



MINUTES OF SAC AGM, HELD ON 1 OCTOBER 2020, IN BLOEMFONTEIN

Present: Johnie Smith, Tertia Smith, Quintin Hawthorne, Machiel du Plessis, Warren Eva, Ingmar Bezuidenhout, Martin Redelinghuis, Dave Thomas, Eugene du Preez, Dane Laing, Jaco van Zyl, Johan van Zyl, Cliff Lotter, Ian Barron, Laszlo Liskay, Cindy Weber, Andrew Fletcher, Alewyn Burger, Conrad Botha, John Gaillard, Trevor Warner, Andrew Blackwood-Murray, Jurie Steyn, Wian du Plessis, Jonty Esser, Quentin Taylor, Tristan Eeles, Barrie Eeles, Glen Warden, Mark Hensman, Natalie Stark, Gary Glasson, Roger Deare, Markku Torppa, Jason Beamish, Philip Eloff, Nigel Hopkins, Kelly Mcauley, Helmut Ludwig.

Having constituted a quorum, the meeting commenced.

1. Welcome

The Chairman, Gary Glasson, asked Helm Ludwig to chair the meeting on his behalf. He duly welcomed everyone to the AGM, and thanked the members for attending.

2. Apologies

Annie Boon, Patrick Davidson, Kevin Rees, Wim Kotze, Steve Brown, Dustin Hughes. Three proxies were handed in.

3. Previous Minutes

Matters arising:

John noted that that there were two corrections to be made to last year's AGM minutes, as follows:

1. He mentioned that Brian Zeederberg was a 2 times world champion (Tiger Moth) and a member of honour of the SAC.
 2. Brian took the opportunity to thank everyone, and stated that he, Noel Otten and John Gaillard started the SAC from the Baragwaneth Aeroclub, 46 years ago (1974).
- The previous minutes were proposed by Laszlo seconded by Barrie.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Quintin Hawthorne, presented the Finance Report.

The Income Statement reflected a net expenditure of R58 000 for the year to June 2020, after investment income of R12 000. Expenses included the purchase of a video camera. Expenses relating to each contest (travel expenses for Judges & officials, accommodation if out of town, medals, paramedics, etc, all covered by the entry fees. There were also some carryover expenses from the prior year, and we also have not had much activity up until June this year. The funds on hand as at 30 June 2020 amounted to R450 000. A question was asked about the deposit at Ladysmith, and Quintin said we will request a refund, or a written commitment to use the deposit in the future. The Treasurers report was proposed by John Gaillard and seconded by Mark Hensman.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Gary Glasson, gave his reports as follows:

“I personally did not believe that a Nationals in 2020 was going to happen. As lockdown prevented all forms of recreation aviation, we ended up cancelling both the Eastern Cape and KZN Regional competitions. We decided to postpone Nationals to August and then to the end of September. When we realised a comp was possible, we first decided to gauge interest from our members (no point organising a Nationals for 5 guys). We were all amazed at the response which, to be honest, was unexpected! The committee gave Conrad Botha the green light to commence with planning to host what you see here today, an incredibly well attended and organised Nationals 2020! I would like to extend my thanks to Conrad Botha for not only the hard work required in organising an event of this nature, but also the never say die, let's make it happen attitude. I think he deserves a round of applause!

As you all know, 2020 had its challenges. Initially Covid lockdown regulations completely outlawed recreational aviation. As pilots and aircraft owners, we feared for both lack of currency/ proficiency and the continued serviceability of our aircraft, in particular their engines. Aeroclub & CAASA fought hard to get maintenance flights approved for Recreation Aviation. Although it was great to get back into the air again, monthly flights didn't do much to assure proficiency. An easing of lockdown allowed weekly proficiency flights to take place. Thanks mainly to our own Eugene du Preez, a flight authorisation system was designed and implemented by the Aeroclub that controlled the process. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Aeroclub for fighting to free up recreation aviation during this period. I can tell you, both Rob Jonkers and Marthinus Potgieter worked very hard for us off during this period.

