

Sir George Cayley Paragliding Club

Meeting Minutes for: AGM – 19th February 2020



Members Attended:

Suzie Berzins, Tony Dew, Richard Shirt, Don Bodill, Nikki Bodill, Robin Scott, Lucaz Zawol, Harry Postill, Rich Penny, Ian Currer, Jason Perry, Dominic Curran, Geoff Moses, Peter Finnis, Graham Mcanny, Chad Bradley, Richard Sewell, Arved Schwendel

Members Apologies:

Jez Smith, Jonathan Hutton, Shane Nutter and Andy Berzins

Actions from Previous Meeting:

None. It was agreed that it was a true record.

Safety officer Report – Andy Berzins - (Read by Tony Dew on his behalf)

In 2019 a UK pilot lost his life, after losing height gradually while soaring sea cliffs where there was nowhere to land at the cliff base.

I witnessed an incident recently at Bridlington where a pilot had to make a downwind landing on cobbles due to being unable to turn into wind to land, as the turn would have most probably put him in the sea, because he left it too late to make the turn, instead, he tried for too long to get above the cliff height.

The coast is dangerous!! It is NOT the place to learn how to fly close to the terrain in light winds. I would urge everyone to try and discuss the dangers with pilots new to coastal flying, and where possible try to “talk them out” of flying when conditions are too light or too strong. It’s a fine line between enjoying the air and tragedy!

I would like to remind pilots of Spring Thermals and to get their kit checked over. If you are a little rusty go and ground handle somewhere or better still enrol on a ground handling session.

Comment from Geoff Mosses on the importance, not to presume visiting pilots are accustomed to coastal flying just because they are experienced pilots.

Andy Berzins has been studying proposed changes to the National Airspace following a C.A.A consultation where clubs and individuals can comment on Areas of Airspace that effects our flying. He would like to reassure members that there are no issues that impact on flying in our club's area.

Andy therefore has made no suggestions to change any Airspace on our club's behalf.

Reighton

The manager, Jonathan Dodds at Reighton Sands campsite is happy for us to continue as usual at the top take-off. He is looking forwards to his Tandem flight in the Lakes later in the year.

Usual rules apply to this site.

Sutton Bank

After meeting up with the new landowners of Garbutt Farm whose land is behind the take-off area, we have come to an agreement that we can land here but under strict rules.

1. Not to land in any field with horses in.
2. Not to fly there in lambing season. (Dates will be agreed and put on our site guide)
3. We can land in the fields once the lambing season is closed.
4. We must make sure the horses and sheep see us inflate our wings before we attempt to fly.
5. At present you will have to call at the farm to ask if there are any issues. Hopefully we will be able to ring them in the future or email to confirm.
6. This site is members only and Pilot rated. This is a very sensitive site.
7. There is no bottom landing available at present.
8. There are two benches at take-off now but still a good area for one wing to take-off.
9. Also beware of the electric fence at the back.

Sutton Bank – Harry Postill confirmed that the launch and landing were owned by different people.

Dominic queried the legal issue of permission to take off from landowner. It is only a site to fly XC. Be discrete and don't hang about over launch.

Horcum

We have a new permit, provided by the National Parks authority for this site which members will need to show if asked by the park wardens.

If you fly this site, please ask for a card off Suzie Berzins.

Andy and Suzie met up with the new officer (Ami Hudson) who is dealing with this site. She is keen to have a tandem flight this year so Andy will keep her posted.

They also asked her if it was possible to fly other areas of Horcum including Levisham and the west facing side in front of the carpark.

She was asked if we would send the proposal with maps etc to her for discussions. Our sites officer Jez Smith will undertake this task and keep us informed.

This will probably take place after May when the new Executive start there. We have been told he is very open to change. "A breath of fresh air".

There was some discussion as to the pros and cons of the site. The only real potential is when the wind is in a southerly direction.

Atwick

Negotiations with the caravan site is going well. We are hoping to soon have this as a site. We will have to advertise his campsite on our website (using a link perhaps) as a condition. This site offers a nice coastal run down to Hornsea and North towards Fraisthorpe.

Mappleton

There have been extreme changes to our coastal cliff at Mappleton, with a large cliff fall next to the carpark which makes it a bit tricky.

