

# Avon HGPG Club 2021 AGM

The AGM was held on Thursday October 14th 2021, starting at 8pm at The Compass Inn, Tormarton. It was also available via Zoom.

32 Full members attended the AGM either in person or via Zoom.

## 1. Agenda

- Presentation of awards for 2020 (yes, 2020)
- Presentation of XC medals
- Reports
  - Chairman's report – Rob Kingston
  - Safety Officer's report – Tim Bishop
  - PG Chief Coach's report – Tim Carr
  - Comps Officer's report – Rich Gill
  - PG Low Airtime Officer's report - Sean Simmons
  - Treasurer's report – Graham Richards
- Election of the Club Committee for 21/22
- AOB

## 2. Trophy Presentation 2019/2020

As there was no Club annual dinner held in 2021, trophies could not be presented at the traditional time. Due to Covid-19 restrictions many trophies were not contested in that flying year, these included:

- The Mike Humphries 'Spirit of Flying' Trophy
- Easter Trophy HG and PG. The Dave Yeandle Shield
- Avon Bash Challenge HG and PG
- Best Novice HG
- Best Novice PG
- Most Improved Pilot HG and PG
- Best Photograph or Video

The following glassware was presented at the meeting:

- 1<sup>st</sup> best placed Avon PG Pilot in the UK 'Summer' XCLeague – Mike Byfield (279 pts)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> best placed Avon PG Pilot in the UK 'Summer' XCLeague – Peggy Williams (140 pts)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> best placed Avon PG Pilot in the UK 'Summer' XCLeague – Tim Carr (68 pts)
- Longest XC flight HG and PG – Mike Byfield (118km)
- Longest EN B (also Tandem) Flight PG – Richard Miller (26km)

In addition, the Club gives out XC distance medals. Some were presented on the night:

- George Allen – 10km
- Luke Moore – 10, 25, 50, 100km
- Jim Mallinson – 200km
- Tom Cole – 200km (not present in person)

Congratulation to all trophy winners and those who received medals.

### 3. Chairman's Report

## Robert Kingston

- Thanks to the 2020/21 Committee
- Thanks to all of our Club members and to all our Club Coaches!
- I assumed the Chairman role after the AGM in October 2020, when Peggy Williams stood down after six years as Chairman. We would like to thank Peggy for her enormous contribution to the Club over many years
- End of 2020 and early 2021 was a difficult period
  - Lockdown all of November 2020
  - Lockdown 7<sup>th</sup> Jan-25<sup>th</sup> March 2021
  - We closed Club sites during lockdown – thanks to those who respected that request
  - No monthly pub meetings/annual dinner/repack
  - Zoom presentations
- The Club ran a 'Return to flying' presentation to try to get pilots ready for the new flying year after lockdown
- After that we had a fairly regular flying season
  - Easter Cup (in May) and the XCLLeague was open
  - The Snowdonia week was run – Rich Harding
- Thanks to Wez Murch – Sites Officer
  - Thanks to Wayne Buckland – Northern Sites
  - No major issues this year
  - Good working relationships with site owners
  - Westbury – be mindful of the stables west of takeoff and follow the rules
  - Westbury – caution urged when wind is east of north
  - Cam Long down was 'closed' but will now be 'open' – Pilot rated
- We continue to negotiate an agreement with Weston Super-Mare council to fly at Weston/Uphill dunes
- This AGM was the first face to face meeting for 18 months, but we would like to resume Club Meetings at the Compass Inn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in the month. The next meetings scheduled for:
  - 11<sup>th</sup> November
  - 9<sup>th</sup> December
- We would like to hold a Club Dinner and Awards night in January or February 2022
- What do people want out of the Club? We would like to get suggestions from Club members about how we could financially support events and activities

## 4. Safety Officer Report

### Tim Bishop

- It's been a strange year, with lockdowns getting in the way of flying, weather not playing ball early in the season, then another summer of Spanish conditions, where strong sun on dry ground and high pressure led to ragged, punchy thermals.
- There was no repack or litter-pick this year, because of Covid restrictions, but all being well we should be able to hold those next year. I have done a record number of private repacks and held a repack event for the Reykjavik flying club in the summer, which gave the usual crop of problems.
- We saw no serious incidents this year, and only a handful of minor incidents. The co-ordination with the Salisbury Plain area was excellent and in general the flying standards shown on some very busy days was commendable.
- Pilots are encouraged to reflect on any 'near misses' that may have happened this past season, and think about how they can be avoided.
- Pilots are also encouraged to use the winter to check their kit, plan the next SIV, and decide how to deal with next spring's feisty conditions.

