



BKFA Update

This email briefing will be sent to all clubs on our email list. We intend that it should update British kite fliers on the work of the British Kite Flying Association and some the wider issues in British air sport of which we are now part.

The British Kite Flying Association held its re-called Council Meeting (the AGM in effect) in Reading in early February. The problems of the organisation are well known and all agreed that last year was one of largely lost opportunities – this year will be different.

Last year's AGM did not have enough people to form a quorum. There was some justified criticism of the advance notification of the meeting and so there was plenty of notice for this recalled event.

Main business of the meeting covered plans for this year (of which more later) and changes to the constitution. These were intended to resolve some of the problems with the Association's year's not lining up with club calendars. They also allow the organisation to start sections for individual membership: these are intended to cover traders, makers and individuals if they support the objectives of BKFA, if these are needed.

The first of these sections is now in place for individual supporters. We realised that there are a number of kite fliers who support the organisation but whose clubs do not – they were therefore effectively barred and we wanted to correct that. There will be no benefits to membership initially – we hope people will continue to belong to KSGB to get their national magazine and possibly to local clubs to support kite flying in their locality and, let's be honest, to get appropriate insurance cover.

Royal Aero Club

BKFA are now members of the Royal Aero Club, the coordinating body of British airsport organisations. That links us with the FAI (Federation Aeronautique International) and Europe Airsport.

We look forward to this relationship developing over the coming years but our immediate priorities are taking their expertise on insurance matters and starting discussions on formal recognition as a sport for our STACK members.

We will also be seeking their support for what we think will be a really exciting project – a prize (a small one) for the best in UK kite designers and builders. We will be working up the entry requirements over the coming months but we want to

showcase the very best of British kite building talent. More details in our next column.

This years priorities

We recognise that last year was not an auspicious start – we need to correct that. This year's priorities include:

- Publish a code of practice to build on the risk assessment
- Make sure BKFA have a presence at a number of UK events – to promote KSGB, local clubs, STACK and the power kite organisations
- To get the word round to the national media that we are here to help – and for that we would like contacts in local clubs who can speak to media contacts when appropriate
- To promote our website and produce a more focused approach to the forum
- To investigate insurance options for member clubs, looking to cover third party risks for all types of kite flying and possibly theft and event organisation cover

That's quite a lot and we will try and keep you informed as things develop, and importantly involve you, the British kite flier.

Brighton Kite Fliers

Brighton Kite Fliers decided at their AGM not to continue in membership, for the time being at least. The challenge to BKFA is to prove that we can deliver on our objectives. BKF have promised to re-consider their position at the end of the summer, when they can see whether we have made progress.

News Channels

Our Proboard forum is still up and running and we will try and put some news through there. Electronic media such as this, whilst immediate do have the disadvantage of being very time consuming to maintain. We will aim to make better use of the board, but like many kite fliers, BKFA Committee Members do have 'day jobs' and many are active in their own clubs – so responses will not always be as swift as we would wish.

If you have an urgent issue, please email the secretary and the chairman. Their emails are chairman@bkfa.org.uk and secretary@bkfa.org.uk.

We very much hope to be able to publish this newsletter through the pages of The Kiteflier. The magazine reaches more British kite fliers than any other and we hope that Gill and Jon will feel able to make space available to us.

Information on current initiatives, notes from meetings, the risk assessment and news from the RAeC will all appear on our website, www.bkfa.org.uk