



General Meeting of the BKFA

held by Skype

on 19 January 2020, commencing at 11 am.

Minutes

Present: John Dobson (Herrington, secretary), Jerry Swift (MKF, chairman), John Usher (Essex), George Webster (NEKF), Gareth Williams (KKF, treasurer), Mike Lowe (Bognor Regis), Simon Hennessy (Brighton), Mark de Roussier (Lodden).

1. Welcome

The chairman welcomed members to the meeting and apologised for the fact that the meeting was originally proposed for London on 9 December 2019 but had to be postponed at his request. He thanked John Dobson for managing this postponement.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Julie White, Bill Souten, Barry Savell.

2. Minutes of the last AGM and Matters Arising

The minutes of the 2018 AGM were accepted (proposed John Dobson, seconded George Webster). There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere in the Agenda.

3. Chairman's Report

Jerry Swift gave the Chairman's report. The main point was an update on the CAP regulations, which to some extent now correctly distinguish between kites and drones though future harmonisation with EU regulations may still be problematic from a kiting point of view. There may also be still a risk relating to kites weighing more than 2kg. The situation will be kept under review during 2020 and a further report made at the next AGM.

Treasurer's Report

Jerry Swift gave the Treasurer's report. A copy is appended to these minutes. In response to a question from John Usher, Jerry explained that the £1500 received from the now defunct Bristol kite festival was recorded as a liability because it was money that had to be spent on an unspecified kite-related purpose at some time in the future. The report was accepted (proposed George Webster, seconded John Dobson).

Although the account balance is healthy enough, Jerry is not in a position to underwrite the annual insurance premium for clubs that cannot or do not pay their account promptly. Clubs that do not pay BKFA on time will no longer be insured after our annual insurance policy expires.

Secretary's Report

2019 had been a quiet year for BKFA. For the second year running, no queries had been raised by non-members. The main business had been monitoring the forthcoming possible changes in regulation.

4 Membership Fees

It was agreed to raise the membership fees at each level, bringing them to £40, £70, £95 (proposed George Webster, seconded John Dobson). The main justification was the increase in BKFA's own insurance liability.

5. Affiliations to Other Institutions

a) Sport and Recreation Alliance.

SRA continue to provide a steady stream of information on emerging legislation etc. and we believe it is value for money; it is also important also that we are seen to be members for credibility reasons.

- b) Royal Aero Club.
RAeC are still keen, for historical reasons, to keep us in membership, and have in previous years agreed a reduction in membership fees to £75 in view of our small membership and limited resources, which we hope will continue.

It was proposed to continue our subscriptions to both organisations (proposed George Webster, seconded John Dobson).

6. Risk Assessment and Reporting

There have been no reported incidents this year.

7. Insurance

There was some discussion on risks arising from the use of coated and/or synthetic line. It was agreed that we do not support the use of these sorts of line. Jerry and John agreed to review the current definition of "kiting activity" as used in our insurance policy and pass it round the BKFA members for comment. The key point is that a kite is an unpowered aircraft tethered by a line to the ground (or ground-based pilot). Other points raised were (i) line and laundry are not considered as part of the mass of the kite (ii) kite workshops are considered as a kiting activity (iii) night flying requires further consideration since there is no line of sight.

8. Election of Committee

The remaining Committee members present agreed to continue.

Jerry Swift will check with Julie White, Jon Caton and Bill Souter.

The following officers of the Committee were appointed:

Chairman: Jerry Swift
Secretary: John Dobson
Treasurer: Gareth Williams.

9. Any Other Business

This issue of increased visibility of BKFA was briefly discussed, for example, attending each other AGMs wherever appropriate and clubs advertising the fact that they are BKFA members (e.g. on club banners).

Jerry mentioned that there was an offer from the British Model Flying Association to make use of their flying field near Grantham. It was suggested that we could use it for a kite flying rally rather than a public kite festival.

Jerry undertook to investigate the definition of controlled aerospace where kite flying is not permitted that applies to an unlicensed aerodrome. The CAA have maps of controlled space round licensed aerodromes.

Mike Lowe drew our attention to the existence of realistic powered flying birds as the latest aeronautic amusement artefact.

10. Date of Next meeting

The next AGM would take place on Sunday 29 November 2020 by Skype commencing at 2pm.

The meeting then closed at 12.05 pm.