

## Minutes of the BMFA South East Area OGM

The OGM commenced at 20:00 on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019

### **Present;**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area Role</u>	<u>Club</u>
Stuart Willis	Chairman	Felbridge Flyers
Robert Richardson	Vice Chairman	Hastings MFC and Horam MFC
Jim Tucker	Treasurer	Wealden and Hastings MFC
Chris Searle	Secretary	Felbridge Flyers
Bob Hart	A.S. co-ordinator	Wealden MFC and Eastbourne MFC
Richard Pidduck	Member	Caterham and District MFC
John Phillips	Member	E.S.S.A
David Lambert	Member	E.D.M.A.C
James Gordon	A.C.E	Caterham and District MFC
Peter Burgess	Member	E.S.S.A
Ian Garrett	Member	C.A.M.F.C
John Perry	Member	E.R.F.C
Martin Jones	Member	E.R.F.C
John Collins	Member	G.A.C
Paul Holmes	Member	G.A.C
John Privett	Member	E.D.M.A.C
Chris Lent	Member	Maidstone M.F.C

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### **Apologies from:**

Name	Area Role	Club
Rob Stanley	Member	Slope Soaring Sussex
Roger Marples	Member	E.D.M.A.C
Peter Glover	Member	Horsham & District RCMC

### **Minutes of the previous meeting:**

Agreed to be a true record.

### **Matters arising from the previous meeting:**

None.

### **Officers reports:**

#### **Chairman and Council Delegate;**

The indoor event at K2 ran this year at loss but this was only £7 so in my books this a break even situation which is what we were planning for. I think the event was a huge success. A very big thanks to all those who helped on the day. We had more people drop in to spectate than normal. I think this was due to it being run on a Saturday. Some even buying RTF models and have a go at flying. The hall has been booked for Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Back in January I attended the first full council meeting in Leicester. The a big part of the meeting was taken up with the usual first meeting administration of ratifying and formally receiving the various posts, positions, member's council and members of sub committees. The meeting then went on to ratify the international teams and their managers for the forth coming years' competitions and setting various 2019 contest fees The full details are on the BMFA website or I have them if you wish to have a look.

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### **Chairman and Council Delegate continued;**

Relevant points from the reports given at the meeting.

Dave Phipps has had a meeting with DfT/CAA/Sparck on the planed registration/testing system. Things have move on since the Council meeting which we are all aware of.

A number of flying sites including Buckminster will be added to Aeronautical information publication and on CAA charts a symbol has been agreed.

Dave is still very busy with the on going EASA rules and regulations.

The new Membership system is working well and a lot of good feedback has been received.

Its early days yet but arrangement for 2019 NAT's are under way.

The National Center had gained planning permission for some land to be used for Camping.

£38,000 has been donated toward the hard control line circle fund at the National Center this is 8 to 12 thousand sort of the required amount.

Jame Gordon gave a presentation to support the proposal of for a "Fun fly Group" to be accepted as a specialist body with in the BMFA. The proposal was accepted by the majority.

I attended the area meeting in March

The ASRC achievement videos.

Much time was spent discussing the proposed change to Area Funding. This will be covered later in the meeting.

May's Flight Fest was discussed and it is planned that area will be more involved with the event in 2020.

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### **Chairman and Council Delegate continued;**

We discussed the proposed Online only copy of the Hand Book. On the whole it was agreed that this was a good idea as it meant that the version on the website would always be up-to-date. There was some concern about not having a printed copy so it was decided that people could request a printed copy from head office at no cost. How members would be informed of updates has yet to be sorted out.

I have spent quite some time dealing with clubs on the new legislation on flight restriction zones that were issued without any warning. Most clubs are able to continue as before with a number of exceptions round Biggin Hill aerodrome. ATC there have imposed some very strict rules. Mill Hill near Shoreham airport will be covered later in the meeting.

The proposed CAA registration will be discussed later in the meeting.

### **Vice Chairman;**

Nothing to report.

