

Essex Gliding Club
Annual General Meeting
Saturday 23rd October 2021
17.00hrs Ridgewell Village Hall, CO9 4SL

Committee present:

John Whitwell, Allen Cherry, Bernard Parry, Will Burry, Steve Jessup, Callum Hitchings.

Apologies from: Chris Reed & Vince Earl, (Vince has sent a fleet maintenance report to John W)

Apologies from members not attending:

Terry Hollaway, Hugh Maddams, Harry van de Noort, Kieran van de Noort, Amy Oliver (*proxy vote Allen*), Bob Cassels, Richard Thomas, Richard Bradshaw, Owen Thomas. Terry Holloway

Meeting commenced at 17.00.

John opened meeting: Meeting for all and all opinions matter.

Good to see Brian Murphy at club today. Shame he can't be here tonight.

Small friendly club.

John read out a Thank you card and email from Chair of Braintree DC. Copy attached. Thought she would be trying to find fault but didn't. Was very positive and helpful; she was obviously impressed.

Apologies from Chris Reed and Vince, Also Terry.

2019 minutes proposed and seconded.

A/C 2020/21 presented. Copies handed out. Gross profit down, net profit up. More details to follow.

Statement from Chair. Good 2 years; despite Covid achieved a lot. Finances improved. Simulator up and working thanks to AC DJ CH and others, Thanks to Alex and Dave Hertzberg for getting us back to flying after closure. Alex hosted good Zoom meetings.

Went to several BGA Zoom meetings – most clubs were struggling, some concerned about possibly only lasting a few months as a result of lockdown. We were in an enviable position as own our own airfield, and rent out land. Also helped by Allen getting grants.

Although we are short of instructors. Callum Hitchings now BI and others coming through.

Several clubs have gone under but our hard work has paid off.

Many solos this season.

Able to fulfil voucher obligations thanks to Tony's huge amount of work. Instructors worked really hard with trial lessons and made all the difference.

Not all rosy – we don't yet know how the solar farm proposal will affect us.

Treasurer's report.

A/C 2021 shows increased net profit.

Allen took over A/C in 2016 in Excel format. Transferred to Sage1. Our accountant can access this easily. Use Richard Freeman as accountant as he makes the submission to HMRC to give reassurance that all is above board.

Nominal A/C set up for analysis as Sage 1 easy to use, 2016 balance was £42k –now £120k cash reserved. £500k going through club A/C.

4 bank A/Cs – we are a limited company so are restricted as to where money can be put.

NatWest current.

Hampshire Trust – FSA limit reached.

Redwood Bank.

PayPal A/C for voucher payments.

Committee has ring fenced the Hampshire Trust A/C for our insurance to cover what isn't covered on normal insurance – can't get cover for clubhouse etc. as too remote.

2016 cash reserve increased to £78k even though we spent £38k on new equipment: radio / G meters / canopy / inventory survey and replacing items i.e. fuel bowser and club house.

Money in: Rent from Orchard Farm etc.

Flying activities.

Tuck shop	16/17- profit
	17/18-profit
	18/19-profit
	19/20-profit
	20/21-LOSS!!!

2021-so far- loss.

We need Tuck Shop to make a profit to cover other costs. i.e. cleaning products. There is even a card reader provided for those who have no cash. A possible problem is that food and beverages are often at the launch point where members may not have wallets. Will try QR code for payment as can be scanned by 'phones.

CASC income – Gift Aid explained and due to CASC, no corporation tax due.

Covid grants detailed.

Running costs detailed.

Flying records now on Access data base going back to 2013.

Pawnee costs shown going back to 2013. Average aerotow loss is £21.

Maintenance costs only from 2020.

Flying graphs from 2013 onwards.

Tariffs for New Year - proposed we go back to pre-Covid level.

Committee.

Bernard stepping down as secretary to be replaced by Paul with assistance from Anne.

All other committee members happy to stand again. Room asked to vote as above, Gary said that Room should be asked if anyone else wanted to go on the committee. John asked Gary if he wanted to go on the committee but he declined. John then explained the Club rules do not state that the Committee must stand down to be re-elected.

Vote to retain current Committee and for Paul to be secretary with assistance from Anne carried unanimously.

Resolution changes.

Application for membership

(4a i) Changes via website not EGM. – discussed and agreed but with a wording change proposed by Rebecca - .Such limitations, when agreed by committee, when universally applied.....”

(4e ii) Reduce period of trial membership from 3 to 1 month to make it more compliant with CASC. This was agreed in 2018 but not incorporated in the rules. Also, for CASC, it was agreed that in the month of membership they could attend meetings and vote.

(4e vi) Family Membership brought danger of being over used and is overwhelming instructors so will cease except for existing Family Memberships.

(4e viii) change as highlighted.

Vote for changes unanimous.

Break for refreshments.

Second Half.

Chairman's remarks.

EGC enrolment and training policy:

Reason – We want facilities to match what we can offer; this can be modified as and when necessary.

Comments

Gary: there should be a tighter definition and reasons why membership is not granted rather than simply “the face doesn't fit”.

Steve Jessup: We want to stop people who are never going to go solo taking up instructors' time.

John: If person works hard for club but will not go solo they would be able to be a member but may fly with BI rather than instructor.

Callum: Written contract's aim is not to get rid of anyone it's solely based on factors people are aware of.

Steve Jessup: We hope at some point to get more instructors and that this won't be necessary.

John: Reiterated that this can be changed in future based on instructor availability.

Callum: Once someone goes solo they automatically go to full membership.

John: The constitution change was done earlier.

Vote: All in favour.

