

Avon HGPGC AGM 9th October 2014

Compass Inn, Tormarton

Agenda

1. Introductions – Rob Kingston
2. Chairman's report – Ken Wilkinson
3. Treasurer's report – Graham Richards
4. Membership report – Graham Richards
5. Election of Club Committee 2015

This was followed by a talk by Peggy Williams on flying in Columbia.

Election of Club Committee

All of the 2013/2014 Committee had put themselves up for re-election with the exception of Tony Moore. The AGM thanked Tony for his many years of service on the Committee.

Following this it was proposed and seconded that the role of HG Safety (originally held by Tony) would be combined with the role of Chief Coach – HG. A unanimous vote in favour of this meant that Chris Jones took on this role.

All returning Committee members were voted back into their roles.

The Committee for 2015 is now as follows:

- Chairman: Ken Wilkinson
- Treasurer: Graham Richards
- Secretary: Robert Kingston
- Social Secretary: Peggy Williams
- Sites (Overall): Nick Somerville
- Sites (North): Wayne Buckland
- PG Safety: Richard Hellen
- PG Competitions: Mike Humphries
- PG Low Airtime: Sean Simmons
- Nova Editor: Jonathan Tew
- Webmaster: Rich Harding
- Librarian: Rod Taylor
- Chief Coach HG and HG Safety : Chris Jones
- Chief Coach PG: Tomasz Janikowski

Treasurer's Report - Headlines

- Discount for prompt renewal was a success with again, 80% membership renewing before the end of April.
- The Club's total funds increased by £900.79 to £13,546.74
- No Mere Bash – Accounts much simpler!
- David Ogle audited the accounts on 6 Oct 14 and found them "Well managed and in good order". A number of recommendations were made (Later slide).
- Membership has increased by 30 to 189 (as at end Sep 14).
A detailed pack from the Treasurer will be stored in the Committee area.

Chairman's Report 2014 Ken Wilkinson

General

This year has seen the club progress with a welcome increase in **membership**. We have published a new Site Guide, cleared trees from two sites, and had a successful parachute repack session. In addition, we have had an injection of enthusiasm in the social side with Peggy Williams organising an ongoing social calendar. We have also flown a load, with at least 2 members transferring from other clubs as we are very XC orientated.

In February we had a cheap and cheerful **meal** at the Llandogger Trow. It was well enjoyed but there were issues, (such as NO PUDDING cos they forgot!!). This format seems better than an expensive option and thanks to Jim Mallinson for his talk afterwards. We will be organising something similar again. The February format seems a bright point in a dire flying month.

We wanted to have a **Mere Bash** this year but Whitehorse Marquees, decided not to provide a free marquee, like they have been doing for decades. This made the Bash too much of a financial risk so we abandoned for this year. Great thanks to Bertie Grotian, who has been selflessly supporting this for years however. Peggy is looking in to alternatives for next year. This may be to purchase a tent ourselves, if we can find storage, or maybe do a summer event at Nymphsfield gliding club. Peggy organised a weekend in August as an alternative that was enjoyed by a small number.

In February we also had a **parachute repack** that went very well with a good format. The location in a Hengrove Junior School was ideal, (thanks to Irish John for that) and over 30 chutes were repacked. We paid a small amount to the packers from club funds, and then repack fees were all collected by Richard Hellen to go to the air ambulance. This is a winning formula I think. Greg Emms packed mine and I used it in July. You may gather it worked! This was Greg's 'first' to be used in anger.

Tony is standing down after a long period on the committee, and I would like to thank him for his great efforts over the years in keeping things sweet at Westbury, and also being hang gliding contact and safety officer. The bottom landing situation is much improved due to his efforts, and we have finally seen the take-off glider swallowing tree disappear.

Flying

In June a group of about 10 pilots went to Snowdonia to stay near the Pen Y Gwyrd Hotel. This annual trip was organised by Rich Harding, and was a mix of low air time and experienced pilots. The weather was kind and they flew every day, on a variety of sites. This is a great trip to get to know people for new pilots, and to get some coaching as well.

