

Lasham Gliding Society Committee of Management

Meeting held at Lasham Aerodrome on
4th November 2007 at 15:00.

Minutes

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------|----|------------------------------|
| Present: | Richard Moyse | RM | LGS Chairman |
| | Chris Sterritt | CS | LGS Vice-Chairman |
| | Chris Lewis | CL | LGS |
| | David Bowtell | DB | LGS |
| | John Carpenter | JC | LGS |
| | John McCullagh | JM | LGS |
| | Gordon MacDonald | GM | LGS CFI |
| | Alastair Mackinnon | AM | LGS Exec Manager / Secretary |

1. Apologies

Action

Received from Jon von der Heyden (JH).

2. Approval of minutes (last meeting)

With a minor modification regarding the Grob 109, these were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

RM reported that he had written to the arbitrators confirming that he was happy with the procedures as defined.

FLARM: GM reported that there had been no further progress; DB will chase.

DB

4. Financial Report

AM reported on the financial situation as at the end of September. It was noted that the position remained ahead of budget.

AM cautioned that it had come to light that certain items were being posted on an annual basis which meant that they would arrive in the accounts at the end of the financial year. This meant that the September figures could give a misleading impression. AM said that these items would be handled differently in the new financial year which had just started.

AM

7. Marketing

(The order of the agenda was altered at this point and random hereafter).

Mike Wilde (MW), chairman of the Marketing Committee, joined the meeting.

MW gave an overview of what the Marketing Committee had done during 2006/7. In particular, he reported on the advertising and attendance at events such as local car shows and the Popham Microlight Fair. He further reported on the lessons which had been learnt and that most of the equipment and signs needed were now in place.

MW reported on advertising plans for the year ahead. He also discussed the new company brochure which is being prepared; it will be produced to a high standard and other publicity material will be designed to go with this. Old advertising material is being run down so that all brochures will have a common appearance.

RM asked about people manning stands at exhibitions. MW reported that he felt that there had been a good number of very good people available; extroverts were particularly welcome.

MW said that he would like to see a means of monitoring our performance in trial lessons so that we can be sure that we are delivering what the customer wants; it was agreed that a questionnaire could include such subjects as the welcome, the food and the quality of the instructor.

MW felt that the way the office handled people whose trial flight had to be cancelled could make a big difference and that there was a considerable variation in the way that different staff handled customers.

AM

JC noted that he felt that all members should assist people who were looking lost. JM suggested that this could be a good subject for the SGM and RM said he was saying something about this in the next edition of the magazine. CS felt that it needed to be emphasised to members that this would be good for the society as a whole.

RM

RM congratulated MW and the rest of the Marketing Committee for their efforts and performance in the year just passed. All members of the Committee concurred.

RM asked if the budget was satisfactory for the year ahead. MW said that it was; AM reported that there had been an increase in the printing budget to allow for new materials.

5. CFI Report

GM reported that the Jaca autumn trip had been a great success, as had the Aboyne trip. One vulture hole in 776 was being repaired.

GM noted that Phil Flack had done a good job turning the aircraft

round quickly between the two trips.

GM reported that it had been agreed that the Surrey and Hants Ventus and DG300 would be taken off-line at the end of November with the intention that they be sold. It had always been the intention that the fleet size would be reviewed once the fleet had been in LGS control for a while.

As the first year of the S&H 'experiment' was almost complete, now was the time to determine whether the agreement should be renewed with the aim of a merger between S&H and LGS during the next financial year. It was agreed that a merger was a valid aim and that the legal situation should be investigated.

AM

GM presented a draft plan for the year ahead, noting that commitments for some aspects would be necessary before the staffing situation was clarified.

GM reported on airspace issues; in particular it seemed that the operation of UAVs from Upavon could affect the danger areas. He noted that NATS was running an improved radar service from Farnborough for safety reasons, which should help. The possible closure of Odiham in the future would assist further as it would make vectoring of Farnborough traffic easier.

Future expansion of Southampton airspace was likely to be a threat; Southampton traffic is already operating in Class G airspace to the west of Lasham.

GM reported that the Flying Committee was now meeting on a monthly basis.

It was agreed that refresher training would be available again in the spring until the end of April at the subsidised cost of £55.

A Safety Awareness day will again be held in the spring.

8. CFI

GM reported that he wished to reduce his weekend working and would therefore be stepping down from the CFI role when a replacement could be found.

It was agreed that the CFI role should be advertised.

AM

GM will reduce weekend working when possible with immediate effect; he will start to transition to a role within the aircraft engineering department.

CL reported that he had established the outline of a business plan for an enhanced engineering department and AM, CL and GM will work to produce a workable plan for the committee's consideration.

