



BMFA South Midlands Area Committee Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held at 20:00hrs on Tues 8th Jan. 2019
at the Red Lion, Dagnall

Area Officers present:

Chairman	Duncan McClure	Vice Chairman	Mick Eames
Area Delegate	Duncan McClure	Secretary	Dick Whitehead
Treasurer	Andy Todd	AS Co-ordinator	Mick Eames
Education Co-ordinator	Brian Cooper	Competition Secretary	Peter rabjohn

Clubs in attendance:

Aylesbury & District – Peter Johnson (v)	Aylesbury & District – Bob Playle
Bedfordshire SF – Barbara Wright (v)	Buckaneers MFC - Neil Tidey (v)
Buzzards MFC – Mick Dudley (v)	Chiltern Flyers – Peter Rabjohn (v)
Ivinghoe SA – Jim Wright (v)	Luton & DMAS and ASC – Mick Eames (v)
Luton & DMAS & Sec. – Dick Whitehead	MK Modellers – Peter Rabjohn (v)
Old Warden – Julian Barker (v)	Watford Wayfarers – Andy Todd (v)
Wellingborough OG – Brian Cooper (v)	White Horse – Duncan McClure (v)
Wicken MAC – Ian Heath (v)	

Total voting strength: 13 voting attendees (v), plus 2 non-voting attendees, Total attendees = 15

1) Welcome and Apologies for absence:

Apologies received from:

Derek Giles – Buckaneers MFC and President SM Area
Henlow MAC – Allen Stephens
Oxford MFC - Bob Lee
Charles Malcolm - Old Warden MAC
Knebworth MFC – Robin Tinston
Graham Smith – Witney and District MFC

2) Adoption of minutes of the meeting held on Tues 4th September 2018

It was proposed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed: Wellingborough OG – Brian Cooper

Seconded: Old Warden – Julian Barker

Votes for – 10 Votes against – 0 Abstentions – 3

3) Matters arising:

The chairman, Duncan McClure, reported progress on our proposal that the BMFA seek charitable status. The BMFA Records Officer will be leading a working group to explore Trust/Charitable status, and Neil Tidey from our Area will be part of that group. It is hoped an interim report will be available for the May Full Council meeting. However, since Neil has heard nothing of this Duncan will ask what is actually happening at the council meeting this Saturday.

The request for Areas to financially support the production of Achievement Scheme videos has been overtaken by events and a sponsor has now been found to enable work to proceed.

4) Correspondence:

No incoming.

Outgoing - Letters of thanks to retiring ACEs, Barry Beech and Roger Bowyer-Lowe, as voted for at our AGM, were sent on 6th December.

5) Report on Full Council on 8th September:

A written report by our representative had been circulated immediately following that meeting and no issues or questions were raised.

6) Review of BMFA Council 12th January Agenda:

Items where our delegate required our instructions on how to vote were discussed. These were :-
(NOTE: the following may be abbreviated versions - for the full text please see the Council Agenda)

12 a That the Radio Control Power Team Travel Fund (RCPTTF) is divided into three, for the major RC Power championship disciplines – Aerobatics, Pylon Racing and Helicopter.

It was felt that not enough information was provided regarding the implications and effects of this proposal, particularly as some RC disciplines, e.g. Scale, were not even mentioned. Our delegate was instructed to vote against this proposal by a unanimous show of hands.

14 Confirmation of the status of SAA and LMA insurance (Ref General Rule 2.1.6 Entry to Competitions.)

Our delegate was requested to ask why we needed to confirm this, and were there any implications for members of these organisations flying at Area clubs or sites.

19 c To receive a proposal from the Competition Secretary to amend BMFA General Rule 2.5.7

This proposal aims to deal with the postponement of National Championships in the event of extreme weather, but doesn't make any reference to existing competition rules regarding windspeed and visibility. In addition, it states that no further entry fees will be charged on the re-run events, but that has considerable implications on costs. Our delegate will ask for clarification of these issues.