The SAC committee had their share of challenges through the year, starting with the CAA audit of our ARO. This was the first CAA audit after the dissolution of RAASA. We ended the audit with 15 findings which needed addressing prior to our ARO Certificate being issued. Our Manual of Procedures required a major overhaul & working documents needed to be created and implemented. Thankfully, we managed to complete the required changes and have them approved just prior to the Swellendam competition last year. Other changes included the addition of an Emergency Response Plan, a revised Contest Directors Report & improved selection criterion for SAC instructors. Document & record protection & storage procedures were revised. Both are stored on Drop Box, information being accessible to all on the committee. Mr Glen Warden is revising student training procedures, together with instructor training guidelines, the latter, once implemented will be disseminated via annual instructor seminars. Thanks again for doing this for us Glen and we can't wait to see the end result. Recently, we drafted a new Code of Conduct (to be approved here today). We also intend updating our Constitution.

September this year saw another CAA audit of our MOP. We fared far better with the CAA arriving at four observations with no non-conformances. Our MOP required a few changes to meet the corrective action required due to these observations, but this did not affect the issuing of our certificate. I must thank the entire committee for the work put in to get the MOP up to standard. I must however single out one of our committee members in particular. Quintin Hawthorne put in massive amounts of work revising the MOP on more than one occasion. The CAA commented that we have one of the best interpreted (requirements derived from CAR PART 149) and implemented MOP's of all the ARO's. Thanks Q, it is appreciated! I would also like to thank the CAA's Claude Luthaga for his assistance in this regard.

To the committee that comes after this one, fear not, the hard work has now been done. It is important to ensure that the system is well maintained going forward.

Next up, aerobatic boxes. We were hoping to have Wings Park and Heidelberg aerobatic cylinders approved by now. For various reasons, mainly due to the lockdown, the approval has been delayed. I am however happy to report that submissions for both of these cylinders will be considered at the next NASCOM meeting, due to take place in November. I know Dusty and Adam are keen to get a competition organised for Heidelberg shortly after approval. Mitch and company down at Wings Park continue to get their airfield prepped and ready for next year's Eastern Cape Regionals. We hope to have the Western Cape submissions, namely Malmesbury, Swellendam and Delta 200, in for approval shortly. Once these cylinders are approved, the intention is to have a training camp down there to re-invigorate the area and hopefully get some new pilots involved in our sport. We also envisage the training of local judges which would free up the cost constraints of having regular competitions down there. Ingmar Bezuidenhout is hoping to get a box approved at Phalaborwa airfield. I am sure you will all agree, a winter comp in the Low Veld would be fantastic. We ask that all of our members support these initiatives by ensuring that they attend the competitions planned for these locations.

Kitty Hawk Aerobatic cylinder is under pressure from the local community who are citing noise and safety concerns. The committee, with assistance from the Aeroclub, is currently dealing with this issue which seems to be more of a general aviation problem. The Kitty Hawk boys are obviously very fond of their box and we intend doing everything necessary to maintain that privilege.

The committee reviews the viability of our aerobatic cylinders on an annual basis. Should a cylinder fail to meet requirements as contained in our MOP, it is removed. Richards Bay and Springs aerobatic cylinders come to mind. Those that have read through our MOP will notice that the list of approved cylinders has been removed. We ask that members consult the CAA AIP ENR 5.5.49 for the list of approved performance zones. Please note that unless a particular aerobatic cylinder is in regular use, please consult with the committee before utilising one, as there may be certain restrictions that have to be considered first.