A new fence has been erected at the top of the take-off slope we normally launch from, again making things more technical. Pilots will need good skill levels to fly here safely, especially as the boulder at the base of the slope are quite big and potentially leg breakers.

Pilots are reminded they should not launch from cropped fields to the south of the carpark.

Bridlington

We have a Kite Festival in May at Sewerby and we have been asked not to fly. Dates have been put on the updated website.

Filey

No change

Speeton

Still ongoing

Millington

Larry and Mo are happy for us to continue flying here. Larry has asked if we would have a clean-up of the gorse. Andy Berzins to contact Larry to find out which parts need doing. Rich Plumber will supply the chemicals to spray first. All photos for Millington are up to date.

Chief Coach Report – Andy Berzins – (Read by Suzie Berzins on his behalf)

We are extremely fortunate to have Dominic Curran on board as a Senior Club Coach. He along with Richard Shirt have achieved some great results in the last year helping many pilots improve their skills. I would like to thank them for all their hard work.

Dominic and Andy attended the BHPA trainers conference last year and will do so again in March. I would like to officially welcome Nicky Baxter to the coaching team and would add that he is also joining us at the conference. If anyone has anything to bring up at the conference please contact either Dominic or Andy.

There will be a number of events this year for coaching and study sessions, also talks for pilots wanting to take exams or just for a refresher.

We will have a 'coach trip' where club coaches will be expected to attend where possible to look at coaching points for specific sites in the club's area.

Dominic is looking into the possibility of us having a 'first aid' day aimed specifically at flying related problems. I hope the club coaches will all become involved in this.

Club coaches who do not get the opportunities to do any coaching might want to consider joining Dominic on his coaching days,

I'm sure they would gain from seeing what goes on there.

I feel as a group, we as coaches should explore ways to improve "decision making" as well as skills, as it is more often the case that bad decisions, rather than lack of ability, causes accidents.

Thank you for your commitment coaches, and please continue to try and improve your own and others, safe flying.

Dominic Curran added his report:

1. Updates

- Nicky Baxter is a new Cayley coach
- The WhatsApp coaching group is now up and running

2. Events

- Trainer's conference is on March 6 & 7th
- Zipline event is in Cumbria on March 15th
- DHPC/SGCSC Club coaching event is being considered for Nov 2020
- Coaching sessions will be available on request throughout the year:
 - Indoor SIV
 - Ground handling (Bridlington & York)
 - Pilot & Advanced Pilot theory sessions

3. The Coaching group idea

Richard Shirt and I have been looking after two coaching groups, one is a CP to P group; the other a P to AP group. Both groups contain 5 pilots each. We have been running, and plan to run:

- Practical coaching sessions on thermalling, Pilot tasks, AP tasks, xc flights and ground handling.
- Theory sessions on Thermalling, Mountain flying, Air Law & Navigation, Principles of flight, Meteorology, plus Pilot & Advance Pilot exam revision.
- Coaching holidays - last year we ran a coaching trip to Annecy for 5 CP to P pilots. This year we will run another trip to Annecy for the CP to P group and the P to AP group. We will also have a group of experienced pilots who would like an intro to Annecy with XC flying

4. Lessons we have learnt from the coaching group

- They are very effective
- Best if there is a main event to focus on (Annecy)
- Everything before the event is preparation for the event
- Annecy is very effective controlled environment to complete P & AP tasks
- Theory sessions and P/AP exams can happen when we're back
- In the team environment, everyone contributes and motivates each other to succeed.

Trainers Conference – any issues anyone wants addressing please contact Andy or Dominic.

A First Aid course primarily dealing in paragliding accident scenarios was requested.

Action: ask Tim Rood if anyone from his organisation can help.

Geoff Mosses confirmed the usefulness of coach site meetings.

SB offered a venue for an indoor SIV event. She said that she had already benefitted from these theory exercises when flying.

Treasurers Report:

It was confirmed and agreed the accounts for the year are ok. No other discussion was needed.

Webmaster Report:

Most hits from UK, USA then Russia.

Facebook has 139 members.

Competitions Report:

No Horcum Hop last year
Highest Cayley Pilot – Gary Senior 476 ft
Longest Coastal XC – Steve Charlesworth
Coupe de Brid – No entries
Longest XC – No entries

No winners were at the meeting, GM took small Eagle trophy to give to winner and will repair it first.