## 5. PG Chief Coach Report

### Tim Carr

- Coaching has been very active on Avon sites throughout the year, and also at the coast
- Thanks to all the coaches who have been actively coaching during the year. We would encourage all coaches to actively engage with the club members on all sites.
- The number of qualified club tandem pilots in the club is now offering the opportunity to train members in specific skills, such as thermalling

## 6. PG Competitions Officer Report

### Richard Gill

- A way point competition, which takes in Selsley, Westbury and Mere. To date 15 pilots have downloaded flights and with this competition closing at the end of October there is still chance to make a difference to the leader board. Remember to download your flights as single events as multiple take off and landings would be rejected.
- This year in the BCC there were just the 8 rounds, all in Wales. Due to there being a limit on the number of teams able to take part in a round at the beginning of the season due to COVID and a lack of availability, Avon did not feature heavily during the rounds. A big thank you needs to go to Matt Burton and Nick Beck who stepped in and captained the teams during the season. Well done to Matt Burton and George Allen who achieved their best UK XC flights this year.
- The rest of the team consisted of Tim Bishop, Rich Gill, Luke Moore, Matt Young, Darren Odell, Harry Hanscombe, Lou Walker with several others making themselves available only to be floored by the weather at the weekends. Tim Bishop also deserves a mention as he works with Matt Tandy to improve the website helping to make the life of a captain an easier task.
- If anyone has any questions on the BCC or is keen to get involved then I am always happy to have a chat although do not plan to be directly involved next year. Thank you to all those that put their names forward and have taken part or would have taken part should the opportunity of arisen.

# 7. Avon HGPG Low Airtime Coach Report Sean Simmons

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## LAT Brief

A difficult year again for many, not only with the weather not being the best but also COVID and our busy day jobs has kept us away from what we enjoy the most. As we approach the Autumn and Winter, it is time to reflect on the past season. I would urge you all to consider what you have learnt whether it be from flying, reading or simply listening to others and consider 'what's next'. Winter can, for many be the time for consolidation and preparation for the season ahead.

The start of the year saw us run a number of Zoom sessions to help our LAT community with some subjects such as first soaring days, weather, flight planning, XC planning.

## Pilot Development

Many of our members have been progressing through the BHPA pilot development scheme completing various tasks set and observed by our own coaches including Tim Carr, Glyn Cassidy, Tim Bishop, Laurence Lawson, Max Brooks, Viv Fouracre, Phil Fouracre, Richard Froggatt (south) and Al Davies, Dave Neal, Rob Kingston, Peggy Williams, George Allen, Richard Gill (north).....sorry if I missed anyone. We have had numerous successes with their pilot development with many progressing through the BHPA pilot development scheme. We have also had the following member pass the pilot theory exam:

Sarah Lucas (2021)

Matthew Young (2021)

Gerry McNicol (2021)

Alex Harper (2021)

George Allen (Oct 2020)

Mark Simpson (Oct 2020)

Lou Walker (Oct 2020)

We have also seen some of our new LAT's develop their soaring and thermalling skills including (too many to list):

Ian Garforth

Ric Harwood

Iris Chan (returning to paragliding)

Vicki Smith

Charlie Ford

Well done all!

This does not mean there weren't others as many will have completed their qualifications within other clubs.

There is also an online mock exam created by Mark Shaw from the BHPA, which provides a great overview of what to expect in the final exam but please remember this is only a mock and many have reported the final exam being much harder hence the need to study and prep.

Wez Murch and Tim Carr have worked hard this year in gaining their tandem ratings through their own dedication and commitment. The new scheme and examination is not easy and does require preparation. For those wishing to complete their tandem rating please speak with Tim and Wez who will be able to provide some great advice having the most recent experience of the examination.

The club is looking at running a first aid course likely early 2022 so please keep an eye out for dates and location.

The BHPA continue to allow me to run Pilot Exam sessions over zoom so please do take this opportunity as I am sure it won't continue. Sitting the exam over Zoom can be a lot easier as you have a one on one scenario with me as the invigilator. I am happy to run revision sessions as needed but please do let me know.

