



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 6 January 2025 To: 31 August 2025

Charity name: Air Cadet Historic Flight

Charity registration number: 1211603

Objectives and Activities

The purpose and objective of the Air Cadet Historic Flight CIO (ACHF) is:

To preserve the Heritage of Air Cadet Gliding in the United Kingdom, in particular, but not exclusively, by the provision of a living museum of aircraft and equipment, preserving historical aircraft and associated equipment as used by the Air Training Corps, RAF Gliding Schools, RAF Volunteer Reserve (Training), Volunteer Gliding Schools and Squadrons and through this inform the public about that Heritage

In preparing this report the Trustees confirm they have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit in carrying out the activities of the CIO from the date of incorporation. The ACHF was formally registered and incorporated as a CIO on 8th January 2025. This report therefore covers activities as an un-incorporated organisation as well as those carried out under the auspices of the CIO following incorporation. During the year in question, we have had four areas of focus regarding delivery for the public benefit.

1 -Awareness & Education of the Public

We attended several public events over the year, displaying our Gliders and Equipment, with information boards and ACHF Members available to answer questions and talk about the history and heritage of Air Cadet Gliding.:



1. In October 2024 we took the Cadet Mk 3 to the Helicopter Museum so that it was on show at the 621 VGS Disbandment dinner, attended by many current & ex-Air Cadets.
2. We attended Abingdon Air and Country Show, showing off the Cadet Mk3, Grasshopper and Land Rover (together with trailers). We had a constant stream of people throughout the day extremely interested the ACHF in general. ACHF supporters on the day included- ex-members from 621VGS, 625VGS, 631VGS along with current members from the Bristol & Gloucestershire Gliding Club.
3. We exhibited at the Armed Forces Day, Gloucester Docks, 28th June 2025. We displayed the Cadet Mk 3, Trailer and ACHF Land Rover, hosting many visitors including the new Sheriff and Deputy Mayor of Gloucester, Councillor Linda Castle.
4. Throughout the year we have hosted visits from interested members of the public from UK and abroad.

5. We have used our Facebook and Websites to disseminate information on the CIO and our activities. We now have approximately 3,500 “followers” on Facebook and our posts generate significant interaction between enthusiasts and ex-ATC members in the comments.

2 -Acquisition, Restoration and Preservation of the Collection



1. Over the past year we have continued to improve and expand our collection of ex-ATC gliders and associated equipment. Highlights for this year include:
2. Restoration activity on our T38 Grasshopper was carried out and this now only requires a few minor repairs. We hope it will be fully airworthy and flying again in the Summer of 2026
3. Acquisition, through long term loan, of an airworthy example of a T8, Cadet kt2 “Tutor”. This is a genuine ex-ATC glider and (we believe) one of the many that were converted from Cadet Mk1 to Mk2 by the addition of the “Tutor” wings. It is a rare “un-spoilered” example which depends on side-slipping for approach control. Currently in civilian colours the owner intends to restore it to the original “ATC Yellow” scheme over the winter and return it to us in the spring.
4. Expanding our exhibition fleet. Up till now we have used our airworthy gliders for static displays at shows. This has disadvantages as it requires us temporarily taking that glider out of service & also means we must restrict close public access. We plan to have a number of gliders which are restored to static exhibition standard that we can use in this way, and allow more “hands on” access to the public. We have secured a Prefect, courtesy of the RAF Museum, and are hoping to acquire Cadet Mk 3 (T31) which we are negotiating transfers from other collections to this end.
5. Work continues on restoring a genuine ex-ATC Slingsby Swallow and we have a further Swallow in storage awaiting restoration

Our Collection now comprises:

Assets owned by ACHF CIO			
Description	Asset ID	Location	Condition / Notes
Prefect TX.1	WE982	Sandhill Fm	Complete for restoration
Sedbergh TX.1	WB922	Nympsfield	Airworthy
Grasshopper TX.1	WZ828	Nympsfield	Airworthy but Requires C of A
Grasshopper TX.1	WZ753	Nympsfield	Spares airframe providing wings for Cadet TX.1

