

BMFA
FREE FLIGHT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING 08th September 2016

Action

Present	Mike Woodhouse MW	Phil Ball PB	
	Chris Strachan CS	Ken Faux KF	
	John Carter JC	Mark Benns MB	
	John Jacomb JJ	Ian Kaynes IK	
	Alan Jack Guest	Bryan Spooner Guest	
Apologies	All present		
Minutes of previous meeting,	Minutes accepted with correction of the omission of a record of the decision not to make any charge to London Area for the use of Area 8 for Area Centralised events in 2015.		
Flying Fields	<u>North Luffenham</u>		
	The presence of a Paraglider Club on the airfield has potential to cause conflicts with both the trimming and contest use of the airfield with overlaps of operational areas and dates. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that in the short term the airfield should be declared unavailable for the Area meeting on Sunday 11 th September.		
	Proposed MB		
	Seconded KF Carried . 5 in favour 2 abstentions		
	PB to inform flyers. PB		
	(Later that evening MW was able to discuss the issue with Nigel Barker, representing the Paragliders, who informed him that there will not be on the field on that day. Following email discussion the next day PB was asked to inform flyers that the field is available after all). PB		
	It was also agreed that in the long term Alan Jack and Bryan Spooner will ask David Phipps to call a meeting between Free Flight (with both trimming and contest use as separate activities) Radio and Paraglider representatives to agree working practices for access to the airfield for all users.		
	<u>Barkston</u>		
	Little progress has been observed on the building works. Grantham have obtained some additional access. Nothing else to report		
	<u>Middle Wallop</u>		
	Situation unchanged but SAM35 are attempting to negotiate for come access, initially for C/L and radio		
	<u>Salisbury</u>		
	The issue of toilets and costs has been raised but it was agreed that they are essential. JC to speak to Peter Watson and ensure that we pay a sensible amount to Landmarc. JC		
	<u>Garthorpe</u>		
	MB to get together a group of sports flyers from Peterborough and contest flyers to demonstrate to the site management on a date to be arranged, MB		
	<u>Area Decentralised Sites</u>		
	A rule change is needed to state that these sites can be authorised by the FFTC rather than the Areas. An application must be made to the results officer at least two weeks be for the required date The content of this application should include a statement of site suitability and a map. MB		

**Contest
Calendar
and Rule
Changes**

Calendar 2016

No changes to version 5

Calendar 2017

PB had produced a draft calendar including combined rubber, power and glider at each area event.. It was agreed that this gave an excessive number of classes at each event and catalysed a wider discussion on the feedback received since the Free Flight Conference and the inputs collected by MB as rules officer in on field discussions.

Three issues emerged from these discussions

Firstly rule changes are not wanted but in particular combined events are unpopular and if they were got rid of then individual classes could be better managed.

Secondly it is perceived that “The FFTC is all contest fliers, do nothing for the sports fliers and run Trials as special events when others could also make use of the facilities.

Thirdly there is a desire to see SAM holding some of their events at Area meetings

A wide ranging discussion then lead to a feeling that a large number of changes in 2017 would not be wise but that if the decline in attendance is to be slowed a fundamental change to the Calendar needs to be seriously discussed during 2017.

For 2017 the following proposals were made and agreed

That all fly-off periods will be reduced from 10 to 5 minutes and that CDs shall be given authority to nominate and move the launch point if they consider it necessary .

Proposed JC

Seconded KF Carried unanimously

Action MB

That the 2017 calendar shall be the same as the 2016 (with revision of dates and the moving of all trials to late summer/autumn).

MB

Proposed CS

Seconded JC Carried unanimously

Action PB

PB

Nationals

Interim figures show that the 2016 event will show a positive balance

**International
Teams**

F1A,B,C

The team worked well together but results were disappointing.

The event showed that the current fly-off rules are unsatisfactory. IK stated that alterations are under discussion

IK

F1A,B,C Team Selection

Team trials have been completed except for the need for a fly-off to break a 4 man tie in F1B. It was agreed that this will be held at the Stonehenge/Equinox meeting.

PB as CD to fix times

PB

Team Equipment

A new roach pole and thermal detector are required. MW and KF to look into alternatives.

MW KF

F1E

IK stated that he is about to issue his team manager's report

IK

Space

JJ reported that the Space team won team Silver in S2.

Junior World Champs

Joseph Gibbs competed and the manager's report has been produced

Junior team Selection 2017

Alan Jack stated that Joseph Gibbs will be keen to attend the Junior Eurochamps with Mark Gibbs as Team Manager however a revised selection process is required and he suggested that the FFTC should advertise a Junior Programme from which they will then select a junior team. It was pointed out that this will require a rule change.

MB

The meeting thanked Alan for the effort he has made with the junior teams

Team Managers

Request for Team Manager applications are now required for Senior, Junior, F1E and Space. KF to action

KF

Stonehenge Cup and Equinox

2016

Arrangements in place and entrants looking positive.

2017

It was agreed to move the event to the April/ May period. PB to insert in the 2017 calendar

PB

Officer's Reports

Treasurer

Nothing to report

Council Delegate

Reports all circulated. Next council meeting on 10th September

PRO

The website is now sorted and KF has the password and can edit. The old website should now go. MW to check

KF MW

Results Officer

Nothing to report

Safety Officer

No safety meeting this year and nothing to report.

Rules Officer

Nothing to report

Space Modelling

JJ reported that at the World Championships the FAI took a lot of interest in the UK team. Also the Farnborough Air Show was successful and they have been asked to attend again.

AOB

None

Date of next meeting **Wednesday 30th November**

Critical dates for FFTC

BMFA News	30 th November	Copy deadline
Full Council	07 th January	Agenda deadline 5 th December
Technical Council	15 th October	Agenda deadline 19 th September
FFTC meetings	30 th November	

FFTC 09/09/16