



MINUTES OF SAC AGM, HELD ON 1 JULY 2021, IN VIA ZOOM

Present: Cliff Lotter, Quintin Hawthorne, Annie Boon, Elton Bondi, Dustin Hughes, Leigh Le Gonidec, Machiel du Plessis, Wian du Plessis, Warren Eva, Eugene du Preez, Laszlo Liskay, Andrew Fletcher, John Gaillard, Trevor Warner, Andrew Blackwood-Murray, Barrie Eeles, Mark Hensman, Natalie Stark, Mike Stark, Gary Glasson, Roger Deare, Jason Beamish, Nigel Hopkins, Helmut Ludwig, Mitch Hill, Darren Hanner, Kayle Wooll, Ian Beaton, Wim Kotze, Philip Eloff, Jaco van Zyl, Mark Sampson, Tristan Eeles, Quentin Taylor, De Villiers Visser, Martyn Redelinghuys.

Having constituted a quorum, the meeting commenced.

1. Welcome

The Chairman, Gary Glasson, asked Annie Boon to chair the meeting on his behalf. She duly welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked the members for attending.

2. Apologies

Ivan van der Schaar, Patrick Davidson, Markku Torppa, Alewyn Burger, Ingmar Bezuidenhout, Glen Warden, Iain Fergusson, Gareth Gill. Eight proxies were handed in.

3. Previous Minutes

The previous minutes were proposed by Cliff Lotter and seconded by Dustin Hughes.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Quintin Hawthorne, presented the Finance Report.

He noted that there had been almost 2 years of interruption in our sport owing to Covid, and that this has affected our income and expenditure. The Income Statement reflected a total income of R230 222, and total expenditure of R159 176, leaving a net income of R71 045 for the year to June 2021. The funds on hand as at 30 June 2021 amounted to R466 573. The Treasurers report was proposed by John Gaillard and seconded by Annie Boon.

5. Chairman's Report

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

“About three weeks ago the committee were once again faced with having to make a decision on whether to postpone our Nationals. Covid 3rd wave was well under way with a daily infection rate of around 10 000. After reviewing the stats available, attempting to predict where we were going to be at the end of June, discussing the pros and cons of a possible postponement, the committee felt it was in the best interests of all those concerned to postpone. At that point time our government was not forcing our hand by imposing the sort of restrictions the 3rd should have warranted. This made our decision rather controversial as there was really nothing from government stopping us proceeding with the event. By all accounts the 3rd wave is far more severe than the first two. The Delta variant of this virus being more contagious and deadly than those previous to it. The sport of competition aerobatics is

essentially a game, one that we take very seriously, but a game none the less. No life is worth risking for a game and the decision taken was therefore appropriate. With hindsight now available, it has also been proven to be the correct decision. I would like to express our empathy with Ingmar and his team as well as all our pilots that have put time and money into practice to peak at this point in time. If it is of any consolation, Ingmar has promised an even bigger and better event in August.

At the first sitting of the committee, this occurs straight after the AGM, we decide on certain goals and objectives for the forthcoming year. It generally includes all our key focus areas from growth of the sport, finance, safety and oversight. From these objectives, I would like to single out club growth, detailing the gains made and explain the challenges faced, some of which are rather concerning. At last year's meeting we chose to continue with grass roots development as well as assisting with the creation of new aerobatic regions in order to bolster our membership numbers. I am of the belief that the implementation of these objectives would have seen the club grow significantly had it not been for Covid. The financial impact and the restrictions it imposed on international travel have side lined many of our current members. Our efforts have therefore only allowed us to maintain our present membership numbers. Growth is looking unlikely until we rid ourselves of Covid. I look forward to the day when international travel returns to normal and our airline boys sitting in places like Hong Kong and Dubai are able to travel back to SA with ease once again. When the financial stress caused by this pandemic is in the past. At times like these, you seek to compare yourself to others going through the same challenges. A reasonable comparison may be drawn between our membership and that of our Aeroclub. It is probably not fair to draw this comparison as there are so many dynamics at play, but it is interesting to note that over the past 5 years, we have remained stable while the Aeroclub has experienced a steady decline, loosing approximately half its membership. I must however add that the Aeroclub, under superb current leadership has begun to turn their ship around.

