

SIR GEORGE CAYLEY SAILWING CLUB

February 21st Annual General Meeting Minutes

Venue

Held on the 21st March 2018 at the Carpenters Arms, Fangfoss at 8pm

Present

Suzanne Berzins, Ian Curren, Tony Dew, Tony Holdsworth, Ken Machin, Tracey Nicholls, David Perryman, Harry Postill, Richard Sewell, Richard Shirt, Jez Smith.

Excused

Tony Johnston, Geoff Moses, Shane Nutter and Dave Todd

Meeting Detail

Treasurer's Report – Suzanne Berzins

£3,124.16 in account not including £60-70 in membership dues deposited that morning. 56 members in club to date. Find ideas for spending what is in the account.

WebMaster and Competitions – Richard Shirt

In November 2017 new web host which is more stable and new mailbox allows for tracking historical records. Creation of new web forum last week which is solely for club members to exchange information, photos, etc.

A couple of statistics to webpage: 174 visits p/month and visitors spend about 30 to 60 seconds on the website. The site guide is available for download on website.

Next year plan is to have coaching linked up to the web forum, list of club coaches needs to be updated.

Facebook page was created early last year; there are 77 people in the group. Ian Curren asked what it was used for, Richard Shirt replied posting information on Club activities, etc. top post was Steve Pickering. Richard said recently posted the windrose and thank David Perryman for it.

Membership Secretary – Suzanne Berzins

Sue said there were 56 members – still missing information as not everyone had completed the membership forms which, unfortunately, need to be completed every year. Sue needs to send information to BHPA by the end of this month. Richard Shirt said could do a webform but was a little concerned about information being hacked.

Chairman's Report – Tony Dew

Document Summary

- AGM detail
- Club Coaches
- Club Meeting Dates
- Site Updates
- Club Holidays

Contact The Club

- Tony Dew, Chairman
chair@cayleyparagliding.co.uk
- Web URL :
www.cayleyparagliding.co.uk

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The Club has had a mixed 2017: the year opened with a complaint from a member of the public about one of our members flying dangerously at Bridlington and ended with the death of one of our members. But in between, I'm pleased to say, there are good things to report.

However, let me start with the worst: Mick Bostock's death on 12th December whilst paragliding at Stanage overshadowed the back end of the year. Mick was universally liked and leaves behind a wife, two children, grandchildren, family and a lot of friends. He was very active with the Derbyshire Soaring Club where he was Membership Secretary, and also a member of our Cayley Club. Clearly a man who recognised the value and benefits of club membership.

His funeral service on 5th January in the chapel in Scunthorpe was packed. We sent a wreath on behalf of the club with these words: 'Our heartfelt condolences and sorrow, from friends and fellow pilots at the Sir George Cayley Sailwing Club'. The funeral was attended by a number of Cayley Club members including two of Mick's friends who were with him on the day he died.

Mick's death is the subject of an official enquiry by the BHPA and CAA which is ongoing. There may well be lessons we can learn from what happened, and how. There has been criticism of the way some individuals and the club (including me) handled things after the accident, but there will be plenty of opportunity for you to comment on that later, if you wish.

Back in the Summer there was another accident to one of our members whilst paragliding in Spain, when Geoff Moses fell and badly injured his back. I am pleased to report that last I heard he is well on the way to making a full recovery.

Earlier this year we made some modifications to our site rules for Bridlington to help counter the criticism received from a member of the public. I think we were fortunate that the complainant came to us, and not the Foreshore Committee or the police. As we stressed at the time, it is in all our interests to fly as responsibly and safely as possible, particularly when the public are in the vicinity. We must not give them ammunition to use against us!

Also on site rules, we have issued reminders to always close the access gate at Millington, and to pilots who fly there to provide a photo of their wing for the landowner. We also issued a site guide update for pilots flying Speeton. There have been no further meetings with the RSPB or Natural England over Speeton, and since 'no news is good news' if we give no cause for complaint I don't foresee any more problems such as we had there a couple of years ago, which could well have lost us the freedom to fly not only at Speeton, but large parts of the coastline controlled by Natural England. The updated Site Guide has now been published.

