

Canterbury Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club AGM

Minutes of the 2020 AGM

Venue: The Good Home Ferrymead, Christchurch
15th September 2020

Members present:

Paul Conaghan, Jen Corbett, Bradley May, Cliff Swailes, Stuart Mackintosh, Colin Hogg, Ryan Scarlett, Donald Payne, Brad Norton, Matt Barlow, Patterson Stark, Alex Cornford, Tim Bott, Chris Walker, Grey Hamilton, John West, Ollie Derry, Dave Dennis, Jean Brossard, Mark Nichols, Ondrej Wieden, Mauro Covre, Warren Simonsen, Bill Degan, Bryan Tuffnell, Derek Mckee.

Apologies: Marije Jansen

Meeting opened at 7:20 pm

Matt Barlow introduced himself as interim President and thanked everyone for attending. Approximately 27 in attendance. Matt read out a run through of meeting agenda

1. Presentation of 2019 AGM minutes

Copies of the 2019 AGM minutes were distributed prior to the AGM
Donald Payne proposed the minutes be accepted as accurate, Ondrej Wieden seconded.
The motion was carried unanimously

2. Officer reports

2.1. President – Matt Barlow

As a result of our former club president stepping away from his position in late July 2020, Matt Barlow was voted in by the Club Executive as an interim President through to this AGM.

Since then the two main issues the club has had to deal with include the updating of the sites guide, and ongoing work relating to Sky Diving Kiwis Ltd.

The sites guide has been updated and is going through a final review process prior to being placed on the club website. The guide will be accessible to members, only after they have logged in to the Club Website. This will encourage visiting pilots to connect with local members for information about where to fly, and therefore provide better assurance that sites are being accessed appropriately and in line with any local restrictions that either land owners or the club may have put in place. Thanks from the club goes to Ryan Scarlett for doing the bulk of the work in updating the sites guide.

Still on Sites, thanks from the club goes to Donald Payne and Tim Bott, our respective Hang Gliding and Paragliding Sites Officers, for keeping in contact with local farmers and dropping off gift baskets as tokens of appreciation from the club.

Sites are pretty much the most important thing for us as a Club so we should never take access to them for granted and do everything we possibly can to ensure we will always continue to be given permission to fly and land.

It's the little and big things that count — being friendly and courteous, giving a smile and a wave, taking the time to chat with the land owner when appropriate, leaving gates as you found them, taking away all rubbish, driving slowly around stock and over the property — all these types of basic things. If we can do this, and communicate well, and continue to drop off tokens of our appreciation then we stand a good chance of continued use and access.

However, if even only one of us drops the ball in this regard, whether it's a regular club member or a visiting pilot, we can quickly loose access, which will be devastating for us as a club if this ever happens. Please let's all do our part in respect to this matter.

Moving on to the Sky Diving Kiwis operation. This matter has consumed most of the Executives time and caused significant tension within the club. In spite of huge amounts of work going into this from our Executive, Sky Diving Kiwis, the NZHGPA Airspace Officer, and various club members, the matter is not yet resolved.

From my perspective as Interim President, the issue and hold up has not been as a result of anything Sky Diving Kiwis has done, but as a result of continual disagreement within the club about what stance to take and how to proceed with this matter.

As it stands Sky Diving Kiwis Ltd are legally operating at Sumner beach under VFRs only. To be clear there is no verbal or written agreement between the Club and them about how to share the beach and surrounding airspace either in the immediate or long term. Sky Diving Kiwis Ltd could be operating at any time and could land anywhere, so members are advised to keep their eyes peeled and fly in accordance with VFR until something more substantial is worked out.

In terms of moving forward with this matter, there is a perfectly reasonable and workable solution available which could be put in place. Whatever the case the club Executive will continue to work through the issues and update members as significant developments occur.

So that is it from me. Thank you for everyone who has contributed to the club over the previous term. In particular thank you Brad for your service and leadership during your time as President. Thank you to my fellow executives for sticking your hands up and volunteering to take on this line of work. It is not always easy, and can consume significant amounts of personal time. A special thanks also goes out to Bryan Tuffnell who acted as a mediator between Sky Diving Kiwis and the Club, and to our association Air Space Officer Nick Taber, who has provided huge amounts of his time in the form of advice and support to the club as we have grappled with this matter.

