

Lasham Gliding Society Committee of Management

Meeting held at Lasham Aerodrome on
29th August 2008 at 6 pm.

Minutes

Present:	Chris Lewis	CL	LGS Chairman
	Chris Sterritt	CS	LGS Vice Chairman
	David Bowtell	DB	LGS
	John McCullagh	JM	LGS
	Richard Taylor	RT	LGS
	Colin Watt	CW	LGS CFI
	Alastair Mackinnon	AM	LGS Exec Manager / Secretary

1. Apologies for Absence

Murray Armes (MA).

2. Approval of Minutes (Last Meeting)

With one minor change, these were approved.

3. Matters Arising

CS reported that the play area had been installed but that the area used had been bigger than planned; this had resulted in the suppliers running out of the 'soft landing' material. Work was outstanding to finish the job and a response was awaited from the supplier.

CS

CS also reported on the run up to the Grand Prix & Air Fair. 1,700 people had registered on the website and 300 cars had been paid for so far. The project appeared broadly in line with budget.

CS noted that there was a need to know about future events longer in advance as companies' sponsorship budgets had been used up before the event had been planned.

CS reminded everyone that it was important not to encourage people to stay in the clubhouse during the flying display; an e-mail will be sent to all members.

4. Recent Decisions

CL thanked AM for his decision to stay with the Society.

5. Financial Report

AM presented the management accounts to the end of July. He reported that a poor month had resulted in the Society being behind budget for the year to date.

Of particular note were fuel costs, including an unexpectedly high electricity bill following a long period of estimated readings. It was also noted that tug maintenance was running over budget but this was expected due to subcontracting the work.

It was noted that August had been a poor month for flying and a further deterioration was to be expected.

6. Manager's Report

AM reported that the lowest quote for resurfacing the area outside the main hangar was £16,503 + VAT. All members of the Committee agreed to look at the area and give their views on this.

ALL

AM reported that an A300 was due in for ASI; ATC would be handling the arrival. More aircraft were planned.

AM noted the committee had not made a firm decision with regard to the replacement of most of the Society's PCs; it was agreed that this should proceed.

AM

AM reported that a recent VAT inspection had proceeded without problem apart from some confusion regarding VAT on lettings; Pat Garnett had been a great help in explaining the circumstances.

AM reported that an initial estimate of £5,805 for repairs to the outside of the Brown Elephant had been received. A second estimate would be obtained.

AM

AM reported that the owners of the Highfield Industrial Estate had asked whether they could purchase a small part of the airfield for parking; alternatively, they would like to use the pan closest to their site. AM noted that the pan concerned was earmarked for other purposes and that a sale of the freehold of any land was very unlikely. It was agreed, however, that AM should see if there was an area which could be leased to them.

AM

AM noted that he had found it necessary to take disciplinary action against two members of staff following an incident on ATC land.

AM reported that Surrey & Hants would be holding a General Meeting on 18th October with a view to finalising the agreement with Lasham.

AM reported that Dave Dripps would be leaving on 5th September; it was proposed to hold a leaving do for the staff the day as everyone was likely to be busy on the Friday evening. AM invited all to attend.

AM reported that a recent wind farm proposal had not been referred to the Society due to an error by the CAA; he had reminded the CAA of the nature of Lasham's operations.

AM reported that ATC had indicated that they did not wish the BDFA to continue operating from their land. The committee was of the view

that they wished to continue supporting the BDFA. AM considered that it could be possible to relocate them to part of the Rorke's Drift building and the committee agreed with this.

AM

It was agreed that as part of this an agreement should be drawn up which would clarify the basis on which the BDFA operate and would identify limits on their activity. In particular, the committee felt that there should be a limit to the number of BDFA aircraft based at Lasham and a limit on the total number of movements. BDFA members should also be members of the Society; whether a new category of membership was appropriate was to be considered.

**AM
CW**

7. CFI Report

CW noted that all the K13s were back on site although there were issues outstanding. The borrowed Grob would come off the insurance and be returned.

CW noted that four 5-year instructor refreshers were running. Some instructors were taking a break from instructing, which was a concern. An instructor course would be held at the end of September.

CW reported that he intended to advertise for next year's summer staff in October. Luke Dale and Darcy Hogan were leaving.

A Bronze C lecture course was in due to start shortly.

Five BI courses would start on 25th October. 5 instructors needed completion courses.

Refresher checks would be available from January as necessary.

CW said he intended to start the bookable flying trial between Christmas and March.

CW would be organising a briefing for all powered pilots in the Autumn.

CW reported that there had been significant damage to the Grob 109 when it had been taken to Wing Farm for a 50 hour check. An insurance claim had been made.

CW reported that there had been an incident on the field shortly before a jet landed; this had been discussed with ATC.

The backlog of unflown trial lessons was discussed as the office is having to book over a month in advance for weekends at present. CW said he could put an additional professional instructor on this if necessary to clear the backlog.

8. South Side Caravan Park

AM reported that the park was complete apart from any landscaping

which was decided on. JM asked about the timings of phases 2 and 3; AM felt that these phases were probably best developed at the same time – the timescale agreed with the council relates only to occupancy. However, it would be necessary to establish the demand before pressing on and this would be easier when the current reallocating of sites was complete.

9. Restaurant

CL reported that Gerald Hill (GH) had given notice of his intention to cease trading at Lasham at the end of September. AM and CL have discussed this with GH and Phil Dilnutt (PD) will look at the operation with a view to giving an independent report on the situation.

All were agreed that the restaurant should be kept open without breaks if possible; there was also agreement that GH should be retained if possible.

A draft of PD's report was expected at the end of the next week.

10. Student Membership

AM noted that one person on a student membership was actually in full-time employment and studying part-time. It was agreed that all categories of student membership should be limited to full-time students only. Those in full time employment who were doing part-time studies would not be eligible.

AM

11. Black Hangar Replacement Update

AM reported that he was still awaiting detailed drawings from the proposed tenants. He was also discussing the planning issues with East Hants District Council.

12. IT Committee Report

CL noted that the main issues for the IT Committee in the short term were:

- Fibre Optics link to the maintenance hangar
- Replacement PCs
- Aerolog Replacement
- Website – future planning

It was noted that the membership of the IT committee was unclear and the committee had not met for some time.

A discussion took place about what was needed for the website in the future.

13. Web Site Review/Requirements

This had been covered in item 12 above.

14. Marketing Committee Report

A report from Mike Wilde about recent trips to outside exhibitions was noted with interest.

AM noted that with trial lesson sales being affected by the financial climate it would be necessary for the marketing committee to switch its focus and this would involve working closely with the operational side of the business. He also noted that the committee, which when reconstituted had had about eight members, had dwindled to three or four active members. He felt this could put an excessive workload on a few people.

15. Airfield Development Committee Report

CL reported that MA was working on a revised hangar layout for the south side which would allow for a new building occupying the space currently taken by the black hangar.

16. Any Other Business

CL reported that a member had proposed electrical lifts for maximising the utilisation of the main hangar. The committee felt that was an interesting idea although were not entirely sure how it would work in practice. CL will discuss it further with the member concerned.

CW said that he would be in Jaca from 4th September. He intended to take the subject of future fleet planning to the flying committee.

AM noted that there seemed to be no rules defining the operation of subcommittees, including membership or election of chairman. He felt this allowed subcommittees to become less effective over time as members lost interest and were not replaced by new ones. This could put an excessive load on a few people; there was no established route for getting new people involved. He asked all present to consider this problem so that it could be discussed further at the next meeting.

17. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 26th September at 6pm.