

GLIDING NEW ZEALAND NEWS

This column is intended to give readers an ongoing insight into the activities of the GNZ Executive and its Committees. Rather than a detailed report on matters currently under consideration, here are some recent items of significance.

2010 AGM Two thirds of GNZ's affiliated member organisations were represented at this year's AGM weekend in Wellington, mid June.

The usual airworthiness and contest pilots' meetings on the Saturday morning were well attended. Perhaps the most significant outcome from the latter being the decision to adopt the Sailplane Racing Committee remit to create a separate Club Class National Championship to be held in that island not hosting the Multi-Class National Championships. In his annual report, SRC Chairman Dane Dickinson said that this had been the most discussed issue during the year and the committee felt strongly that fostering the Club Class was important for the future of the sport, as it had proven to be immensely popular overseas.

In opening the Presidents' Forum, GNZ President George Rogers noted that the total flying membership count had been maintained, albeit with a turnover of about 14%. He was pleased to see an increase in junior members, although this was at the cost of reduced affiliation fee income. He said that significant issues for the coming year will be the vacancies in the Operations Committee, the need to catch up with the club audit programme and to reinforce safety initiatives.

The afternoon session continued with two timely flight safety presentations by Rainer Kunzemeyer and Steve Care of Piako. Dave Evans and Allan Moulai of the Aviation Tourism and Travel Training Organisation (ATTTO) rounded off the afternoon with a presentation on gliding unit standards intended to encourage youth into aviation.

During a few drinks in the bar, incoming President Nigel Davy told us a ripping yarn about a certain Gliding South winch launch that went a bit wrong! This warmed everybody up nicely for the award presentations that followed. (Reported elsewhere this issue).

The actual AGM on the Sunday morning saw Nigel Davy (Gliding South) elected as President, Karen Morgan (Clutha Valley) as Vice President, and Ralph Gore (Piako) and David Jensen (Tauranga) elected as Executive members. After four years as President, George Rogers (Wellington) remains on the Executive for another year as Immediate Past President, and Tom Davies (Wellington) remains with one year to run.

There were three remits, all related to GNZ funds and the use of interest earned. Members agreed to rationalise the management of two current funds intended for the support of pilots and team managers at World Championships. Members also agreed that a portion of the interest produced from the club loans fund could be directed to provide monetary assistance for Cross Country training courses.

Affiliation fees were increased by just under \$11 (+GST), the first increase since 2006.

The GNZ Annual Report 2010 contains the reports of officers and committees, previous minutes, accounts, budget, remits etc. It is available on the GNZ web site home page.

GNZ OFFICER AND COMMITTEE CHANGES From the date of the AGM, Peter Thorpe (Auckland Aviation Sports) has taken over the role of Quality Manager. The Executive would like to thank Ross Taylor (Auckland) for his long service, having been in the position since its inception about 10 years ago.

Ross Anderson (Gliding Manawatu) has been appointed to the position of Central Region Operations Officer – we welcome Ross to a post that has been vacant for too long. Tony Passmore (Wellington) has joined the Airspace Committee, taking over the central region position from Grae Harrison, who is taking a well-earned rest for all his hard work on airspace issues over several years. Competition pilots elected Maurice Weaver (Tauranga) to the Sailplane Racing Committee, replacing Vaughan Ruddick (Wellington) whose term was up.

NATIONAL OPERATIONS OFFICER We still have a need to identify and appoint a National Operations Officer. This role is crucial to meeting the requirements of our Civil Aviation Part 149 Certification.

At the AGM discussions it was clear that delegates wished for GNZ to continue with the volunteer model. The Executive shares this desire, but, it only remains feasible if there are volunteers with the appropriate attributes for key roles.

All clubs are asked to consider candidates for the NOO role and to submit any ideas on candidates to me or Nigel Davy. Meanwhile, we are extremely fortunate that George Rogers has agreed to continue acting as NOO in the short term.

CLUB AUDITS Our Part 149 Certificate requires GNZ to have a Quality Assurance programme, a component of which is audits of affiliates at least every 24 months.

Over the past few years we have struggled to achieve 60% of the audits. This rather inadequate performance is recognised as a significant 'management risk' to our movement. It has therefore been decided to share the responsibility for ensuring audits are completed – between affiliates and the GNZ Operations Committee.

If your club is overdue for an audit, or will be due before June 2011, please make contact with your Regional Operations Officer to plan for the audit. If you are unsure when an audit is due, please contact George Rogers. Guidance on what is involved is provided by the General Operations Audit form (OPS 15), which on the web site.

This drive to bring the audit programme up to date will put pressure both on Clubs and the ROOs. This pressure will no doubt be eased by early planning and collaboration.

SPARC FUNDING Negotiations with SPARC are near to completion for next year's funding. Although the annual amount (\$16,800+GST) seems relatively meagre in absolute terms, it does represent about 15% of our budget. A condition of this funding is our signing on to various key performance indicators (KPIs). The most significant targets this time are an increase in adult membership of 2% and an increase in youth membership of 10% in the coming year. Let's see if we can make it happen – we know that we can attract new members with out too much difficulty – the trick is to hang on to them!

NEW MEMBERS 24 new members joining since February is a reasonable start on the above KPI. However, all but 3 of these were in the North Island, so it seems the South Island clubs may need to try harder!

NEW ADVISORY CIRCULARS & FORMS The GNZ Operations Committee has developed a new Advisory Circular, AC 2-04, to provide guidance on the issue and maintenance of instructor ratings. The associated Competency Review forms are OPS 08 and OPS 09. This important material was sent to CFIs and Instructor Trainers in early June, and can also be downloaded from the GNZ website.

The application forms for QGP (OPS 03) and badges (OPS 04) have been amended to reflect the fact that the forms and fees are now to be sent direct to the Awards Officer, Edouard Devenoges, NOT to the Treasurer.

The yellow Daily Inspection and Tech-Log booklet (TECH 19) has been updated so that it properly aligns with changes to the CAA Rules and our MOAP. The most significant change from the previous version is that owner/operator maintenance in accordance with Appendix 3-C of the MOAP must be recorded in the booklet, thus providing the 'Release to Service' required by CAA Rules. The *Gliding International Book Store* should have a stock of the new DI booklet by the time you read this.

Max Stevens GNZ Executive Officer