

EAST ANGLIAN AREA BMFA
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11th May 2023 at 19:45.
Meeting held via Zoom

Apologies for Absence

- Stephen Bowles – Comp Sec – Vikings
- Jason Channing - Achievement Scheme Coordinator
- Vic Blackwood – Bury
- Garry Hughes - Mid Suffolk

Present – 8 members

- Paul Hoey – Chairman/Delegate – South Norfolk
- Mike Woodhouse – Secretary/Treasurer – Vikings
- Alan Paul – Web master - Impington
- Graham Gooch – Norwich
- Alan Jackson – BTR
- Joe Kemp – Vice Chairman – North Essex
- John Copsey – Impington
- Tony Waters -

Minutes of the previous meeting (15th September 2022)

Proposed – Graham Gooch, seconded – Joe Kemp - Agreed.

Matters arising

- Meetings will continue to be held via Zoom.
- The New BMFA website is up and running. Development of the site continues.
- The Norwich NPOD day has been postponed. It may be replaced by the popular “improve your flying day” this will take place possibly sometime in July.
- The BMFA will not be setting up a customs carnet process as the requirements are beyond the reach of the association. If flyers wish to obtain a carnet, they are advised to obtain one through their local chamber of commerce.

Area chairman/Delegate report

A full report is attached. An item that concerned all those present is the collection of BMFA fees. There was an overall agreement that a rolling membership process would not be acceptable to clubs. Collecting membership, even on a once-a-year basis, fees is always a difficult task for clubs so spreading the collection across the year would simply increase the workload. Such a change could possibly cost the BMFA members and clubs.

Achievement Scheme Coordinator

No report.

Secretary

The secretary advised that overall, the BMFA numbers are still down compared with 2022 however the number of drone flyers is greater than the expectation. It appears that once on board some drone flyers, when introduced to traditional flying, are giving model aircraft a go.

Club Input

Overall, some clubs had attracted a few new members. However, the Area was following the national trend in a reduction of flyers joining clubs. It was confirmed that the BMFA is considering how best to develop the membership system and how best to recruit and retain numbers. John Copesey expressed in getting involved, the chairman would set up contact with Helen Jones the BMFA Outreach Director.

AOB.

- Alan Paul raised the issue about no-flying alerts. The Chairman agreed to progress the issue with the BMFA.
- Alan also asked about conspicuity and what was happening. The Chairman advised that this was still early days and the BMFA was in discussion with the CAA.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting will be the 28th September. They may have to be some flexibility in the date as the BMFA structure was still bedding down