For myself, I've put enormous amounts of time into phone calls, meetings, and emails regarding the Sky Diving Kiwis matter. By doing so I've realised I just don't have any more time to put into it, and I'm also really disappointed that we as a club haven't been able to resolve this matter yet. In fact, I'm so disappointed by it, that I've decided not to stand for President this coming term as I can't be bothered putting up with all the nonsense that comes from being at the centre of matters like this.

Flying, whether it be in a speed wing, paraglider, hang glider, motorised or free flight, is the most amazing thing, something that makes us feel alive and free spirited. That's where it's at, that's where it should remain. Politics and silly games should be left out of it but some members can't help themselves. I for one don't want a bar of it.

Good luck to the next executive. Great flying and safe landings for us all.

Be a team. It requires Leadership & Followership. Together everyone achieves more.

2.2. Secretary and Treasurer – Paul Conaghan

The club is in a very good financial position with the current account at \$21,135. We asked for remits to be presented, but none were submitted. It would be good to spend some of this money as it mainly spent on donations & land owner gifts.

We are running around the 240 members which is pretty static & there are about 33 Hang glider pilots in the club

Asked for approval of the financial statements.

Motion put forward to accept the accounts by Cliff Swailes and seconded by Bryan Tufnell.

Carried unanimously.

2.3. PG Safety Officer – Marije Jansen

Marije is standing down from this position.

Apologies for not being able to attend this evening. I am standing down as Safety Officer and I hope that this evening someone will step forward to pick up this vital role to keep the sport and club going forward. It is a straightforward job with lots of support around to help.

Recording and reporting accidents is vital to improve the safety in this sport, it is not about finger pointing. Accidents are always a combination of environment, conditions and human factors, and we should strive to optimise all three.

We had a sad fatality early in the year at Mt Cheeseman, followed by multiple minor incidents at Taylors. We should all be able to learn from those accidents. Look around you and help others while you can.

On a different note, I may be standing down but I am in the process of organising a paraglider emergency response course with Sam Bartholomew. I will let you all know when that happens.

Many thanks

Marije

2.4. HG Safety Officer – Warren Simonsen

At Allendale we are looking for quotes to remove gorse from in front of the launch which the farm owner is ok with. Please keep the area clear at launch and make sure that any visitors are

not in the way. This time of year is a good time to prepare your gear and check it over. Better to do it now rather than when you are wanting to fly.

Question was asked about Charlie Reserve repacks – Bill Degan can do them.

Good idea to keep a first aid kit in your car.

If you see cars slowing down, give them a friendly wave as they could be the land owners/leaseholders or people that know them.

Distraction when rigging up your gear, just go back a step & recheck.

Have a lot of fun

2.5. Sites Officer HG – Donald Payne

Land owners, our most valuable and fragile resource.

Most Gift packs purchased contain a bottle of wine, cheese and crackers and a selection of my old aeroplane magazines and a new copy of past airborne magazines supplied by Nicki @ admin National HQ.

As an aside interactions I have had with or National HQ have provided me excellent support on every encounter both as a pilot and as HG sites officer.

Gift bags given to following:

Little River Launch

Little River Landing

Taylor's Camera web site operator, Camera site landowner poll-ay declined.

Living Springs, special \$50 damage acknowledgement.

Timaru gift packs x2 have been collected for delivery Sunday 13 September by Glenn Doggett for delivery to two Timaru landowners.

Teddington & flagpole gift packs are to be passed on in the near future.

Thanks to Cliff Swales, Glenn Doggett and Darren Hodder for their help in getting gift packs to our landowners.

HG Robinsons Bay both launch and landing would be ideal to get a bag. Does anyone have the contact details please?

Would any club member please notify the PG or HG sites office of any landowners deserving and we will make it happen.

I'm chasing up the HG, I don't hear nearly enough from PG who needs a gift bag, Big ups to Josh who got some hook knives to some in our local water rescue crew, excellent groovy move that man.

Holfuy Weather Stations.

The Holfuy ultrasonic sensor has cost in addition to its original purchase. Just under \$200 tracked shipping to and from Hungary mid covid.