### **Treasurer;**

There is £3700.00 in the Area account at the moment.

### **Secretary;**

Nothing to report.

### **Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinator;**

One enquiry had been received regarding an aerobatic "C" test which was passed to James Gordon.

### **Education Co-Ordinator;**

Nothing to report.

### **Flying Discipline Secretary (Free Flight);**

Nothing to report

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## **SE Area Events in 2019;**

a. Electric Fly In at E.R.F.C 19<sup>th</sup> May

Chris has not been contacted by anyone wishing to attend however the club has everything ready and it is hoped that those who have previously flown there will return. Stuart will also include a reminder for this event in the email noted below.

b. Fun Fly at North Kent Nomads 26<sup>th</sup> May

The flying site has been seen and is an open space which although may be windy there should be little turbulence due to the lack of obstructions. There has been no interest from other clubs in the Area and a number of those present stated they had not received the invitation email that Stuart had sent. This could be due to those emails going into people's spam or junk boxes or a problem with them being sent from the Area web site. Chris and Stuart will investigate and also Stuart will resend the information.

c. Area Scale Day at Hastings Club 28<sup>th</sup> July

d. Cloud Tramp on Epsom Downs 3<sup>rd</sup> August

e. Scale Day at E.R.F.C 22<sup>nd</sup> September

There is also a BMFA F5J competition being hosted by the Horsham and District RCMC, details are in the BMFA Events listings.

Various members present stated that attendance levels at Club events has reduced, this situation being similar for Area events. However, it was agreed to continue to run Area flying meetings for the foreseeable future.

## **Area Funding proposal;**

Stuart outlined the proposal to be put forward at the Areas Council meeting that will change the way in which Areas are funded. Basically, instead of each Area receiving a fixed amount plus an additional amount per club each Area will be allocated a fixed amount (as yet to be determined) to cover its operating costs. Each Area will submit a budget in September which will be reviewed by the full council as part of the annual budget review and if any are excessive will be returned to the area in question. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of supporting the Proposal.

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## **Ashdown Forest and the Long Man;**

The above changes mean that it will not be possible for the Area to make a regular contribution directly from Area funds as before and alternative ways of paying for their use are outlined below.

### Long Man;

The site will be funded in part by members of ESSA and SSS but also but the purchase of a licence for those people who fly there but do not belong to one of those organisations. An initial licence fee of £10.00 will be considered and the GoMembership platform can be used to make the payments. This new system will need to be well publicised before it comes into use. Monitoring the site for non-licence holders will be undertaken by ESSA and SSS members. To maintain continuity the Area will continue to manage the payment of the site rent. The Area will continue to support the site in 2020 and the licencing scheme will come into operation in January 2020 so that money is available for the 2021 rent payment.

### Ashdown Forest;

The competition flyers will agree on a suitable contribution to cover the cost of each of the 8 competition dates however a similar licence scheme will be put into effect in January 2020 which should reduce the contributions by competitors. The Forest Rangers will be made aware of the new system and asked to enforce the use of the licence. However, if there are too few applications for licenses and too few competitors it may be found that use of the site may have to be discontinued.

## **Area Bank Account;**

Due to the unsatisfactory service provided by Santander, especially with regard to obtaining a third signatory, Jim has approached Barclays who are willing to hold the Area bank account. Jim will provide the necessary documents to Stuart and Chris to become second and third signatories once the account is transferred.

## **Mill Hill;**

Stuart explained that Mill Hill is within the Flight Restricted Zone (FRZ) of Brighton City Airport (also commonly known as Shoreham Airport). The BMFA have been unable to secure a MoU for this flying site so until such time as that is obtained model flyers will need to contact the ATC at Brighton City Airport to obtain permission. It will be breaking the law not to do so and liable to police action.

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### **CAA registration:**

Stuart thanked all those who had responded to the BMFA request to contact the CAA, DfT and MPs to raise objections to the Drone registration proposals.

### **A.O.B:**

None.

### **D.O.N.M:**

4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

The meeting closed at 10:00pm.