It was confirmed that the trophies were for the following:

Big eagle – furthest XC flight
Glass trophy – Horcum dash
Small Eagle – Coastal XC
Highest gain- trophy missing

Chairperson Report: - Suzie Berzins

2019 was a poor year flying for me due to weather conditions and house building commitments. Although not much flying in the UK I enjoyed a trip away to Tenerife in the January and ten days in France.

The club enjoyed a walk in the January, organised by Harry Postill. Unfortunately, this year's walk was cancelled due to Ciara sending wind, rain and hail our way. We decided to spend the time in the Gait Inn with a Sunday lunch and chatter. Thankyou Harry for organising.

A big thank you to those who have helped with the beach clean ups along our coast last year. Please look out for up and coming beach cleans this year.

The club would like to thank Dominic Curran for all his hard work in 2019, organising ground handling session, indoor SIV's, club pilot and advance pilot sessions, coaching and holidays abroad, also to all the other pilots who have helped along the way.

Thank you to all our club coaches who have guided pilots along our coastline. We are fortunate to have some very experienced and knowledgeable ones.

Lastly, thank you to all the committee members for their efforts running the club, socially as well as guiding me along the way. To Tony Dew for the last-minute stand in talk for the Young Farmers. This club would not run without people like yourselves and I look forward to a great year.

THE COMMITTEE RESIGNED AT THIS POINT

Election of officers taken by Harry Postill

There was a vote of thanks for all those who had fulfilled roles over the last year and also to the members for their support.

New officers

Club Chairperson – Suzie Berzins

Vice Chairperson – Tony Dew

Membership Secretary/ Treasurer – Nikki Bodill/ Suzie Berzins (shared role)

Webmaster – Richard Penny

Competitions – Richard Shirt/ Geoff Moses

Safety Officer – Andy Berzins

Chief Coach – Andy Berzins

Senior Club Coach – Dominic Curran

Club Coaches – No election needed as they are all qualified club coaches.

Action: Sue to update list from new members and give to DC for WhatsApp group

Sites Officers – Jez, Andy, Sue, Tony

All officers were voted by a show of hands, Dominic Curran did express his frustration at only one Chief coach being able to sign paperwork. Action: Ian Curren to check with BHPA office to see if there is a solution. DC to also bring this matter up at Trainers conference.

Constitution:

It was felt that there was no need to vote for a separate executive committee as the committee was an elected one and this meets the requirements set out in the constitution.

Change of Club Name:

This created some confusion.

It was merely an attempt to optimise our search engine hits as people looking for paragliding in East Yorkshire would not necessarily search for the Sir George Cayley Sailwing Club.

No plans to change name of club.

Updated Website:

Presented by Richard Penny

The logo has been revised – new colour and no face of George Cayley

Ways to optimise our search engine hits were discussed

Several members felt that it was important to retain the link to Sir George Cayley

Members voted to go ahead with the new look website with the following actions or additions:

Tony Dew volunteered to write the introduction on the homepage (200 words) – include link to George Cayley and reference paragliding in East Yorkshire

Suzie to look into being able to sign a direct debit mandate along with the online membership form.

RP to add "Just 3 words" to sites info

Sites safety officer to check details of Hole of Horcum site for website, especially regarding NE take off.

Bombing range information needed for Mappleton

Notam link to be added

Link to Pilot development Scheme to be added

It was agreed that the minutes of meetings are to go on website

Action email to all members with website once it has gone live

Thanks were given to Richard Penny for his hard work.

AOB:

Congratulations to Rich Shirt for achieving advanced pilot

All coaches to be put on WhatsApp group

Club site contacts and coaches to individually let RP know if they are happy for their location and contact number to be included on the website.

Harry Postill asked if we could do a club night on how to download flights. There was also some discussion as to whether we could simplify entries to the competition eg: by claiming a distance and then verifying it by a print off of your flight.

Lots of suggestions for meetings and events. Check the website for dates.

Plan to do Horcum hop.

HP is planning a hike from Millington to Fangfoss

No meetings June/July

There will be a beach clean-up at Reighton and clean up at Millington

Meeting closed 10pm