

**Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting of the BMFA SE Area
held on 24th January 2008**

Subject to approval at the next meeting

Present:

Bob Cutter, Chairman (Felbridge Flyers RMFC); Keith Miller, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Council Delegate and Education Co-ordinator (Tonbridge RF); Ian Menage, Secretary (Bromley Soaring Club); Richard Ware (Skylark MFC); Alan Ware (Skylark MFC); Terry Bradley (Surrey RCC), John Richardson (PRO and MFFG); Roger Marples (ERFC and EDMAC); David Hyde (Wealden MAC); Ray Wells (East Sussex Soaring Assn); Martin Stagg (MFFG); Richard Pidduck (Caterham & Dist. MFC); Stuart Taylor (Country); J Anderson (Riddlesdown MFC); Keith Wright (Horsham & Dist R/CMC).

1. Apologies for absence were received from Alex Cameron (Crawley DMAC); Bob Hart (Wealden MAC and Hastings MFC) and Tim Mountain (EDMAC).
2. Minutes of the previous meeting of 8th November 2007 were read and approved (proposed by Keith Miller (Tonbridge) and seconded by Roger Marples (EDMAC) and signed.
3. Matters arising:
 - Long Man Licence - following the discussion at the Area AGM, ESSA proposed that they should pay Area at the annual rate of £4 per club member and therefore £148 for the coming year. After discussion of the policing of the responsibilities and policing of the site, this was approved unanimously (proposed by Keith Miller (Tonbridge) and seconded by David Hyde (Wealden MAC). ESSA will endeavour to attend Area meetings and no doubt there will be ways of increasing the use of this site and gaining new members.
 - Sheppey - Keith Miller has written to Barton Point Club offering Area's assistance towards any projects for the local Centenary celebrations.
 - Thanet MFC - there still has been no response to the Treasurer's letter regarding the Area loan of £300. This is unacceptable and further enquiries are being made.
 - Crawley Cup - this discovered scale cup will be awarded at the Angel Centre indoor meeting in November.
 - SEADOG email distribution - John Richardson (PRO) again promoted the use of emails as a cost efficient method of distribution. Considerable discussion ensued. The possibilities to encourage this include distribution to all club officers, not just the Secretaries and also via BMFA news to all members. The email addresses of club officers are made available by all clubs when they renew their annual BMFA membership. The normal care not to distribute all addresses to all recipients is necessary.
4. Officers' reports:
 - Secretary - nothing to report;
 - Treasurer - funds stand at £2,568 but the circa £900 bill for Crawley Indoor event is still awaited. The full report is attached;
 - Council Delegate - numerous issues were discussed in November. The full report is attached;
 - Education Co-ordinator - thanks was given to Stuart Taylor for his contribution to the Model Engineering Exhibition at which it was planned to spend four days in building and flying Dart models. The activity was curtailed by Health & Safety staff, but many children bought Dart kits and were enthusiastic. Stuart Taylor felt that such events should be promoted to a wider and younger audience as well as to their parents.

- Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator - there is still the ongoing question regarding the dropping of the Hovering M requirement for the heli B test. The AHA will not as a result recognise the BMFA B certificate. The Achievement Scheme Review Committee is due to meet in February and will no doubt sort this out then.
- Webnaster – Alex Cameron reports that he is now able to add SE Area items directly to the BMFA website on the page for “Area News and Information”. Crawley Indoor is therefore advertised.

5. 2008 events:

- Odiham Free Flight Gala - Keith Miller reported the death of Mike Kemp before Christmas and on behalf of Area attended his funeral. A replacement organiser in John Thompson has been found but there are other problems with liason with RAF Odiham. Keith Miller has written to the Station Commander proposing 13th April and awaits a reply. It was proposed by Keith Miller and seconded by Martin Stagg that Area supports this event with up to £60 for a Mike Kemp Memorial Trophy. This was passed unanimously. The daily entry fee may be increased from £3 to £5 and Keith Miller will investigate.
- Area Scale day - whilst the Bickley Club (London Area) are willing to hold this again at their field, it is possible that Hastings Club will be willing to offer a venue. Bob Hart’s reply is awaited. Keith Miller will go ahead and arrange the trophies.
- The Towner Trophy - Kevin Beale will again arrange this for 28th September at Tonbridge Club’s site. The costs have increased to a total of £100 (£75 for the farmer and balance to Tonbridge). Keith Miller will decide if trophies are really necessary, in view of the other available prizes.
- Crawley Indoor - arrangements are in hand by the Crawley club.
- New indoor event at the Angel Centre, Tonbridge - there is a firm booking for this for 16th November for a cost of £400 for the whole day. This experiment is hoped to cover expenses. It will be a scale orientated day and a trophy is already available. Stuart Taylor proposed that the event should be interspersed with mass launches for Hangar rat and Butterfly and that there could also be a model building room available on a Saturday afternoon before one of the flying sessions. Keith Miller hoped that there would also be a Dart event for children.

6. Any other business:

- As the position of Area Secretary is falling vacant after this meeting, the Chairman will follow up a possibility to ensure that there is another Secretary in place by the next meeting.
- Roger Marples (Epsom RFC) reported that the club was considering buying a site and that any experience of handling this type of project would be much appreciated.
- Area meetings travelling expenses - the question was raised as to whether Country members as well as Club representatives should be eligible to claim such expenses. It was felt that we should want to encourage attendance at Area meetings and after discussion it was proposed (Martin Stagg) and seconded (John Richardson) that the Treasurer be empowered to pay such expenses on a case by case basis.

7. Next meeting: this will be on Thursday 5th May 2008 at 8pm at the Angel Centre, Tonbridge (subject to confirmation).

The meeting closed at 9.50pm