At our last AGM, I outlined our objectives for the coming year. This basically revolved around grass roots growth and how we were going to achieve this. Training camps were organised throughout the year in the hopes of attracting pilots from the large RV fraternity in our country and its neighbours. We started in June 2019 with the Tzaneen training camp. We then moved on to Wings Park, East London, Swakopmund in Namibia, and then two training camps at Kitty Hawk, Pretoria (one just before and one just after lockdown). To get the word out to the general aviation population, we asked Garth Calitz at Flightline Weekly (www.flightlineweekly.com) to cover the events. Garth penned some terrific articles for us which no doubt brought interest to what we were doing.

The interest in these camps has been startling. Most camps were over-subscribed, in particular, the Kitty Hawk camps. Eugene probably has the numbers for this, but I am sure all of you have noticed the up swell in numbers of Sportsman and RV pilots at competitions over the last year. I count nine pilots at this event that are products of these camps and there are more that unfortunately could not attend this event. To all our new aerobatic pilots, thanks for giving it a go and welcome to this incredible sport!

Organisation of these events takes a monumental & time-consuming team effort! And there are many people on this team to thank.

Organisation: Eugene du Preez, Mark Hensman, Natalie Stark.

Instructors: Eugene du Preez, Bertus du Preez, Wim Kotze, Patrick Davidson, Mark Hensman, Nigel Hopkins, Barrie Eeles, Elton Bondi, Adam Puclowski, Trevor Warner, Glen Warden, Cliff Lotter.

It must be noted that all of our instructors offered assistance as and where required.

Judges: Quintin Hawthorne, John Gaillard, and Helm Ludwig, who was just too happy to get out of the Cape!

Publicity: Garth Calitz (Flightline Weekly), Andre Venter (Flightline Weekly), Stacey van Zyl (SAC Instagram and Facebook updates), Kayle Woole (SAC Facebook updates).

Going forward, we intend to continue with grass roots training camps. As already mentioned, we want to get down to the Western Cape. We also want to arrange a camp for pilots based in Kwazulu Natal. I personally can't wait to get back up to Tzaneen or perhaps Phalaborwa for another camp.

We have realised with all the focus on development at grass roots level, we have perhaps marginalised the training needs of our existing membership. In the year ahead, we envisage utilising the experience and skill set of our more experienced pilots and judges to improve your aerobatic flying. I am a firm advocate for incremental training. One camp a year seldom yields desired results. The plan is to arrange regular well-structured training camps as and where requested. More on this will follow in the next month or so.

To end, I would like to thank our committee for all the work put in over the past year. To all of our competitors I wish you an enjoyable and above all, safe competition. Thank you.

6. Election of Committee

In terms of our constitution, office bearers are elected for a three-year term to ensure continuity. The 2019/20 SAC Committee members were:

Gary Glasson (Chairman)
Eugene du Preez (Vice Chairman)
John Gaillard (Chief Judge)
Quintin Hawthorne (Treasurer)
Annie Boon (Secretary)
Barrie Eeles
Elton Bondi
Mark Hensman
Nigel Hopkins
Natalie Stark (Registrar)
Cliff Lotter (NW Representative)
Conrad Botha (Free State Representative)
Mike Stark (KZN Representative)
Helm Ludwig (WC Representative)

As per paragraph 11 of the SAC Constitution, the following members had to retire from service on the committee (after serving 3 consecutive years), but were automatically available for re-election: John Gaillard (Chief Judge), Quintin Hawthorne (Treasurer), Annie Boon (Secretary), Barrie Eeles, Mark Hensman, Nigel Hopkins, Elton Bondi, Cliff Lotter, Conrad Botha, Mike Stark, Helm Ludwig.

There were no new nominations to the committee, and as such, the committee as it stands, is the committee for the following year.

The 2020/21 SAC committee are:

Chairman: Gary Glasson
Vice Chairman: Eugene du Preez
Secretary: Annie Boon
Treasurer: Quintin Hawthorne
Chief Judge: John Gaillard
Members: Elton Bondi
Mark Hensman
Barrie Eeles
Nigel Hopkins
W/Cape Rep: Helm Ludwig
NW Rep: Cliff Lotter
FS Rep: Conrad Botha
KZN Rep: Mike Stark
Registrar: Natalie Stark

7. Changes to our Constitution

Helm requested that we hold off this discussion, as we are currently revising the Constitution.

