

GYMPIE AERO CLUB



Gympie Aero Club
Minutes of General Meeting
Saturday 13th February, 2010
Commencing 1.40pm and chaired by Bob Crombie

1. ATTENDANCE: 25 members, 4 apologies as per attendance book.

2. WELCOME TO FOUNDER/FIRST PRESIDENT JOHN ALLEN - John Allen gave a brief talk on the history of the club at the close of the meeting.

3. EXPLANATION FROM TREASURER AS TO WHY HE WAS CHAIRING THIS MEETING.

- Jennifer Beck submitted her resignation at President on January 13th, citing insufficient available time to fully apply herself to the role of President as well as fulfilling her duties as CFI of Cooloola Flying.
- Bob explained that he had “lost his cool” and behaved unacceptably at the previous Committee meeting and wanted to apologise to Jennifer for the manner in which he had said what he said. He wanted his apology recorded in these minutes. He also apologised to Ian and Deb Wagner because it was in their home the Committee meeting was being held at the time. He wanted it recorded that his apology was for the way he said what he said, not for the content of what he said.
- Bob was Chairing the meeting because he had been critical of a number of things that were supposed to have been done - but hadn't happened. Since Jennifer's resignation, and in the Vice-Presidents absence in New Zealand, he had assumed the role of acting President and trouble-shooter and was therefore chairing this meeting.

4. MINUTES: Minutes from the previous general meeting on Saturday 7th November 2009 were circulated by email and taken as read. Moved as accepted: Ian Wagner. Seconded: John Jensen – carried.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

Inwards:

- Past President's resignation.
- Policy documents for Hangar Keepers Insurance from PSB Insurance Brokers.
- Invoice from “Red Lid” for web site construction for \$1100.00 including GST.

Outwards:

- Letter to CEO Queensland Water Infrastructure re access to Community Compensation Funding for Club House facility following the termination of the dam project.
- Correspondence with Archerfield Re-fuellers re removal of guarantees supplied by Mac Alcorn and Mike Oulton.

Moved as accepted: Mike Oulton. Seconded: Tony Hanlon – carried.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES/CORRESPONDENCE:

- CASA dinner Financial Report – a small profit was achieved for the night, thanks to a donation from Ray Gresham which was very much appreciated.
- Stephen Cummins asked if a venue for the event could not have been found in Gympie – there was no answer to that question.

- John Jensen questioned the financial risk the club had been exposed to if insufficient tickets had been sold and asked for some measures to be put in place to modify the administrative process whereby Committee consent was given to financial undertakings.
“The Committee is to consider and bring to the next General Meeting the administrative process to be observed in the future to guard against possible exposure to financial risk”.
- Ian Wagner suggested that once this process was agreed upon, it should be incorporated into the Articles of Association at the next AGM for the protection of future members.
- Dates for upcoming activities:
 - Trash and Treasure and Interclub Competition Day – Sunday May 16th – an invitation is to be sent to other aero clubs including the last comp day winners, Maroochydore Aero Club
 - Fly-in Dine-out – Sunday August 22nd.

7. TREASURER’S REPORT:

Treasurer’s report prepared by Bob Crombie had been circulated by email and was taken as read. Moved as accepted: Graeme Alexander. Seconded: Steven Cummins.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Should the Club make a profit to provide facilities for its members? At the moment we make 1.85% profit on fuel sales to bond holders through interest payments. The unanimous answer from members present was – “yes”, the Club should make a profit to build up funds to look after it in the future. It was suggested that we owed this much to the original members who gave us the Club in the first place.
- Do members want the management committee to make an application for funding under the “Jupiters Casino Grant Scheme”? The unanimous answer from members present was – “yes”.
- The management committee is concerned at the small number of members who turn up to the monthly general meetings and asks if it would be better to hold the meetings every 2 months instead of monthly, especially as there is generally little extra business to be discussed during monthly meetings.
 The management committee meetings would still be held every month as required by the articles of association.
 The Treasurer requests the meetings be held on the 2nd Saturday of the month (instead of the first Saturday) to give him time to do the previous month’s financial statement.

Motion: “The General Meeting dates to be moved to the second Saturday of every second month, commencing at 1.30pm. Proposed: Mac Alcorn. Seconded: Ian Wagner – carried.

