



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the BKFA

held at Lamb Inn, 94 Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1N 3LZ

on Sunday 6th December 2015, commencing at 2 pm.

Present:

John Dobson (Herrington Kite Club, Chairman)
Jerry Swift (White Horse Kite Flyers, Secretary)
George Webster (North East Kite Fliers)
Gareth Williams (Kent Kite Flyers, Treasurer)
Michael Lowe (Solent Kite Fliers)
Jon Caton (Midland Kite Fliers)

Apologies

Ernie Williamson (Essex Kite Group)
Bill Souten (Midland Kite Fliers)
Vince Wilson (Herrington Kite Club)
David Elkin (North Hants Buggy Club and Loddon Valley Kite Flyers)
Doug Jones (White Horse Kite Flyers)

1. Welcome

The Chairman asked everyone to respect a moments silence to remember Phil "The Flames" Scarfe who had been so supportive of BKFA over many years.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM. Having reviewed which of our member clubs were being represented it was determined that the meeting was quorate.

2. Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the 2014 AGM were accepted without amendment. There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's report

"It is with much sadness that I have to note and regret the death of Phil Scarfe this year. We have all known him for many years and valued his contributions to BKFA since its inception and to kitemaking and kiteflying generally. He is a loss to us all.

"It is also with regret that we learn that Great Ouse Kite Fliers has ceased to exist because of falling membership and rising costs.

"This has been a quiet year for BKFA. We have had somewhat fewer queries from the website, though there have been more questions about running kite festivals and assistance in setting up other kite-related events, and fewer enquiries from individuals wanting insurance. There have been no reports or queries concerning kite-related bans and other stupidities.

"Particular thanks must go to Jerry Swift for having finally got the insurance policy arrangements in order. This has been a tiresome business for reasons beyond our control, and I know it has cost him a lot of time and effort. We are fortunate in having such a persistent and effective treasurer/secretary.

"I would also like to express our sympathy with him at the illness of Carolyn and ask Jerry to convey to her our best wishes and hopes for a speedy improvement in her condition and a longer-term recovery.

“More generally, I note that kiteflying is changing. More and more we see large display kites at kite festivals taking up a large amount of space in the sky and on the ground, changing kite flying from a participant sport to a spectator sport. Another change is in the increasing number of sports kite fliers whose undoubted skills change kiteflying from an amateur sport to a professional one. Of course, there is a place for these things at big international events such as Portsmouth. People come to see such displays and understandably so. But it does have the effect of changing public expectations as to what a kite festival looks like.

“But it is not only amateur participation that is declining; traditional kite club membership is also in decline. I note the demise of GOKF, and it is perhaps an indicator of things to come that the Midlands Kite Fliers, for a long time the biggest kite club in the country, was unable to get a quorum for its AGM this year. A shortage of money generally is leading to fewer kite festivals, at least on the larger scale.

“There is still a demand for small local kite festivals, such as the one I organise at Prudhoe and the one that NEKF runs at the Scottish Museum of Flight each year. The main participants these days are children of course; and a suitable resource we have at NEKF is to have available, as part of our club assets, a couple of dozen Chinese Deltas which all spectators are invited to borrow and fly. We have children’s kitemaking workshops and provide programme slots for the children to fly their decorated kites, with a modest prize for the most attractively decorated kite in the opinion of an impartial judge.

“Maybe we need more but smaller festivals; but this requires more small festival organisers and a nucleus of fliers who would be prepared to come with some smaller display kites that could be brought down when it is time to assist with the management of children — showing them how to launch and fly, discourage them from running around too much (lines get tangled!) and so on.

“I wonder if it is appropriate for BKFA to write to all clubs, not just the BKFA members, asking if they could arrange such events in their own patch and offering all such assistance as we can.”

Discussions followed around the provision of kites for taster sessions by members of the public. JC extended the discussion to include encouraging people to use their own kites and identifying the events they can take part in. ML commented sites are too small or large soft kites are taking up too much of the space. JC questioned whether having huge soft kites is relevant as they are not something that people can aspire to. All agreed they are a draw but that they can take too much space.

There was also concern over the potential safety impact of large 'inflated' kites. GW suggested that people don't connect with large kites so that whilst they act as a draw maybe less of them required than has been commonplace. He also noted that many people may think of large inflatables as balloons not kites. Other council members noted that some are 'line laundry' not kites.

GW feels we need to provide space, and the opportunity to buy and or fly but also noted that some festivals are only suitable for display flying e.g. Bedford and to an extent Portsmouth. Maybe publicity should feature an invitation to participate. ML noted that public activity needs careful marshalling. JD observed that at Prudhoe separation from other kites is achieved by time.

Agreed that member clubs to be requested to indicate how many public events they intend to run and at those events where and how would they intend to encourage participation. BKFA to seek opportunities to facilitate. GW and JD to draft a suitable piece, share with Council then JS to send out the piece with annual invoices.

4. Treasurer's report

With the agreement of the Treasurer, JS gave a report on the accounts, a copy of which is appended. The accounts were accepted.

It was resolved that the authorised signatories in the current mandate for the account held by Nat West, Malton, be changed to remove Jon Caton as a signatory and to add Gareth Williams as a signatory and the

current mandate will continue as amended. **Proposed: John Dobson. Seconded: Jerry Swift. Carried: nem. con.**

JS noted that BKFA should be reporting its affairs to HMRC. As the organisation makes no profit on its services for members there should be no tax implications and agreement from HMRC to reflect the organisations status should be forthcoming. It was agreed JS would follow up with HMRC.

5. To consider membership fees

JS advised that income should be sufficient this year although noted with great sadness that Great Ouse Kite Fliers have resigned as the club is being wound up.

Agreed fees would remain unchanged for a further year.

6. Affiliations to other organisations

JS outlined the benefits of membership of Sport & Recreation (CCPR as was) and the historical context of membership of the Royal Aero Club. Agreed that both should continue.

JD and JS had received notes from Bill Souten outlining 'Flier Live' and 'The Sports Show'. The former is the UK's largest indoor event focussed on flying whilst the latter is aimed at 60,000 people to encourage them to take up sport: many of the country's leading sports are represented. These events were noted but it was felt that even if the cost of attending was nil, the costs associated with stands, material, accommodation and attendance made this impractical.

7. Review of risk assessment

BKFA is not aware of any accidents in the past twelve months. JS will review the current risk assessment.

8. Insurance report

JS outlined the current situation. The policy with Tennyson/Zurich is being run down and a final figure was agreed with them and has been paid. The final cover expires around January 2016.

The new policies are in place with Perkins Slade/Hiscox and have considerably extended the scope: one policy covers BKFA and member clubs whilst the other covers Club Affiliated Independent Fliers (CAIF cover). Take up has been good and it is running well. We have not had the premiums for next year although the increase in Insurance Premium Tax will feed through from now on. Charge out rates will reflect the current agreement of a 20% mark up on cost.

9. Election of committee

Committee members present agreed to stand again. GW indicated Bill Andrews is happy to continue. JD to check with Bill Souten and Doug Jones.

10. Any other business

No issues were raised.

11. Date of next meeting

4th December 2016 at 14.00, Lamb Inn, Lamb's Conduit Street, London.

The meeting closed at 15.30.