

Black Mountains Gliding Club

Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting

03/04/2010

Date: 3rd April 2010 **Place:** Talgarth Town Hall **Time:** The meeting commenced at 19:00h

Directors Present

Mike Codd Acting Chairman and Secretary

Clive Micklewright Treasurer

Gordon Dennis

Apologies were received from John Horley (Director) who was absent due to illness.

Members present

25 members were present in total.

Apologies were received from 9 members.

1. Approval of Previous Minutes

Don Gosden proposed that the minutes of the 2009 AGM held on 11th April 2009 were accepted, and Tony Crowden seconded. The minutes were accepted.

2. Chairman's Report by Mike Codd

Club Management

Mike said that the current committee have a good working relationship and with only four members it was flexible, but the time commitment from each was high. The reluctance of any one member to be chairman is down to this time pressure, which would be eased with an optimum membership of six. The committee aims to be transparent in its dealings and to consult and listen to members.

Milestones

Last year was the 30th anniversary of the founding of the club and amazing progress has been made at the club by both current and previous members and committees. Despite indifferent summer weather, flying activities and revenue have been maintained allowing a greater than anticipated repayment of debt.

The Briefing Room Complex was completed, along with all the associated ancillary work, giving a facility which will give the club an advantage if anticipated bureaucracy changes occur.

The weather station and web cam were commissioned and improvements have been made to club facilities.

Many hours of work have been spent on upgrading the instruments in club gliders and on a gliding simulator development, and the web site has been enhanced with additions such as the video briefings.

The winter lecture programme was well attended and the club K21 gained third place in the Bedford 2-seater competition.

Mike thanked the members involved in all these projects and also listed the 'routine' year-round tasks required to keep the club running smoothly, thanking everybody who contributes to those. See Appendix A for details.

Looking forward to 2010

The committee have decided against any major capital projects in the next 12 months, wishing to consolidate in order to clear as much remaining debt as possible. Safety or legally required projects will go ahead including upgrading facilities for the issue of a fire risk assessment, provision of a secure store for garden machinery and flammable materials, electrical work & certification for the main club building, completion of the disabled toilet and upgrading airfield retrieve vehicles. Additionally further web cams will be installed.

Longer Term

The long term strategy will be readdressed this year and directors will be soliciting opinions from members.

3. Treasurer's Report (BMGC & TAL) by Clive Micklewright

Clive was presenting the 'group' accounts (BMGC and its wholly owned subsidiary TAL). All accounts are available in the office and on the web site.

Black Mountains Gliding Club

Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting

03/04/2010

Achievements & plans

The main achievements for the previous year were that the club was well run and made a profit while focusing on debt repayment, £26,000 was repaid including all the Phillip Wills loan and TAL's original bank mortgages well as some debentures.

2008-2009 Overview

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Income | £120K |
| Group Profit | £51K |
| Administration | £55K |
| Operating profit | [£4.3K] |
| Profit/Loss before tax | [£5.6K] |

The future

The directors have agreed that debt reduction will be a priority in 2010 including repaying debentures and any interest they require. It is hoped that all debt will be cleared in 1 to 2 years at which point TAL could be wound up and a new 'strategy' would be required. He listed some of his ideas and the committee will be consulting members .

Clive has completed his agreed 3 years as treasurer but gave notice that he would step down next year. He will train and handover to his replacement in that time.

Clive thanked all those who helped him as Treasurer including Liz, Angie and Anne.

Questions from the Floor

Don Gosden thanked the Chairman and Treasurer for their reports.

Among others, one of Clive's possible options for future strategy was to employ a club manager. Don suggested that this would impact profitability (it had at other clubs) as currently management tasks were carried out by volunteer members. Clive agreed with that and said that Liz and Bo, the only employees, created revenue.

Gerry Martin wondered whether it was sensible for TAL to be kept when debts were paid in order to 'ring fence' BMGC's assets. Clive replied that legal advice would be sought when the time comes.

Don Gosden said that TAL may be required if the BGA ceases to exist in 2 years time.

