The GM commenced at 07:30pm on the 13th September 2023

Present;

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| Name | Area Role | Delegate for Club |
| Stuart Willis | Chairman |  |
| Robert Richardson | Vice Chairman | Horam MFC |
| Chris Searle | Secretary | Caterham & District MFC |
| Bob Hart | A.S. co-ordinator | Hastings MFC |
| Jim Tucker | Treasurer | Wealden MAS |
| Norman Carter | Member | Mid-Sussex Flyers |
| Rob Stanley | Member | Slope Soaring Sussex |
| Alex Cameron | Free flight competition Secretary |  |
| Roger Marples | Member | E.D.M.A.C |
| Mike Sun | A.C.E | Croydon Airport MFC |
| Mark Heffer | Member | 1066 MFC |
| Tim Billings | Member | Concorde MFC |
| Alex Blackwell | Member | Leatherhead M.F.C |

Apologies from;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Area Role | Delegate for Club |
| James Gordon | A.C.E |  |
| Taj Manning | Education co-ordinator |  |
| Martin Jones | Member |  |
| Tony Crawford | Member |  |
| Paul Holmes | Member |  |
| John Newbury | Member |  |
| Terry Knight | Member |  |
| James Hill | Member |  |

Minutes of the previous meeting;

Agreed.

Matters arising from the previous meeting;

A request by the Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinator for another Area Chief Heli examiner will be placed in he next Area update email.

The A.O.B item regarding the Nomads Club Scale Day uncertainty is due to a breakdown in communications between the Area and the Club. Attempts have been made to contact the Nomads Club but so far without success.

Any other outstanding matters will be dealt with during the meeting.

Officers reports;

Chairman and Council Delegate;

I attended The Areas and BMFA Board meeting back in May.

The vote at the areas meeting to define BMFA Wales as Area 11 was carried unanimously.

The SAA appeared to be uncomfortable about adopting and or conforming with the

BMFA Area system. Therefore, it was agreed that, A BMFA Scotland Area is going to be established. I believe this is well under way and I expect to get update at the next areas meeting.

Helen Jones outlined the current position regarding Outreach. I have spoken to Helen a few time about the requirement of an outreach coordinator, she gave me an outline of the responsibility which was quite a daunting list. I did advertise in the area update for a volunteer to take on the post but very few people replied.

I will try again over the winter months as the height of the flying year was probably not the best time.

The proposal to formally adopt the new 2023 Areas Constitution was put forward and discussed. It was agreed that it was not perfect but a good starting point. Other changes will happen as its put into use. The vote went 11 for 1 against and 2 abstentions.

The question of rolling membership, was brought up. I’ll cover this a bit later in my report.

The first part of the May Board meeting was taken up ratifying the various post and positions within the BMFA.

The Celebration of 100 years of the SMAE/ BMFA in 2022 was reviewed and deemed to have been very successfully. An update on the further development Buckminster was given.

The Nat’s at Barkston Heath would not happen in 2023, At the time of the meeting it would appear that the Nat’s would not return for the forceable future but the chairman would keep regular contact with the people at Barkston.

A formal review of a number of BMFA Document would be undertaken by the Honorary secretary.

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults. Equality and Diversity, Disability and Inclusion.

Dave Phipps has been working with EMFU/EASA on the development of technologies for electronic conspicuity and related legal requirements to ensure they don’t negatively impact model flying.

All areas were asked at the Areas Council meeting to get clubs feeling on Rolling membership. As it was seen by the board as a method of keeping membership numbers up as they are dropping year on year. An email was sent out to all club secretary's. On the hole it was thought by clubs to be a bad idea as it would cause clubs a lot of administration over head. Although some individual members though it would be good thing if it could be setup with a direct debit so peoples membership renewed automaticity each year. I passed all the replies I had back to the areas council. I expect it will be discussed at the next areas/board meeting. I will pass back any information via the area updates if there is any. One thing I did try to point out is that, its the remote pilot/person flying the model in the case of free flight. It’s their responsibility to ensure they are flying lawfully, this includes their BMFA membership. Its not the clubs.

The area updates seem to be keeping people up to date with what's going on in the area.

I have had some encouraging comments about them.

There has been mixed success this year with events as the weather has not been the best. We still have one more to come the ERFC scale day. We can review all the events in the November meeting.

The Area now has its own BMFA logo’ed gazebo that the Hastings Club are kindly storing for us.

We have had one request for it’s use this year. I hope there are more next year.

As hopefully you will have read Concord MFC have requested to be moved to the South East Area from the London Area. I have in regular contact with Bickley MFC. They are in the London area but I’m more than happy to promote their events.