As said, one of our objectives was to establish new aerobatic areas within our country. To this end, the Eastern Cape (Wings Park) and Limpopo (Phalaborwa) provinces have now been added to what we hope will be a growing list. Kayle Wooll & Jason Beamish are in the early stages of their attempt to establish an aerobatic box at Warmbaths airfield.

The Western Cape has its challenges, but we hope to see boxes in practical locations there soon. We are likely to see Leigh Le Gonidec take over from where Helm left off with this project. There is a fantastic source of pilots and sport planes down there, which we need to tap into. Once the Western Cape boxes are established, training camps for pilots and judges alike can be arranged through the club.

We trust that the existence of these boxes together with the energy and passion from resident aerobatic pilots will create the essential awareness we need to pull new pilots into the game.

Our ability to secure new aerobatic boxes is paramount to the survival of our sport. As we experience significant urban growth around existing airfields, our own box application requirements have become rather difficult to meet, let alone the new challenges faced with regard to airspace approvals. It has also become a challenge to hold onto the boxes we already have. Municipal airfields are no longer being adequately maintained or protected. The writing is on the wall for some of these airfields and so also the aerobatic boxes that exist there. One must also bear in mind that once the area under a box is populated by formal or informal settlements, that we have no choice but to close it.

At this moment in time not one new application will be entertained even though we meet the current requirements for a successful submission. These include previously submitted applications from Heidelberg, Phalaborwa and Wings Park. There are new airspace control requirements that need to be defined and implemented first. The committee are in the process of engaging with roll players to get this finalised as soon as possible. I firmly believe there is a practical solution that ensures control of the environment making it safe for all. The term "practical" in "practical solution" is important. Anything too onerous will kill our sport. For those of you that want to apply for a box at your airfield, please don't halt work on your application. We are hoping to have this resolved in the next few months. To sum up, this is

most definitely the priority challenge for the next committee. I am sure it will be given the urgent attention that it deserves.

Staying on the subject of boxes, protect the privilege! Oversight of our boxes is as important as ever. Noise complaints, complaints regarding hot dogging and complaints related to low level aerobatics often reaches the CAA. A study conducted by the CAA, using Kittyhawk as the test case, found that the errant pilots were not SAC members. Generally, they are pilots who don't understand that the box is there for the use of paid-up members of the SAC and Aeroclub with existing aerobatic ratings. They use it as their own playground. We ask our members to pull these pilots aside and have a chat. Invite them to a training camp, explain the perks of an Aerobatic rating and get them involved. If they continue to cause a nuisance, please report them to your regional representative. Allowing it to carry on puts a question mark on the continued existence of the box at your airfield.

When our members use the box, professionalism must be maintained. There are always eyes watching, cell phone in hand waiting to take that picture or video. The risk of losing the privilege of a box is just too great.

While we are on the subject, should your airport manager notify you of noise complaints from neighbours, don't shrug them off. If not addressed, those same neighbours end up elevating the concern to the CAA. It becomes more difficult to control at that point. Instead, attempt to engage with the neighbours to find solutions that both parties can live with. At Kittyhawk for instance, we do not allow aerobatic flight on Sundays.

Please remember we share the sky with others in the often-cramped environment of an airfield. Ensure there is always someone on the ground looking out and advising of other traffic. This aspect is most important at airfields with newly established aerobatic boxes where inbound pilots may not necessarily know that the airfield has an aerobatic area.

Competitions, camps & other events –

Anybody that attended the Eastern Cape Regionals at Wings Park I am sure will agree that it ranks with the best events on the calendar. With that event, the boys at Wings Park have certainly cemented their position on the competition calendar! It was an incredibly well organised event with an exceptional location. Not to be outdone, I am sure Ingmar will be just as eager to show us what Phalaborwa has to offer when we are up there for Nationals in a little under two months!

