

EAST ANGLIAN AREA BMFA
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th January 2021 at 19:45.
Meeting held via Zoom

Presentation

Prior to the general business of the meeting Mark Benns BMFA Honorary Secretary made a short presentation with respect to outcomes of the recent survey and the future of the Areas. It was interesting that there was a high level of input being approximately 1/3 of the membership. Mark answered general questions with respect to the survey.

1. Apologies for Absence

- There were no apologies for absence.

2. Present – 15 members

- Mike Woodhouse – Secretary/Treasurer
- Paul Hoey – Chairman/Delegate
- John Copsey – IVCMC
- Jason Channing – Achievement Scheme Coordinator
- Tony Waters – Raydon
- Gary Hughes - Mid Suffolk
- Gary Johnson – Osprey
- Alan Jackson – BTRMAC
- Terry Ager – Ely
- Alan Paul – Webmaster
- Joe Kemp - Vice Chairman
- Graham Gouch – Norwich
- Mark Benns – BMFA Hon Secretary
- Stephen Bowles – Competition Secretary
- Andrew Robertson – Langley

2. Minutes of the previous meeting (10th September 2020)

- Note that the meeting scheduled for 8th October meeting was not held as the Area Council's meeting for 10th October was cancelled.
- Proposed – Jason Channing, seconded - John Copsey - Agreed.

3. Matters arising

- There were no matter arising

4. BMFA Briefing for January 9th Council meeting

Due to the virus the situation is in flux. Note that by the time these minutes are published things may well have changed?!

- Some BMFA staff are working from home, recent updates to the BMFA office telecoms system have ensured that all matters were being covered. In fact, time and expense is being saved as result of the reduced travelling time.
- Rather than face to face meetings, meetings are being held via Zoom Andy Symons assisting and facilitating Technical Committees, Areas and Clubs. In addition, there is now “in the air tonight” series being operated.
- The procedure for arranging a risk assessment for events under the Covid 19 promulgated by the BMFA is continually revised as the situation demands. Information to member is likewise updated.
- The New BMFA website is being progressed.
- As expected, events are being planned whilst others are cancelled. The BMFA website will advise as appropriate.
- Proposals have been presented by the BMFA Tech Sec to clarify the structure of the technical committees.
- Plans were moving ahead to celebrate 100 years of SMAE/BMFA in 2022.
- It is also proposed that the Radio Control Technical Committee be reinstated

5. Area chairman

- The Chairman lead a discussion regarding the state of member and club re-affiliation. It would seem that numbers are generally holding up.
- The Chairman advised the meeting that the Wisbech Club had disbanded as after some 40 years as their club site had been lost due to changes in ownership. The Peterborough Club members were moving to other clubs in the locality.

6. Achievement Scheme coordinator

- Jonathan Land had been confirmed as an area Chief examiner.
- 5 persons had been nominated for the 3 positions on the ASRC. After discussion the area agreed to back the election of Joe Kemp, Chris Bradbury and Craig Kane
- There are to be changes
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- made to the mandatory questions in article 16 to reflect more closely the flying of model aircraft rather than drones.
- When the pandemic allows it is planned to run two workshops one at King's Lynn and the other at Ramsey. These would be led by Johnathan Land and Joe Kemp, supported by Jason Channing.

7. Other activities

Various plans are being held over as a result of the pandemic. These are listed below.

- Work is being carried out by Alan Paul to simplify the Area website and make the tracking the information easier. Links to be added to the site are being sought.
- An application for use of Sculthorpe in 2021 has been submitted
- Graham Gooch is progressing a repeat of training A-way day for aspirant fixed wing power pilots whose clubs did not have a club examiner. Dates to be agreed when the pandemic subsides.
- Paul Hoey and John Copsey are discussing an area event for Control line flying later in 2021 season, probably September to encourage the growing interest in this discipline.
- Club secretaries with Control Line and/ or RTP groups are reminded that that Article 16 requires operators of models weighing 1.0 kg or more, are required to be registered and their model(s) and to have their operator ID number to be affixed.

8. Next meeting

- The next meeting will be on 22nd April and held via Zoom.