The AGM commenced at 19:30 on the 6th November 2024

**Present;**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Area Role | Delegate for Club  |
| Stuart Willis | Chairman |  |
| Robert Richardson | Vice Chairman | Horam MFC  |
| Chris Searle | Secretary | Riddlesdown MFC |
| Jim Tucker | Treasurer | Wealden MAS |
| Alex Cameron | Free Flight Competition Secretary | Ashdown Forest Flyers |
| Bob Hart | A.S. co-ordinator | Hastings MFC |
| James Gordon | A.C.E | Caterham & District MFC |
| Mike Sun | A.C.E |  |
| Martin Jones | Member | Epsom RFC |
| Paul Holmes | Member |  |
| Tony Crawford | Member |  |
| Terry Knight | Member | Crawley & Dist. MAC |
| John Newbury | Member | Gravesend MFC |
| Norman Carter | Member |  |
| Roger Marples | Member | Epsom DMAC |
| Tim Billings | Member | Concorde MFC |
| Alex Blackwell | Member | Leatherhead MFC |
| Stewart Bryant | Member |  |
| Andrew Hyams | Member | LDO virtual club |

**Apologies from;**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Area Role | Delegate for Club |
| Taj Manning | Education co-ordinator |  |
| Rob Stanley | Web Master |  |

**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. All of the officer roles were filled except the Outreach coordinator. Despite advertising and a couple of people asking for more information the role is still to be filled.

The issue with funding the Ashdown Forest licence has been resolved by the setting up of a club (Ashdown Forest Flyers) to fund the licence. People that fly on the forest are now required to be a member of the BMFA and Ashdown Forest Flyers. The membership fees are set at a rate to cover the cost of the license. There are currently 33 members.

The cost of the K2 centre had become prohibitively expensive to run the Area indoor event that has run for many years, so a new venue was found that was more financially viable. The event was run in January and was a great success not only financially but also all those that attended thought the event and venue was brilliant. We have booked for 2025.

Area events this year have been hit by the bad weather. We have had some that have been postponed and others have been cancelled till next year. The Hastings Club ran a successful Test and Training day. The Scale day Fly-in at Epson Radio Flying Club in September was one of the successful events with good weather and a good number of people from the area flying.

The Area continues to be involved with Warden Park Academy running the after school aero club. We now have students returning for the 3rd year and the models they are building are more complexed than anything we have built before. At the school’s enrichment days in July we were blessed with good weather which enabled us to fly the 30+ BMFA darts outside over the 2 days. Building and flying the BMFA darts always proves to be very popular with the students.

Vice Chairman;

Nothing to report.

Treasurer;

The Treasurer’s Report covers the financial year 2022/2023. The Zoom Licence was paid by Stuart and had been reimbursed but was not shown in the accounts.

See attached report.



Secretary;

Nothing to report.

Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinator;

There has been very little demand on our Chief Examiners this year.

The Area held a Test and Training day at the Hastings Model Flying Club site. There were successful A and B tests carried out and some advice given to those planning to take a test.

James Gordon has stood down as Chief Examiner and I and the Area thank him for his input during the time he held the position.

Derek Henzell and Colin McGinn were removed by the BMFA because they did not renew their membership.

I propose the following Area C/E’s are to stand for Ratification for 2025.

Mike Sun F/W S/F

Kevin Beale S/F

Ian Stingemore F/W

Mike Galvin F/W

Dave Knott F/W Heli

Rob Creasey F/W Heli

James Graham F/W

Those eligible to vote confirmed Ratification of the above names with 13 votes in favour and none against.

Given that we have lost three C/E’s this year and how little work there has been I suggest we wait before looking for replacements.

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Education officer;

Nothing to report.

Free Flight Competition Secretary;

The SEBMFA runs 8 meetings at Ashdown Forest throughout the year as part of a BMFA national competition. This year, the Area set up The Ashdown Forest Flyers (AFF), as a way of financing the purchase of a license.

Many thanks, in particular to Stuart Willis, Taj Manning and Stephen Hills, for making this a smooth process.

So far, we have had no interactions with the wardens and have not been asked to show our AFF cards.

The turnout has been low in 2024.

The weather forecasts these days are pretty accurate, so flyers can decide beforehand whether it is worth going. The 4th and 5th meetings suffered from a SW wind direction and strong winds, so some flyers gave them a miss.

| 2024 |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Meeting | Weather | Flyers |
| 1st |  E 5 mph rain drizzle | 2 |
| 2nd | WSW 15 mph rain, later improved | 3 |
| 3rd |  NE Light winds | 6 |
| 4th | SW windy, sunny | 1 |
| 5th | SW 15 mph wind and rain | 1 |
| 6th | NW 6 mph sunny | 4 |
| 7th | NE 8mph hot | 4 |
| 8th | SE 10mph wind, drizzle | 1 |

The favorite wind direction is generally from the north, which allows us to fly down the slope from the Bushy Willows car park. The 3rd, 6th and 7th meeting had the most flying.

All the meetings had more attendees, those who came to help, or coward out of flying!

Congratulations to the Crawley Club on winning the RAFA Shield with 45 points, next came East Grinstead with 31 points and Epsom Downs EDMAC third with 19 points.

SEBMFA Champion was Gary Oulds,

Glider Champion was Ken Taylor.

Rubber Champion was Gary Oulds.

Power Champion was Terry Knight.

Well done to Trevor Grey and Neil Allen who competed at the BMFA NATS 2024. Both coming top in two classes

**Re-election of Officers;**

The following people were elected unanimously for a 2-year appointment;

Chairman – Stuart Willis, proposed by Chris Searle and seconded by James Gordon

Vice Chairman-Robert Richardson, proposed by Stuart Willis and seconded by Roger Marples

Secretary – Chris Searle, proposed by Stuart Willis and seconded by Martin Jones

Education-Taj Manning, proposed by Tony Crawford and seconded by Robert Richardson

Terry Knight proposed a note of thanks for the committees work in 2024.

**Returns to BMFA Head Office;**

Jim has sent the 2022/2023 the Accounts to the head office.

Chris will complete the online Area Annual Return Form once it is received.

**The meeting closed at 19:57**