

**Minutes of the
Board Meeting of Walking on Air held on the
6th March 2024 at 19:30 on ZOOM.**

Attendees:

Dave Tuttle	Chairman, Director.
Peter Clayton	Treasurer, Director.
Derek Storey	Director.
Jim Cook	Director.
Garry Simpson	Director.
Maria Duncan	Director.
Clare Johnstone	Director.
Alan Carbray	Director.
Andrew Gordon	Secretary, Director.

1. Apologies:

None. The Chairman confirmed that Dave Nesbit has resigned from the board. The board recognised and thanked Dave for his service on the board over the last decade and hope to see him at flying at Portmoak in the future.

The Chairman welcomed Clare Johnstone and Alan Carbray to the board. Alan responded that it is great to be able to fly during the week and he praised the opportunity to use the simulator when the weather is unflyable stating that the simulator is a fantastic piece of kit.

2. Approval of minutes of last meeting.

Treasurer approved the minutes of the previous meeting, and they were seconded by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising.

- a) Treasurer spoke with Martin Phillimore ref new members handbook issued 2016. Treasurer reported that the handbook was extremely useful and well presented.
- b) Secretary agreed to speak with our former chairman, Steve Derwin ref acting as an ambassador to represent disabled sports men and women within the gliding community.
Action:- Secretary
- c) Instructions to change over hand controls on WoA website. Treasurer agreed to check with Sally Woolwich.
Action:- Treasurer & Sally Woolwich.
- d) Treasurer hopes to photograph the incorrect fitting of hand rudder control cables and forward these photos to secretary to prepare report for the BGA.
Action:- Treasurer & Secretary.
- e) Secretary to pursue Perth and Kinross Disability Sports Organisation to meet WoA once flying season restarts on the 15th of March 2024.
Action:- Secretary
- f) Treasurer confirmed that WoA medical records were locked in the 2-drawer steel filing cabinet in the clubhouse.
Action:- Treasurer.
- g) Treasurer confirmed that he has started preparing the 2023 accounts.
Action:- Treasurer.
- h) Clare and Allan expressed interest in using the OZEE suits if they fit. **Action:- Clare and Alan.**
- i) The Chairman confirmed changes to the letter prepared by Garry Simpson informing our WoA helpers about the disclosure procedure. Derek agreed to forward the letter to those WoA ground crew, instructor's and other members required to be disclosed to VSDS.
Action:- Chairman & Derek Storey.

j) Derek reported that he has eleven volunteers available as ground crew now available to work 1 in 5 Friday roster days. The problem is the lack of instructors with only three available who are BI's able to provide limited training. After a detailed discussion in the meeting, it was felt that individual full cat instructors would be approached to fill the shortfall, but some Friday flying might need to be cancelled if instructors could not provide cover. The meeting also considered moving flying ops to Saturday in the hope that more instructors may be on site. The downside would be that we would clash with SGU flying ops although SGU membership was 50% less than pre pandemic levels, so not as busy as expected. The roster would also need to be changed and there is no guarantee that the eleven volunteers already available for Fridays would be able to do Saturdays. Clare also reported that she would not be able to attend on a Saturday. Treasurer suggested that we stick with the Friday flying day for a month and see what happens. The board agreed with the Treasurer's suggestion to keep Friday and will monitor the situation closely. Derek advised members to get in the clubhouse and ask instructors face to face as this may get a positive response.

Action:- Board to monitor.

k) Garry and the board agreed that the Data Protection requirements of VSDS were met by the WoA privacy policy. Garry also confirmed that the VSDS policy document has been updated to version 4.

l). £3,000 still to be returned to EUGC awaiting Martin's return to the office.

Alan reported that he is impressed with the current instructors and wants to see the charity (WoA) growing and being successful. The meeting recognised that WoA is the leading disabled gliding charity in the UK.

WoA does provide Air Ex flights to those who have expressed an interest in gliding. That is one of the ways that people join the charity. Alan noted that BLESMA when they book a day's flying with WoA can block out WoA members. Maria stated that when they fly, they take four of the six slots available and only book 2 days, never consecutively. Treasurer stated that it is one of the roles of WoA as a charity to provide Air Ex flights. Last year there were 2 BLESMA bookings consisting of seven flights. This year there are again 2 Friday bookings of four flights each. Derek suggested that we fly BLESMA on days other than Fridays. The option is also available for WoA members to sign up for an SGU course to get more flying opportunities using WA1. It is more costly, but progress to solo is faster.

