

Black Mountains Gliding Club
Minutes of the Committee Meeting of Directors 10th July 2010

Date 10th July 2010 **Place** BMGC **Time** Meeting commenced at 17.10h

Directors Present

Mike Codd (MC), Clive Micklewright (CM), Gordon Dennis (GD), Phil Swallow (PS), John Price (JP), John Horley (JH)

Members present – Anne Crowden taking minutes

1. Apologies

All directors attended. Martin Langford (CFI) submitted a written report.

2. Accuracy and Acceptance of Minutes of Last Committee Meeting of Directors (15.5.2010)

Removal of Junior from Club Flying Scheme

"MC to ask Keith Richards to check with SZD concerning a rumoured commercial offer on the first Junior gliders due for 7,000 hour inspection" should read "6000 hr inspection".

The minutes were accepted.

3. Review of Minutes of Last Committee Meeting of Directors

Airfield Entrance/Crossing Notices – Only one quote obtained so far - £1200 for a set of 10 notices including small 'no dogs' and 'do not climb the tree' signs. Further quotes will be sought.
ACTION JH – by next meeting

CRB Checks – The BGA has not updated its advice, but the change of government may alter requirements.

ACTION GD to check with BGA once more - by next meeting

Rockpolishers – The National Park has displayed the application for occasional use of a second tug for public objections. No word on the result has been received. Ongoing.

ACTION John Clark to report when Parks contact him

Heat tracing and insulation on pipes – JH stated that the system needed replumbing in order to facilitate pump draining in the winter after which heat tracing would be added where required.

ACTION JH by Nov 2010

Wooden trailer - to be fitted out for the club's Pirat. Ongoing.

ACTION MC to speak to Geoff King

ACTION MC to check with Robbie Robertson if any fittings are already part made or finished

Request for Copy of Clubhouse and hanger plans by another club – checking with architects regarding copyright and intellectual property -ongoing.

ACTION GD by next meeting

Derelict Mobile Home

CM reported that it would have to be dismantled for the contractor to take it away - a messy and unpleasant task. If the two Justy cars could be despatched at the same time CM may be able to negotiate the removal of the mobile home 'intact'.

JH said another 4WD must be acquired before disposal. JP suggested 'balloon' tyres on a non-4WD would be a good and cheap alternative.

PROPOSAL: That the 2 Justys and the caravan be disposed of together if possible and hope to buy a new 4WD subsequently. The temporary fallback could be the airfield roller 4WD if a new purchase is not made by winter (and if Robin Howarth, its operator, agrees) or purchase of balloon tyres.

The proposal was carried with 5 votes for and 1 against.

ACTION CM to try to negotiate the removal of the caravan and two cars.

ACTION JP to investigate other 4WD purchase options.

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Airfield Safeguarding – A letter has been sent to the BBNPA. Item closed.

Marketing and Artwork for BMGC Vouchers – ongoing. PS offered to recreate artwork if necessary.

ACTION JH to see whether artwork is available by next meeting

Chairs for Briefing Room - Ongoing

ACTION GD

Webcams - Disabling cameras after an accident and increasing upstreaming bandwidth: Both done. Item closed.

Locking BRC after Flying - Instructors informed. Item closed.

However some BRC doors are sticking and difficult to close.

ACTION MC to consult with Don Gosden.

Committee forms

JP will submit his Companies House form to MC this week.

MC to be added to cheque signatories list.

ACTION CM to obtain forms from bank.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities were reassigned as follows:-

Chairman - Mike Codd

Marketing - Phil Swallow

Airfield Management - John Price

Secretarial tasks - covered by the secretary to the committee

With CM relinquishing the role of Treasurer at the next AGM, a replacement or replacements are still sought. If a volunteer cannot be found then a professional will need to be employed. Ongoing.

ACTION – CM will ask Liz Torrance if any local persons might be interested to apply for the role of treasurer. He will also discuss the position with any club member willing to become treasurer.

5. Treasurer's report (CM)

There is £50K in the bank but July expenditure of approx. £11K, including £6.5K for fuel and £2.5K PAYE and insurance will exceed income. However the finances and income are healthy and the £50K balance is expected to be maintained generally. Annual expenditure is £90K.

Member flying is down but trial lessons are up 38% on the first quarter year on year.

In view of the recession, the Treasurer will adopt a cautious approach hoping to increase the contingency fund from £20K to £30K, and reviewing debt repayment later in the financial year.

6. CFI Report (ML)

A written report is found in Appendix A at the end of these minutes. The following are responses to items raised by ML:-

PROPOSAL: That there should be a full time summer instructor and that Bo Nilsson be approached to continue in the role in 2011.