## COVID-19

Travel and flying restrictions lifted at the start of the season although it did put a delay on overseas competitions with many being cancelled until 2022. A few of our members have managed trips overseas including Annecy and Algodanales.

The XC league has been quite active with some of our LAT's entering their first flights through the BCC, Well done to all those who attended and again there was some great flying when it was available.

## Another reminder for the Coast

As we move from Autumn into Winter, many will put their gliders into hibernation. Please do remember that some great flying (with coastal XC) is still to be had from our wonderful coastline. It is also a great location to continue with your tandem training so please get in touch with your nearest tandem pilot who will be happy to provide support when conditions allow.

## Tandem flying

We continue to use our tandems as a means of presenting paragliding to those who perhaps are not sure if it is for them. Tandem Pilots include Dave Neal, Wez Murch, Tim Carr, Al Davies, Tim Pentreath, Mike Coupe, Olli Clothier and myself.

Again, tandem flying also allows solo pilots to gain experience in other areas of the sport including opportunities for the individual to practice approach positioning and thermal positioning all under the

guidance and support of the tandem pilot. If this is something you are interested in, please contact one of our experienced tandem pilots:

Sean Simmons
Dave Neal
Wez Murch
Tim Carr
Al Davies
Tim Pentreath
Mike Coupe
Olli CLothier

## First Aid Training for Instructors and Tandem Pilots

With the recent announcement from the BHPA that all tandem pilots will be required to complete a first aid course specific to paragliding and dealing with casualties in remote locations for renewals from Mar 22, the Avon HGPG will be looking at running a first aid course through Jocky Sanderson in early 2022.

## Equipment Checks over the Winter

Finally, please remember to ensure you get your own equipment serviced (Glider, harness and reserve) over the winter period and if you are in possession of RAFHPA equipment, please speak with Steve Miller who will be able to advise on the booking process for servicing.

Sean Simmons

Avon HGPG Low Airtime Coach

[pgla@avonhgpg.co.uk](mailto:pgla@avonhgpg.co.uk)

# 8. Treasurer's Report

Graham Richards



# Avon Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club

Accounts for Financial Year Ending  
30 September 2021

Prepared for the AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 by:

Graham Richards  
Treasurer and Membership Secretary

## Avon HGPG Club Accounts

### 2021 Headlines...

- Financial Year – 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021.
- Full membership costs remain at £25 with Discount for prompt renewal.
- Family membership ceased from this year.
- The Club's total funds increased by £2,015.96 to £18,199.24
- Little account activity other than membership.
- The accounts were audited on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 by Richard Gill.
- Membership has increased by 3 to 234 (as at end Sep 20).

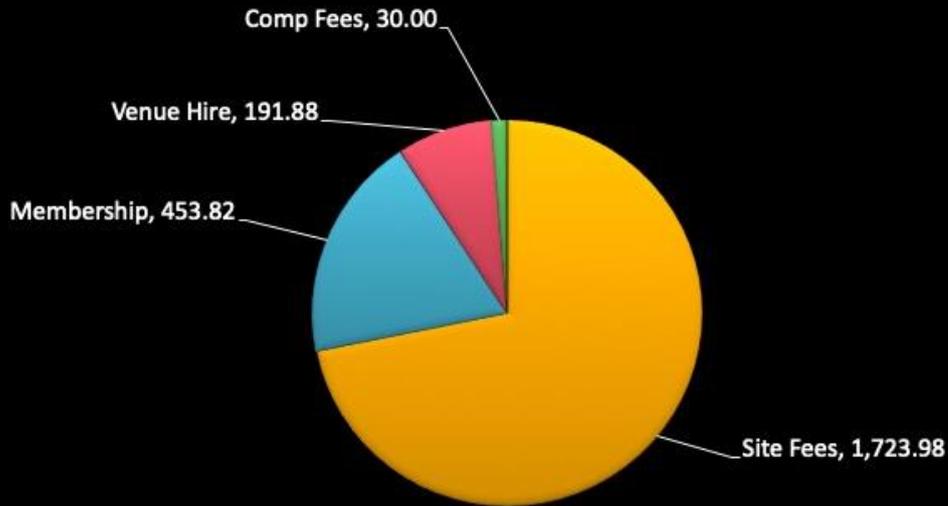
## Avon HGPG Club Accounts Income by Heading

