The GM commenced at 19:30 on the 1st May 2024

**Present;**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Area Role | Delegate for Club  |
|  |  |  |
| Stuart Willis | Chairman |  |
| Robert Richardson | Vice Chairman | Horam MFC  |
| Chris Searle | Secretary | Riddlesdown MFC |
| Taj Manning | Education co-ordinator | Mid-Sussex Flyers |
| Bob Hart | A.S. co-ordinator | Hastings MFC |
| Alex Cameron | Free flight competition Secretary | Crawley & Dist. MAC |
| Rob Stanley | Web Master | Slope Soaring Sussex |
| Roger Marples | Member | E.D.M.A.C |
| Mark Heffer | Member | 1066 MFC |
| Paul Holmes | Member |  |
| Terry Knight | Member |  |
| John Newbury | Member | Gravesend MFC |
| Alex Blackwell | Member | Leatherhead M.F.C |
| Mike Sun | A.C.E |  |
| James Graham | A.C.E. |  |

**Apologies from;**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Area Role | Delegate for Club |
| James Gordon | A.C.E | Caterham & District MFC |
| Martin Jones | Member | Epsom RFC |
| Jim Tucker | Treasurer | Wealden MAS |
| Norman Carter | Member |  |
| Tony Crawford | Member |  |

**Minutes of the previous GM;**

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. The previously reported problem with Roberts emails has been resolved. The problems were with the TalkTalk email address and he now uses a different email address for the BMFA. Chris stated that the Area web site needs updating to reflect this and Stuart agreed to do it.

**Officers reports;**

Chairman and Council Delegate;

I attended the areas zoom meeting back in January. The first part of the meeting was taken up with Ratifications and appointments to ASRC, Non Executive directors and Awards committee. Some discussion took place on the proposal to go to BMFA Rolling membership. There is very mixed feeling on this subject. Some people/clubs are very negative about it saying that it would involve a lot of extra admin for their membership sectaries where as others are in favour of it. It was pointed out that Rolling membership is available already through the BMFA gift voucher as that is a one year subscription from the day the voucher is redeemed. Discussion on Emailing information to clubs took place. I pointed out that the south east area has been doing this already and has bee very well received by the area membership. Mike Woodhouse discussed the area funding as the total budget was down to £15000 this year. The South East area had to revise the budget we has submitted this will be covered later in the meeting. There has been a proposal to introduce “BMFA Club of the year” I asked a few people their opinion and got rather mixed replies but on the hole there did not seem to be much enthusiasm for it. There was an online vote to progress this further. I abstained from the vote as we are not for or against the idea it is to be looked in to further.

I have been quite busy over the past few months with the Ashdown Forest Flyers club. I’d like to thank Taj Manning and Stephen Hills for all the work they have put in to getting the club up and running. There are currently 26 members, which will cover the cost of this years Licence which is £610. After much back and forth with Zoe Nichols the Conservators Administration Manager the 2024/2025 licence has been finalised and signed.

The Area the Indoor Competition and Fun Fly took place on 28th January 2024 at the Triangle centrer. This was the first time it has been run for a number of years, and at a new location so it was a bit of an unknown situation. As it turned out the event was deemed a great success by all of the attendees. The area managed to cover the costs for the occasion with the attendance fees. On this basis we have gone ahead and booked 23rd Feb 2025 for next years event. Thanks to all those who helped and attended on the day to make it such a success.

The Area update that gets sent out each month is still proving useful although I sometimes find it hard to know what to write. My request for an Area outreach coordinator may have borne fruit as Nigel Lelew contacted me and said he may be interested in the position. I have put him in contact with Helen Jones the outreach Director. The 2024 event calendar is filling up lets hope the weather will play ball. Sadly the ERFC fly-in this coming weekend has had to be cancelled due to the field and strip only just starting to dry out.

Vice Chairman.

The Area Scale Day at Hastings has been rescheduled from 21st July to 25th August.

Treasurer;

The BMFA have had to reduce the Areas Budgets from £25000 to £15000.

The South East Area had applied for £1200 but only £786 had been allocated, this is based on the amount the Area has in its bank accounts.

Stuart proposed to carry on with our previous spending proposals and monitor our expenditure.

With the Ashdown Forest Club and ESSA/SSA covering Long Man the Area no longer needs to keep money aside for those sites.

The following are the accounts as of 1st May;

Bank Account £2558.80

Cash in hand £650      (income from indoor Event)

Money awaiting to be received;

BMFA Funds £786

Ashdown licence £610

ESSA Longman £250

Secretary;

Nothing to report

Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinator;

Bob had attended a zoom meeting for Chief Examiners and Co-ordinators. At the meeting he had raised a question at Stuart’s request regarding the wording and definition of requirements for the BPC achievement level. Bob was informed that all the requirements are in the Test Guide, the implication being no change is necessary. Specifically, Stuart is concerned about the criteria stated that allows a BPC to be taken with a model of weight/mass greater than 1 Kilo as long as it has electronic stabilisation. Following a discussion Stuart stated that he would raise the issue at the next Ares meeting. There will be a Training and Testing day at the Hastings Club’s site on 14th July.

Education officer;

Nothing to report.

Free flight competition Secretary;

Stuart explained that the Ashdown Flyers club operates at the moment as a collection of individuals although it may become more cohesive as it develops. It is possible for Ashdown Flyers to fly all day on competition days, including R/C but it would have to be in the same area as the competition. Apart from competition days the times are as per the licence. Terry was concerned that displaying a notice in the car stating the owner was flying could be of use to criminals. Stuart replied that the requirement was due to the terms of the licence but also that a BMFA sticker and an Ashdown Flyers notice should suffice.

Webmaster;

Nothing to report.

**SE Area Events in 2025;**

ERFC Scale Day

This will be on 15th September.

Hastings Scale Day

This will be on 25th August.

Test and Training Day

This will be on 14th July at the Hastings Club site.

Cloud Tramp

This will be on 3rd August.

Scale Helicopter fly-in

This will be on 23rd June.

2025 Indoor competition

Will take place at the same venue as before, date TBC.

**Areas Council Meeting;**

There were no objections to changing the name of Area 11.

There were no views one way or another on the subject of BMFA Club of the Year.

**AOB;**

Mike Sun had received 2 applications for C tests however Bob was unaware of them. The only one Bob knows about is a request for a C aerobatic test for James Graham.

Bob requested that Mike asks them to contact him.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Provisionally Wednesday 11th September.

**The meeting closed at 20:39.**