

**Minutes of the
Board Meeting of Walking on Air held on the
11th September 2024 at 19:30 on ZOOM.**

Attendees:

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

1. Apologies:

Maria Duncan	Director.
Garry Simpson	Director.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes of last meeting.

The Treasurer approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 7th August 2024. Seconded by Alan Carbray.

3. Matters arising.

- a) Secretary reported that the WoA website director details have been updated to include the new directors. The instructions for changing over the hand and foot controls for the rudder were not available on the website. The board confirmed that these instructions should also be on the WoA website. Secretary asked if we should publish the WoA board meeting minutes on the website? The board agreed this proposal.
Action:- Secretary.
- b) Secretary has forwarded the report on the potential fault condition that may cause the front rudder pedal control to disconnect from the rudder to the BGA. No feedback or response yet.
- c) Alan Carbray has contacted Perth and Kinross Disability Sports Organisation to arrange a visit to WoA. Alan confirmed that Graeme from Perth and Kinross Disability Sports Organisation will visit WoA at Portmoak this Friday 13/9/2024 and will attend the morning briefing and promote WoA to other disabled people and great interest in other groups. **Action:- Alan Carbray.**
- d) Secretary has established contact with Jon Hasler at the Spinal Injuries Unit via e-mail and Jon has replied. Reply forwarded to board. Treasurer agreed to forward ten copies of the Trifold pamphlet to Jon.
Action:- Treasurer
- e) Treasurer reports he has forwarded Bob Petrie contact details to Clare ref the WoA Facebook page and forwarded Sally's e-mail to the secretary to update the website.
- f) Treasurer reports that the 2023 accounts are signed off by EQ, the account examiners.
- g) Treasurer reports that a storage location for the scales still to be resolved, but someone told the treasurer that they have a potential solution. **Action:- Treasurer.**
- h) Treasurer is working on the draft a letter to Reiner Kipp, SGU Chairman, proposing that front hand controls are fitted to LOV. **Action:- Treasurer.**
- i) Treasurer reported that the WA1 ARC has been renewed with the BGA. Fee paid. David Coats to organise annual inspection. Volunteers will be needed.
Action:- Volunteers.

- j) Alan Carbray reported that he is drafting two articles on his recent first solo flight. One article aimed at a target audience with no experience of gliding and the second article aimed at pilots. The meeting considered where best to publish these articles. Alan agreed that they can be published on the WoA website.

4. **Chairman's report.**

The Chairman as always thanked all the Instructors, Board members and Helpers for their ongoing work in support of WoA.

5. **Treasurer's report.**

Treasurer reported the following:-

- A. Bank balance in the Current Account £2,637.
- B. Deposit account of £20,000 increased to £22,000 and renewed to 23/9/25 at same interest rate of 3.5%.
- C. Deposit account of £15,000 matures 24/4/25 at an interest rate of 3.6%. (Total interest on both accounts c £1,300 pa).
- D. Bequest of £5,000 from Colin Steward will be paid to us when funds are cleared. Months?
- E. Treasurer to write an application for funding from Lady Marion Gibson Trust (Iain Masterton).
Treasurer is hoping for £2,500 for parachutes for WA1.

Action:- Treasurer.

6. **Secretary's report.**

No report this meeting.

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

- Treasurer reported WA1 serviceable.
- New batteries fitted.
- New ARC issued.
- Annual inspection due September. **Action:- D Coats and WoA volunteers.**
- T/S unserviceable in front cockpit only.
- FLARM unit reported not displaying the location of WA1 on Glide & Seek in the clubhouse TV screen. To be recorded in the DI book. **Action:- Treasurer.**

8. **Future of Walking on Air post 2024 flying season.**

Derek reported that WoA has lost a ground crew helper. Clare reported that she has identified a potential replacement for the lost helper. **Action:- Clare Johnstone.**

Treasurer asked the new Directors for their current views on the future way forward for WoA.

Alan confirmed that he saw enormous potential for WoA, and it is a fantastic service for disabled people. Alan felt that the way forward is to grow WoA by promoting us via social media like "Facebook," local organisation such as Perth and Kinross Disability Sports Organisation and articles about gliding for people with disabilities published in online and in specialist magazines for disabled people and Gliding publications.

Clare wondered what the future potential was for disabled pilots to progress once they have achieved solo flight and are ready to progress to a single seater glider. Treasurer replied that we did have access to a single seater in the past that had been purchased as a private syndicate WA2 (G-TWAZ). That was sold due to lack of use, as at that time there were very few solo WoA pilots.

9 **PVG and Disclosures.**

Not discussed as Garry Simpson was unable to attend the meeting. Garry is the lead director on PVG and disclosure.

10. Card Reader / Card payment processing facility.

Clare reported that she can set up a card payment processing facility easily.

She stated that no card reader machines are required, only a modern smart phone to function as a “master” to take payments. Payments are made using a customer’s smart phone with the wallet app and the payees card details.

The first £1.000 processed is free of a fee charge. Thereafter a 1.75% transaction fee is applied.

The “Smart phone master” can authorise other smart phones to take payments.

The board agreed to implement this card payment facility.

Action:- Clare Johnstone.

11. Disability criteria for WoA membership.

Derek informed the meeting that recently someone (the applicant) was refused membership of WoA because his/her disability (long Covid) was deemed not sufficiently disabling to merit WoA membership.

Derek produced government guidance that included Myalgic Encephalitis as a recognised disability. Derek stated that Long Covid is a type of Myalgic Encephalitis. As such, WoA could be vulnerable to a charge of discriminating against the applicant who had been refused WoA membership. It was unclear to the meeting who had made the decision to refuse WoA membership to the applicant.

The meeting agreed that who qualifies for WoA membership needs to be clarified. WoA provides glider pilot training at a cost that is half the cost for an able bodied pilot learning to fly with the SGU (and most other gliding clubs), so WoA must be vigilant that it does not take potential members (that do not need a modified glider to fly) from the SGU. The meeting also recognised that not all disabilities are related to mobility and some people wanting to glide will have a hidden disability that experienced WoA instructors have the knowledge and experience to fly people that other instructors might be reluctant to fly.

The meeting recognised that each applicant to join WoA must be assessed as an individual and that the final decision to fly will always rest with the P1 instructor on the day.

The meeting recognised that applicants to WoA have a range of disabilities. Some clearly need to fly with WoA (those with missing limbs, wheelchair users etc.). Others who have sensory disabilities (visually and hearing impaired) do not need WA1 but benefit enormously from flying with instructors who are experienced dealing with these sensory handicaps. Then there are those people who have more hidden handicaps such as depression, post-traumatic stress, learning difficulties etc. Many of these disabilities vary in severity and may be considered borderline for membership of WoA. The board agreed that where these borderline or grey areas are applicable to a WoA applicant, the board will decide on membership of WoA.

Action:- WoA Board.

Treasurer agreed to author a short paper for the board.

Action:- Treasurer.

12. Any other competent business.

Treasurer informed the meeting that he had an enquiry from the BGA that they were setting up a disability access group. Treasurer explained what WoA has to offer and will help in whatever way we can. Secretary volunteered to liaise with BGA head office face to face as secretary is an hour away from the BGA head office in Leicester.

Action:- Treasurer & Secretary.

The meeting reminded everyone to use the inflatable cushions if lifting people in and out of the cockpit.

13. Date of next meeting.

16th October 2024 at 19:30 via ZOOM.

Andrew Gordon, Secretary WoA, 11th September 2024.