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Membership	4,415.00	4,320.00
Bank Interest	0.64	0.64
Miscellaneous		1060.00
Coach Course		1060.00
Club Dinner		714.50
	<b>4,415.64</b>	<b>£7,155.14</b>

## Avon HGPG Club Accounts Expenditure by Heading

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Site Fees	1,732.98	1,584.25
Membership	453.82	224.64
Venue Hire	191.88	492.38
Comp Fees	30.00	165.80
Xmas Party		1,338.60
Coach Course		1,180.00
Miscellaneous		1,020.00
Trophies		391.15
Repack		229.60
Speakers		85.20
Committee Expenses		24.00
	<b>£2,399.68</b>	<b>£6,735.62</b>

**Breakdown of Expenditure FY20/21**  
**(Total = £2,399.68)**



**Avon HGPG Club Accounts**  
**Accounts' Movements and Balances FY 20/21**

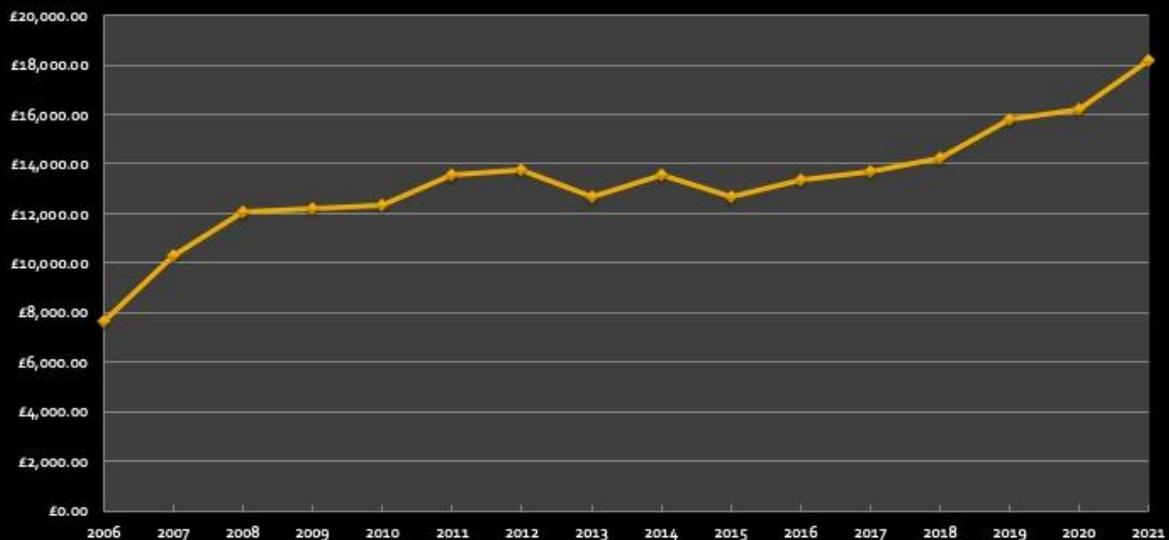
**Summary**

	Cash	Current	Savings	Total	
Opening balance	£0.00	£9,815.30	£6,367.98	£16,183.28	
Incoming	£0.00	£4,395.00	£0.64	£4,395.64	
Outgoing	£0.00	-£2,379.68	£0.00	-£2,379.68	Growth
Closing Balance	£0.00	£11,830.62	£6,368.62	£18,199.24	£2,015.96