**AM
CL
GM**

Grob 109 (Additional Item)

Colin Short, (CSh) Chairman of the Flying Committee joined the meeting to discuss the possible purchase of a Grob 109.

CSh reported that the Flying Committee recommended the purchase of a Grob 109. It was felt that there were good reasons for not buying another Falke (e.g. the weight restrictions) and that the Grob would both be much cheaper and also the kind of aircraft members would want to take away for a weekend. GM noted that it could also stand in for the Falke in its training role when the Falke was out of service.

RM asked CSh for his thoughts on the aircraft trial which was coming to an end. CSh didn't recommend buying that model of Grob as it was too expensive. He didn't recommend the Grob in a towing role.

RM thanked CSh for his contribution and CSh left the meeting.

6. Manager's Report

AM reported that the legal action being taken against the Society in relation to an accident which occurred in 2001 had been withdrawn by the claimant just before it came to court. £10,000 of the Society's costs (all of which was being covered by insurance) would be paid by the claimant and the reputation of the Society was undamaged; at no time had the Society admitted any liability for the accident.

The withdrawal of this claim should assist in negotiations with regard to insurance premiums in the coming year.

AM reported that the fuel system had been upgraded; internal inspections would happen over the winter.

AM reported that the £5 restaurant vouchers for daytime trial flights were being prepared and would come into operation shortly.

AM raised the matter of staff caravans. It was agreed that one site should be taken on by the Society in the near future and rented to B2Z as had been agreed. It was agreed that other staff wanting caravans should join the waiting list.

AM

AM reported that it was possible that the BDFA would be in a position to fund 1 ½ wheelchair-friendly caravans in the near future; these would have to be taken at the same time or they might be lost. It was agreed that the Society would fund the remaining half caravan subject to a satisfactory agreement with the BDFA.

AM

The location of the caravans was discussed and the committee believed strongly that space for these caravans should be found in the Northern caravan park

AM reported that there had been a complaint from ATC concerning speeding cars on the airfield and that a member had apologised.

AM reported that the registrations G-LGSA to G-LGSZ were available and could be allocated to the fleet but that he had decided against due to the excessive cost. The committee agreed.

AM presented a list of new members to be approved prior to the SGM. All were approved and are listed below:

Peter Pengilly, Susan Jamieson, Michael Dunn, Gregory Ryback, Stephen Webb, Mick Betterley, Ian Lanslay-Neale, Martin Parker, Robert Soames, Craig Storey, Elizabeth Sparrow, Alan Sparrow, Andrew Woodland, Charles Sweeney, Steven David, Christopher Southern, Jayne Beards, Steven Harmon, Kevin O'Leary, Daryl Henderson, Ian MacArthur, Patrick Cowland, Simon Armitage, Natasha Staats, Stefan Scibor, Emma MacMillan, Roy Hewitt, Sarah Osborne, Richard Osborne, Rober Redhead, Jon Von der Heyden, Andrew Blundell, Andrew Payne, Malcolm Finlayson, Robert Moyse, Sam Wyles, Christpoher White, Stephen Hornby, Allan Arthurs, Christopher Short, Tessa Jarvis, Robin Goddard, Ian Cummings, Derek Shipley and Christopher Hall.

9. Budget

AM presented an outline budget for the new financial year. This was discussed at length, particularly in relation to soaring fees, and some minor modifications were proposed. Some changes to pricing were discussed and revised prices set for submission to the SGM.

AM

AM will distribute a revised budget to all committee members in the next few days so that final comments can be received prior to posting the significant elements of the budget on the website and in the clubhouse no later than Monday 12th November.

AM

It was agreed that the target for the year should be an 'EBITDALE' figure of £0, up from the previous target of £-32k. It was noted that whole the rates rebate was helpful, it could not be guaranteed and one significant portion of income would be absent in the year ahead.

JM queried the targets which were set and the display of the depreciation information. It was noted that this layout had been established by the previous treasurer but that this could be altered if the committee felt it helpful. AM will distribute an alternative layout for people's comments.

AM

JM also expressed concern that the administration overheads were high relative to the subscription income.

10. Special General Meeting.

The presentation at the SGM was discussed. It was agreed that RM

RM

will present the report on the previous year, while AM will present the budget for the year ahead. CL will assist AM in getting all the data together for the report to the members.

AM
CL

Questions received so far from the members were discussed.

11. Any Other Business

It was noted that a site on the Touring Caravan site had been allocated to a member without reference to the Caravan Committee; this was unfortunate as the site wasn't supposed to exist any more.

AM

DB reported that the BGA had asked him to provide information for other clubs on the success of Winter Wednesdays; there will be an article in Sailplane & Gliding and DB will make a presentation at the BGA conference.

DB

12. Date of Next Meeting

Sunday 2nd December at 3pm.