Back in July I had not received the Ashdown license for 2023/2024. It turned out that my regular contact had left and although she had told her replacement. It seemed to have gone in one ear and out the other. After a frenzy few days getting things signed etc it was all sorted the Friday before that weekends competition. More on our old friend the license later in the meeting.

The CAA has yet to get its act together over flyer id’s I hope to find out more at the board meeting at the end of the month.

Stuart Willis Area Chairman and Council Delegate

Vice Chairman;

Robert raised the subject of rolling BMFA fees, stating that his Club wouldn’t want to follow that path. Stuart accepted that the idea is not popular with about 90% of views on the Area Council Forum being negative. However, Stuart also described that the scheme could be advantageous to both BMFA and members in so far as those joining late in the year would pay for 12 months membership with the result that the BMFA get a full year subscription and the member doesn’t have to make a second payment in January. The matter is due to be discussed at the Area Council meeting and Board meeting.

Treasurer;

The Area budget has been submitted although no feedback has been received.

The Area requested £1600 plus the standard £600 allocation.

Since the last meeting there have been some admin and event expenses and currently the Area has approximately £3300.

Stuart commented that there is a Board meeting at the end of the month when the Society’s Budget will be agreed. The Finance Director will then be able to allocate the Budgets for each Area but these will not be known until after the Society’s AGM.

Secretary;

Nothing to report.

Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinator;

One Fixed Wing Club Examiner has been appointed.

James Graham from Brighton has requested to do a “C” aerobatic test and Bob will contact Area Chief Examiner Rob Creasey. The same person who is already a Club Examiner is interested in becoming an Area Chief Examiner however Dave Knott is already in that area. Stuart requested that Bob obtains his CV so that the Elected Officers can consider the request before the AGM.

There is an outstanding request for a slope “B” certificate but an examiner has yet to be identified. Rob Stanley knows Kevin Beale and offered to contact him on Bob’s behalf.

It has not been possible to find a suitable date at Hastings for a Test and Training day and the one arranged at the Concorde Club was cancelled due to bad weather.

Education officer;

The BMFA had informed Stuart of a private school in Guildford that had requested some help with aeromodelling projects. Stuart made a successful initial visit and will return with Rob Stanley to provide guidance and instruction.

Stuart and Rob had attended an enrichment day at Warden Park School in July and will return in the new term, teaching a maximum of 16 pupils. The cost of materials is split 50/50 between the School and the Area.

Stuart had asked, in the Area update, if any Clubs are running educational activities but had no response.

Flying Discipline Secretary (Free Flight);

Nothing to report.

SE Area Events for 2023/24;

1. Indoor meeting January 2024; The event will be held at the Triangle Sports Centre in Burgess Hill (RH15 8WA) on 28th January 2024. There will be a £15 entrance fee and £5 for spectators but a raffle will not be be run. Alex, at the request of Andy Symons, has written an article describing the history of the K2 indoor meetings and it is expected to be published in the BMFA News and also Aeromodeller both of which should promote the event.

Ashdown Forest Licence;

Stuart had stated in the last Area update that there was a £300-£400 shortfall in subscriptions towards the cost of the Licence and one of the options under consideration was to stop using the site. Stuart had informed Mike Woodhouse and Mark Benns of the situation and Mike had asked us not to cancel and he would look at ways to help out however so far nothing has been forthcoming. Following distribution of the Area update a number of individuals had responded requesting that the site stays open and suggesting ways to make up the short fall.

Stuart put forward the idea that a BMFA Club could be formed which with a membership of 20 to 24 people and subscription of £25 would provide enough for the annual fee. A Club web site could be created and an announcement made in the BMFA news to make people aware. The Area would still negotiate and pay the fee (currently £570 and rising by 3%pa) but this would be recovered from the Club funds. A Club Secretary and Bank account would be required however Alex thought this might be too great an administrative overhead.

Stuart and Jim will seek a meeting with the Conservators to renegotiate the Licence to make it more applicable to sports flyers and less emphasis on competition flyers

A.O.B;

Stuart proposed Rob Stanley to become co-opted as an elected officer of the Area Committee in the role of Web master, this was seconded by Robert Richardson and voted for unanimously. This appointment will be subject to election at the next AGM and thereafter every 2 years.

The Horam swap meet is on the 12th November, Robert to provide Stuart with details.

The BMFA AGM will be on 18th November.

D.O.N.M;

Area AGM followed by Area GM on 8th November 2023 starting 7:30pm on Zoom.

The meeting closed at 21:09.