Although a proposed 2017 Summer club flying holiday subsidised unfortunately never materialised (the person who volunteered to organise it didn't) there have been some positive club activities this year. In March we enjoyed a fascinating presentation on Airwhere, set up by Richard Shirt and delivered by Pete Logan. In August we had our

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club BBQ, this year at Reighton, where we coupled it with a site tidy-up. The intention was to try to involve more of those pilots who use our coastal sites or live nearby but don't often make it to the meetings. The BBQ was very well attended and worked well - thanks to Sue B for all her work in preparing it.

A summer highlight for me personally was an August day at Malton Primary School where I represented the club at their 'Aviation Week'. I gave a talk on Sir George Cayley to the school and took a hang-glider kindly loaned by Ian Currer. It was a magical day with the children, and members of York Flying Club had a microlight on show and put on demonstrations of acrobatic helicopter flying and arranged a fly-past over the school by seven aircraft. A day to remember.

In October the club hosted a Coaching Course at Pocklington Flying Club. It was attended by 26 pilots from all over the North of England and was a great success. Many thanks to Dominic Curran for organising that. In November (postponed from May) we had an excellent presentation on the BHPA by Ian Currer, long-time paragliding guru and now full time employee of the association as a Technical Officer, which illuminated much of the work they do for us. In December we had a well attended club Christmas Dinner at the Carpenter's Arms in Fangfoss. And in early January 2018 we had a very enjoyable club walk in the Wolds, winding up at The Gait, Millington for an excellent dinner. Thanks go to Harry Postill for organising that. Since Christmas we have distributed gifts to various landowners as usual, paid the annual fee for our flying licence at Horcum, and renewed our annual legal agreement with the landowner at Millington. I want to thank Jez Smith for liaising with the national park Authority over Horcum, and Andy Berzins for his work with several landowners including at Sutton Bank (which currently remains closed). Thanks also to Andy for giving up his time to help coach people for the Pilot's exam, and invigilate it. Thanks to Richard Shirt for the work he's put with the club website, social media as well as planning flying competitions and the photo comp. Thanks to Sue Berzins for all her work as membership Secretary, and to Richard Sewell who's acted as Vice Chairman and is always supportive of the club. And a warm welcome to new members David Parreyman and Tracey Nicholls who, without any arm-twisting, volunteered to take the minutes for this meeting.

As well as flying our own sites throughout the year members of our club, individually and in small groups, have flown all over the north of England and Derbyshire and in Spain, France, Italy and elsewhere. Most of us have enjoyed some brilliant flying days. I know I have. On a good day there is absolutely nothing to compare with paragliding. Looking ahead to what 2018 may hold in store for the Cayley Club: we may have speakers and club outings, a club holiday and competitions. A club bbq is pencilled in for August and in September we're intending to participate, as a club, in the fancy dress fly-down at St Hilaire. We welcome suggestions for club activities and events, especially from members willing to come forward to plan and organise them. Dominic Curran has already represented the club at the BHPA Trainers

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conference in February 2018 and we hope he will be at the Instructor/ Senior Coach Course in April. Ed Cleasby of the Cumbria Club is proposing a Northern Challenge Cup in 2018, open to all paragliding clubs in the North, that looks like something Cayley members can be involved in.

The purpose of the Cayley Club is to promote and protect paragliding in East Yorkshire, that's all it's for, that's what we do. We may not always succeed, but that's what we try to do. As well as looking out for ourselves and visiting pilots, I believe it is important for the club to represent paragliding responsibly to the public. It may be regarded as an extreme sport, potentially dangerous, but it is in all our interests to encourage pilots to be as safe and responsible as possible.

One of the first things I did when I took over as Chairman three years ago was to write and issue this little leaflet which contains some info about the Club, contact details of club officers and coaches and advice to people thinking of taking up the sport. As we know paragliding is easy to learn, and really easy to get totally out of your depth. I strongly believe that we must give out responsible advice that helps to keep pilots safe, both experienced and beginners.

