The GM commenced at 19:30on the 30h April 2025

**Present;**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Area Role | Delegate for Club  |
| Stuart Willis | Chairman |  |
| Robert Richardson | Vice Chairman | Horam MFC  |
| Jim Tucker | Treasurer | Wealden MAS |
| Taj Manning | Education co-ordinator | Mid Sussex MFC |
| Rob Stanley | Web Master |  |
| 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 |  |
| Chris Searle | Secretary | Riddlesdown MFC |
| TerryKnight | Member | CADMFC |
| David Allen | Member | EMHC |
| Alex Blackwell | Member | Leatherhead MFC |
| Jonathon Stubbs | Member | Concorde MFC |

**Apologies from;**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Area Role | Delegate for Club |
| Tony Crawford | Member | Slope Soaring Sussex |
| Norman Carter | Member |  |
| Paul Holmes | Member | Gravesend MFC |

**Voting strength;**

It was confirmed that a voting quorum existed.

**Minutes of the previous AGM;**

Corrected and agreed to be a true record.

**Matters arising from the previous meeting ;**

The Proposal from Stewart Bryant was withdrawn because more work was required. To have it ready to be put forward at the next Board meeting the Area would have needed to approve it by the start of April. The Area will discuss the Proposal if it is re-submitted.

**Officers reports;**

Chairman and Council Delegate

I attended the Areas meeting over Zoom back in January.

The election of members to the Achievement Scheme Review Committee, with three vacancies filled by John Rob, Chris Bradbury, and Simon Wood.

The ASRC documentation has been streamlined and now have a new look. ACES were to be informed of the new changes.

The four Non-Executive Directors for this year are Martin Dilley [London], Roy Tarbox[ South Midland],John McNamara [Northern] and John Robb[Western]

Club of the year was discussed and would be put forward to the next Board meeting (at which it was approved) there is an agenda item later to cover this.

I have been fairly busy with the Ashdown Forest Flyers club with membership renewals and trying to get the 2025/26 license sorted. It was not until a few days before the AFF AGM I was informed to the cost of this year’s licence which is £633.74 The area has paid for the licence and the funds from AFF will be transferred to the area account in the near future. Communications with the Conservators staff is at an all-time low it takes them ages to reply to emails. I’m still awaiting the signed licence and confirmation they have receive our payment from them. The membership numbers of AFF is very good in that we were able to reduce the cost of the membership this year.

I must now announce that after much thought, I have decided to stand down as Area Delegate at the AGM in November. Although I will stay on as Area chairman. I have taken my eye off the ball over the past year even more so since last August. I have not given the post the time and effort it should receive to benefit the area as I have done in the past.

The post of Chairman and area delegate should really be held by two people as it is in all the other BMFA areas. I have been the Area Delegate for almost 15 years now and think its time for some fresh blood and ideas.

I have enjoyed my time as area delegate, yes it can be challenging sometimes but very rewarding. I will be looking for someone to take on the role and will start advertising for the post in the May Area update. I have one name in the frame and will be talking to them soon.

Vice Chairman;

Robert thanked Stuart for his work as Area Delegate and this was also the unanimous opinion of those present at the meeting.

Secretary;

Chris was unable to get his Audio to work however it is to be noted that the Einsford Model Helicopter Club has been added to the Area Web site.

Treasurer;

There is £2120.04 in the Bank account and £600.00 cash. Ashdown Forest Flyers have yet to pay the licence of £633.74 however SSA have paid their £250 for this year’s Long Man but we are still awaiting ESSA's payment.

The Area was able to operate within last years allocated budget although our Capital is decreasing. As next year’s budget is unlikely to be much different it might be possible to generate income from Area Events. However, no financial difficulties are expected in the foreseeable future. The Areas funding is to be reviewed at the next Board meeting with more money likely to be available to distribute amongst the Areas. The Area budget has not been submitted yet.

Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinator;

The enquiries received in the Winter have not been followed up by the applicants.

Education officer;

Taj had written to 31 schools – resulting in 1 positive reply and 1 negative reply. The Aeronautical Studies department of Brighton University has been affiliated with Mid-Sussex District Flyers mainly thanks to work done by Ian Watts of that Club. The MSDF have hosted a number of students and telemetry, rocket launching and flying the fixed wing trainer have been covered. The University club has 60 members and it is hoped that in due course they can all be offered some tuition.

Free Flight Competition Secretary

Most free flight flyers had rejoined the Ashdown Forest Club. Stuart stated that communications with the Conservators are difficult.

Web Master

Rob commented on the success of the Indoor meeting and thanked Alex for his efforts and contribution of model kits. The same venue has been booked for next year. BMFA hosted web sites had suffered problems resulting in a loss of 2 months of events, Rob had reloaded from memory but if anyone notices their Event not to be present send him an email and he can re-insert it.

**SE Area Events in 2025**

Fun Fly

Avicraft, London Area and South East Area Fun Fly at Bickley 6th July

South East Area Fun Fly at Croydon MFC 21st September

The Area will support the above meetings.

ERFC

Fly-in 11th May

Scale Day 7th September

Area Scale Day

Hastings MFC 27th July with a standby date in September

Cloud Tramp

EDMAC 2nd August

Scale Heli fly-in

Levels87 MFC 22nd June

Bickley Club events

Will be noted in the Area Update newsletter

Test and Training days

Concorde MFC was well attended.

Hastings MFC 7th June

**Club of the Year Award**

Andy Simmons has sent details to Club Chairmen and Secretaries specifying scoring criteria however some clarification is required. The Area supports the initiative and Stuart will include information in his Area Update newsletter to ensure all Area members are aware of it.

**A.O.B**

Jonathon requested answers to the following questions;

1. If a club member belongs to the BMFA but has no Flyer-ID or OP-ID does this invalidate the members insurance.
2. Do other Clubs check individuals Flyer-ID or OP-ID.

In regard to question (1) Stuart replied that with the exception of certain control line flying and indoor flying it is necessary to hold a Flyer-ID and OP-ID to fly lawfully. The insurance company reviews the circumstances of each claim but it is likely to refuse to pay out if the individual is not flying lawfully. Should the police be involved in an incident prosecution is a real possibility. Taj said that if the insurance company did pay out there is a high chance it would recover the money from the individual that caused the incident.

In reply to question (2) David stated that his club do not check individual members for having Flyer-ID or OP-ID but when drone racing competitions are run al models are checked for showing an OP-ID. Taj stated that Mid Sussex MFC require members to have Flyer-ID and OP-ID but do not police it.

Mike Sun requested confirmation of how to return an Approved Examiner Test form. The form states it is to be returned to the Area co-ordinator – Bob will seek clarification and inform Mike of the correct procedure.

David noted that Einsford MHC have suffered severe email issues related to their BMFA hosted email. James said that BFFA have problems and Taj noted similar for Mid-Sussex MFC. David has contacted Andy Symons but the problem still exists. A workaround may be to use a web email address.

David requested that events being run by Einsford MHC be placed on the Area web site.

**D.O.N.M**

Wednesday 3rd September using zoom

The meeting closed at 20:54