



Minutes of the Council Annual General Meeting

held on 25 November 2007
at the Lamb Tavern, Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1

Subject to ratification at the Annual General Meeting in 2008

Present

Jon Caton	Chairman	Midlands Kite Fliers
Jerry Swift	Treasurer	Midlands Kite Fliers
Arthur Dibble		White Horse Kite Fliers
Phil Scarfe		White Horse Kite Fliers
George Webster		North East Kite Fliers
Doug Jones		WHKF (observer)
Derek Kuhn		Independent
Andrew Beattie		Independent
Kathleen Beattie		Independent
Ernest Barton		Independent
Franchesca Caton		WHKF (observer)

Apologies

Michael Lowe		Solent Kite Flyers
Keith Griffiths		STACK
Neil Harvey		WHKF (replaced by Arthur Dibble)
Colin Jackson		Great Ouse
Jill Ferrer		Great Ouse
Richard Gowers		BKSA (non members)
John Dobson	Secretary	North East Kite Fliers

The meeting was late starting due to the late arrival of the Chairman.

Jerry Swift took the minutes in the absence of the Secretary. By agreement with John Dobson, George Webster deputised on behalf of North East Kite Fliers.

Prior to the arrival of the Chairman, the Treasurer chaired the meeting and there was a discussion on suggestions by George Webster to resurrect competitions from the period around 1903 (a year about which there are several newspaper articles). These competitions judged what they considered to be the most effective kite, with criteria including flying angle, stability, portability etc. The competition was run from set 'stations' (areas for each entrant), set height and/or length of line with a specification to fly for one hour carrying a 2 lb weight.

Phil Scarfe noted that over recent decades an "aerial circus" of design and colour has been created rather than a more technical approach. He believed that this is an idea for encouraging development in our sport.

Ernest Barton suggested Swindon might be a suitable location for such a competition.

Arthur Dibble then outlined the issue with National Museum for Science and Industry (NMSI) on access to Wroughton for the Swindon Kite Festival. Recent changed

priorities for NMSI have led to a current position where charges for access to the site would be unaffordable for WHKF; as a result there is no festival at present. There are plans afoot that may address the situation. WHKF are keen to involve Swindon Council which has ideas of a broader cultural festival and Arthur Dibble had discussed possibilities with them recently. Wroughton are still very supportive of the festival and wish it to continue if possible. The Council has run a sizeable festival in the past and the plan is to bring together Swindon and Wroughton.

Andrew Beattie discussed kite competitions in Bali where quality of construction, appearance, the uniform flyers wear, the quality of the music that the kite is flown too, the quality of launch, the quality of flight (the kite should 'swim' like a fish but without instability) and the quality of the landing are all considered in deciding the winner.

Phil Scarfe suggested that such a competition may take time to establish. George Webster suggested it should not be based around large kites and that a competition focussed on smaller kites would tempt someone like Dan Leigh or Karl Longbottom to compete.

Derek Kuhn suggested that a wider consideration of competitions i.e. a UK wide competition for flying might be appropriate to cultivate our sport. He suggested that BKFA is the right place to run such a competition.

Jon Caton, joining the meeting, noted that BKFA are committed to the Kite Innovation Competition in 2008, having first run it at Bristol and having committed to a bi-annual competition. Further discussion was deferred until later in the meeting.

Meeting commenced formally at 15.05 with the arrival of the Chairman.

1. Welcome by the chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Noted above.

3. Minutes of previous meeting.

The actions from the previous AGM were reviewed.

Production of an application form for the individual members section is still outstanding

Action: J Swift

The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by George Webster, seconded by Andrew Beattie and carried unanimously.

4. Matter's arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's report

BKFA Presence.

We had intended to have a presence at all the major festivals in the UK, but this just did not work out as we had hoped.

We had the banner and the leaflet available and the intention was to have a BKFA "stand". As it happened, we had limited representation at Southampton, Rougham,

Wirral and Brighton. Part of the problem is that the BKFA representatives also have other “duties” at some of these events, so it is difficult to give over the time required to man a stand.

Risk Assessments

We have made some updates to the Risk Assessment to cover night flying, disabled flyers and large kites.

Insurance

We have pursued the question of insurance and were able to negotiate a very good deal with Perkins Slade. However, this was conditional on attaining 1,000 members to make it effective. Some of our affiliated clubs already have existing policies in place which, for historical reasons are better than the BKFA deal. It obviously makes no sense for them to change whilst present arrangements remain unchanged, but it does mean that we have reached an impasse in this respect.

The deal is not completely dead, and we will continue to monitor the situation and look at options in this area for the future. Discussions continue with the insurers to see whether they will consider a lower ‘entry number’.

Child protection

Our insurers (for officer liability) have insisted that we have a Child protection policy in place. *[Note: such a policy is not currently in place, being dependent on take up of the wider offer. However, other clubs use the same insurer so we are aware of their requirements in this respect].*

We have now drawn up such a policy in line with the recommendations of the NSPCC. It looks likely that will also affect clubs in due course so this template is available for clubs to use when required. Clubs must review the policy before use to make it appropriate to their situation.

