The GM commenced at 19:30 on the 11th September 2024

**Present;**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Area Role | Delegate for Club  |
|  |  |  |
| Stuart Willis | Chairman |  |
| Robert Richardson | Vice Chairman | Horam MFC  |
| Chris Searle | Secretary | Riddlesdown MFC |
| Bob Hart | A.S. co-ordinator | Hastings MFC |
| Alex Cameron | Free flight competition Secretary | Crawley & Dist. MAC |
| Jim Tucker | Treasurer | Wealden MAS |
| Mark Heffer | Member | 1066 MFC |
| James Gordon | A.C.E | Caterham & District MFC |
| Mike Sun | A.C.E |  |
| Norman Carter | Member |  |
| Terry Knight | Member |  |

**Apologies from;**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Area Role | Delegate for Club |
| Peter Brash | Member |  |
| Martin Jones | Member | Epsom RFC |
| Taj Manning | Education co-ordinator | Mid-Sussex Flyers |
| Rob Stanley | Web Master | Slope Soaring Sussex |
| Paul Holmes | Member |  |
| John Newbury | Member | Gravesend MFC |

**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;**

Nothing outstanding.

**Officers reports;**

Chairman and Council Delegate;

Over the past 6 months or so I have been unable to attend area events or do much in the way of BMFA bits. This has been because my daughter-in-law Katie was undergoing chemo for cancer and I have been busy supporting my son and grandchildren. Sadly, Katie lost her two-year battle with cancer 3 weeks ago. Thank you all of those that have sent me messages of condolence and sympathy. I have informed the area officers that depending on how, what sort of support and help my Son and grandchildren require going forward I may be standing down from one or both positions I hold. I really won’t know for a while. The other officers of the area have offered to take on any tasks that need doing in the meantime. Luckily it has been rather quiet area business front. What I have been doing is sending out monthly area updates, updating Facebook. The events that have taken place all seem to have gone off well. The area Scale day was postponed to last Sunday 8th but the weather was predicted to be bad so Bob and I took the decision to cancel it for this year. The purchased trophies can be use next year, they only need they only need new engraved plates. The ERFC scale fly-in takes palace next Sunday, I understand they have a number of people resisted. And the area fun-fly at the Croydon Airport MFC on the 22nd.  The one event I was able to attend the Fun-fly comp at Bickley was rained off after only one round and has been rescheduled to the 27th October. The Ashdown forest Flyers is now up and running with some 30 plus members. Thanks to Taj Manning for steeping in and sorting out some minor problems for me. As of yet we haven't had this year’s payment from them as it’s taking an age to get a second signatory on the account. I will be attending Areas council Zoom Meeting tomorrow evening. If there is anything of relevance I will report on it in the October area update.

Vice Chairman.

Robert highlighted an issue with the BMFA web site in so far as there is difficulty in obtaining information, a person’s Achievement details were incorrect and the Classifieds are sometimes not accessible. Apparently the BMFA are aware of it but have not resolved it. Stuart will raise at the next Areas meeting. Also, James noted that the BFFA web site is not updating and although Andy Symons is aware it has not been fixed.

Secretary;

Nothing to report

Treasurer;

The Area is running within budget, the expenditure on Long Man and Ashdown are recovered from users of those sites with £600 awaited from Ashdown.

There is an increase expected in the Ashdown rent and also the Long Man rent has not increased in many years however this is the responsibility of the groups using those sites.

There is £3180 in the Area account and £400 cash on hand.

Stuart asked Jim to prepare the budget for 2023-2024 so that it can be presented before the November AGM. It will be in the usual format.

The budget and expenditure from last year can be used to base the budget request for 2025-2026, however Jim stated that the previous allocation of £786 will be sufficient for the Area in the foreseeable future.

Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinator;

The Training and Testing event was successfully run, 2 “A” FW tests 1 “A” Heli test and 1 “B” Heli test being completed along with instructional flights.

Nothing definite to report on the “C” Aerobatic requests, Duncan Mclure has to nominate the A.C.E and Bob had suggested Rob Creasey for candidates local to Hastings.

Stuart asked Bob to confirm the ratification of the A.C.Es for 2025.

Education officer;

Warden Park school sessions will restart in a couple of weeks being run by Stuart and Martin Jones.

Webmaster;

Rob has done a good job in keeping the Area web site up to date with dates of Events. Stuart had emailed those people that had unsubscribed from the Area enquiring for their reasons for doing so.

Mike Sun stated that his phone number was still openly available on the internet via Area documents and Stuart promised to remove all older documents containing personal details.

Free flight competition Secretary;

There have been 7 meetings this year on Ashdown Forest.

There have been problems with the car park payment system which can be resolved if an attendant from Horizon Parking is present but his is not always the case.

Alex will provide Stuart with Competition dates for 2025 by December.

**SE Area Events in 2025;**

2025 Indoor competition

Will take place at the same venue as before, contracts have been signed and date set but promotional details need to be planned. The Trophies needed some attention and £220 had been spent on engraving and repairs.

**AOB;**

Stuart will add details of the Wealden Club Swap Meet into the next Area update.

There has been some unauthorised flying on the Forest and emails have been sent to local clubs to try and determine the culprits.

Apart from Stuart who is unsure how much spare time he will have as he described in his report all the Officers of the Area Committee present agreed to continue to serve in their current roles. Rob Stanley has sent in an email agreeing to carry on as web master.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 6th November, starting after the AGM which starts at 19:30.

**The meeting closed at 20:16.**