trial Lessons during our flying days. These all seem to bring wider visibility to our club and give favourable feedback through social media. I would hope that we could continue to offer these experiences to non-club members in the future. Hopefully with a view to increasing membership. It is great to see that our attempts to move forward with our visibility to the outside world is continuing to advance.

In the previous year we had seen an increase in membership due to younger pilots coming along for a variety of reasons. This year we welcome Southampton University students who have decided to fly with us at Shalbourne gliding Club. It's a great start and definitely encouraging for the future. Let's keep going with it.

The winch refresh project is ongoing only being stopped by inclement weather and the availability of the usual suspects. I'm sure that when the Chairman reports next year in 2017, it will be a story of how wonderful the first launch was and what it was like from 2999ft.

As everyone will know, we have been challenged with the state of our workhorses, that is, our vehicles. We are in the process of repairing and replacing some of the vehicles with a view to this being something we will continue to do in the future. I hope we will be able to persuade someone to grasp the nettle, so to speak, and take on the Equipment Officer role.

Again thanks to Keevil for letting Shalbourne members go to their site, this time, for Aero-tow training. I think we've definitely found ourselves some friends there, we definitely need to make them very welcome when they come to see us, or just drop in.

The committee has met many times, over such issues as the winch rebuild and vehicles. They have worked tirelessly to make sure that we all have access to club facilities and the means to enjoy our hobby in safety. I would like to thank the CFI and all of the committee for their support through the year on behalf of all of the club members.

It is quite clear that without the support of a number of our members, we just wouldn't be able to operate. Again the usual suspects come to mind and to those I will offer my deepest gratitude and admiration. I am sure that all of Shalbourne Gliding Club members thank you and appreciate your efforts as much as I do. And again as mentioned last year this 'usual suspects' isn't an exclusive club, it is one club that does hope for new members, all of the time.

There is strength in acknowledging the past and especially in acknowledging the things learned from past experiences—but a successful club is able to avoid miring their mental energy in past disappointments or in fantasies of the "glory days" gone by. They invest the majority of their energy in creating an optimal present and future.

I would like to close my report by saying thank you to all of the Committee and Shalbourne members for your support and kind words throughout the year.

The chairman added the following at the end of his report:

"Change is a law of life and those that only look to the past or the present are certain to miss the future" John F Kennnedy.

**Treasurer's Report - As attached**

Following the Reports the following points were raised:

A question was asked as to whether we apply depreciation to the assets. It was advised that this would give an unrealistic value of the current club fleet.

There are currently 60 members at present, an improvement on 3 years ago when there were 50 but then 8 years ago there were 70 and membership had previously peaked at 100.

It was asked if there is any forward planning in respect of replacement of the gliders given the K series glue issues. It was advised not but we are grateful to Andy Brind for all the work he has done on the K13s. Andy advised that a structural report regarding the glue has been submitted as part of the ARCs and the BGA is compiling data so that by April/May they should be able to complete a trend analysis.

We were reminded that the club operates on a minimum expenditure basis and so are keeping costs down. There has been more flying over the last year which has put the finances in a "comfortable" position but we must not be complacent.

Over time the committee has evolved from just meetings and minutes to be more dynamic. Communication is the key to getting things done, not relying on expecting one individual to pick them up.

**Election of Officers**

All Directors and Officers were willing to stand for re-election.

Roland Pantling offered to stand for the post of Equipment Officer. Jeremy Knight proposed acceptance and this was seconded by Stephen Ottner and unanimously carried.

In the absence of any other nominations, Richard Dann proposed that the other committee members be re-elected en bloc. This was seconded by Jeremy Knight and carried unanimously.

The committee therefore is:

| **Position** | **Member** |
|---|---|
| Chairman (Director) | Jonathan Garner |
| Treasurer (Director and Company Secretary) | Stephen Barber |
| CFI (Director) | Philip Morgan |
| Airfield officer (Director) | Colin Baines |
| Aircraft Officer | James Clarke |
| Publicity Officer (Director) | Stephen Ottner |
| Safety Officer (appointed) | Peter Smith |
| Equipment Officer | Roland Pantling |
| Secretary | Nigel Burt |

Steve Barber informed the meeting that he is looking to stand down in a year's time and invited members to consider taking on the role of treasurer. There also needs to be forward planning to fill roles as needed.

**Proposals**

No proposals were put forward.

**Any Other Business**

A suggestion was made that we consider working with paragliding clubs – a link between the two could produce new members.

On the reserve winch front, the funds are held to do the work and we have not had to resort to using reserves. James Hunneman has planned the work that needs to be done but it does need a project leader to take this forward as James is very busy at present. However, the work is not progressing at present and we do not want to be in an unfortunate position of having no winch available if anything were to happen to the Skybrid. Thanks were expressed to Bill Cook for the work he has done.

In respect of the vehicles the committee have agreed that we will get the Land Rover repaired, buy a newish one in the form of an insurance Cat D write off and then get rid of one of the remaining vehicles. The vehicles do need to be checked on a regular basis and if any problems are discovered then the Equipment Officer should be informed.

Southampton University Gliding Club has been resurrected and has decided to relocate from Lasham and join ourselves. They have taken up a group membership for 5 members with the proviso that no more than 4 pre solo pilots will turn up at a time. They are keen to learn and have already shown themselves more than willing to help out on the field. They are looking into the position of a K8 that was owned by the SUGC to see if that can be moved to Shalbourne. They have also asked if there is any possibility of a "flying week" at Easter which Stephen Ottner is trying to progress.

Paul Prentice mentioned that 3 of the club parachutes have problems that will have to be dealt with by a specialist rather than our usual parachute packer. Therefore, if club members have their own parachutes then please could they use them if flying club aircraft to ensure that there is not a shortage.

Thanks were expressed to Darren McKillop for the work he has done on our social media sites.

Thanks were also expressed to Stephen Ottner for looking after the Wednesday group.

It was again reiterated that we need to be looking forward with where we are going documented. This will need club members input.

The open day is to be in mid May and the open week at the end of May. Trial Lesson evenings are already being booked.

A request was made for an up to date list of members phone numbers to be provided.

The annual awards had not been made at the Club Dinner but were made at this meeting. There were only two this year:

Instructor of the Year: Nigel Burt

Ab Initio of the Year: John Douglass

Meeting closed at 2125hrs