



Essex Gliding Club

Members Meeting Saturday 29th November 2018, 18.30hrs Club Caravan.

Those present:

John Whitwell, Allen Cherry, Bernard Parry, Steve Jessup, Alex Harris, Vince Earl Will Burry, Dave Hertzberg. Apologies received from: Chris Read.

John put the following proposition to the Committee

Ours is a small club, and for many, perhaps most, that is its charm. But it is becoming too small: membership and member participation is dwindling and these trends must be reversed.

Although our long term strategy and aims will continue, where practical all work on them will cease for the present time.

We will continue through the remainder of 2018 and until at least the end of the 2019 season taking action which is aimed solely at increasing our membership and improving the participatory experience of existing members. All our time, money and effort will go into those two things only. We currently hold sufficient funds and will supplement with grants and awards where possible.

The proposition was unanimously accepted by the Committee.

There followed discussions on how these aims would be met.

1.. The provision of a flight simulator for briefing and training exercises

Alex to lead a working group of Steve J, Allen C + one other.

Task – to evaluate the cost of constructing a simulator and suitable accommodation.

To consider all possibilities and with due attention to any planning restrictions that might apply.

2.. A two seater motor glider ((TMG) such as a Falke in place of the current Pawnee, thus lowering noise pollution considerably along with much lower running costs. In addition to towing this will be used to enhance training for all members e.g. upper air work and field selection

3.Visitor voucher flights are the mainstay of recruitment

New vouchers to be introduced as soon as possible, all aerotow, so as to release more time to training existing members via winch.

Bronze Aero tow 2000ft £95.00

Silver Aero tow 3000ft £145.00

Gold Aero tow 5000ft(Mile high) £275.00

Aerobatics - A selection of maneuvers £295.00



Essex Gliding Club

Visitors will be presented with a certificate upon completing their trial flight and leave with a club brochure. The certificate could be sent by e mail and this could be used as an opportunity to follow up and with a view to recruitment

Possible use of a GoPro camera to record visitor flights – charge for this to be agreed.

Alex will ensure that all trial lesson flights will be conducted with the aim of converting to membership and that flying experiences are tailored to the individuals needs. Visitors will leave with literature and information that enhances the possibility that they may become members.

To consolidate the use of voucher flights as a recruitment tool there will extensive follow up during the 3 month membership that follows the flight. John to devise a follow up system

Allen to coordinate text of the new vouchers and discuss with Chas regarding web site/Facebook changes required. This might also need input from Cathy.
Time scale – within two weeks.

4. Advertising – New members etc.... Cathy & Callum will be approached for involvement with possible involvement in Facebook and Twitter, Dave H to follow up.

5. Consider holding corporate events next year, companies, groups etc. For discussion at next meeting.

6. All members will be sent an email each Friday outlining flying arrangements, weather conditions etc. for the upcoming weekend. Tony Brook has agreed to undertake this.

Items for attention

Induction of new members to cover all aspects of airfield operations, safety issues, glider handling, motor vehicles and glider towing/retrieve duties, control cabin.

Alex – Falke power glider to be tested at Ridgewell for suitability of replacing the Pawnee. If tests successful then AH & AC to proceed, with Alex advertising the Pawnee. A definite sale of the Pawnee required prior to any replacement purchase.

FPTS members to have regular follow up of progress and further training requirements. Dave H suggested new members should have a mentor – agreed, CFI and DCFI will select an existing member appropriate to the individual (taking into account age, gender, usual flying day etc.) and ask them if they wish to participate.

A full shut down list for the flying day will be available to ensure no items are left open or unlocked, John W to action.

Drainage

We should have a working day to investigate the one or two drains that appear to be blocked. TBA.



Essex Gliding Club

Dates

EGC AGM set for Sat 2nd March 2019, provisional – to be confirmed.

Alex to set gliding weeks – TBA

Dave H to arrange one course with two instructors – TBA

Fleet maintenance

Alternative for annual ARC - LGC or Ryan

AOB

Alex & Tony B with guests on Saturday morning meeting (1st Dec) regarding club PR & the local community.

John W – Thanks to Cathy for organizing the recent club dinner.

Meeting closed at 21.30

Minutes by Bernard Parry
Secretary EGC,