The proposal was carried unanimously.

ACTION - MC to feedback this decision to ML.

The committee are advised by GD and PS that currently the best method for 'broadcasting' the winter lectures online is 'Go To Meeting'. The licence costs approx. £300. It was agreed that it should be purchased and reviewed in 12 months time.

ACTION PS to renew the GTM licence and inform ML.

It was agreed that the most appropriate printer for the briefing room would be a black and white laser printer.

ACTION MC to ask Mark Fisher to buy one similar to that in the office.

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Task Week - Places are still available for this fun club competition. Members should sign up in the clubhouse or email the office.

7. Marketing (MC)

Field signs - the BBNPA (Brecon Beacons National Park Authority) planning representative is being very helpful. The Highways Authority from the Welsh Assembly Government has now become involved. We await a decision. Ongoing.

The BBNPA media initiative to have journalists visit and fly at BMGC is ongoing.

The mailshot to local accommodation providers has been completed. MC thanked Anne Crowden for her work on this.

CM continues his involvement within the 'Collaborate' team. The lottery grant for Talgarth is being used to refurbish and reactivate an old mill in the town, one part of which will include a display area for information on BMGC. It is hoped that the 1 hour BBC programme on Talgarth will include the club.

Internet bookings are doing well for which the committee thanked Mark Fisher, the club webmaster. Several visiting pilots and trial lesson pupils have made very positive comments about how informative the website is.

8. Reinstatement of the Junior in the Club Flying Scheme

The committee have received requests from members asking them to reconsider the decision to remove the Junior from the scheme. After listening to members' opinions and consulting Keith Richards the decision was revisited.

PROPOSAL: That the Junior be reinstated in the club flying scheme effective from Monday 19th July 2010 (in order to give time to inform all members and change the administration system).

The proposal was agreed unanimously.

ACTION - CM to write an email informing current scheme members and all other members of the change, explaining the reasons behind the original decision and for the reinstatement of the Junior, to be sent before Monday 19th July.

9. Electrical Certification for Club Block

Two similar quotes have been obtained against the same work specification. The case was made by one committee member for the work to be carried out by AJM Maintenance (based in Pontypool) and by another for Owain Turner (a Talgarth contractor) to do it and a debate followed. The vote was 4 to 2 in favour of awarding AJM Maintenance the contract.

ACTION MC to inform Owain Turner of the decision and explain the reasons behind it.

ACTION GD to inform AJM Maintenance and arrange dates for the work to be carried out.

10. Strategic Plan Review

As JP and JH were absent from the strategy meeting held on June 12th and no minutes were taken, a report on the meeting was given by MC which is minuted below. Further discussions will be given priority and held within scheduled committee meetings and will be minuted as normal.

At the June 12th meeting the committee reviewed the 5 year strategic plan which had been produced in March 2006. The Mission Statement was slightly amended to reflect future EASA requirements.

The action list was reviewed and it was found that all actions had been implemented except two which were allocated to current committee members to progress:-

Paragraph 6.2.4 "To obtain information from the Powys Highways Authority regarding the rights of way relating to the Green Lanes to the East and South of the airfield. Should any of the fields in question come on to the market in the future then immediately to explore with the Highways Authority whether and how vehicles may cross the lanes."

ACTION CM to progress.

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Paragraph 6.3.1 "To discuss rebuilding and relocation of the T-hangers with the syndicates involved in order to investigate better utilisation of existing trailer parking space which is at a premium."

JH advised that the IS32 FAV syndicate currently has no plans to cease operating this glider.

ACTION PS to discuss future plans with Blanik DEX syndicate.

Possible future developments will be reviewed and refined at the next meeting after which a plan of action will be produced. The document will be issued to members ahead of the next AGM for approval at that meeting.

11. Suggestion Book

No new suggestions were in the book.

12. Any Other Business

Parachute room atmosphere (GD)

Tim Moran has suggested that the room be protected from damp.

ACTION GD to ask him whether a dehumidifier or minimal heating device is required. By next meeting.

JH Tugging (GD)

The insurance company has agreed to JH being on the tugging policy at no extra cost providing the Tugmaster ensures that all rules are obeyed.

Runway limitation by crops (JP)

When it is long, the silage crop on the airfield limits usable runways' widths. This is a safety issue, especially when gliders are landing in rapid succession (e.g. when several gliders are airborne together and the ridge suddenly stops working). The grass cutting areas need to be reviewed with the farmer before the crop regrows.