Grasshopper	BGA3741	Nympsfield	Frame only - spares
Swallow TX.1	XS650	Lasham	Recently gifted to ACHF - awaiting collection
Storage Shelter		Nympsfield	New
Land Rover	BRU 846T	Shaftesbury	Storage
Land Rover	PDE443G	Shaftesbury	Storage
Wilde Winch	ACHFW1	Nympsfield	For restoration
Sedbergh Trailer	ACHFT1	Weston-super-Mare	Roadworthy, requires refurb
Grasshopper Trailer (metal)	ACHFT2	Nympsfield	Roadworthy, fittings for Grasshopper
Grasshopper Trailer (wood)	ACHFT3	Nympsfield (storage shelter)	Roadworthy, storing MK1 Project parts
AMF ex Viking Trailer	ACHFT4	Aston Down	At A/D for Swallow storage during refurb. Roadworthy but needs servicing
Cadet TX.2 Trailer	ACHFT5	Sandhill Farm	Roadworthy
TX3 Retrieve Trolley	ACHFT6	Nympsfield	For restoration
Sedbergh Retrieve Trolley	ACHFT7	Nympsfield	For restoration

On Long Term Loan to ACHF				
Description	Asset ID	Location	Condition / Notes	Owner
Cadet TX.1	XE762	Nympsfield	Donor fuselage for MK1 VM594 project	D Cotton
Cadet TX.2	VW535	Nympsfield	Airworthy, to be repainted	D Cotton
Cadet TX.2	XE761	Little Rissington	Awaiting restoration	A Stacey
Cadet TX.3	XA310	Nympsfield	Airworthy	A Stacey
Prefect TX.1	WE992	Nympsfield	Airworthy	A Stacey
Swallow TX1	XS651	Little Rissington	Storage - potential spares donor	A Stacey
Swallow TX1	XS652	Aston Down	Restoration nearing completion to airworthy	D Cotton
Metal trailer	ACHFT8	Sandhill Farm	Fitted for Cadet Series gliders and Prefect	A Stacey
Land Rover	JYJ 249N	Nympsfield	Roadworthy	ACHF Landrover Syndicate

3- Secure the financial future

Membership



Growing our membership base is key to ensuring the long-term viability of the CIO – our aim is to be able to cover day to day running costs from membership fees & use donations and other one-off contributions to fund

restoration activity and our planned build of a permanent facility.

As at the end of the financial year our numbers stood at 50 Full Members, of which 11 were also contributing the “Solo Levy”, and 24 Associate members. Our target, over the first 5 years, is to increase to 75 Full and 100+ Associate members.

Donations & Fund Raising

We have now registered the Charity for Gift Aid, and this will be used to augment donations made.

In addition we are registered with Easy Fundraising (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>) and all members are encouraged to both register with the ACHF for Gift Aid and, if you make any purchases on-line, utilise EasyFundraising with ACHF CIO as your chosen recipient.

While Fundraising was still getting started during the financial year covered by this report we’re pleased to see that we are starting to get some results and, as of end October, and expect these to make a significant contribution in the 2025/26 financial year.

4 -Building for the Future



It is part of our long-term plan to provide a permanent facility that will hangar the airworthy gliders, provide a dedicated space for maintenance and restoration and allow us to increase the access to the gliders and our work for the general public.

We have secured outline agreement with the Bristol Gliding Club (Pty) Ltd. To base such a facility on land in the Northwest corner of the airfield at Nympsfield. We have also carried out a trial with the existing fleet to determine the size of building required and approximate placement.

Our next stage is to proceed to outline planning permission and detailed design & specification. To this end we have started a reserved fund for donations for this purpose and are building a volunteer team to take on the project. We hope to be able to report progress towards a firm design and costing by the end of the next financial year.

Volunteers

We are wholly dependent on volunteer efforts and many members contribute to the running, upkeep and development of the CIO. Our thanks go to everyone who has helped with tasks such as

- Running the flying operation
- Maintaining the gliders and ground equipment (and all the associated paperwork!)
- Working on the management committee
- Assisting the committee “behind the scenes”
- Supporting our exhibitions and public interaction
- Developing our plans for the future
- Fundraising and administration



..and, of course, our generous donors who provide us with the long term loan element of our collection and work diligently at expanding and improving that collection.

We always need more support, so urge any members who can help in any way to come forward.

Financial Review

Our financial performance is for the period since the CIO was established (January 2025) till the end of the financial and membership year (30th August 2025). It includes transferred sums and assets from 621 VGS Historic Flight on closure, as agreed by the members of that group.

As a CIO with a gross income below £250,000 we prepare our accounts on a “Receipts and Payments” basis as the Trustees believe this presents a fair view of the activity of the CIO.

