

BMFA
FREE FLIGHT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF EMERGENCY MEETING 18th February 2015

Action

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| Present | <p>Mike Woodhouse MW</p> <p>Chris Strachan CS</p> <p>John Carter JC</p> <p>Ken Faux KF</p> <p>Dave Phipps DP</p> | <p>Phil Ball PB</p> <p>Trevor Grey TG</p> <p>John Jacomb JJ</p> <p>Jo Halman JH</p> |
| Apologies | Ian Kaynes | |
| Minutes of previous meeting | Not applicable at this special meeting | |
| Introduction | <p>MW explained that this was to be a single subject meeting made necessary by potential changes in conditions of use of the flying site on Area 8 of Salisbury Plain. He reminded the meeting that Area 8 is the key flying site for our World Cup competitions, Team Selection and 2 of our Area Centralised Galas. It is also used for “trimming weekends” which, over recent years have expanded to include access for general sport flying.</p> | |
| Management process | <p>TG liaises with the military management of the Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) and in doing so works with the Army and Air Operations. At his meeting with them 4/02/15 it became apparent that a number of changes being promulgated by these authorities were putting our continued use of Area 8 at risk. The Committee had read TG’s report on these meetings.</p> | |
| Discussion | <p>The meeting discussed both the informal requirements made verbally by the military and the formal documents. It was agreed that we should focus on the documents which comprise the Site Licence, the Letter of Agreement that TG signed on 4th February and a marked up map of Area 8 produced at the meeting.</p> | |
| Formal requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The marked up map reduces the available area of Area to some extent but not prohibitively so. In future we will need to position our operations well clear of the airstrip and the Southern boundary of the SPTA. • Red Cards. We need to have a number of Red card holders and at least one must be present at every flying event. • There must be a briefing for all flyers before the start of each days flying. | |
| Informal requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was apparent that the military had assumed that our models are radio controlled and hence could remain within the licenced site and when necessary be landed to avoid low flying aircraft. It has been explained that an increasing number have RDT and this meets the requirement to avoid low flying aircraft. The FFTC need to take measures to increase the uptake of RDT • Flying out of the site disturbs the military for fear of their becoming the risk bearer for any collateral damage. Our insurance of course covers this but their concern remains. Again RDT would help. • Retrieval of models outside Area 8 has not been sighted as a concern. | |

However the presence of public access routes across and beyond Area 8 should act in our favour

Our reactions In discussion the meeting agreed that we have allowed the use of Area 8 to expand to the point where it is not possible to ensure that its use respects the military's requirements. We must tighten the control of our activities and in order to do this it was agreed that we should

- Confine the use of Area 8 to competitions
- Ensure that sufficient read card holders and "briefers" are available to cover these meetings
- Actively promote the use of RDT

Proposals The following proposals were made and voted upon

That training/trimming sessions an Area 8 should be discontinued forthwith and all moneys collected for 2015 should be returned on surrender of licence cards. TG
Proposed JC Seconded KF Carried unanimously (7 votes)

That in 2015 Area 8 should be used only for 2 World Cup events, Team Selection, 2 Area Galas (London and Southern) and the remaining 7 Area Decentralised meetings TG
Proposed PB Seconded TG Carried unanimously (7 votes)

That the use of RDT be actively encouraged for all classes TG KF
Proposed TG Seconded KF Carried unanimously (7 votes)

That the 2015 Stonehenge Cup be moved to the weekend of 26/27 September JC TG
Proposed JC Seconded TG Carried unanimously (7 votes) CS

Conclusion The Chairman thanked everyone for their input, with special thanks to TG for his work and to JH and DP for their guidance and approval.

AOB **Lodge Farm**
Davis Bratley, the farmer at Lodge Farm has died recently. KF to liaise with Walter Hodgkinson about any donations and appreciation from users of the site. KF

EA Gala
MW stated that we need to move the date forward one week as at that time we will be clear of the SSSI time frame. TG to update calendar. CS to inform Michael Marshall. TG
CS

Junior Team for Eurochamps
JH was advised that she should budget on 2 juniors attending.

Area Decentralised meetings
It was proposed that in order to minimize travel and encourage participation in Area Decentralised Meetings we should revert to allowing participation from local sites in addition to the larger and scarce Area sites. PB KF
Proposed PB Seconded JC Carried unanimously (7 votes) PB KF
PB to register sites on request. KF to publicise.

Barkston
DP stated that there was nothing new to report on further use. There will be no use DP

of the hanger at the FF Nats. DP to look into hire and location of a Marquee and liaise with PB pb

Middle Wallop

DP reported no change and no further discussion until March

Luffenham

DP reported no progress on the proposition for a trimming club.

A Five Year Plan

In the light of the pressures on flying sites, the increasing aversion to risks of all site owners / risk bearers and the lack of new entries to Free Flight it was agreed that the Committee must undertake the development of a five year plan. TG and CS to bring a paper to the next meeting outlining the areas and scope of such a plan.

TG CS

Next meetings Dates

Wednesday 11th March
Wednesday 29th April
Wednesday 10th June

Critical dates for FFTC

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| BMFA News Copy dates | April 2015 Issue – copy 18 th Feb June 2015 issue – copy 23 rd April August 2015 Issue – copy 19 th June |
| Full Council | 16 th May Agenda deadline 20 th April |
| Technical Council | 21 st March 2015 Agenda deadline 23 rd February |
| FFTC meetings | 11 th March 29 th April 10 th June |

FFTC 19/02/15