

EAST ANGLIAN AREA BMFA
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th September 2022 at 19:45.
Meeting held via Zoom

1. Apologies for Absence

- Alan Paul – Web master - Impington
- Stephen Bowles – Comp Sec – Vikings
- Jason Channing - Achievement Scheme Coordinator

2. Present – 8 members

- Paul Hoey – Chairman/Delegate – South Norfolk
- Mike Woodhouse – Secretary/Treasurer – Vikings
- Graham Gooch – Norwich
- Alan Jackson – BTR
- Vic Blackwood – Bury
- Ian Barker – Clacton
- Garry Hughes - Mid Suffolk
- Joe Kemp – Vice Chairman – Erics Odd Bods

2. Minutes of the previous meeting (15th September 2022)

- Proposed – Graham Gooch, seconded – Alan Jackson - Agreed.

3. Matters arising

- Meetings continue to be held via Zoom the AGM, the next meeting, will be face-to-face
- The New BMFA website is up and running. Development of the site continues.
- The NPOD day planned for July, has been postponed to 16th October and will be run by the Norwich Club. Area support has already been agreed.

4. BMFA Briefing for 17th September full Council meeting

- There are no elections to BMFA council posts. It is thought Duncan McClure will continue his role on the achievement scheme for the foreseeable future.
- There are two significant proposals on the agenda that relate to the sale of Chacksfield House and the development of cafe and multi-purpose space at BMFA Buckminster. The meeting supported the proposals and gave the delegate a unanimous mandate, with one abstention with respect to the establishment of a café, by those present to support the proposals.
- It is anticipated that, as a result of the decline in memberships allied to inflation the BMFA will need to increase the subscription for 2023.

5. Area chairman/Delegate

- The number of models in the air on the 15th May was a great success. The exhibition and open day at the Centre had been excellent and the 100 is now winding down. The “100” and donation of models and ephemera is adding considerably to the BMFA archive.
- Discussions are taking place regarding the creation of a Welsh Area. To do so would potentially unlock funds from Welsh bodies such as those related to sport.

6. Achievement Scheme Coordinator

- No report.

7. Secretary

- The secretary advised that the BMFA numbers are still down on 2022 and include drone fliers who are now returning to the BMFA. The problems within the SAA have led to many modellers north of the border joining the BMFA. The BMFA now has more members in Scotland than the SAA.
- As a result of the UK becoming a third country in its relationship with Europe some UK team members having to pay customs charges on models taken into the EU. The BMFA is looking into the setting up of a customs carnet process to alleviate the problem.

8. Club Input

- Overall, except for South Norfolk, who had attracted some new members, the Area was following the national trend in a reduction of flyers joining clubs. In order to maintain financial viability some smaller clubs may have to combine. This led to discussions on how best to encourage affiliation. It was confirmed that the BMFA is considering how best to develop the membership system in how best to recruit and retain numbers.
- After 50 years of access the Bury Club have lost the use of RAF Honington as a result of an RAF glider club transferring to the field.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting will be the Area AGM and at the request of the Chairman the date will change to 17th November and held face to face.