\$80 stainless & aluminium solid mounting hardware into Taylor's. I'm yet to drill to ready for Rob & Cliff.

A big thanks goes out to Alex Cornford who was able to negotiate with Holfuy a replacement unit for Dale site. Without his magic our 1k purchase was done despite still being under warranty.

Thanks to Warren Simonsen supplying excellent zero fee tech support during our recent Holfuy ultrasonic failure, even offered us a rib climbing of his roof completing his quality assurance testing.

Thanks to Rob Kennedy keeping our sites working and giving us his personal business insurance allowing us access for site maintenance

This is something we need to consider in the future as a weather station expense, if one of use destroys someone else's gear we need to be ready to avoid exposing our members to undue risk.

Thanks to Sam Hansen and his bigger than my arm muscles who powered the Dale station winch as I had the cushy job on the belay.

Hang Gliding new Training Site

This is due to housing development of Cracroft.

Thanks Matt for enthusiastically fostering the growth of Hang Gliding.

Thanks, and acknowledgement goes to Matt Barlow for pioneering a HG new training site and teaching several classes there so far, please any site queries only through Matt at this time, he has a family connection.

HG site Guide review

As per discussions as I am a low time pilot this has been deferred to the club senior HG pilots I have discussed it with who have agreed to edit some of the sites as time allows.

Cheeseman guide was edited again.

We need someone to put their hand up to take on liaising with the sites officers who are willing to update our official documents who is better than me at computers.

Sumner Surf Club Landing Site & Sky diving Kiwis [SDK]

The club at this stage has lost exclusive use of Sumner Surf club beach.

The club appears well endowed with members who are not willing to participate in the running of the club, while the club continues to operate in a world with increasing demands. During this process several concerns have been raised regarding the best position our club might be both current and future. This along with safety concerns have been repeatedly raised with unusual solutions.

As HG Sites Officer, I have a duty to the club members current and future generations to preserve our sites and to raise any concerns including member safety and will continue to do so while I have the support of the Hg membership. The reality is no one else can be bothered to do it. I will participate in further discussion on the matter in general matters.

Dale Top Launch

Thanks to Warren Simonsen for his continuing efforts & 'lasing with various landowners and leasees to begin the restoration of site safety to this site by removing excess vegetation.

This is a continuing matter and in late 2019 a group of members have offered help to assist with clearing up the site. Whoever else can help with holding onto a weed whacker to improve launch safety please put you hand up. We will ask again for help closer to the time.

Initial discussions I had with the Parks was to mow several slots on the right of the runway to allow PG to set up and sit on short grass between long grass for a wind break and warmer for spectators, PG please advise requests. Similar further to the rear for HG rigging. No follow up has happened as that person is on maternal leave, I've just made a new hookup at the CCC. Coordination of this task is to through Warren Simonsen.

Timaru weather station

Glenn Doggett has approached the sites office requesting support in the installation of a weather station for the 9 Timaru pilots who are Canterbury club members. I have suggested a strategy similar to what I had on the boil for a Little river Holfuy [which at this time is on hold due to Te Oka coming on line]. That was using the gaming Council to assist in the consideration of funding at hopefully minimal expense to the club and will follow up with any support I can to help make this happen.

If anyone has skills in admin support with these kind of ventures for the improvement of our personal safety the accuracy of weather information and the future of our sport sing out please as we need your help.

Cost for a Holfuy is about \$2k plus a \$1k dodgy ultrasonic maintenance free 9 months life sensor, plus the pole, foundation, mounting and maintenance.

Maintenance of our Taylors and Dale Holfuys are around 1 x year site visit replacing the sensor. Warren & I have set out a plan where he and I will attempt to reduce the maintenance cost by servicing the Davis units at ~\$50-\$80 once a year per unit rather than ~\$300 each to keep our cost down. Around \$200 will get us parts for 3 services plus shipping of current Davis units provided they are not beyond service & destroyed.

To make this happen, Rob Kennedy as manager with Cliff Swailes, Derek McKee, Sam Hansen & Gary Turner have all put their hand up to be weather station maintenance support crew, Thanks guys.

