

## **North East Kite Fliers Chairman's report**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

Could we please start with a moments reflection for friends we have lost over the last year - in particular our past chairman and close friend of the club, Tony Stainforth.

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Could we please celebrate Tony's life later by flying our kites. At Tony's funeral on Thursday last, he asked as all 'not to worry, it will all be all right.' This is a man who had 'Blaze Away' played at the committal at the crematorium and 'Don't Worry, Be Happy' played as people left. His family said that was what he wanted, to leave people with a smile on their faces. We can honour that wish by flying high.

I would like to place on record my thanks to the members of the committee, in particular Kate who has been a very conscientious and effective secretary and Duncan who with Kate and John has risen to the challenge of not having an events' organiser – the results I think speak for themselves and we have had far more events than most of us dared hope when we discussed this at last year's AGM. This year's draft calendar is looking exciting – thank you Duncan, Kate and John.

We have robust processes in place to deal with GDPR, which rather as expected has turned out generally to be rather less exciting than some expected. That said, that we got those processes in place was absolutely the right thing to do as one or two organisations have discovered to their cost.

Your committee has reviewed a number of other processes and procedures for the club: it's the sort of thing every organisation needs to do periodically, and we hope that by getting on top of it now we can park it for several years and get to the real business at hand, flying our kites.

To that end, we have reviewed the Code of Conduct and we will ask you to vote on our proposals later: we hope it is much simpler and makes clear what is important to our club: safety of our members, safety of those who might be impacted by our activities and the courtesies that we should all have the right to expect. We hope you will support it.

We have also reviewed the constitution. We have incorporated a number of amendments to the present version to make it fit for purpose, but I have also looked at the model constitution provided by Club Matters, a part of Sport England. A version has been circulated and you will be invited to consider adopting it.

We have also looked at 'Conflict of Interest' This might seem a bit 'over the top' for a club like ours, but if we think about some of the issues raised by last year's AGM your committee believe that it is important to set out some ground rules, and indeed the guidance from

Sport England and others on Good Governance requires us to set out our policy. Again, we hope you will endorse it.

We have been considering our club logo; the AGM around two years ago identified a need to make the logo more appropriate to our club. Josh Mitcheson produced some excellent ideas which we whittled down to three. Your committee considered the type face that we believe best reflects our club and the results were presented to this AGM. As with the other documents, we look forward to a lively discussion later on in the agenda.

John Young told me that he wished to stand down from the committee at our AGM as a result of work pressures. Subsequent to the meeting I called Fred Davison who told me he too wished to stand down: getting time off from work for committee meetings is proving very difficult. At the time of updating this report I have not yet had a call back from Jacqui nor found contact details for Leanne to check whether they are happy to continue on the committee. Bryan stood down earlier in the year.

I hope Jacqui and Leanne will be able to continue and we thank Fred, John and Bryan for their sterling service to the club through some trying times. Thank you all, it is appreciated.

I close by reflecting that our club has gone through some turbulence over recent years but that I feel confident we are now on a steady course and heading for an exciting season ahead.

Jerry Swift  
Chairman, NEKF