Talking about Nationals, a decision taken by the committee saw Nationals move from Tempe to Phalaborwa. As you may know, we wanted to couple an Airshow to the Tempe event as we have done in the past. Not only does it add great fun to the event, but also sees some of the monies raised going to the SAC and the local flying community. At the time of this committee meeting, the 3rd wave was imminent and there was little to no chance of a public gathering of that size being allowed. We decided to postpone Nationals at Tempe so that when the time was right for an air show, we would have not exhausted the venue. We are hoping that by this time next year, an event of this nature can take place once again.

With delays due to the 2nd wave and a fairly busy competition calendar, we only managed a single grass roots training camp. The event took place at Kittyhawk in May and was once again a fantastic success. We do however seem to have a disconnect in this area. We have a large number of pilots keen to participate time and again in our training camps, but not many transitioning into the competition environment. One for the new committee to perhaps analyse. My hope is that these training camps continue. They are very popular, create essential awareness of our sport and produce better, safer pilots.

A competition aerobatics exhibition was organised by Elton Bondi and Quintin Hawthorne that took place at the Aeroclub Centenary event held at Middleburg Airfield in April. Aply assisted by of some of our finest pilots, the event was declared a great success creating awareness of our sport amongst the GA community. We trust that this effort will be rewarded with new members at some point in the near future.

With all the uncertainty Covid has produced, training camps for the higher classes, which was one of our objectives for the measured year, did not occur. That said, our aerobatic hub airfields e.g., FAVV and FAKT have training on most weekends that any member is welcome to attend. I am quite sure our formalised advanced training camps will return once international competition kicks back in and we are able travel once again.

As you are aware, we will be voting this evening on the step-down rule. A rather contentious issue to say the least. One positive that came from these discussions is the possible formation of a competition class for pilots that have reached the pinnacle of their aerobatic careers, who want to start taking it easier. What we have found is that these pilots prefer to step away from the sport instead of stepping down which is concerning. Elton Bondi has suggested a new competition class, a Master's Class, for want of a better word. With this class we possibly not only retain our existing pilots for longer but may also entice some previous members back to the game. It is still in the concept phase, and I hope that the new committee will see this one through to fruition!

John Gaillard has been putting in a lot of effort to secure the Skybolt for aerobatic training. A great solution for pilots without access to aerobatic aircraft. I am quite sure we could pick up a good number of new members once we have access to this aircraft.

As you know by now, I could talk for hours, but both Mike and Machiel have sworn to inflict great bodily harm should I pass the 15-minute mark. Eugene and I will be stepping away from the committee and I would like to get a few words of thanks in before wrapping things up.

To the members of this committee. We faced many challenges over the past 2 years together. Hard work, selflessness and dedication to the club from each of you saw us navigate our way past every obstacle, and there were many! It was an absolute pleasure working with every one of you. I therefore say thank you to Eugene du Preez, Quintin Hawthorne, John Gaillard, Annie Boon, Elton Bondi, Cliff Lotter, Natalie Stark, Mike Stark, Mark Hensman, Helm Ludwig, Nigel Hopkins, Barrie Eeles, Warren Eva, Dustin Hughes and Conrad Botha.

A special mention must go to Eugene du Preez, our Vice Chairman who quite literally shared 50% of the leadership role with me. Thanks mate! There's a peri- peri chicken and a beer waiting for you at Machics. You can tell your wife she can have you back now!

Next a big thank you to all the instructors, judges, organisers and other responsible persons that assisted in the seven training camps and ten competitions we had over the two-year period. We appreciate the time & sacrifice put into these events.

Lastly, thanks must go to all the aviation publication platforms that ran articles on our competitions, camps and other events. Particular recognition must go to Garth Calitz from Flight Line Weekly for allowing us to use his publication to promote our incredible sport to the wider general aviation community.

To the next committee, good luck! You will have your fair share of challenges which I am certain you will overcome! To Ingmar, thanks for your efforts so far. We can't wait for Nationals 2021 Phalaborwa! Hope to see all of you there soon!

