The GM commenced at 19:30 on the 10th January 2024

**Present;**

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| Name | Area Role | Delegate for Club |
|  |  |  |
| Stuart Willis | Chairman |  |
| Robert Richardson | Vice Chairman | Horam MFC |
| Chris Searle | Secretary |  |
| Jim Tucker | Treasurer | Wealden MAS |
| Bob Hart | A.S. co-ordinator | Hastings MFC |
| Norman Carter | Member | Mid-Sussex Flyers |
| Alex Cameron | Free flight competition Secretary | Crawley & Dist. MAC |
| Rob Stanley | Web Master | Slope Soaring Sussex |
| James Gordon | A.C.E | Caterham & District MFC |
| Mark Heffer | Member | 1066 MFC |
| Paul Holmes | Member | Gravesend MFC |
| Tony Crawford | Member |  |
| Terry Knight | Member |  |
| John Newbury | Member | Gravesend MFC |
| Alex Blackwell | Member | Leatherhead M.F.C |
| Tim Billings | Member | Concorde MFC |
| Andy Hyam | Member |  |
| Colin McGinn | A.C.E |  |
| Mike Sun | A.C.E |  |

**Apologies from;**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Area Role | Delegate for Club |
| Taj Manning | Education co-ordinator | Mid-Sussex Flyers |
| Martin Jones | Member | Epsom RFC |
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**Minutes of the previous GM;**

Rob Stanley had been incorrectly listed as a Member instead of Web Master otherwise agreed to be a true record unanimously by those that were at that meeting.

**Voting strength;**

It was confirmed that a voting quorum existed.

**Matters arising from the previous meeting;**

1. Due to Covid affecting him and his family Stuart had been unable to progress the search for an Area Outreach Co-Ordinator although the position is advertised already on the Area web site
2. Flyer-ids were expected to have been introduced with this year’s renewals but we are dependant on the CAA and will have to wait until they are in a position to complete the implementation sometime in the future.
3. Remote.-ids are not expected to be required until 2028.
4. The Scale indoor meeting has not been organised as it may clash with the up coming Indoor meeting however it will be considered in the future.

**Officers reports;**

Chairman and Council Delegate;

I recently attend the Society's AGM and Award dinner. As you will know by now the proposed £3 increase in the membership was increased to £5 by an amendment to the proposed 2024/2025 budgets from the floor on the day. The proposed budget with the amendment was voted through. I voted against the amendment and abstained from the main vote as the figures in the budget were agreed upon at the last Board meeting and were based on the expected reduction in membership and the package of cuts to balance the books.

It was agreed at the Area meeting back in November that Jim Tucker and my self would contact the conservators at Ashdown Forest to look into the Car parking and licence fees. We had a fairly lengthy meeting with them and they agreed to speak to the Conservators Board about the subjects raise. This is their not unexpected reply.

*Parking and the licence fee.*

*Dealing first with the licence fee: this is set by the Board and cannot be reduced.*

*You also mentioned that parking charges are affecting the number of your members and asked whether it would be possible to have a parking concession. As advised at the meeting this is not something that we are able to assist with as it is simply not possible to set up so that it is only used when members are flying their planes. Therefore they will need to pay for parking in the usual way.*

An option that was presented to me by an Area member, that we had not thought of was the BMFA would negotiate the licence but the conservators would issue and charge for individual licences. Removing the issue of the Area having to raise the funds to pay for the licence. I did email the conservators as to what their thoughts on this. The reply back was a I expected.

*For us, the current type of licence works well and that is the one that we would want to keep moving forward.*

So we are back to square one, which is where a Club is setup to raise the necessary funds to pay for the license. I have emails all those people that have paid the £10 via the Area website of the past few years and those who want to be involved on setting up the Ashdown club Zoom meeting. This is due to take place the week of the 16th January I will finalise the date this week. As of yet I have only had 10 reply's to the 41 emails I sent out. I will send out the January Area update after this meeting with a reminder about the meeting.

The Longman license fee has been paid and remains £500.

Vice Chairman.

Nothing to report.

Treasurer;

There is around £3000 in the bank account including the payment for the Long Man site.

Stuart reported that we are waiting for confirmation of the budget we have submitted but commented that as the amount now available to the Areas has reduced from £25000 to £15000 we may not get all that we requested.

Secretary;

The Online Area Returns have been submitted.

Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinator;

The application form for James Graham’s Chief Examiners new role has been sent in but he has not received any confirmation as yet. Rob had spoken to Kevin Beale on Bob’s behalf and got an agreement from Kevin to arrange the Silent flight test with the candidate. Bob will review the communication problems he is having with Kevin.

Education officer;

Pilot kits had been bought for the school.

The has been no response from Clubs following an offer in the Area update to help with educational matters.

Martin Jones from ERFC will be assisting Stuart and Rob at the school in the future.

Free flight competition Secretary;

Alex asked Stuart to provide the names of those that had replied to the invitation to join the zoom Ashdown zoom meeting so that he can contact directly those not listed. Some people had told Alex they would go along with the outcome of the meeting.

Webmaster;

Rob continues to update our web site with relevant information published on the main BMFA site. However, he has noticed that Clubs list local events on the BMFA site without him being informed or adding them to our calendar. Placing events on the main site do not automatically get added to our web site, this need to be done manually

**SE Area Events in 2024;**

Indoor fun fly/competition

Will take place on 28th January, open to flyers and spectators at 10:00, although the hall is available from 09:00-18:00. Payment has been made and insurance details provided. The Trophies have been procured and there will be a sufficient number of time cards. As John Hook will not be attending it was suggested that people can bring items to swap or sell. Thirty trestle tables and chairs will be provided.

The following elected officers from the Area will be available to help run the meeting; Stuart, Robert, Jim, Bob, Alex and Rob.

Fun Fly

Stuart has received Bickley dates from James and will try to incorporate them with the Area event dates. The first date is 7th July for the combined London and South East areas Fun Fly along with Avicraft. The Bickley club, supported by J Perkins, will be providing Trophies and prizes although Stuart did offer financial help if required. Stuart reported that ERFC had declined a request to hold a Fun Fly due to the limited days their own members can use their site.

ERFC electric fly-in

The will be on 5th May but will be a general fly-in for both IC and electric models.

ERFC Scale Day

The will be on 15th September which doesn’t clash with any other dates.

Hastings Scale Day

Provisionally 21st July but to be confirmed.

Cloud Tramp

Normally the first weekend in August, Stuart will confirm with Roger Marples.

Scale Helicopter fly-in

Jonathon Glass would like to run this event around the end of June, the 23rd does not clash and this will need to verified with Jonathon. The area can fund refreshments and possibly toilets depending on the budget received.

Capel Military show

ERFC are planning a static display and Stuart suggested obtaining the BMFA gazebo so that it can become a joint venture.

**AOB**

Robert stated that he hadn’t received notification of the meeting however there weren’t any non-delivery messages returned to Stuart. This has happened before although testing had always worked so Chris suggested that Robert could create an alternative web email address the Area could use.

Paul stated that a swap meet will be held by the Gravesend club on 9th March. This has been placed on the BMFA web site, Area web site and in the RCME.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Provisionally Wednesday 1st May.

**The meeting closed at 20:33.**