A further recent development is the introduction of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. This being phased in progressively, with many of the key requirements taking affect in 2008.

Through our associate membership of the Royal Aero Club, we attended a recent seminar on the changes due for implementation next year to the present child protection laws.

These changes do not remove the need for Criminal Record Bureau checks (CRB) but do reform current vetting and barring processes. *[See the website for details].*

We are also investigating the possibility of affiliation with the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) which would give us an economic way to provide CRB checks to clubs.

This would be for a flat fee of £12.50 each inclusive of VAT. This applies to volunteers – paid staff would attract an additional £36 fee for an enhanced disclosure (Volunteers are free, CRB charge £36 for an enhanced disclosure). We would be interested to know whether this service would be of use to members.

Website

The new site is finally up and running.

For various reasons, we encountered all sorts of difficulties in trying to revamp the interim site that Andrew Beattie kindly hosted for us. We found that none of us had the time or the technical expertise necessary to redevelop the site. Various attempted efforts ground to halt. We discussed the current site with Peter Bindon and he said that he would be prepared to take on the redevelopment of the new site. Subsequently, he also agreed to arrange hosting for us.

Our thanks are due to Peter for a fantastic job (and to Arthur Dibble for proof reading and feedback).

There is still some tidying up to do on the site, but we thought that we would be better getting something up running and doing the tidying later, rather than waiting any longer.

The website can now grow. We intend to add sections on kite-related records, air law and further develop those on child protection.

As chairman, I get a steady stream of enquiries from the public and other outside organisations. These range from “where is my nearest windsurfing instructor” to “we want to organise a kite festival – can you advise?”

Our challenges

I think that we had two areas in which we have not been so successful:

- We still haven't got people to understand what our role is.
- We have again fallen short in one of our primary areas of communication.

However, I believe that the new web site will prove to be the turning point in solving the latter.

A lot of our issues this last year have stemmed from the fact that all of the Association's officers have had great difficulty in finding the time to pursue the BKFA work.

It is also difficult to operate on a national basis with challenges such as getting people together etc.

We do have an issue here and we do desperately need more help.

- help with publicity and promotion.
- help with projects.
- help with simply being at events to promote kite flying and the BKFA. We would like to be at non-kite flying events to promote our sport, but at present that is simply not an option.

Finally, John Dobson has to stand down as Secretary in line with our rotation policy. I would like to thank John for all his work during his time as Secretary.

In responding to the Chairman's report, Ernest Barton noted he would be prepared to pay two premiums in order to have adequate insurance away from his own club's events.

The meeting wished to record its thanks to Peter Bindon for the website and to Arthur Dibble for his support of website development. Andrew Beattie wished to record his thanks to Peter Bindon for taking on the website and for his work on the transfer.

6. Accounts

The Treasurer presented the accounts. George Webster proposed that they be accepted, seconded by Phil Scarfe and carried unanimously.

7. Review of membership fees

There was discussion on membership fees for smaller groups or for groups that do not charge a membership fee. Noted that smaller groups could be represented through the individual member section and whilst full club membership should be encouraged, this route did mean such representation could be encouraged without an excessive financial burden. The meeting agreed that fees remain as is.

8. Affiliation to RAeC at CCPR

The Chairman suggested that membership of the Royal Aero Club was producing benefits and should carry on. The meeting was unanimously in favour. Consideration was also given to membership of the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR). The meeting decided that affiliation should be pursued.

Action: Jerry Swift to pursue affiliation and to achieve best deal possible. Proposal accepted unanimously.

9. Review of current policies

Risk assessment and accident review. Andrew Beattie reported potential problems with a large kite through failure of a release mechanism. The planned back-up procedure had to be used requiring two lines to be cut, successfully avoiding any accidents.

Action: Andrew Beattie to write up the incident and lessons learned.

Action: Jerry Swift to review and re-issue short version risk assessment.

Jerry Swift nominated as BKFA child protection officer.

Action: Chairman and Jerry Swift to consider need for further training.

Action: Committee to consider need for further Health & Safety related policies.

10. Website

There was general commendation for Peter Bindon's excellent work. The website to be developed to include kiting Records, the 'private' kite calendar intended to allow event organisers to review possible clashes, changing chairman's welcome to a news update page etc.

Action: Jerry Swift and Peter Bindon to arrange for all documents to be in PDF format with a link to download the Word document where appropriate.

Action: Jerry Swift with assistance from all to continue to collate material for the website.

11. Publicity.

Derek Kuhn noted difficulty in encapsulating what BKFA is and asked whether there is a publicity leaflet available? The Chairman showed the meeting the current computer printed 3-fold leaflet.

The Chairman stated that the intention had been to hand out leaflets for distribution. Andrew Beattie proposed that the leaflets be professionally printed. The Chairman

noted the banner is available. George Webster noted that he would be happy to mention the BKFA at events provided there was some material to distribute.