Thank you for affording me your time and stay safe.

6. Chief Judges Report

John Gaillard gave us the Chief Judges report. He noted that it has been a good year for judges. They ran a seminar, and we now have new judges, Claire, Lecia and Nadine. As such we have almost halved the average age of our judges, and we now have a judging line of fifty percent female.

Internationally Quintin Hawthorne is ranked #1 Judge for Unlimited, and Johnnie Smith is ranked #1 judge for Intermediate. CIVA have asked John to still judge at Unlimited competitions, but unfortunately with the pandemic, this will not happen this year. John said that after the Nationals this year, he will be standing down as Chief Judge, as he can't beat what he has already done, both internationally and locally, and as such believes his job is done. In addition, he is involved with the Skybolt project, and it is his intention to fly the Skybolt in competitions, so it would not be appropriate for him to be judging any more.

On behalf of the committee, Annie thanked John for the amazing job he has done for us on the judging line over the past years

7. Election of Committee

In terms of our constitution, office bearers are elected for a three-year term to ensure continuity. The 2020/21 SAC Committee members were:

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
W/Cape Rep:	Helm Ludwig
NW Rep:	Cliff Lotter
FS Rep:	Conrad Botha
KZN Rep:	Mike Stark
Registrar:	Natalie Stark

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, Quintin Hawthorne, Annie Boon (Secretary), Mark Hensman, Elton Bondi, Cliff Lotter, Conrad Botha, Mike Stark, Helm Ludwig.

Then, Natalie Stark, Dustin Hughes and Warren Eva have also agreed to stay on the committee for another year. Unfortunately, Gary Glasson, Eugene du Preez and Conrad Botha have indicated that they can no longer serve on the committee.

There were a few new nominations to the committee, and this the committee for the following year:

The 2020/21 SAC committee are:

Cliff Lotter – Chairman & NW Rep

Dustin Hughes – Vice Chairman & Southern Gauteng Rep

Annie Boon - Secretary

Quintin Hawthorne – Chief Judge & Treasurer

John Gaillard – Compliance Officer & CIVA Rep

Natalie Stark – Registrar

Warren Eva – Northern Gauteng

Leigh Le Gonidec – WC Rep

Mitch Hill – EC Rep

Machiel du Plessis – FS Rep

Roger Deare – KZN Rep

Ingmar Bezuidenhout – Limpopo (Phalaborwa)

Kayle Woolle – Limpopo (Bela-bela)

Mike Stark

Elton Bondi

Mark Hensman

Helm Ludwig

8. CIVA Report

John Gaillard, our CIVA representative, updated us on the situation at CIVA. When we put in a bid for WC and it was rejected, there were various objections. Now the Czech Republic (who “won” the bid) have a problem because the organisers are fighting with the Czech Aeroclub, and they have refused to sign the contract with the FAI, so it has now been switched to Poland, a week later. This has annoyed the Americans, who have now withdrawn completely. They are also saying that CIVA are becoming Eurocentric, which is exactly what we have been saying for the last couple of years. The CIVA meeting this year should be interesting, because ourselves, the Americans, South Americans and probably the Australians and New Zealand will have objections to WAC being held in Europe again. None of our SA judges can go to Poland this year owing to the Pandemic. John also noted that the Advanced World Championship will be held next year in the USA, and we can possibly consider sending a strong team to that contest.

9. Changes to our Constitution

Helm gave a brief history of our Constitution. He originally wrote it in 2000, and it has undergone quite a few changes over time. It has served us well, and now Brian Hitchings has helped us to clean it up and make it current. Helm said it has been a real privilege to have done this over the years and he thanked Brian for his assistance. Helm asked if everyone was in agreement with the amended constitution. It was accepted and seconded, and Annie thanked Helm for all his hard work.