JP agreed to take the airfield maintenance role from CM and address the problem.

ACTION CM to brief JP and handover airfield management to him.

ACTION JP then to discuss the matter with the grass cutter.

Tug refuelling point (JP)

The low ceiling to the pump hut makes refuelling uncomfortable. There has been a budget to replace the hut and pump for 2 years. The new pump has disappeared but JP suggests that improvements made to the ancillary equipment have made its replacement unnecessary at this time. It was agreed that the roof of the existing hut should be raised in the interim.

ACTION JH to organise raising the roof height of the existing pump hut by end September 2010.

ACTION JH to supply a spring-loaded petrol cap so that the pump is held in place during refuelling by next meeting.

Spare propeller for tug (JH)

The spare has been sold to the Long Mynd Gliding Club and JH was concerned that this put BMGC's operation at risk if the prop needed replacement. He was assured that BMGC can call on the Mynd's spare prop in an emergency.

Workshop (JH)

Wood needs replacing in the workshop as it is starting to let in water. The treasurer said that funding for repairs could be discussed for the 2011 budget if costs were supplied to him.

Trailer Parking (MC)

Martin Pingel asked that the committee consider clearing the trailers by the picnic area to improve the view and for safety reasons (lookout from the NW runway launch area). The committee agreed to the change. Owners will be requested to move those trailers into the main trailer line.

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ACTION MC to email those trailer owners and inform all members of the decision. By next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Saturday August 14th at 17.00hrs or after flying - Committee meeting including strategic planning.

Meeting concluded at 20.15 hours

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APPENDIX A

CFI report 10/07/10

Previous actions:

Webcams in the event of a serious accident on the airfield.

Thanks to Phil for setting up a power switch to enable an emergency shut down of the camera's.

PS, Instructors and Liz have been informed

Locking briefing room complex

ML reminded instructors to do so in the June update to instructors

Fleet Maintenance

Instrument re-fit is on going. Single seaters are next

Keith update

- 'K13' will be tidied up this winter as she is getting tatty
- Need to decide on the Pirat – KR thinking of a tidy up refurb.
 - Worth thinking about. Once Keith has done his 'magic', Don has done the instrument re-fit and the trailer is usable we would have a decent outfit to supplement the Junior.
- GAZPA – no recover and/or re-paint planned
- We will need to get every club member who can DI a glider (except Instructors) authorised to do so. That way we have a list of authorised members who can do daily inspections. Something we need for maintenance schedule compliance
 - ML/KR have a cunning plan of sorts. More details to follow

Full time instructor

I need a decision on a full time instructor for next year (2011).

If yes i'd like to approach Bo as in my opinion he is and has been doing an excellent service for us.

Lectures – on line or pod cast

We have a schedule for winter already lined up.

- Nov. ML on Stalling / Spinning
- Dec. Tim Moran on all things to do with Parachutes.
- Jan. GD – star gazing
- Feb. Instructors meeting
- Mar. Mike Tomlinson on his top tips for cross country and soaring

It will be a real shame if we cannot follow on the 'on-line' success of last year.

- If not on line is there any way we could provide the lectures as a 'pod cast', even if it is recorded at the time and burnt to a DVD that members can ask for. Cost would be small?
- I can be the guinea pig as my presentation will be a mixture of PowerPoint, pictures and video
- Do we or could we have the capability of burning DVD's on any of the club computers?
- Is it something Liz could do to order?

Either way the lectures are proving popular. Most have important and interesting information that should be made available to every club member. This is especially the case with such subjects as stalling and spinning where i know the subject is weak amongst some of the membership.

Can i get agreement from the committee to proceed further?

Briefing room printer

Now that the computer is up and running in the briefing room (thanks to Gordon and Phil) we still need a printer – asap.

- Can we then either use the one i donated or
- Just go out and buy one (preferably the same as Liz's so that there is one lot of printer cartridges)

What is not an option is nothing at all.

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Task week

Mike Tomlinson has offered his services as XC coach from the Tuesday. Three slots already gone

XC training/task week Sat 21st – Sun 29th May 2010

There will be no BMGC hosted Rock Polishers next year. General feeling is that we need a break so this proposed week is something for the club instead.

Jamie Sage is already kindly pencilled in with the DG1000T

More details to follow but will be on a similar format to the XC training weekend earlier this season

Simulator

On going with general developments. ML has done further testing

Now has several 'real' trainees to try the simulator on. Just needs to line up dates

Video's

Taken longer than originally planned. However new walk round video will be available soon. Followed by field selection & landing.