4. CFI's Report by Martin Langford

Overview of the last year

Four new Ass. Cat. Instructors and two new tug pilots came online and a navigation coach was appointed. On the training front annual flight reviews were implemented, on line training and briefing videos loaded on to the web site, a successful bronze 'C' weekend and on line lectures were held and the briefing room became operational. The club K21 entered both the Rockpolishers and Bedford 2-seater competitions.

2010

Plans for 2010 include training two basic instructors and commissioning two tug pilots and a full cat. instructor. Cross country training weekends are planned and an R/T course will be available. The briefing room will be fully operational and further training videos made. A 'CFI corner' has been set up on the web site and the flight simulator is ready for 'Flight Testing'. Annual flight reviews will continue to be a requirement.

Safety

Safety at BMGC was reviewed in detail at a well attended lecture in December. The club had a good year with visiting pilots having the bulk of incidents, so members were asked to monitor and report any non-standard flying as well as monitoring themselves.

The national campaigns on airspace and stall and spin awareness are to be emphasised at BMGC and Martin offered advice on both these safety aspects.

Trial lessons and 'friends and family' flying must be flown to the highest safety standards; the criteria for clearance for the latter were specified.

Martin hoped that a 'safety culture' is being engendered at the club with a reporting structure, feedback loop, standardisation of training and information dissemination all helping.

Black Mountains Gliding Club

Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting

03/04/2010

Annual Flight Reviews

Annual Flight Reviews (with no soaring charge for one flight) will continue after a successful first year in 2009. Pilots' AFR renewal dates will be published, monitored and implemented.

Training Opportunities

BMGC is well set up for training with an extensive team of instructors and coaches, the briefing room, videos on the web site and the simulator.

Martin thanked Mike Cudmore for all his work in constructing the simulator at low cost to the club. It will be evaluated and 'lesson plans' will be developed.

Cross Country Development

The Talgarth Triangle has been a success and the K21 is entered into the Bidford and Rockpolishers competitions and is generally available for cross country instruction with Mike Tomlinson as coach. The Usk motor glider is also available for training and one at Shobdon for navigation with John Scott. Task week will be held as usual at the end of August and the cross country route planner is in the briefing room and online.

Finally Martin thanked all members involved in the flying operation at the club.

5. Safety Officer's Report by Peter Saundby

Peter Saundby was pleased to report that for only the second time in the twelve years that he has been the Club Safety Officer, no aircraft was seriously damaged or destroyed when flying from Talgarth during the last year. The previous year with no losses was 2001, but in that year we flew only half the launches that we achieved in 2009. We compare very favourably with BGA accident statistics. The full text of his annual report is in Appendix B below.

6. Members' Proposals

No proposals had been received at the meeting or prior to it.

7. Election of Directors to the Committee

Director Clive Micklewright retired by rotation at this meeting and was seeking re-election.

The resolution that Clive Micklewright be re-elected as a director was unanimously agreed by secret ballot (25 votes for, 0 against) so he was duly elected.

Mark Fisher had nominated Phil Swallow as a director.

Phil outlined to the AGM his reasons for wishing to join the committee, saying that clubs are about members who are all responsible for keeping it running successfully. He wished to help what is a small board by becoming a member of it and hoped to encourage more members to participate in the running of the club. He has IT and Live Events organisation experience.

Keith Richards had nominated John Price as a director.

John told the meeting of his experience in gliding including many years of instructing and being CFI at both Talgarth and Vale of Neath. For 6 years he was involved in running the flying operation at Bidford including both the financial and business sides. He is now giving up instructing and wishes to contribute to Talgarth by becoming a director. He has many years experience of maintenance and engineering.

The resolution that Phil Swallow be elected as a director was agreed by secret ballot (24 votes for, 0 against) so he was elected.

The resolution that John Price be elected as a director was agreed by secret ballot (23 votes for, 1 against) and he was also elected.

8. Any Other Business

Peter Saundby offered a vote of thanks to the committee for all the hard work and long hours they had contributed last year.

