



BMFA South Midlands Area Committee Meeting
Un-adopted Minutes of the meeting held at 20:00hrs on Tues 7th May. 2019
at the Red Lion, Dagnall

Area Officers present:

Vice Chairman	Mick Eames	Secretary	Dick Whitehead
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)
Buckaneers MFC – Derek Giles	Buzzards MFC – Mick Dudley (v)
Buzzards MFC – D. Graham	Chiltern Flyers – Peter Rabjohn (v)
Ivinghoe SA – Jim Wright (v)	Luton & DMAS and ASC – Mick Eames
Luton & DMAS & Sec. – Dick Whitehead (v)	MK Modellers – Peter Rabjohn (v)
Old Warden – Julian Barker (v)	Oxford MFC - Bob Lee (v)
Oxford MFC – Charlie Newman	St Albans MFC – Colin Durrant (v)
St Albans MFC – Alistair Copeland	St Albans MFC – Roger Trayner
Watford Wayfarers – Richard Crapp (v)	Wellingborough OG – Brian Cooper (v)
Witney & DMAC – Graham Smith (v)	Wicken MAC – Peter Richardson (v)

Total voting strength: 15 voting attendees (v), plus 7 non-voting attendees, Total attendees = 22

1) Welcome and Apologies for absence:

Apologies received from:

Duncan McClure – white Horse and Chairman	Andy Todd – Watford Wayfarers and Treasurer
Henlow MAC – Allen Stephens	Paul Swinscoe – St Albans MFC
Charles Malcolm - Old Warden MAC	Antony Cox – Coombe Hill Soaring Association

2) Adoption of minutes of the meeting held on Tues 8th January 2019

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

Proposed: Ivinghoe SA – Jim Wright

Seconded: Wellingborough OG – Brian Cooper

Votes for – 12 Votes against – 0 Abstentions – 3

3) Matters arising:

7) While progress is being made on the control line circles at Buckminster, it has not yet reached the stage at which we agreed to make a donation.

10) As requested, Jim Wright drafted a letter regarding “Cool Aeronautics” and this was sent by the Area to Shuttleworth Collection. However, this seems to have been based on a miss-understanding and they are already aware of the program.

4) Correspondence:

None received or sent not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

5) Report on Full Council on Saturday 12th January:

A written report by our representative had been circulated immediately following that meeting. Our proposal that the BMFA seek charitable status is now being actioned with a working group and suitable budget set up.

6) Review of BMFA Council 11th May Agenda:

As our Delegate will not be available, the meeting appointed the Secretary to go in his place. Items where our delegate required our instructions on how to vote were discussed and our opinions agreed by a show of hands. These were: -

(NOTE: the following may be abbreviated versions - for the full text please see the Council Agenda)

9 a) That the membership of the Safety Review Committee be changed to replace the Technical Committees with one representative from the Areas and one from the ASRC.

Our delegate was instructed to vote for this proposal.

10 e) Proposal that the Council Handbook be altered to extend the deadline for production and circulation of minutes.

Our delegate was instructed to vote for this proposal.

10 f) Proposal that the Council Handbook be altered to include a requirement to circulate a list of actions following any meeting.

Our delegate was instructed to vote for this proposal

11) Proposal that responsibility for section 2 of the General Competition Rules be transferred from the Full Council to the Technical Council

Our delegate was instructed to vote for this proposal.

12 b i) Proposal that any British Team member who receives prize money must reimburse the BMFA funding (including team travel funding) they have received, either in full or to the extent allowed by the prize money.

Our delegate was instructed to vote against this proposal.

12 b ii) Proposal that any British Team members, including Team Managers and Assistant Team Managers, must be full members of the BMFA. Being a family member is not sufficient.

Our delegate was instructed to vote against this proposal as it discourages family participation and support, and there are already savings being made on services to family memberships.

12 b iii) Proposal that Team and Assistant Team Managers posts must be advertised in the BMFA News or on the BMFA website in a timely fashion and with a deadline for reply.

Our delegate was instructed to vote for this proposal.

12 b iv) Proposal that in the event of multiple applications for a Team or Assistant Team Managers post the team should be balloted for their choice of manager.

Our delegate was instructed to vote for this proposal.

15) To receive a joint proposal from the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer that the processes for budgeting, allocating, and reporting of Area funding and accounting be changed in line with the attached (Area note – previously circulated) procedure and template.