19 c To receive a proposal from the Competition Secretary that the group of fliers currently known as the "Fun Fly Group" be approved as a BMFA Specialist Body and known as the "British Fun Fly Association".

We have no objection to the aim of this proposal, but the proposed constitution for the body seems to contravene the rules for a specialist body regarding its members being BMFA members. Our delegate to query this point and vote against unless suitable assurances are received.

AOB

Our delegate to ask why there is no regular 'BMFA Buckminster NFC update' on the Full Council agenda.

7) Proposal that the Area consider making a donation towards the construction of the control line circles at Buckminster

After a lengthy discussion the meeting agreed to pledge a donation of £100 towards the costs of the control line circle if and when the project went ahead.

Proposed: Chiltern Flyers – Peter Rabjohn

Seconded: Luton & DMAS – Mick Eames

Votes for – 11 Votes against – 0 Abstentions – 2

8) Process for allocation of Team Funding by BMFA Comp. Sec. and the Area

It was agreed that clarity was needed on the process of funding from the BMFA, but that the process within this Area was operating well and we would leave it at that for the present.

9) Achievement Scheme workshops – plans and funding.

The aim for the year was to run two workshops, possibly joint workshops with other Areas. Initially we would like to run a workshop in the Northern part of the Area, but are dependant on clubs volunteering to provide a field – Clubs please note and consider if you could host such an event at your site.

In the meantime, it was proposed that the Area allocate £400 to cover the cost of running two AS Workshops this year.

Proposed: Luton & DMAS – Mick Eames

Seconded: White Horse – Duncan McClure

Votes for – 13 Votes against – 0 Abstentions – 0

10) Funding for Area Education work.

Nothing has been planned yet, but any reasonable expenditure could be claimed as legitimate Area expenses and should be identified as “education activities” in the accounts.

Julian Barker reported that consideration was being given to introducing aviation learning activities for children at the Old Warden Shuttleworth Collection, and suggested that this might be the sort of activity we could support.

Jim Wright added that the Royal Aeronautical Society program ‘Cool Aeronautics’, which he and others are involved with at Halton, might be a suitable base for Shuttleworth to work from.

The meeting suggested that Jim draft a suitable letter outlining the availability of the ‘Cool Aeronautics’ program, and that this would be sent to Shuttleworth by the secretary on behalf of the Area.

11) Achievement Scheme succession planning – new CEs required.

If anyone knows of any experienced and active club examiners who would be willing to become Area Chief Examiners (ACE) please get in touch via the Area Secretary or Area Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator.

12) Any Other Business

The Area Secretary reported that the latest Government proposals for “The Future of Drones in the UK”, based on their consultation process in the Autumn, has now been published. As the definition of drones includes traditional model aircraft this will affect us all.

Several clubs reported a few hiccups in moving to the new BMFA "Go Membership" system, but these are being resolved although some need of manual intervention is still being reported. The general comment was that the system seems good, but inconsistent in a small number of cases. At least one club membership secretary is not "on-line" and therefore still has to use a fully manual process.

13) Club activity comments from delegates *(in random order – few in number because of the lateness of the hour and the time of year)*

Aylesbury – and Ivinghoe Soaring Association – are planning inter club Electroslot competitions at the Ivinghoe flat field site.

Beds SF – membership is still down to the 9 or 10 mark.

Old warden – membership seems down slightly.

Wicken – are to allow a group of members to test a commercial multi-rotor at their site after getting the insurance sorted out.

Luton & DMAS – reported that they had also had members testing a commercial multi-rotor at their field during the past year, but this has now been terminated as it was found to be incompatible with, and interrupt, normal use.

14) Date and venue of next meeting:

The next Area meeting will be held on **Tuesday 7th May 2019** at the Red Lion, Dagnall, at 20:00hrs

Meeting closed at: 22:35