

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting of the BMFA SE Area meeting
held on 8th November 2007

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); Bob Hart, Area Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator (Wealden MAC and Hastings MFC); Michael Riggs, (MFFG); Rick Stevens (Hastings MFC Ltd); Richard Ware (Skylark MFC); S.A. Ware (Skylark MFC); Terry Bradley (Surrey RCC); John Phillips (ESSA); Julian Perrott (ESSA) and Stuart Taylor (Country Member)

1. Apologies for absence: John Richardson; Alex Cameron; Pete Cameron and Colin McGinn.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting 27.9.2007 were read and approved (proposed by Bob Hart and seconded by Rick Stevens) and signed.
3. Matters arising
 - The subject of the Long Man licence was fully discussed with ESSA representatives present. The facts of this open site usage, contributions by ESSA as the main users which have been £150 p.a. since 1998 (representing circa 50% of Club income) and their steadily falling membership (currently 30) were reported. Also that BMFA (through the Silent Flight Technical Committee) has organised competitions on the site without any direct contribution to cost. The site is used much more than that at Ashdown Forest, where no contributions are made. A decision on the issue was deferred so that ESSA could tell Area which clubs regularly used the slope for an approach to be made them for a contribution and also to clarify the position with the Silent Flight Technical Committee.
 - Sheppey Centenary Celebrations - the Medway Club are planning a to put on a WW2 re-enactment at the 2009 Sky Sheppey event which is part of the 2008/9 celebrations.
 - The Treasurer reported back that the travelling expenses rate for members on Area business is 36ppm for vehicles with engines larger than 2.5 litres.
 - The Control Line trophy - the Crawley club has not sufficient interest in scale aerobatic c/l to be able to use it and I am trying SAM35 or possibly the Three Kings club to see if they have any interest.
 - There is no information on the loan made to the Thanet club last year and the Treasurer has already written to them to follow up.
4. Officers' reports
 - Vice Chairman - Another vintage trophy has appeared from the Crawley club, being a presentation from the Chichester club to SE Area many years ago. This might be used for the Crawley Indoor meeting and Chichester will be informed for courtesy.
 - Secretary – nothing to report.
 - Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator - nothing new to report.
 - Treasurer - funds stand at £3,442 following the surplus on the Towner Trophy competition and costs of travelling expenses.
 - Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator - nothing to report.

- Council Delegate - following the October Areas' Council meeting, numerous points arose. There was much discussion over the use of the web site forum and the "Hovering M" manoeuvre in the helicopter certificate test. Neither issue was completed and more thoughts are required. In the last year, Achievement Scheme passes have included 855 for fixed Wing A; 210 for Fixed Wing B; 136 for Helicopter A and 46 for Helicopter B. The full report is attached.
- Education Co-ordinator - nothing new to report.

5. SE Area events

- The Crawley Indoor meeting will be on Sunday 3rd February 2008.
- The 61st Free Flight Day at Odiham - no further information to hand.
- Scale Day locations were discussed.
- Stuart Taylor suggested that another all day indoor event in November could be held at the Angel Centre, Tonbridge and estimated costs are awaited. Michael Riggs proposed that various sites were investigated.

6. Any other business

- The annual Ashdown Forest Free Flight Competition - Area agreed some years ago that there would no longer be an entrance fee for the RAFA Shield competitions. Michael Riggs pointed out that to continue this arrangement would be losing out on £150 worth of entry fees. This was noted and it was agreed that there was no change.
- Stuart Taylor suggested that a wider circulation of SEADOG by email could be made to those members who are regular attendees at Area Meetings but not in the existing clubs' distribution.

7. Next meeting: this will be on Thursday 24th January 2008 at 8pm at the Angel Centre, Tonbridge.

The meeting closed at 9.37pm.

Signed as a correct record:

R Cutter, Chairman

Date

AOB/Ashdown Forest - I have phoned Mike Riggs on this point.