The GM commenced at 19:58 on the 6th November 2024

**Present;**

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| 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 | Member | 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 with the exception of the dates noted of the requested budget in the Treasurers Report. It should have read 2022/2023.

**Matters arising from the previous meeting;**

The problems experienced on the BMFA classifieds were caused by a “Denial of Service” attack from an unknown source, this has now stopped and the site is working normally again.

Stuart offered to help James with other problems on the BFFA web site.

Notice of the Wealden Club swap meet was omitted from the last Area Update, Stuart will note on the Face Book page.

**Officers reports;**

Chairman and Council Delegate;

I attended the Area Council meeting held via Zoom on 12th September, 11 areas were represented, it was reported that the BMFA are now the ”go-to” body for ATC Air Cadet squadrons that wanted to get involved with fixed wing model flying. Clubs that are prepared to get involved should make themselves known to the Club Support Officer Andy Symons who will be compiling a list of clubs willing to help (N.B this forms part of the “Trial Flight” initiative reported by the Secretary in his report). Similarly clubs willing to assist schools or universities in their area taking part in the “Payload Challenge” should make themselves known, any requests for help will be handled by the Outreach team and channelled through either the Area Co-ordinator or Secretary. Helen also asked for reports and photos from any area outreach activities to be sent to her for inclusion in future issues of the BMFA news. The Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinator, Duncan McClure asked that delegates remind their ASC and ACE’s that anyone putting themselves forward for any of the Achievement Scheme tests must have passed the BMFA RCC (Registration Competency Certificate) test in order to avoid answering the mandatory questions. Having passed the CAA DMARES (Drone and Model Aircraft Registration and Education System) test is not acceptable, any forms submitted where the RCC has not been passed and no mandatory questions have been answered will be rejected and the test will.

My October area update contained a piece on prostate cancer. I receive a rather damning email from one member saying I was giving dangerous medical advice amongst other things. This would have been an issue but he copied in head office. After which a note was put on the Areas forum saying that emails sent to BMFA members should be retaliative to the BMFA and model flying. I replied with a fairly lengthy response along the lines of, as the demographic of our ever-decreasing membership are possibility at risk, this was not the first time we had published such an article, and we as the governing body have a duty of care for our members. I felt the item was very much related to our membership. As of yet I have yet to receive a reply.

I attended the society AGM on the 2nd November as the Club representative of ERFC. The following is a direct lift from the Areas November update. The Society AGM was held on the 2nd November as a combined event over Zoom and at Buckminster. From the number of votes cast during the meeting I calculated there were 29 clubs on line and 27 in person at Buckminster. Some of these may have been Fellows though. 50+ clubs represented out of some 750 in total is rather a low proportion. Mike Woodhouse has resigned as Finance Director and Keith Lomax the previous Finance Director has taken on the post temporally until a new one can be found. This meant the society’s accounts were late being released. There is a requirement for the accounts to be release a minimum of 21 days before the meeting, as this did not happen then an EGM is to be called on the 26th November at 19:00 over Zoom, to vote on accepting the Audited accounts for 2022/23. And the proposed budget for 2025/26 Now the bit most people will want to know if they don’t know already. The proposed membership increase for senior members will be £2 taking it up to £49. All other fees will remain the same Junior and Student £20, Family Partner £30, Family Junior £15, Paper copies of BMFA news £10. The first Edition will be a paper copy and sent to all current members. This Still needs to be Voted on the 26th Last year there was a proposal from the floor to make it £5 that was voted in, so clubs still need to attend the EGM to vote the proposed Budget through without alteration. The full accounts and budget figures are available from the BMFA website, your Club secretary will have the information on how to access them.

Flyer Id’s are now being issued by the CAA via Email although it would appear that not all members are getting theirs. If you have not had one by the 11th November then contact head office and they will chase the CAA. You may want to check your “Email Junk Folder” as that appears to be where some are ending up, mine did.

Kevin Cooper sadly died on the 25th October. Kevin was a key member of Hastings club and seemed to spend most of his life at the field cutting the grass and maintaining the flying field. r. Kevin will be missed by all. Our condolences and thoughts go to Heather and Family.

Vice Chairman;

Nothing to report.

Secretary;

Nothing to report

Treasurer;

The Area is operating within the allocated budget.

There is £2998.86 in the Area bank account, in addition £610 is due from Ashdown Flyers and there is a £640 cash float.

The Ashdown Flyers have £800 in their account so there should be no contribution from the Area towards the cost flying on the forest.

Stuart was reimbursed £185 for the 2024/25 Zoom licence and Area Fun Fly expenses.

The budget for 2025/6 has been submitted.

Stuart requested 2 cheques for the Long Man site and next year’s Indoor meeting.

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Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinator;

Nothing to report.

Education officer;

Nothing to report.

Free Flight Competition Secretary

Nothing to report.

**SE Area Events in 2024**

Stuart thanked those that had been involved in organising this year’s Events.

**SE Area Events in 2025**

The Indoor Meeting is scheduled for February 23rd.

Stuart will deal with the Triangle Centre.

The Trophy Budget has been agreed.

The Triangle Centre payment is due in December.

The air con is affecting competition models and a request to switch will be made.

**Proposal from Stewart Bryant**

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Stuart Willis read out the Proposal after which it was proposed by Stewart Bryant (ERFC) and seconded by Roger Marples (EDMAC).

A discussion of over 30 minutes took place with these results;

For = 11

Abstension = 3

Against = 2

Therefor the Proposal will go forward to the (*Areas Council*) next Board meeting.

**A.O.B**

There was no other business.

**D.O.N.M**

Wednesday 15th January 2025

**The meeting closed at 21:20**