Our treasurer could not be present this evening so a statement from him was read to the meeting. The meeting broadly agreed with the Treasurer’s comments and our delegate was instructed to vote against this proposal. While the intentions appear to be reasonable, the sums, values, and principles suggested would adversely affect the functioning of our Area and make the job of treasurer more onerous.

7) Proposal that the BMFA Awards Committee should introduce an annual award for the Club Newsletter or Website of the year.

This was generally thought to be a good idea and would encourage local communication.

Proposed: Oxford MFC – Bob Lee

Seconded: Ivinghoe SA – Jim Wright

Votes for – 14 Votes against – 0 Abstentions – 1

8) Achievement Scheme “Mandatory questions” changes, and workshop plans.

The chair asked all present to ensure they, and their club members, were aware of the recent changes to the “Mandatory Questions” in the Achievement Scheme brought about by changes in the ANO.

The Achievement Scheme coordinator reported that an Achievement Scheme Examiners Workshop was planned for later in the year, but details were not finalised yet.

9) Any Other Business

Oxford MFC reported on their recent efforts to retain flying at one of their sites which is affected by the new FRZ at London Oxford Airport (LOA). They have also provided a written report which will be circulated with these minutes.

The Area Achievement Scheme Coordinator advised that he has been in this role for approximately 20 years and plans to retire at the end of the year, so we need to start looking for a volunteer to replace him.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the CAAs recent proposals regarding registration of UAS flyers. The BMFA has encouraged everyone to write to the CAA, the DfT, and their MP regarding the CAA’s (rather expensive) proposals for registration of drone “Operators and Remote Pilots” – (model aircraft flyers are both roles in one person!). Many attending the meeting had already done so and others were encouraged to do so as soon as possible and pass the message on to their members. It is understood that the campaign is already showing results with a meeting planned between the BMFA and the DfT, but we need to keep up the effort.

The meeting wished to express the thanks of the South Midland Area to all at the BMFA working on this project and to ensure them of our continued support.

10) Club activity comments from delegates *(in random order)*

Aylesbury & District – Have had a surge in members as another local club has recently lost its field. They are planning inter club Electroslot competitions with the Ivinghoe SA.

Ivinghoe SA – are looking forward to the inter club competition with Aylesbury. A change in venue for club meetings to a more congenial location has resulted in increased attendance.

St Albans MFC – The indoor flying season has just finished and was a success with “outsiders” encouraged to join in. They have stopped their Vintage Comps because of a risk of “fly-aways” in a sensitive location.

Beds SF – membership is still down to 9 members, and the muddy field is hindering flying. They may have to review their use of the field as a result of increased costs and falling membership.

Old warden – They have had problems as a result of the introduction of the FRZ, but happily this has been resolved with the help of the CAA who needed to amend their legislation. They now have a self-imposed height limit of 400 feet to avoid potential conflict with full size aviation.

Wicken MAC – Club night attendances have been down, but a new venue seems to be improving things. A “robotics group” is paying to use their field for development work!

Luton & DMAS – Flying has continued all winter, membership is holding up, and a recent field maintenance day did a lot of work.

Buckaneers MFC – Attendance at their Tuesday evening meetings is up, prompted by it being the evening for a Fish and Chip van to visit the location! Their flying site is being threatened by encroaching housing development.

Buzzards MFC – Membership is stable, but it seems to be the same few people doing most of the flying, There seems to have been an upsurge in new models under construction.

Chiltern Flyers – Will be running their usual two competitions this year in June and September and these are open to non-members.

Oxford MFC – They have had a full programme of events over the winter, and are now planning their 50th anniversary event in July with a barbecue etc. They are also planning a FF rally and a scale event later in the year.

Watford Wayfarers – They have been upgrading their field with netting etc., and the club meeting venue has changed.

Wellingborough OG – Membership is stable, and the lighter nights are bringing more flying. The field is in good condition, but there has been an explosion in rabbit numbers so control measures have been implemented. They have negotiated successfully with Sywell to continue flying in their new FRZ.

Witney & DMAC – Membership has doubled for some reason. Perhaps the use of the field for a local Round Table Fun Run event has brought them publicity. The club is now electric only.

11) Date and venue of next meeting:

The next Area meeting will be held on **Tuesday 3rd September 2019** at the Red Lion, Dagnall, at 20:00hrs

Meeting closed at: 22:05

Un-adopted