10. Rules for pilots reverting to lower competition classes

Annie mentioned that an email had been sent out to our members (twice) regarding different options for changing the rules for pilots stepping down a class. She handed over to Gary, who explained that we had been discussing the step down rule, and how best to handle it. The committee had come up with seven different options, after requesting input from all the members. Gary went through all the options. John said that when this rule arose in East London, it had been raised afterwards (and published a number of times) that the CD & CJ made an error in the way they handled this, in as much as they made a call to allow the pilot to participate. This is factually incorrect, as they were acting under the current rules (as per the

first proposal in the list of options). The pilot concerned was in the Sportsman Class as per our regulations, and there was no call to make. John said he just wanted to clear that up. Mitch said he felt that it should have been a secret ballot, as the pilots involved felt under pressure to make a call. John responded saying that if we had stuck to the rules, there was no voting to be done and that the entry was legal.

Gary then asked Trevor to explain to the members how the process would be conducted. After an explanation, Annie mentioned that there were a number of proxies, and asked how they would be handled in the electronic vote. It was decided that the proxies could send their votes to Annie via Whatsapp, and these would be added to the votes manually. Annie sent a list of all the WhatsApp votes to Trevor. The end result was that option number 7 was the most popular choice amongst our members. Gary noted that this was a decision now made by our members, not the committee, and that the rule would be revised accordingly at the next committee meeting.

11. General

Quintin wanted to acknowledge John for his role as Chief Judge for the past 30 years. Not only on the judging side, but John has also always taken a lead in things like the rule changes that affected the sport internationally, not only locally. He has found influence on many of the roles on the CIVA committee, also serving as the Vice President of CIVA for many years. The way judges are assessed locally and internationally, has much to do with John's role as head of the judging panel at CIVA. The ranking index, and the way judges are assessed, are all due to John's influence and his ideas. The hard zero versus a perceived zero was John's doing. The way contests are run now, John introduced the Q programme, which significantly reduced the duration of a World Championship. The way judges are trained and the way they are selected for duty at a World Championship, is largely due to John's influence. The review of hard zeros, with video conferencing, was also an idea that John came up with, and it has now become standard practice at most competitions. Quintin said John is a personal friend of his, and they have spent a lot of time at competitions overseas and locally, having many good times. He went on to say that John still has a lot to offer, with a wealth of experience, and he has always given his all to the sport. He is definitely appreciated in the sporting community at large. He has got big shoes to fill, and Quintin said he felt honoured to take over as Chief Judge from John, and he has high regard for what John has done and shown him over the years. He said he hoped that John would continue to be a part of the judging line, both locally and internationally. John thanked Quintin for his kind words. Elton added that John was a leading light in aerobatics, and that aerobatics in SA would not be where it is now, if it had not been for John.

Annie said, on behalf of the committee, she wanted to thank Gary Glasson and Eugene du Preez for the incredible job on the committee, and for the club, often going above and beyond the call of duty. They have spent an enormous amount of personal time, behind the scenes, and it is deeply appreciated. Elton added that in all the years he has been on the committee, he has never seen a year more challenging than this one, and Gary has done an amazing job throughout. Not only on the committee as the chairman, but also in growing the club, and all his effort and hard work.

Our newly elected Chairman, Cliff Lotter, thanked the members for their vote of confidence. He added that Gary and Eugene have done a sterling job, and they are going to be big shoes to fill. He once again thanked John for all he has done for our sport. Cliff also congratulated Quintin on taking on the role as Chief Judge. He said that there are plenty of challenges that

we face, but he hoped we could sort it all out and fly more competitions. He thanked the members again and added that he hopes he measures up.

Cliff also said a big thank you to Trevor Warner for setting up our first ever online AGM. He did an amazing job, not just on the night, but with all the setting up, planning and trial runs done in the weeks leading up to the AGM. Gary added that this is what Trevor does for a living now, and that he did not charge the SAC for this. He asked Trevor to tell us about his company. Trevor has started a company called Echelon Link, and it is about “technically” hosting webinars. For more information, the website is www.echelonlink.com

Trevor then added everyone’s screens to the meeting for a little community “gathering”. With much mirth, and with no further items for discussion, the meeting was closed.