

EAST ANGLIAN AREA BMFA
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5th September 2024 at 19:45.
Meeting held via Zoom

Apologies for Absence

- Stephen Bowles – Comp Sec – Vikings
- Jason Channing - Achievement Scheme Coordinator

Present – 11 members

- Paul Hoey – Chairman – South Norfolk
- Mike Woodhouse – Secretary/Treasurer – Vikings
- Alan Paul – Delegate/Web master – Stump Cross
- Graham Gooch – Norwich
- Alan Jackson – BTR
- John Copsey – Impington
- Garry Hughes - Mid Suffolk
- David Bilham – Kelling
- Ron Gray – Bury
- Vic Blackwood – Bury
- Rob Wakes - Clacton

Minutes of the previous meeting (2nd May 2024)

- Proposed – Alan Jackson, seconded – Graham Gooch - Agreed.

Matters arising

- Meetings will continue to be held via Zoom.
- Development of the BMFA web site continues.
- Regarding conspicuity the Chairman advised that this was still early days and the BMFA was in discussion with the CAA.
- Graham Gouch reported issues regarding fraudulent activity on the BMFA Classified site continue.

Delegate report

- At the Area Council there was an overall agreement that a rolling membership process would not be acceptable to most 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. Discussions continue regarding possible options. The meeting concurred with this opinion.

- Membership numbers are as predicted down by approximately 800 against the same time in 2023. Currently there are just over 27,000 members.
- The club of the year idea received a lukewarm reception as club insularity meant that few clubs had sufficient knowledge of others to make a recommendation.

Achievement Scheme Coordinator

- Jason Channing had stood down as Area Co-ordinator and Jon Land of the Ramsey club had stepped into the role.

Secretary

- Reported on the recent court case of a drone flyer who is not a BMFA member being fined £1,200 and having his equipment confiscated for flying a height of more than 17,000 feet.

Outreach Coordinator

- Report attached

Club Input

- Overall, some clubs had attracted a few new members. However, overall, the Area, as reported by the chairman, was following the national trend in a reduction of flyers joining clubs.

Other Business

- Publicity of the BMFA was discussed. It was agreed that the delegate should broach the idea of using a Facebook influencer to reach prospective members

8. Next meeting

The next meeting will be the AGM on the 21st November.