# Avon HGPG Club Accounts

## Running Yearly Club Balance (as at 30/09/yy)

Avon Club Total Value

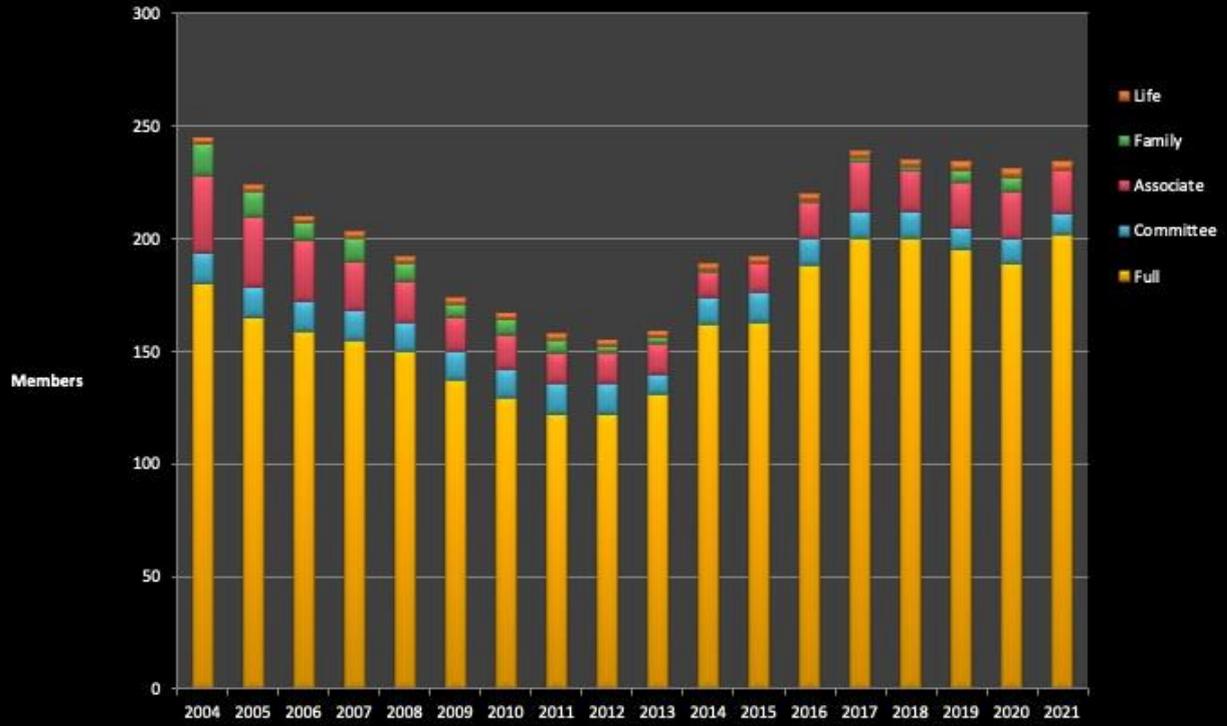


## Auditor's Notes

Auditor – Richard Gill

1. The Accounts were Audited on the 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021;
2. The Accounts were clearly presented;
3. A range of expenditure values were queried;
4. Invoices, Receipts and Emails were shown and found acceptable as evidence;
5. Richard confirmed that the accounts reconciled in all respects.

## Annual Membership Numbers (as at end of Financial Year!)



## 9. Election of Committee 2021/2022

Tim Bishop had decided to step down from his role as Safety Office, after several years in the post. Richard Gill had decided to stand down from his role as PG Competitions officer. Greg Emms did not stand again for his role as HG Comps officer. The Club thanked them for their valuable contribution.

All other existing Committee members were happy to stand for re-election.

- James Allen was proposed and seconded for the post of Social Secretary.
- Nick Beck was proposed and seconded for the post of PG Comps.
- The Committee post of 'HG Comps Officer' and 'HG Chief Coach' were amalgamated in to a single post of 'Hang Glider Representative'. Gareth Evans put himself forward for this role and he was proposed and seconded.
- William Clive was proposed and seconded for the post of Safety Officer. He provided the following statement to support his application:
  - "I have been flying for about 15 years and am a self-employed health and safety advisor. I have developed a passion for flying but appreciate that the sport can cost more than the value of the equipment and the hours spend traveling and waiting. With this in mind i am keen to do my bit to help make the sport as safe as possible. I don't have a particular agenda and am keen to take suggestions. "
  - "Things that i would like to promote are SIV, First-aid training, encouraging Low air time pilots to seek advice, ensure that valuable information about site hazards is accessible and encourage people to not only report accidents and incidents, but more importantly have a culture of trust where we can discuss and learn from these."

All members who had put themselves forward for election were duly elected.

The Committee posts for 21/22 are shown here:

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Rob Kingston</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Graham Richards
<b>Secretary</b>	Rich Harding
<b>Social Secretary</b>	James Allen
<b>Sites (Overall)</b>	Wes Murch
<b>Safety</b>	William Clive
<b>PG Comps Officer</b>	Nick Beck
<b>HG Rep</b>	Gareth Evans
<b>PG Low Airtime Officer</b>	Sean Simmons
<b>PG Chief Coach</b>	Tim Carr
<b>Webmaster</b>	Rich Harding
<b>Librarian</b>	Rod Taylor