

**EAST ANGLIAN AREA BMFA**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 19:45.**  
**Meeting held via Zoom**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

- Alan Paul – Web Master
- Gary Hughes – Mid Suffolk
- Jason Channing – Achievement Scheme Coordinator

**2. Present – 7 members**

- Mike Woodhouse – Secretary/Treasurer
- Paul Hoey – Chairman/Delegate
- Graham Gouch – Norwich (part)
- Steve Bowles – Comp sec (part)
- Steve White – Southend
- Jo Kemp – Vice Chairman
- Vic Blackwood - Bury

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting (7<sup>th</sup> January 2021)**

- Proposed – Vic Blackwood, seconded – Paul Hoey - Agreed.

**3. Matters arising**

- Some BMFA staff are continuing to work from home. Two staff on furlough will return to work shortly
- Meetings are still being held via Zoom with Andy Symons assisting and facilitating Technical Committees, Areas and Clubs.
- The “In the air tonight” sessions that proved a success and will be starting again in October
- Work on The New BMFA website is continuing. However, progress is still impacted by the needs of the CAA and Covid.

**4. BMFA Briefing for 18<sup>th</sup> September Council meeting**

- The meeting will be agreeing the BMFA accounts for 2020/21 and the budget for 2022/23. An increase in of the BMFA subscription of £2.00 is being proposed.
- Proposals that are being presented to start the changing of the BMFA structure to recognise the member survey findings. The changes include

making the CEO post a direct of the BMFA and the creation a new post of members director.

#### **5. Area chairman**

- Paul Hoey updated the meeting on the plans to celebrate 100 years of SMAE/BMFA in 2022.

#### **6. Achievement Scheme coordinator**

- No update as Jason was absent due to an unexpected work commitment.

#### **7. Other business**

- The secretary advised that overall BMFA membership was close to 2020 numbers which includes 245 drone fliers. The position regarding club membership numbers was confirmed by those at the meeting with respect to their own club's membership. Numbers appear to holding up across the Area.
- A reminder that the Area now has its own Zoom account which is available to clubs who wish to make use of the facility
- Graham Gooch advised that NPOD on 18<sup>th</sup> July at Coltishall had been very successful. A similar event in the spring of 2022 is at the initial planning stage.
- Paul Hoey and John Copey are discussing an area event for Control line flying later in 2021, probably in September at Thetford
- Some feed-back taken from and e-mail from Gary Hughes. A couple of recent events which have been extremely successful:
  - A round of the GBRCAA aerobatic competition.
  - A Fun Fly & BBQ. This was so successful that a couple of our younger "B" Certificate holders have volunteered to act as Instructors with a view to becoming qualified as Examiners.
  - These events highlighted just how "social" our sport/hobby is. This is something to recognise and celebrate in the Centenary year.
  - The club must thank the BMFA for some recent assistance (Andy Symons in particular). This highlighted just how helpful and useful the BMFA truly is!

#### **8. Next meeting**

- The next meeting to 25<sup>h</sup> November 2021 the AGM and to be held via Zoom. Officers were reminded to submit their reports.