

Minutes of HGAWA Annual General Meeting held at Leederville, 26th October 2011

Meeting Opened at 7.15pm

Present:

Peter Kovesi, Alex Jones, Jason Kath, Rod Merigan, Grant Bond, Mark Stokoe, Nick Holthouse, Chris Bennet, Peter Simmonds, Peter Doggett, Gordon McCabe, Mark Wild, Sun Nickerson, Rick Williams, Jehan Sappideen, Vic Hare, Cyril Eliopulos, Shaun Wallace, Tom Marwick, Peter South, Greg Lowry. (there were a couple of latecomers I may have missed)

Apologies:

Mike Duffey, Steve Jarosek, Mick Gibberd, Chris Hopkins, Shelley Heinrich, Marc Schmidlin, Mike Bali, Paul Jendrzajak

1) Minutes of last years meeting:

Moved Rod that the minutes be accepted. Seconded Alex. Passed.

2) President's Report:

Peter South presented his report. The main points were:

- We had a great State Contest run by the Dusties at Wylie.
- Geraldton flyers have been running some great events.
- A new club, Sky Pirates, has been formed.
- Cloudbase is dormant though the club equipment has been lent to Mike Dufty for some courses.
- Sky Pirates ran a successful parachute deployment exercise at Woodmans Point.
- Mosman Park site has been reopened (though signage is still to be organized, no flying until signs installed).
- Bunbury Back Beach was closed but, thanks to Sun's efforts, has been reopened.
- Bakewell has seen lots of flying though there is some uncertainty over the site with Ashley moving and our lease application lost in bureaucracy.
- In Geraldton Forbes is selling his property which puts those sites at risk too.
- Christmas hampers were delivered to all the landowners in appreciation for letting us use their properties.
- Unfortunately we have had a few accidents. We need to ensure all are properly reported.
- Cottesloe was briefly closed after an accident and then reopened. The Cottesloe site rules have been revised and an induction is now required before being permitted to fly there.

3) Treasurer's Report:

Presented by Greg

See attached report for details

Some main points:

This year we had an increase in income of about \$1200 but we also spent much more.

The auditing costs were much larger than anticipated as we had to get a number of previous years audited, and also the auditors themselves were rather expensive. It was suggested that in future we use one of the auditors on Sport & Rec's approved list.

\$2100 was spent on site works

\$1360 spent on competitor support

Greg raised the issue of what to do with the Association's investment fund and whether we should think of using it to secure a flying site. It was generally agreed that we did not have enough to purchase a site outright. Rick raised the possibility that we might be able to use the funds to leverage money from the Royalties for Regions program. It was finally resolved that we reinvest the funds for a further 12 months.

Rick queried whether we got the tax back on our investment income. Greg to check. Greg to also check query on the Avon Signage costs.

4) Sites Report:

Bakewell: Rick reported that Ashley has moved from York down to Secret Harbour. He has not sold the farm but the situation is unclear. There was some discussion whether Ashley would consider selling an easement. However, given that our lease application for Bakewell has been stuck in bureaucratic limbo for the last 5 years the lack of a lease means we have no legal basis for any negotiations. The land to the west of Lou's is also for sale.

Given this situation Rick suggested that we should be looking to establish a new tow paddock somewhere. Humphrey's tow paddock is no longer usable due to the expansion of the sand mine.

It was considered that the Wylie paddock is too far out for regular weekend use. The general consensus was that ideally we want a paddock in the Northam, York, Beverley area. Anywhere from Quariding to Grass Valley would be acceptable

Can we use the Avon Valley Alliance to assist here?

Look for farms with private airstrips.

5) Business Plan for coming year:

Peter South presented the proposed plan (see attached)

Rick suggested abandoning our membership of the Avon Valley Aviation Alliance and joining the WA Sports Federation instead as it will be able to provide better support for our activities. PeterS to investigate

The following additional items were noted

- Bunbury Site licence \$500
- Weather Station Equipment for Rod \$200
- Parachute Deploy and Repack day \$500

Mark Wild canvassed the possibility of requesting a Tandem PPG wing for Sky Pirates with an expected cost of around \$4000 to be used for introductory flights and training. This was considered reasonable and Sky Pirates were invited to make a formal submission.

Rick moved that Sky Pirates' request be accepted, seconded by Mark Wild. Motion was accepted

6) Election of Office Bearers:

The following were nominated and elected unopposed

President: Peter South

Vice President: Grant Bond

Treasurer: Greg Lowry

Secretary: Peter Kovesi

Club delegates:

Western Soarers: Mike Duffey

Sky Pirates: Mark Wild

Albany: Simon Shuttleworth

Hillflyers (and Chair of Safety Committee): Rick Williams

Dusties: Mark Stokoe

Non Club rep: Chris Bennet

Chair of Safety Committee:

Rick Williams

Immediate Past President:

Rod Merigan

7) General Business:

Cottesloe: Rick reported on the new site regulations for Cottesloe.

It is now only open to pilots with an advanced rating and an induction is also required.

Rick will convene a safety officer workshop in the next month

HGFA Governance: Greg and Alex reported that there has been some discussion between the new board members of HGFA regarding the governance of the HGFA. The HGFA is inviting responses from the state associations over this issue

There is a feeling that the current constitution does not meet our current needs for representation. The HGFA board used to have one representative from each region across the country. This was changed to picking 9 people from a list. Under this scheme the danger is that the association becomes vulnerable to small cliques of power groups and the membership can become disenfranchised. This has happened in the past and at one stage the elections only attracted 120 votes.

At the moment WA is well represented (even over represented) with three members of the board, however this could easily change to WA having no representatives

The current goal is to form a set of possible new structures for the membership to consider. One possible model might be to have one delegate elected from each region plus a core committee that is elected by all members.

Changes to HGFA governance may have implications for state association constitutions.

Possible Association Name Change: Alex suggested that we should consider a name change for the association. While we have had the name HGAWA for a long time the name does not represent all members. We should add a 'P' to HGAWA (Mark Wild suggested we should add two P's!) Alex will float the idea on the forums and see what support there might be for a name change.

Rod noted that in the past the association had considered changing its name to 'WA Airsports' and a logo had been designed. However the name change did not proceed.

Other news: Shaun reported that he was re-establishing Light Flight. Great!

Meeting Closed 8.35pm

Actions:

- PeterS to update financial plan.
- PeterS to investigate membership of the WA Sports Federation.
- Greg to check on tax refund.
- Greg to check query on the Avon Signage costs.
- Greg to reinvest our investment fund for a further 12 months.
- Rick to convene safety officer workshop.
- All: Think of possible new names for HGAWA.

- All: Suggest governance models for HGFA.
- All: Be on the lookout for towing paddocks.