9. Presentation of Awards

Martin Langford awarded the CFI's Trophy to Mike Codd, Rhona Wakem, Tony Bartlett and Chris Mann who all qualified as assistant category instructors in the past year, in recognition of the work,

Black Mountains Gliding Club
Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting
03/04/2010

time and financial outlay required to achieve success. Mike Codd accepted the trophy on behalf of all the recipients and thanked the instructor team who had prepared the candidates for their course. Chris Mann thanked Gerry Martin. The Talgarth Triangle Trophy was awarded to Ralph Johnson and the Tony Burton Cup to Martin Pingel for a climb of over 14,000 feet.

Closure of Meeting

The meeting closed at 20:40h

Appendix A - to Chairman's Report

Mike Codd gave the following thanks for special projects:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Repayment of debt (c. £26k) | Clive Micklewright |
| Mortgage repaid | |
| Phillip Wills Loan repaid | |
| Several debenture holders repaid | |
| Commissioning of Weather Station & Webcam | Phil Swallow, Geoff King, Tony Crowden |
| Instrument upgrades to Club Fleet | Don Gosden, Mike Rossiter, Adrian Thomas, Mike Tomlinson |
| Winter lecture programme | Gordon Dennis |
| Simulator development | Mike Cudmore |
| K21's participation in the two seater competition at Bedford | John Clark |
| Upgrading of club website (video briefings etc.) | Mark Fisher, Martin Langford |
| New release mechanism for G-AZPA | Keith Richards, John Horley |

He also thanked the following for their 'regular' work:-

Keith Richards - Club fleet and privately owned glider maintenance

Robbie Robertson - Buildings and facilities maintenance / upgrades

Mark Fisher - Web master, National Ladder Steward, IT support

Phil Swallow and Alan Cridge - IT support

Martin Langford, John Clark, and their team of instructors on behalf of the four new assistant instructors & many grateful members/visitors

Peter "Doc" Saundby - Safety Officer, Tug fuel management, Airfield maintenance

Geoff & Julie King - Trailer maintenance & refurbishment, Fire risk assessment, Launch point services

Martin Pingel, Winter flying and instructor/tug pilot roster, Jokes via e-mail (mostly unrepeatable)

Winter Lecture Speakers - Jennie Lyons, Peter Saundby, John Scott, Martin Langford, Chris Mann, John Bally

Black Mountains Gliding Club
Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting
03/04/2010

Launch point log keepers, “retrievers, pushers & shovers” especially Ben and Joe Harper

Robin Howarth - Airfield rolling

Liz Torrance and Bo Nilsson

Anne Crowden - Independent minute taker, Membership Secretary

and to those Mike neglected to mention - apologies.

Appendix B - Safety Officer's Report

Black Mountains Gliding Club
Annual Safety Report for 2009
Club Safety Officer – Peter Saundby

For only the second time in the twelve years that I have been the Club Safety Officer, I can report that no aircraft was seriously damaged or destroyed when flying from Talgarth during the last year. The previous year with no losses was 2001, but in that year we flew only half the launches that we achieved in 2009.

In January there was an un-commanded release of the tow rope from the tug in severe rotor turbulence. This followed a previous similar incident in November 2008 and both cases the glider landed normally although the ropes were lost. In March there was another tow rope detachment on landing. The tow hook on our Pawnee G-AZPA was an 'original fit' Schweizer hook. This design depends upon the quality of a rubber block for retention and also suffers high release loads when the glider is in an abnormal position; for these reasons it is not used in Australia. Following my recommendation the tow hook was replaced by a Tost hook assembly which has proved reliable in operation.

In August there was an incident in which a Ka13 over-ran the landing and sustained a minor puncture of the nose ply on meeting the hedge. The root cause was an unwise attempt by the instructor to taxi back to the launch point following a landing by the pupil. This tactic may be tempting to save time and a retrieve, but it is neither a good example to the pupil nor an acceptable instructional practice.

The airprox report 150/08 was published during the year. This concerned an RAF Hawk and a Jodel in the Talgarth circuit on 22 Oct 08. In a frank report the instructor in the Hawk stated that he had let his pupil deviate in error from the planned track.

During the year, the CFI continued his practice of recording and publishing to instructors all incidents, however trivial or minor. That practice is doubtless a major contribution to our accident free year. The first of a series of ground lectures on accidents and incidents was given by the CFI on 05 December. It is now 23 months since our last aircraft write off and 14 years since a fatality.

10 January 2010