

Avon Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club AGM - Minutes

8th October 2015. 8pm start

Compass Inn, Tormarton.

This covered;

1. Chairman's report
2. Treasurer's and membership report
3. Election of the club Committee for 2015/16

Apologies from Committee members were received from Nick Somerville, Sean Simmons and Tomasz Janikowski.

Ken Wilkinson stepped down as Chairman, having been in post for several years. Peggy Williams stepped down from Social Secretary. The Club thanked them both for all of their hard work. Peggy takes up the role of Chairman, and Harry Bloxham takes over as Social Secretary.

All other Committee members stay in post, except that the role of PG Safety and HG Safety has been combined into a single 'Safety' role. The role of 'Nova Editor' was lost. The Committee presented its reasoning for making these proposals.

The Committee for 2015/2016 were elected, and the full list of posts is tabled below:

Chairman	Peggy Williams
Treasurer	Graham Richards
Secretary	Robert Kingston
Social Secretary	Harry Bloxham
Sites (Overall)	Nick Somerville
Sites (North)	Wayne Buckland
Safety	Richard Hellen
PG Competitions	Mike Humphries
PG Low Airtime	Sean Simmons
Webmaster	Rich Harding
Librarian	Rod Taylor
Chief Coach HG	Chris Jones
Chief Coach PG	Tomasz Janikowski

Chairman's Report (Ken Wilkinson)

"I have decided to stand down as chairman, as after 4 years in the job, and 13 years on the Committee, I felt the time was right. It's been great fun keeping the club moving, and there is great team of dedicated people that sort out problems behind the scenes.

We have an active and keen club, and it's always good to see events enjoyed by the membership. The recent Bash, and repack have worked well, and the spirit of giving your time to help the club is strong - long may it continue.

I feel the club is in a good place, with growing membership, and new blood coming through, and am happy to hand the reins over to Peggy.

Peggy has been very good at organising events, and with her enthusiasm, will be an excellent chairman. I will be happy to contribute behind the scenes, and give advice if needed. I will continue to help as a club member with events, repacks etc.”

Treasurer’s and Membership Reports (Graham Richards)

Graham presented detailed accounts for the year. The headlines were:

- Discount for prompt renewal was a success with 85% membership renewing before the end of April.
- The Club’s total funds decreased by £841.80 to £12,704.98
- The Bash was subsidised by £1,046.95
- The Club dinner was subsidised by £793.40
- Roger Barwell audited the accounts on 7 Oct 14 and found them “Well managed and in good order”. No recommendations were made.
- Membership has increased by 3 to 192 (as at end Sep 15).

Webmaster (Rich Harding)

The on-line membership renewal system had worked well (again)

The sites guides had been updated and this was now all on line.

There was a discussion on possible ways to move forward with flying diaries and how best to capture Club events – this is an ongoing topic.

Safety Officer’s report (Richard Hellen)

A successful repack had been held. This was self-funding with a significant sum being donated to the Air Ambulance.

There was a general observation made, formulated from discussions with other safety Officers, that pilots were generally ‘pushing’ their safety limits – possibly in part because of the widespread use of Telegram.

Social Secretary (Peggy Williams)

Peggy gave a round-up of a very full year that featured a bash held in September near Nympsfield. Over 60 people attended and it was deemed to have been a success.

PG Comps (Mike Humphries)

Avon had reached the final of the BCC, which is primarily aimed at less experienced PG pilots. The inclusion of a couple of experience pilots in the team had worked well. There will be a team entered next year.

There were good results for Avon PG pilots at the British Championships.

The awarding of medals to individuals, who had achieved significant flights, at all levels of experience, was deemed to have been very successful.

Sites Officer (Nick Somerville) – presented in his absence

- Upton Triangle and Cowdown Corridor agreement renewed in February and amended to allow BHPA pilot rated pilots from any club to make use of the agreement.
- Westbury: The lady who runs the riding stables has had a couple of run ins with us over apparent low flying over her horses in the field on the other side of the road leading up to the site. The site guide has been amended to increase the recommended height for pilots flying over this area (now 600ft) and it is up to all club members to both adhere to this and ensure that visiting pilots do likewise. There have been no issues with the bottom landing field this year and the improved access at the gate has been a great improvement.
- Mere: The modellers were very thankful that we allowed the use (with the farmers consent) of the Rifle Range for a round of the European Slope Racing Competition at the end of August.
- All other Avon sites: Currently there is an issue at Draycott – please, no flying until this has been resolved.

No reports received from PG Coach or Low airtime Committee members.

Rob Kingston
Club Secretary