Treasurer reported that some SGU instructors have suggested that they use WA1 more frequently. He felt that we should not encourage this as it increases wear and tear on the glider, and it has been damaged and required repair on three occasions recently. Treasurer suggested that we increase our charges to the SGU to 32p per minute (flying time) for the use of WA1. Treasurer agreed to compose a letter to the SGU to this effect.

Action:- Treasurer.

Alan sought clarity from the board on who has priority use of WA1 having witnessed SGU members take WA1 when there were WoA members waiting to fly. The meeting agreed that on a Friday during the flying season (15th Mar to end of Sept), WoA members have priority. At other times WoA members can put their name on the flying list and fly WA1 with an SGU instructor when their name reaches the top of the flying list. If, however, a WoA member who does not need an instructor, or has made a private arrangement with an instructor to fly will have priority over SGU members.

Maria asked if we should cut down on Air Ex flights. The board agreed that we should not cut down on Air Ex flights but see how it goes.

Derek reported that currently 50% of the slots are available on the flying rota.

Treasurer reported that he will contact Linzi O'Neil to see if they wish to return to flying.

Action:- Treasurer.

Treasurer proposed price increases for WoA to peg WoA flying tariffs at 50% of the SGU tariffs.

- Cost per minute flying time 32p.
- Air Ex flight £60:00p.
- WoA membership £130:00p per annum, 25% of the SGC tariff.

The board agreed these prices.

Derek reported that the ground crew asked if they were still entitled to a free flight. Derek proposed that WoA issue a voucher for a winch launch and 20 minutes flying time for a flight in an SGU aircraft. The Treasurer suggested a winch launch and 10 minutes flying time. This would be charged to WoA at a cost of £13 winch launch and 10 minutes at 64 pence per min (£13+£6.40=£19:40p) per flight.

Following the meeting the Chairman and the Treasurer suggested that we continue on the present basis to keep this simple and protect the voluntary status of the helpers.

Clare had some questions about the WoA Facebook page. She reported that it had not had any recent updates or reflected what WoA was doing. Bob Petrie used to run the Facebook page. Treasurer agreed to speak with Bob ref transferring the Facebook page back to WoA and getting the login and any required passwords. Clare agreed to manage the Facebook page for WoA.

Action:- Treasurer & Clare.

4. **Chairman's report.**

The Chairman thanked all the volunteers, instructors, and members of WoA for their ongoing work in support of the organisation and is hoping to be back flying this year.

5. **Treasurer's report.**

Treasurer reported £40,941:00p in the bank with £5,941 in the current account and two bonds earning interest between 3.1% and 3.5%.

6. **Secretary's report.**

No new items to report.

7. **Engineering report** (including current WA1 availability).

Treasurer reported that WA1 serviceable.

Minor problem reported with the radio not transmitting in the rear cockpit now resolved. No other problems reported.

8. **Future of Walking on Air post 2023 flying season**

The Treasurer reported that he does not intend to keep his instructor rating beyond this year.

9. **Any other competent business.**

Derek Storey advised that WoA need to encourage members to get more involved in gliding, operating the radio, driving the Mule, log keeping and get known, not just “come-fly-go home.” Alan responded that he felt guilty just sitting in the clubhouse watching members towing the gliders out to the launch point, etc. He stated that he and Clare want to get involved in the club activities and have received instruction on driving the mule to recover gliders back to the launch point.

Alan was also concerned that he must have his “green card” signed off for all ground tasks such as performing glider DI’s, running with the wing at the launch point etc when it is not possible for disabled pilots to perform all the ground tasks successfully or safely. The board was not aware that this is a requirement and has not been a barrier to solo flight or even becoming a full cat instructor in the past. Alan and Clare will check this with CFI Bruce Duncan.

Action:- Alan Carbray & Clare Johnstone.

10. Date of next meeting.

TBC 9th or 10th or 11th of April 2024 at 19:30 via ZOOM.

Andrew Gordon,
Secretary WoA,
6th March 2024.