The AGM commenced at 19:30 on the 8th November 2023

**Present;**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Area Role | Delegate for Club  |
|  |  |  |
| Stuart Willis | Chairman |  |
| Robert Richardson | Vice Chairman | Horam MFC  |
| Chris Searle | Secretary |  |
| Taj Manning | Education co-ordinator | Mid-Sussex Flyers |
| Alex Cameron | Flying Discipline Representative | Crawley & Dist. MAC |
| Rob Stanley | Member | Slope Soaring Sussex |
| James Gordon | A.C.E | Caterham & District MFC |
| Martin Jones | Member | Epsom RFC |
| Paul Holmes | Member | Gravesend MFC |
| Tony Crawford | Member |  |
| Terry Knight | Member |  |
| John Newbury | Member | Gravesend MFC |

**Apologies from;**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Area Role | Delegate for Club |
| Jim Tucker | Treasurer |  |
| Bob Hart | A.S. co-ordinator |  |
| Norman Carter | Member |  |
| Mike Sun | A.C.E |  |

**Voting strength;**

It was confirmed that a voting quorum existed.

**Minutes of the previous AGM;**

Agreed to be a true record unanimously by those that were at that meeting.

**Matters arising from the previous meeting;**

Any outstanding matters will be dealt with during the meeting.

**Officers reports;**

Chairman and Council Delegate;

The Area AGM was held over Zoom as in previous years.

The turnout at area meetings by club representatives is still rather disappointing, despite the improved communications.

As of yet we have been unable to get anyone to take on the post of outreach coordinator. Will try again over the winter.

As the cost of K2 centre has become prohibitively expensive to run the indoor event, we have looked for another venue, that is more cost effective. After some searching we have found a sports centre that is more affordable. Following the local indoor free flight people paying it a visit and giving it the thumbs up as a suitable venue, it has been booked for January 2024.

Since the Area email system was upgraded, the monthly “Area Update” that goes out to all members in the Area is now getting through to over 90% of the people. The feedback we have had has been very encouraging with comments like “Very useful” and “Keep them coming”. We have also been asked to publicise events from clubs in other Areas.

Area events this year have been hit by the bad weather. We have had some that have simply been cancelled, others postponed. One that was very successful was the Areas first scale helicopter event. We have been asked to run it again next year.

The take up of subscription to the Ashdown Forest Licence has been down this year. This may be because of the parking charges that now have to be paid when parking in the forest car-parks. The funds from the competitions run is also down, leaving the Area to subsidise the licence to the tune of over £300. At the Area budget meeting it was agreed that this is untenable and something would have to be done or we would no longer fly on the forest. This was mentioned in the Area update, which caused a number of people to contact me to see how this could be prevented. It was discussed at the recent Area meeting as to how a permanent funding process could be achieved. Some ideas were suggested which the Area elected officers will look into.

The Area continues to be involved with Warden Park Academy running the after school aero club. We also run Build and Fly workshops at the Academy enrichment days in July which proves to be very popular with the students.

Vice Chairman;

Robert wished to make it clear that it is not a requirement of Club Examiners to have to retake the RCC test annually.

Treasurer;

Please open the attached excel file to view the Treasurers report.



Secretary;

Nothing to report.

Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinator;

A very quiet year. The mostly poor flying weather has not encouraged much activity on the testing front. Those that have been requested have been carried out with the exception of one silent flight where I have been unable to arrange a suitable day.

We have been asked to carry out a “C” Aerobatics test which, as far as I am aware, will be the first time we have been asked to do a “C” of any type. I have arranged a C/E and another examiner to conduct it. We have the necessary paperwork and are studying the required schedule but it’s unlikely to take place until next year. This applicant is also to be proposed as an Area C/E in our OGM 8th November 2023.

We were unable to arrange a workshop this year mostly due to the poor weather previously mentioned. We had a club site willing to host it but we couldn’t fix a date. We intend to try again in the New Year. The Chief examiners have been asked if they wish to continue in 2024 and none have expressed a wish to leave. I therefore submit the following to be our Area Chief examiners for 2024.

Mike Sun.

Kevin Beale.

Ian Stingemore.

Mike Galvin.

Dave Knott.

Rob Creasy.

James Gordon.

Colin McGinn.

Next year Area Chief examiners will be required to submit a report to the Area AS controller before the AGM.

In future Area Chief examiners will need to confirm their intention to continue in the role.

I would like to thank our Chief Examiners for their continued support and efforts for the South East Area.

Education officer;

Ian Watts, a member of Mid Sussex Flyers, has arranged for 8 students at Brighton University to use the MSF field to test aircraft as part of the BMFA Payload Challenge. Also, MSF have 4 new junior members.

Rob Stanley has introduced some indoor R/C flying at Warden Park school but there was less than expected enthusiasm shown the children apparently preferring building and flying free flight models.

Flying Discipline Secretary (Free Flight);

Nine flyers took part in the Ashdown contests this year, contributing £195 to the Ashdown License fund.
The biggest change this year was having to pay £5 for all day parking for the first time, but like most things you get use to it and carry on.
The standout flyers this year were Neil Allen and Mike Cook.
As well as representing GB in the FF World Champ in France, Neil had great success at Ashdown, winning 2 classes nationally at the last meeting.
Congratulations to Mike Cook who became the SEBMFA FF Champion in his last season at Ashdown, he will be missed, as he moves up country to be nearer an airfield.

I would like to thank Stuart Willis and Rob Stanley for getting the ball rolling on putting the SE Area Indoor meeting back on the map, or I should say calendar. It will be held January 28 at “ The Triangle” sports centre, Burgess Hill. Same format as the old Crawley events. The event will be organised by Terry Adams and David Goodwin, many thanks to them for stepping forward, l will sit down and relax on the scoreboard table.

**Re-election of Officers;**

The following people were elected unanimously;

Area Delegate = Stuart Willis (proposed Robert Richardson seconded Chris Searle).

Treasurer = Jim Tucker (proposed Taj Manning seconded Rob Stanley).

Achievement Scheme controller = Bob Hart (proposed Robert Richardson seconded Taj Manning).

Free Flight Competition Secretary = Alex Cameron (proposed Robert Richardson seconded Stuart Willis).

Webmaster = Rob Stanley (proposed Stuart Willis seconded Martin Jones).

**Returns to BMFA Head Office;**

Stuart will liaise with Jim to send in the Accounts.

Chris will complete the online Area Annual Return Form which is received about a week after the Society’s AGM.

**The meeting closed at 20:12**