John: Must think of all Members. There are some who may come one or two times in a year but have been members for years or there are those who don't fly much but do lots of work.

Chairman's Cup.

This goes to a great all-round guy. He wants to fly but often works instead. He has a great sense of humour.

The cup goes to Will Bury.

CFI's Report.

Dave thanked Alex for his time as CFI.

There have been 4 solos this year, 2 cross country endorsements, 1 Silver C, 2 IAC ratings.

Congratulations to all.

Thanks to the tug pilots and winch drivers.

We had to start instructing in small groups due to Covid and this has worked well for both students and instructors. We will keep this system going.

Simulator: Thanks to Allen and Dave Jones for building the simulator. It is not used enough due to lack of instructors. Some solo pilots will be trained as simulator instructors.

Ground Handling: There have been 3 ground handling incidents. Not good. An email on this subject has been sent out but will expand on the subject over the winter.

Rattlesden: we will be there for the winter. They also run a booking system. EGC gliders will not be going so we will use their aircraft.

Next week is training week. Will do another as soon as we return to Ridgewell.

Harry will do Bronze lectures.

Extra training can be done but members need to ask.

CFI's cup:

Dave thanked all instructors and winch drivers individually. The cup was won by Vince Earl, instructor, previous safety officer and now technical officer.

Nick proposed thanks to Dave

Fleet maintenance: Power Point Report from, Vince shown by Allen.

Spinning restrictions of K13s discussed. CFI confirmed that we will not be spinning them.

Steve Jessop: Clarification need on restrictions to K6s.

Tug Master:

Mike Harris: We have done quite well due to few pilots. Thanks to Chris for stepping in. Tug pilots are hard to get due to new requirements.

Also, a SDMP for the Pawnee so should save money. Tug will go in soon for fabric covering on fuselage,

Hanger nose is now chocked following accident. Had hoped for caravan mover but cannot find one of the correct size.

Incident when Tug taxied over tow rope and winch launch started. This could have been serious. The VHF radio must always be manned during launch. There will also be a spare walkie talkie so the tug can speak directly to the winch.

John thanked Mike for all that he does.

Open Forum:

Suggested projects:

Field maintenance: It is intended to get some drainage work done.

Tom: The soil structure is not supportive for vehicle movement and becomes waterlogged at the end of the season. The soil becomes compacted so cannot absorb water. We are investigating a machine that leaves topsoil intact but produces cracks underneath. Needs to be done at the right time of the year, ideally at the end of the season. A contractor would cost £700 to do the job. John and Allen are going to look at a farm that uses this method. It needs to be ongoing maintenance to maintain the drainage. The tractor is also causing problems but this could be solved by putting different tyres on but if powerful enough could be used to pull the roller.

Hopefully this will enable us to extend the season although 12 months' flying is unlikely.

Nick: Could we have tundra tyres on the Pawnee?

Allen: Pipe has been put in "lake" Ridgewell but this needs to be pumped.

Workshop: Fit tool racking etc.

Avgas Shed: Complete rear wall. Electricity supply.

Winch Shed: Concrete floor and roller shutter.

Security: Better gates / camera's / vehicle compound

Hangars: Need improving.

Sheds and containers: Need painting.

Parachutes: Getting to end of life and will need replacement next year.

Grant research: Investigate grant awarding bodies shown by BDC visit and BGA Development.

Volunteers needed for all of the above.

Gary Shepherd: You have spoken about onerous things. What about fun things? We have £25k.

Allen: All the drainage equipment will cost money.

Gary: Can't we get a new aircraft or winch?

Dave: PW6 lifespan has been extended. K13 is good for trial lessons. The Astir is hardly flown so why get another?

Gary: We should replace the K13 with something like a Perkoz. It's aspirational and although expensive, possibly would give members something to aim at.

Dave: If you can find a way to do this, put it to the committee.

Steve Jessup: Maybe if there are more post-solo pilots the Astir would be used more.

Rebecca: Wouldn't recommend a Perkoz.

Tony: Asked for update on solar farm.

John: Passed environmental review but categorically no planning application is yet in. This was first mooted three years ago by a different provider and we spoke to the surveyor at the time. We reached agreement that the boundary would be moved back 2/3 metres and would leave two triangles either end for the tug rope. However, no application was made as it was considered by the developer to be too environmentally sensitive.. For the new consideration the land would be leased to Solar Farm Company for 40 years. It is 3 ½ times bigger than the one previously deemed environmentally sensitive! Any provider has a duty to speak to all parties who would be affected before a planning application is made. We have to be careful about assuming that local people will all be against it. E.g. Ashen might view it as good as it would only affect us, they won't see it and lorry traffic would be reduced. But Tilbury might object because it spoils the view. Whatever, it won't stop us flying but we may have to revert to previous flight paths which would upset some of our neighbours.

Mike: What about our 13 acre farm land that is rented out?

Allen: Still ongoing.

Gary: Wouldn't we get more for horse grazing?

Allen: Possibly. Asked Gary to look into it?

Gary: Gary declined.

Gary: Can we get contractors in to sort the winch shed?

Allen: Suggested Gary obtain some estimates.

Gary: Gary didn't want to do this so suggested Will may know someone.

Will: Let's do it ourselves.

Gary: Proposed – Rather than relying on members we should get contractors into do work.

General discussion – mixed views

Dave Hertzberg: Suggested Gary rephrases the proposal.

Gary: Proposed – That rather than always relying on members we should get contractors in to do some work when cost effective.

Dave Hertzberg - Seconded.

Show of hands – carried.

One member has volunteered to motorise the Pawnee hangar.

Meeting closed 21.30