- The Club’s new web site (www.gympieaeroclub.com.au) is up and running in its basic form – it will be used for future newsletters, and meeting minutes and financial reports will be available on a secure “members only” access page. Members will be advised by email when any new information has been uploaded.
- 2 quotations for replacement of the sign writing for over the Club Hangar doors are to be obtained, one by Bill Rowley and the other by Tony Hanlon.
- A discussion on the fuel bonds was held. The general feeling was that most members were happy with the way the fuel system is working and see no need for change. It was suggested that consideration be given to changing the wording of the bond document so the funds could be used to cover non-payment of fuel bills. Members were asked to consider the issue for discussion again at the next General Meeting.

9. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT/ VICE PRESIDENT/ TREASURER.

Bob Crombie vacated the Chair and his office as Treasurer and left the meeting.

Graeme Alexander assumed the chair.

Motion: “Graeme Alexander is to step into the role of President until the AGM, and the role of Vice President to remain vacant until then”. Moved: Tony Green. Seconded: Stephen Cummins – carried.

Motion: “Bob Crombie to be endorsed and commended as Treasurer until the AGM, when all seats will be vacated as per the Articles of Association”.

Moved: Tony Green. Seconded: Chris Rogers.

A show of hands overwhelmingly endorsed Bob Crombie’s actions following the President’s resignation and he was requested to rejoin the meeting.

Graeme Alexander continued as Chair.

10. NEXT MEETING: Saturday 10th April 2010, 1.30pm, BBQ beforehand.

11. CLOSE OF MEETING: 2.30pm

12. TALK ON THE EARLY DAYS OF THE CLUB BY JOHN ALLEN – followed by a vote of thanks.

A brief summary of John’s talk:

The Gympie Aerodrome was opened in 1965. The opening was celebrated with the landing of a DC3 along with numerous small aircraft. Gympie alderman Eric Grice is credited with getting the Gympie Aero Club up and running. In 1967 an advertisement was put in the paper inviting all interested parties to a meeting to talk about forming an aero club. The meeting was well attended by at least 50 people and John Allen emerged as the first President. Alan Wolfe was elected secretary. The newly formed Club had about 20 – 30 founding members and almost all of them turned up to each Club meeting. One member owned an aircraft, however most people hired a plane when they wanted to fly.

The Club had no funds so the Committee decided to hold a country dance at Chatsworth Hall to raise some money. In those days a dance was held every Saturday evening at one place or another. Another club member Allan Cross lived near Chatsworth as well as John, so they spruced up the Chatsworth Hall and went to the local radio station 4GY and spoke to the announcer Scott McKinley who later rose to fame as an ABC presenter. They couldn’t afford to pay for any advertising however Scott was very interested in promoting the event and produced a jingle for the club – “Those Magnificent Men and their Flying Machines”. This jingle was played almost every hour on the radio. Scott agreed to be MC for the night, and when the evening arrived the Club had sold 400 tickets to the dance while a rival dance held on the same night at Long Flat by the Pony Club had no dancers at all.

Following the success of the first dance, the Club ran a dance once a month to raise funds, while the Pony Club took one of the other Saturday nights at Chatsworth Hall. The dances drew good crowds and were well attended.

1967 was the year of the Gympie Centenary, and a street parade, the “Goldrush Procession”, was organised with hundreds of floats as a part of the celebrations. One Gympie Aero Club member who worked for Prongers Joinery built a large model plane out of plywood and attached a lawn mower engine to the front, while another member owned a low loader, so the Gympie Aero Club had its own float in the parade. They also held a ball before the parade and chose 3 good looking female beauties to ride on the float. John remains in touch with a couple of them.

John Allen was only President for the first year of the Club and says he was happy to hand over the reins. The next committee started the push for a Club hangar, which was finally built sometime in the early ‘70’s with Club members doing all the labouring.

The first flying school to work out of Gympie Aerodrome was Sunland Aviation, which started training in 1967. The CFI was Kev Hannerby, who later started a flying school at Gympie

Aerodrome on his own. At first they had a Cessna 150 which John learnt to fly in, and then Kev bought a Cessna 172 which John finished his training in.

Another local, Keith Cross, who has only recently passed away, was also a very helpful member of the club.