Glenn and I also discussed making it easier for the Timaru pilots to operate on air-band due to a MBZ in their space. He has excellent support from the local aero club instructor who sounds like a great PG HG supportive bloke for all in the area. He is willing to get them all through on the air band radio course. We will pool resources to do what we can to foster this excellent relationship.

I accept there will become places in our local fav places where you will need to carry an air band radio if you wish to operate legally.

118.750 New Brighton traffic, listen for a month or two and you will get used to the call rhythms
133.350 Hang glider & paraglider exclusive frequency.

My good mate a radio ham & a retired Taits technical trainer says there is less static on AM compared to FM.

Warren Simonsen and I are the helpers to get you your radio rating so you can use it legally, we charge nothing.

I need a current commercial pilot to approach me and offer help teaching position reporting and current best practise tips please, it's a very small commitment, running currently at around 1 hour every two years.

2.6. Sites Officer PG – Tim Bott

Donald has covered most of the issues & thanks to him for doing lots.
I'll be stepping down from the position at this time.

2.7. Airspace Officer – Ryan Scarlett

Southern Alps mandatory broadcast zone proposal to extend. CAA gave us 7 days to submit an objection on this proposal. Nick Taber, NZHGPA, Southern Club and Federated Mountain Club submitted objections and this was successful in preventing the proposal. Southern Club are putting in a proposal to reduce this area later this year

3. Discussion on the NZHGPA Remits

Remits were read out & voted on

Remit B1: 6 for, 17 against. Motion rejected

Remit B2: 3 against, rest abstain. Motion rejected.

Remit B3: 1 against, Motion carried

Remit C1: Voted unanimously in favour. Motion carried

Remit C2: Voted unanimously in favour. Motion carried

Remit C3: Voted unanimously in favour. Motion carried

Remit C4: Voted unanimously in favour. Motion carried

Remit EEM1: 4 for, 17 against. Motion rejected

Remit EEM2: Voted unanimously in favour. Motion carried

Remit EEM3: Voted unanimously in favour. Motion carried

Remit EEM4: Voted unanimously against. Motion rejected

Remit EEM5: 9 against, rest abstained. Motion rejected

4. Amendment to Constitution

Proposal to amend the Constitution to reflect the current number of Exec positions.

Proposed by Paul Conaghan seconded by Alex. Carried unanimously

5. Election of officers

5.1. President

No candidate has come forward at this time. (Refer update note at end of minutes)

5.2. Secretary and Treasurer

Paul Conaghan nominated by Jen & seconded by Ondrej

Carried unanimously

5.3. HG Safety

Warren Simonsen nominated by Mark & seconded by Donald

Carried unanimously

5.4. PG Safety

Stuart Mackintosh nominated by Cliff & seconded by Rob

Carried unanimously

5.5. Sites Officer HG

Donald Payne nominated by Derek & seconded by Warren

Carried unanimously

5.6. Sites Officer PG

Ondrej Wieden nominated by Paul & seconded by Cliff

Carried unanimously

5.7. Airspace Officer

Ryan Scarlett nominated by Paul & seconded by Jean

Carried unanimously

6. Any other new business

Bryan spoke and advised the members present about the negotiations and operations of Sky Diving Kiwis at Sumner beach. There is a draft Memorandum of Understanding which could be completed in 15 minutes but there is a few in the club that are against signing this agreement. He has stepped back from this role as negotiator.

After a lengthy discussion Cliff Swailes proposed we accept the Memorandum of Understanding
Seconded by Jean.

Votes, 10 for, 3 against, 1 abstention.

Motion carried

Ondrej mentioned that it would be good to get access to Mt Cheeseman weather station.

To be investigated further

Donald mentioned that there are some club members interested in getting a winch.

To be investigated further

7. Approval of 2020 Budget

Mark proposed that we pay Cheeseman \$1000 this year as a gesture of good will as they are struggling due to a bad season.

Seconded by Alex

Carried unanimously

Rob proposed that we make a donation to St John of \$250

Seconded by Paul

Carried unanimously

Unanimous approval of 2020 Budget

Meeting closed at 10 pm

Note: CHGPC President

Colin Hogg has put his name forward for this role and the Executive committee have voted unanimously to accept him into this position.