Arthur Dibble noted that WHKF had invited BKFA to attend Swindon Kite Festival and stated that our failure to do so was a missed opportunity. The Chairman agreed that we had missed the opportunity and that the firm intention was to improve on past performance. We would intend to distribute the leaflet in advance of events. It was generally agreed that the leaflet needs to be more generic and to have appropriate contact details.

Andrew Beattie asked whether traders would support distribution and the Chairman said several had offered.

There was some discussion on BKFA's relationship with other organisations. It was agreed that as BKFA develops its strength then a number of these issues will be resolved, but that it needs us to have the professional support etc in place.

12. **Future plans**

Jerry Swift discussed plans for a section on **Kite Records** in the website, noting the work done by AKA but which so far as he was aware had not been completed. He also discussed the relationship with Guinness World Records.

George Webster suggested the need to harness new records to promote kiting and the forthcoming attempt on the bear dropping Record at Gettysburg next year was discussed as a possible opportunity.

Derek Kuhn suggested the need to consider whether all this work is too much to achieve. Jerry Swift suggested that it was worth pursuing but that we would not be in a position to commit to deliver the 'final' result. The Chairman noted the need to publicise progress on this (along with everything else). Jerry Swift requested information be fed to him.

Noted the need to cover power kiting and kite surfing, kite boarding Records etc.

Action: Andrew Beattie to re-establish contact with Valerie Govig.

Action: All to provide details where known of Records and rules to Jerry Swift.

Events diary: this will be a limited access area with access granted to club events organisers only. It will draw on 'kitecalendars' and past lists of events to give a guide to future possible dates and will enable organisers to 'pencil in' those dates. The definitive public calendar will be 'kitecalendar.co.uk' as now.

Future policy documents: we will be adding further policy documents to the website as they are developed.

13. **Kite innovation competition 2008**

BKFA are committed to a bi-annual kite innovation competition. George Webster suggested that if we were to do it again Bristol was a good location. We need to publicise in advance. The Chairman suggested it should be restricted to British designers to promote and encourage them. Andrew Beattie suggested this would be incompatible with Bristol where promotion of international guests is a priority of the organisers.

George Webster suggested that the Eddie Megrath award covers British designers specifically and so excludes international designers. He suggested that this is already the award for British kite designers so there is no need for a new one.

There was a discussion on possible location for the competition. Ernest Barton and Franchesca Caton suggested that Wirral might be a better location drawing more interest from around the country, including potentially Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Derek Kuhn related how the German Master Championships are actually open to European all-comers. He suggested that BKFA might adopt the German rules to judge our competition and maybe bring their competition to UK with all the attendant benefits. Could this be flavoured with British innovators?

Members voted in favour of a British only competition. The competition will be held at the Wirral event subject to agreement with the organisers.

It was stressed that is not in conflict with the Eddie Megrath award as the BKFA award is for innovation in kite related areas, whereas the Eddie Megrath award is specifically for a kite produced in the last 12 months and is only open to a British maker/flyer.

Action: Chairman to progress with the Wirral.

Action: Derek Kuhn to advise on rules for German competition and opportunities for integration with wider European competition.

Agreed that there was a need to identify a more formal process for the judging than in the 2006 competition and that the process must make sure the judges meet all entrants and see all entries. The Chairman would like to see international judges judging a British competition. The perception being that this was more impartial.

14. Review of BKFA structure

George Webster observed that he had agreed to chair a number of the early meetings and that it was agreed then that membership would be via clubs only. He noted that whilst he understood the reasons for this, the situation may have changed. He expressed concern that if membership was too all embracing, we could have people joining "off the street" who had no intention of supporting our aims or of following our code of conduct, both of which risked leading BKFA into disrepute.

Phil Scarfe noted that we have set up an individual members section but that we have done little with it. He questioned whether this should be the route to individual membership. There was a discussion on whether there should be vetting of potential members suitability.

Derek Kuhn suggested that there should be a traders section that should be part of BKFA.

On individual membership, Jerry Swift suggested that a fee of £5 to support the work of BKFA would be appropriate.

It was agreed that the way forward is to put a form in with the leaflet and a page on the website for allowing people to express interest. This will elicit a pack including an application form and code of conduct for kitefliers concerning public safety and good flying manners. The potential member will then have to sign and return these, this

additional action being likely to weed out any less committed flyers. All the fees are to be gifted to the BKFA. *The BKFA reserves the right to reject unsuitable applicants.* The individual members section then selects its members to Council as if it were an affiliated club.

Action: the Committee to review the conditions applicable to a traders section.

15. Questions to the committee

There were no questions to the Committee.

16. Election of the new committee

Volunteers for committee

Arthur Dibble

Jon Caton

Andrew Beattie

Jerry Swift

Ernest Barton (subject to ratification by his club - NEKF)

Michael Lowe (subject to confirmation)

Keith Griffiths (subject to confirmation)

17. Date of next AGM

Agreed as Sunday 23 November 2008 at 1400, location to be agreed.

18. Any other business

There was no other business. The meeting closed at 18.30.