8. Rules for pilots reverting to lower competition classes

John Gaillard said that we potentially had a situation, where we had pilots who had previously competed in Unlimited, that were entering in lower classes. The new rule allows for a pilot to enter a contest in a lower category, but it will be at the discretion of the Contest Director and the Chief Judge to decide whether the entry would be accepted as an H/C competitor. It has to remain flexible, depending on how long ago the pilot has flown in the higher class, and what type of aircraft he intends competing in, in the lower class. The decision has to be taken on merit, and the wording has been amended to reflect this.

9. CIVA Report

John Gaillard, our CIVA representative, updated us on the situation at CIVA. He said that the Civa meeting held in the UK in November last year was a bit of a disaster for South Africa. We went prepared to bid for the Advanced World Championship, to be held in Phalaborwa. The rules at Civa state that every fourth year in a series in a competition is held outside of Europe. We had in writing from the President of Civa, as well as from the Rules Committee Chairman. Our bid was well accepted, and then the Chairman opened it up for other bids. Unexpectedly, the Czech Republic stepped in and made a bid, and it was voted on, and it went to the Czech Republic instead. John raised it again under "General", and we had support from countries like Australia, Canada and various other people, but the decision stayed. Subsequently our Chairman wrote to our Aeroclub, who have now taken this up with the FAI. Unfortunately they have not replied to us at all, and we are now re-raising it with the FAI, as to why they are not even acknowledging a letter from South Africa. John had communication from Civa last week, and as it stands, they have extended all competitions that would have happened internationally this year, and they will take place next year. This includes all the judges and officials that would have been in place, will be used again next year. John said we are not letting this go with the FAI, we will raise it again, and it goes a lot further, because the FAI are insisting that all Aeroclubs pay their fees even though there's Covid, etc. As the treasurer of the Aero club, John said that they might re-look at the way they reorganise the Aeroclub, and they might reduce their fees to the FAI, to an absolute minimum, on the basis that if they can't support or follow their own rules, then why should we pay huge amounts of money to them. We will insist that FAI reply to us, but John can't promise that they will change their minds about AWAC next year. Let's see if they accept our objections or not.

Helm asked if we would be sending a team next year to AWAC, and John responded that they had asked if officials would be prepared to stand for next year and we said yes, but they have not announced if there will be a virtual Civa contest. We will just have to wait and watch this space. Gary asked if there was any chance we could have a World Aerobatic contest here in SA next year, and John replied that it was an “outside chance”.

10. ARO Status

Helm said there have been changes to our MOP. Please check on the website. The jet rating has been removed from our MOP, and there is an ongoing review of the approved aerobatic cylinders in our MOP.

The ARO has been renewed by the CAA until 30 September 2021 following the outcome of a successful audit earlier this year.

11. Disciplinary Action

Barrie Eeles reported on the outcome of a disciplinary hearing levelled against a club member. Neville Ferreira had been accused of bringing the club into disrepute when an email that he had addressed to the President of CIVA Nick Buckenham was brought to the committee’s attention. The email contained some serious accusations of impropriety actions by John Gaillard and other committee members. Following due process, Neville was asked to motivate these accusations while John was asked to provide evidence to refute his claims. Neville elected not to participate in the hearing while John did provide significant evidence to refute the claims. The disciplinary committee decided to withdraw Neville’s membership as a result. Helm also said it is the first time in our club’s history, that we have had to sanction a member.

11. Code of Conduct

Helm mentioned that a Code of Conduct had been adopted and was available on the website and he urged members to familiarise themselves with it.

12. General

Eugene wanted to thank Gary for his drive, commitment, effort, and passion, and that this is the reason why our club is growing.

With no further items for discussion, the meeting was closed.