

BKFA COMMITTEE MEETING 21 July 2009
Conducted on Skype

Committee Members present online

Jon Caton	MKF/ Chairman BKFA
Jerry Swift	MKF/ Treasurer BKFA/acting Secretary
Ernest Barton	NEKF
Keith Griffiths	STACK
Derek Kuhn	Kite Workshops/ MKF/ Independent
Michael Lowe	Solent Kite Fliers

Apologies

Arthur Dibble	WHKF
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1. Previous minutes

The previous minutes were agreed as a true record.

2. Matters arising

Rules for Wirral – the competition was held successfully. Rules and background sheets had been prepared. Chairman and secretary to send e-versions to Treasurer to collate for publication

Keith Griffiths to send STACK information such as diagram if the wind window to Chairman for inclusion on the website (open).

Use of accident form. There was an accident at the Wirral event but no form had been available. Agreed that we need to suggest to event organisers that they have a blank form on hand to record the details of any accident. This needs to be promoted through the next newsletter (Jerry Swift). Derek Kuhn noted that since the purpose is for statistical analysis, completion of the form can be done retrospectively. There was agreement that it is preferable that the form is completed by the event organiser at the time but that as something is better than nothing it would be acceptable to have a form completed by a witness, provided that it is clear that is the capacity in which it is completed.

Arthur Dibble to talk to Ray Oakhill about the arrangements for an aerial operators certificate from the CAA for teddy bear parachuting and whether he has to re-apply annually (open).

Call to clubs for photos for use on the website. Committee members may also have suitable material (Jerry Swift).

3. Position of secretary

It was with regret that the Chairman accepted Ernest Barton's resignation as secretary, tendered for personal reasons. The Committee thanked Ernest for his sterling efforts and wished him well. They were happy to note that Ernest continues to be a member of the Committee. Jerry Swift had agreed to cover for the role for the time being.

Members of the Committee were invited to indicate their willingness to undertake the role to the Chairman by email. The role was described as minute taking, managing applications for membership and affiliate membership, responding to queries through the website, organising committee meetings and the AGM. There is limited correspondence, mostly by e-mail. The secretary will maintain a list of members including affiliates, making it available to others on request for distribution. The secretary would also send out renewal reminders to affiliates (the treasurer sends out invoices to member clubs).

4. Recognition as a sport

Keith Griffiths had looked into the question of Sports Council recognition via a colleague. Through local contacts in Sports Wales it appears that the British Kite Surfing Association has been given recognition but it is required to try to get other related organisations to work together so that a single body is recognised. Given the disparity between STACK and BKSA, this was challenged and Sport Wales have now accepted that there are fundamental differences between sport kiting and traction kiting; they have reserved the requirement to 'traction kiting'. As all parts of the Sports Council work together, it means that this recognition applies in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Chairman has been looking at some of the forums to understand the wider debates going on around this and related issues: it is clear that there is anything but a unified view. Potentially, it might be there is one body for traction kiting and one body for sports/single line kiting, although this seems far from ideal.

The committee then discussed the benefits of recognition. Principally these are: access to funding, recognition by Government and others as speaking for the sport, invitations to join relevant consultations (recognition is not an absolute requirement in this respect but it helps), and credibility with regulators and insurers.

Derek Kuhn noted that he had discussions some years ago with BPKA (and precursors) who had suggested that Sports Council recognition was of no benefit to them. Derek also noted that without everyone at the table BKFA may not be able to move forward on this issue. We need full representation

before we can do anything he suggested. The Chairman noted that brought us full circle to the challenge of bringing other clubs and organisations within BKFA who currently see no reason and no benefit to being part of the organisation.

There was discussion of the strategy to be adopted with one being to go our own way with single line and sport kiting seeking recognition as a group or engaging with all the other groups to then make a single approach to include the traction fliers. It was agreed these two could proceed in parallel. Keith Griffiths will open discussions with the Sports Council after September. The Chairman will seek to engage with groups, starting via the forums.

5. Low flying No 10 petition

Arthur Dibble had raised the issue of a petition on the No 10 website [<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/Altitude/>] and had asked whether BKFA should get involved. The petition has now closed. It was principally related to horse riding, rather than kite flying. There was general agreement that No 10 petitions need to be treated with caution: they can work but in most instances there interests may be far too narrow to warrant any real credibility.

The issue for BKFA is that as the military floor appears to be 100', we can fly to 200' without seeking clearance and that suggests there is a potential conflict. Jerry Swift to review CAP393 for terms relating to low flying military air traffic and possibly discuss with the CAA. Jerry Swift to contact the RAF low flying unit.

Derek Kuhn noted that the major concern is kite festivals but that generally they will have applied for height clearance so military pilots should be aware of the temporary hazard. There was also some discussion on the effectiveness of NOTAM system (the notice to airman that results from an approved height clearance).

6. Brighton feedback

The Chairman thanked Brighton Kite Fliers for the invitation to their festival and noted, somewhat to his surprise, that it had been worth having a stand at the event. There were some people who had stopped to discuss issues. There were clearly a lot of independent fliers who are not club members. Members noted that Jon and Franchesca had put a lot of work in to attending and that the stand was very professional. Everyone commended Jon for this successful attendance.

7. Queries from website

Noted that email queries coming from the website go to Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Ideally the secretary should respond but given personal commitments this is not always possible. It was agreed that whoever picks up the email and responds, copies the other two.

In the event of a potential contentious issue, a standard reply will be sent (a draft of which is below). This wording will be used every time. A draft response will then be circulated between the officers before it is sent out. A simple test in this area is can the reply be limited solely to factual information (contact details, forms etc) in which case a response should be sent without further reference. If the reply will require some level of opinion, analysis or assessment a draft should be prepared. Replies to journalists need particular care.

Draft holding text:

On behalf of the British Kite Flying Association, thank you for your enquiry. We hope to be able to respond fully within a few days, but please note if association officers are unavailable, it may take a little longer.

8. Affiliates

The Committee discussed whether there were any possible liabilities arising from affiliates quoting their status with respect to BKFA to others (such as insurers). None could be identified.

It was agreed that we need to set up the mechanisms to deal with applications to become BKFA affiliates. A simple list of names and email addresses will be maintained by the secretary who will make it available when required. It was noted that we need to consider asking whether affiliates want their names on the BKFA website. The Chairman will send an acknowledgement letter to new affiliates – one is outstanding. It was agreed renewal reminders would be sent prior to the anniversary but that if the scheme took off, this might need to be reviewed. Ernest Barton will send any more that come in to Jerry Swift for the time being.

9. Insurance

The Chairman suggested that there is mileage particularly in pushing for insurance to be available to individuals. Jerry Swift will follow up.

10. AOB

Keith Griffiths commented that he was running out of tri-fold leaflets. Ernest Barton will return his supply to Jerry Swift. It was agreed we should consider a re-print. Keith Griffiths suggested cutting down on text and making it more punchy and graphically exciting. Keith to advise if he finds a suitable printer. All to consider suitable pictures to go to Jon Caton. All to advise Jon Caton where they believe cuts could be made (or text improved). A new draft will be circulated.

Noted that STACK are making good progress with the Rok competition and that coverage in KSGB is looking good.

Tony Cartwright has suggested that the "Kiter of the Year" awards should be (re)-run. Jerry Swift to suggest to TC that the same copy is run in the next BKFA newsletter to maximise coverage.

Meeting closed.