We have a member - an ex member now apparently - who boasts that he taught himself to fly, has never had any formal training, flies ten year old wings bought off eBay and won't take advice from anybody. I have absolutely no problem with any individual who decides to take risks that affect only himself, but to my mind that man is giving out a message that is not only foolish but potentially very dangerous. If some kid who wants to learn to fly hears him and thinks, 'If he can do it like that, so can I', the consequences could be disastrous.

I firmly believe that the club environment, under the auspices of the BHPA, is the best way for the interests of all paragliders to be promoted and protected. The club provides the best environment to make our flying activities possible on our local sites and as safe as it can be, now and into the future. The backing of the BHPA gives us support and a collective influence far greater than any individual could ever have. I know that the vast majority of people in this club, and in other clubs all over the country, feel the same way. I am proud to be Chairman of this excellent little club and although I am prepared to carry on at least for one more year, if re-elected, I would be more than pleased to stand aside and let somebody else take over.

I hope you can recognise from what I've said here that the club does a great deal of valuable work, but we are a very small club and consequently have only a very small number of people to call on. All the work of the club is done by a very few people, all of them volunteers, all with lots of other pulls on their time. It is open to every single club member to get involved and make a positive contribution. In these litigious times one bad incident involving a member of the public and a pilot - whether that pilot is a club or BHPA member or not - could screw it up for all of us. The club, and the future of paragliding, depends on you, in fact it is YOU!

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Election of 2018 Committee

Chair taken by Harry Postill as the Club Chairman and Committee resign. Harry heads the meeting to elect new Committee.

The 2018 Committee is unanimously elected as follows:

Chairman – Tony Dew

Treasurer - David Perryman with Suzanne Berzins

Webmaster & Competitions – Richard Shirt except Horcum which Suzanne B will do

Membership Secretary – Suzanne Berzins

Other Matters

Club Coaches

Sue B. said the Club needs two senior club coaches. Andy B. not being available as much, Dominic had shown interest in being senior coach. Ian Currer said needed to attend the 3-day course at a cost of GBP 220 plus travel costs. Jez Smith proposed and David Perryman seconded that if Dominic prepared to commit, the Club pay the course fees and related travel costs. Sue said she would discuss with Dominic.

This decision was unanimously approved. Dominic has, since, agreed to the Club's proposal.

Tony Dew raised question as to whether all those currently on club coach list wish to remain on the list. Sue said she had received the ok from all on the list and that Geoff Moses would also like to be considered.

Club Meeting Dates 2018

It was agreed to fill in as the year went on.

Site Updates

Mappleton – Jez Smith said insurance company in Mappleton happy to promote paragliding (photos etc.). Suzanne B mentioned that the landowner was possibly considering letting the club use the strip of land to the left of current launch. Meeting with landowner taking place in two weeks with Jez and Sue.

Bridlington – In the case where problems are caused by a pilot who is not a member of the club, the lawyers go for the Council. The council then has to foot the bill and there is the possibility that the site will then be closed down.

Richard Shirt said had met with Tourguide / photographer of Bridlington and had wanted to publish photographs of the paragliding there.

Atwick – small site at caravan site possibly – paragliding a good attraction for them too.

Reciprocal Rights

There was a discussion of access to our sites and it is generally agreed that the club should welcome all pilots to our sites and encourage them to join us and follow site rules.

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Club Outings / Holidays

Tony Dew asked if anyone would like to take this on – rent a house/cottage in lake district or elsewhere. Sue B. said wouldn't mind organizing it – had idea re Fire Brigade benevolent fund.

Motion to alter Club Constitution

A motion was proposed by Sue B and Harry Postill seconded to alter item 3 of the Club Constitution to read as follows :

“The object of the Club shall be to promote the sports of paragliding and hang gliding in East Yorkshire and surrounding areas, and to safeguard the interests free flying to ensure that the sports are conducted as freely, safely and responsibly as possible.”

It was unanimously agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10 PM.

If you would like clarification of anything in these minutes, please contact Tony Dew.

Fly High and Land Safely!

Anthony Dew
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