



## **MINUTES OF SHPF COMMITTEE MEETING – EDINBURGH, 3 JULY 2008**

**Present:** Mike Jardine, George McGhee, Gordon Smyth, Naomi Miskin, Bob Veitch, David Thomson and Alistair Bowman

**Apologies:** Steve Durkin

### **Role of SHPF**

As this was the first meeting of the new committee the role of the SHPF was discussed and Alistair provided some background. The SHPF was originally set up to provide a central body to liaise with the Sports Council (now Sport Scotland) on behalf of the clubs. The general consensus was that the SHPF should support and promote the role of paragliding in Scotland; but can be whatever we make of it.

### **Membership**

The membership is all the Scottish paragliding clubs, including:

- LLSC
- Wingbeat
- SMPC
- Aberdeen
- Ochils
- Highland
- Flying Fever
- Aerotow

### **Committee**

The current (new) committee is:

- Chairman – Mike Jardine
- Secretary – Naomi Miskin
- Treasurer – Gordon Smyth
- Nationals Co-ordinator – George McGhee
- Sites & Safety – Steve Durkin
- Communications – Bob Veitch
- XC League – David Thomson
- HG Comps – Sergey

### Future Meeting Dates & Venues

It was decided to agree the meeting dates well in advance to give committee members and club reps notice to arrange their diaries in an attempt to maximise attendance. In order to encourage attendance from club reps it was agreed to try to hold meetings in different venues across Scotland, where practical.

- It was agreed that the next meeting should be the weekend of 30/31 August 2008 to coincide with the Highland round of the Scottish Nationals. If this is rearranged due to weather, the meeting will be one evening the following week at a venue to be conformed – suggestions were: Bob Gares pub in Stirling, Portmoak Gliding Centre or the Holly Tree pub in Menstrie.
- Another meeting date of November 6<sup>th</sup> (Thursday evening) was agreed - venue TBC.
- AGM to coincide with Ratho repack (24<sup>th</sup> January).

### Finance

Alistair explained the SHPF sources of income, which are:

- £1,000 per year from Sport Scotland;
- £5 per head from the membership of each Scottish Club (at present – this sum is agreed at the AGM). The LLSC members effectively pay £3 per head as they have the Public Liability Insurance to pay for ownership of Tinto; and
- Pilot Contribution from specific events.

The £1,000 from Sport Scotland can only be used for certain purposes such as training, coaching and parachute repacks. They request the accounts each year after the AGM and like to see turnover as this demonstrates activity. Current Sport Scotland contact is Gavin Lightwood.

The current balance is £4,823, however income is due from some of the clubs (LLSC, Aberdeen) and some expenditure is outstanding for X-Scotia. The financial year is the same as the calendar year.

It was agreed that a reserve of £1,500 should be maintained in the event that should there be poor turnout at an event (e.g. a repack) we would have enough to cover the expense.

Possible uses for the money were discussed and included the following:

- Another windtalker, suggested somewhere further north as currently at Broughton and Tinto. This was agreed to be a good idea in principle but suggested it may be wise to steer clear of ongoing maintenance costs. Also it was pointed out that Steve Peglar is unlikely to be interested as is dealing with issues of reliability with current windtalkers and would be further for him to travel for maintenance / repair etc. It was suggested that it might be possible to arrange access to a network of weather stations used by farmers. **ACTION: Bob Veitch agreed to explore this further**
- First aid course – This has apparently been difficult to organise in the past with people reluctant to commit. It was pointed out that it was difficult to cover enough useful ground in a short time and most people not keen on signing up for longer courses. **ACTION: Mike agreed to speak to contacts at BASP to see if anything practical could be organised**
- Event box – to include cables for common GPS's. **ACTION: In his absence it was agreed to ask Steve Durkin if he would be interested in doing this after his experience at X-Scotia**

### Promotion

- The X-Scotia film is due to be on the Adventure Show on 10<sup>th</sup> September. A DVD will also be available.
- Web site – relatively large number of hits through X-Scotia largely due to Bobs blog. Bob is happy to continuing hosting and maintaining website but would like assistance with revamping. It was suggested he speak to Dave Hutchison who has done a great job with the LLSC website.

### Events

- X-Scotia to run again next year with a separate organising committee (from SHPF) as this year.
- Scottish Nationals – George has simplified the scoring system so that 100 points are scored per km. The possibility of providing GPS download was discussed for those who are interested and for coaching purposes but not to be compulsory. David may bring laptop along next time to facilitate this if appropriate depending on time etc.
- Ratho repack - Agreed that date should be set well in advance to try and improve attendance. There was a low attendance this year, but that may have been because the event was spilt over 2 days and 2 venues. The 24<sup>th</sup> January was agreed for the repack and SHPF AGM. It was agreed it would also be good to get a speaker. **ACTION: Mike to speak to Ratho re booking for the 24th**

### Sites & Access

The possibility of providing a sites guide on the website was briefly discussed. Opinions on this were polarised and it was agreed to leave the discussion for the next meeting.

### Safety

Agreed to leave this discussion until Steve was present

### Coaching & Courses

Historically a Club Coach course has been run very other year with an XC Coaching Seminar weekend running alternate years.

A club coach course was run last year and should aim for the next one towards end of 2009. This needs to be booked in advance with the BHPA. **ACTION: Naomi – keep on agenda**

David would be willing to run an XC coaching seminar and George offered to help with the admin side. It was agreed that it would be better if the course were residential and not too local to the Central belt in order to encourage people to stay over even if the weather was less than ideal.

Potential venues – Lochearnhead, Gustavs place at Glenshee or similar, Tweedsmuir, Glencoe Ski Club place near Bridge of Orchy. Date – TBC.

Pilot Courses – David has run previously on behalf of LLSC and is happy to run in future. Whilst members of other clubs have previously been welcome it was suggested that this course could be SHPF in future.