The BCC was a bit of a washout this year, with only 1 task, that we came 7th in! Perhaps next year will be better.

Sunday July 22nd saw Neville Almond (Atos VR) break his own 129km Class 5 defined out-and-return record with a six-hour, 141.47km flight from Combe Gibbett to Shepton Mallet and back. He then flew Milk Hill to Sea Palling in Norfolk, via a dog-leg at Great Yarmouth, on August 9th for 307km, and new British record!

Alex Coltman beat the UK open distance Paragliding record in Brazil in November. Chris Harland did a PWC in Argentina and came 8th, a strong showing against the best pilots in the world. Sadly he recently had a very serious accident on his Enzo 2 over Cheltenham. Avon has featured strongly in the competitions, with Alex Coltman winning Sports class in Gemona, and Tim P coming third. Tim won Sports class in Ager, and Alex was fourth.

Notable XCs were done by Mike Coupe (177km from Leckhampton) and Mike Humphries, (well into his retirement!) who smashed his first 100km barrier (finally) to

finish at 144km from Selsley. Tim Pentreath achieved a memorable 152km declared flight to goal.

In the XC League, Tim P is currently winning on 731, I am second, on 690, Remi is third, on 531 and Graham is fourth on 434. Tom J our chief paragliding coach has to put in flights in for Grupa 303 (and he is winning that), and he would be third with 671 if he declared Avon as his first club. He is now a member of the Polish team! Any of these scores would have won the Avon League and even the National League, only a few years ago. We were privileged this year with great conditions and gliders are only getting better and better! Peggy is introducing a medal system to recognise first flights of 10k, 25k, and 50k, to be awarded at club meetings.

Web Editor

As ever, most of the work I have done this year has either been simple management of the various web outlets that the Club has - website, forum, Facebook Page and Group – whilst assisting other Club Officers with anything that requires changes to the above. In particular, this has involved assisting the Treasurer with membership renewals, formatting the updated PDF Sites Guide for publication and making safety information available online. In addition I have given the site a little bit of a design overhaul, whilst working on a database-driven Sites Guide, which work I intend completing over the winter, now that this wonderful summer of flying appears to have finally come to an end.

Nova

John Tew has apologised that he has not got a Nova together, but we hope he will rectify this shortly. Please write articles when you do something great, or even when you just have a good time.

Southern Sites Nick Somerville

Westbury - Great work was undertaken in February/March to clear the Bratton slope of all the hawthorns and large ash trees. This was a major undertaking not just in work but particularly with regard to the necessary liaisons with the many parties concerned. All those who have flown the site this year have enjoyed the benefit of increased safety and improved opportunities to stay in the air when conditions are light. Special thanks to Tony More and all of the work teams who helped out.

Whilst there have been no significant issues with our bottom landing on the NW side this year, I personally have been dismayed at the number of times I have seen people land on the long ridge and then say they did not know the rules when approached. I believe all members need to be far more proactive in making it very clear to these pilots that this is totally unacceptable.

MOD have been compliant with all requests this year to open the Upton Triangle and Cowdown Corridor when possible.

Mere and Cowards - No issues & some good xc's this year.

Long Knowl: Change of ownership of garage. Am pursuing contact details of new owner to request continuation of parking arrangement.

Spencer's & Morgan's - No Issues. Good relationship with model club currently due to agreement over late August weekend to allow use of Rifle Range as a back up for a European Slope race contest. As it happened not needed but nevertheless much appreciated by modellers.

Ubley - No change from last year. Am continuing to annually badger the Land Agent to request a meeting to discuss setting up a licenced agreement. Thanks to Tim Pentreath and Ken for continued work to maintain our working relationship with Sid Michelmore/Lulsgate ATC.

Northern Sites – Wayne Buckland

No issues with Frocester or Selsley sites.
Clarification of flying over Glider field from Frocester.
Some good flights from both sites this year

Rob Kingston