As this is our first year of operation we do not have a prior year for comparison

Receipts and Payments

A1 Receipts					
Donations – Membership Activity	3,358	-	-	3,358	-
Donations – 621 Historic Flight	6,347	-	-	6,347	-
Clothing Sales	40	-	-	40	-
Bank Interest	1	-	-	1	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	9,745	-	-	9,745	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	9,745	-	-	9,745	-
A3 Payments					
Fund Raising PR	133	-	-	133	-
Aircraft Hangarage / Workshop	2,616	-	-	2,616	-
Internet Hosting	144	-	-	144	-
Maintenance: Aircraft & Ground Equip	572	-	-	572	-
Insurances	2,685	-	-	2,685	-
Bank Charges	26	-	-	26	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	6,174	-	-	6,174	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	6,174	-	-	6,174	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,571	-	-	3,571	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	3,571	-	-	3,571	-

These show we generated a cash surplus in the first (part) year of operation, which is carried forward to our next financial year and split between cash to fund our ongoing operations and cash building a development fund.

Our objective is, through donations and other fund raising activity, to continue to generate a surplus over the annual running costs to build our development fund.

Cash in Hand, Assets & Liabilities

Our cash is split between our General Fund for day to day operations, and a Hangar Build fund (held in a savings account) aimed at future developments. Note that, at this time, the Hangar Build fund is not formally “restricted” – simply designated for that purpose.

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period				
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank + Cash: General Fund	2,440	-	-
	Bank: Designated Hangar Build Fund	1,131	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	3,571	-	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK	OK	OK
B2 Assets owned by the charity	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Heritage assets (Gliders and Equipment)	General	-	18,100
	Hangar Shelter	General	-	2,350
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Our assets as above were transferred to us from 621 VGS Historic Flight, and are listed elsewhere in this document. Valuation of aircraft and equipment is based on estimated market values.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Air Cadet Historic Flight CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members other than its charity trustees. It is governed under the 'Association' model constitution and registered with the Charities Commission for England and Wales.

Trustees are elected under the provisions in the constitution, and the initial CIO AGM was held on 05 June 2025, at which the current Trustees were elected or confirmed (as this was the first AGM).

Subsequent AGM's will be aligned with the financial year, which runs 1st September to 31st August, hence the next AGM is planned for September 2026.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Air Cadet Historic Flight CIO
Other name the charity uses	ACHF
Registered charity number	1211603
Charity's principal address	c/o Bristol & Gloucestershire Gliding Club The Airfield Nympsfield Nr Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 3TX

Trustees of the Charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	David Woolcock	Chair	5 June 2025
2	Andrew Julian Rees	Secretary	8 Jan 2025
3	Adam Clarke	Chief Pilot	8 Jan 2025
4	Johnathan Richard Williams	Treasurer	8 Jan 2025
5	Geoffrey William Beard	Dept. Chair	8 Jan 2025
6	Daryl Paul Mansbridge	Membership Sec.	5 June 2025
7	David Arthur Cotton	Trustee without Portfolio (Collections)	5 June 2025
8	Allen Paul Stacey	Trustee without Portfolio	5 June 2025

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)		
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)		
Date		

Appendix: Progress Against Strategic Goals

In the ACHF CIO Business plan we identified four strategic goals, this table ranks our progress against those goals in the first year of operation:

Strategic goal	Business plan objectives	Status
A. Gather together and maintain a representative collection of the historic aircraft and equipment used by the ATC . To maintain the gliders in a flying condition so that (appropriately qualified) members and guests can fly the gliders and the public can see them in an operational environment	1. Continue to maintain and operate the existing fleet with at least four types in flying condition at any time.	GREEN
	2. Increase numbers of members and guests flown	AMBER
	3. Build up outreach program to educate & inform the wider public, building on 621 VGS HF experience and resources	AMBER
	4. Recruit new members to assist in outreach programme	RED
B Use this collection to provide a living museum to preserve the heritage of the ATC and RAF VGS. Use this to educate and inform the public and act as a resource for ex-Cadets and instructors	1. Fundraising to allow the building of a hangar, maintenance and display facility for the collection	AMBER
	2. Execute facility design, build and commissioning project	AMBER
	3. Build up 'inform and educate' capability to support regular public opening	AMBER
C. Preserve the aircraft and equipment and also, working through members, maintaining and operating the aircraft. Through this, preserve historic Air Cadet gliders and equipment together with knowledge and skills that would otherwise be lost	1. Restore the remainder of the fleet back to flying condition, so that we have at least 4 types airworthy at any time	GREEN
	2. Increase number of BGA inspectors and instructors as members	GREEN
	3. Build up skills and information resources to support long term sustainability of the fleet	AMBER
D. Ensure long term financial viability	1. Membership drive to increase full and associate membership numbers	GREEN
	2. Instigate member retention program	AMBER
	3. Set up ongoing fund-raising programmes to support development & restoration funds.	RED