

**Minutes of the Stansted Model Flying Club Annual General Meeting held at the
Village Hall, Ugley, on 1st December, 2014**

Committee Members: Paul Pichel – Chair
Jason Channing – Treasurer & Safety Officer
Laurie Poulter – Membership Secretary
Shahid Banglawala – Web Master
Mike Moylan – Club Newsletter
Apologies: Bill Michie – Secretary

Members: A total of 23 members attended.
Apologies: Rob Michie, Tony Sparsis, Stuart Fox, Nicholas Gourmos

The Meeting Opened at 20:05

1. Minutes of the 2013 AGM.

The Minutes of the AGM were read to the meeting. There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes. B Shaw proposed that the Minutes be agreed. Seconded C Shaw. The Minutes were agreed unanimously.

2. Committee Members' Reports.

Chair: Nothing to Report.

Treasurer: The Treasurer reported that the club's funds currently stood at £10,500, which was approximately £500 higher than this time last year. Major expenditure was incurred for Grass Cutting - £600, Field Rent - £800, Hire of Ugley Village Hall - £180, Club Web Site - £65 (for 2 years). Minor expenditure was incurred for Barbeques and for an Xmas present for the land owner.

Secretary: The Secretary reported that the following events took place: Hosting of a F3A Competition, a poorly attended Fun Day, a well attended Scale Day, and a moderately supported Fly Day/BBQ.

The Secretary proposed that the annual Fun Day be suspended as support had been poor for both the last two years. Members pointed out that the Fun Day had been postponed this year because of bad weather and that the revised date was close to the Scale Day and that it had clashed with the Wings and Wheels Show.

Membership Secretary: The Membership Secretary reported that current membership totalled 81, up 4 from 2013. There had been a moderate turnover in members this year: 8 members did not renew their membership this year but 12 new and former members joined or re-joined the club.

Safety Officer: The Safety Officer reported that there had been a number of concerns raised over the year, mostly relating to flying too close to the pits and parking areas. He pointed out that the

BMFA published safety guidelines in their Handbook and that we should be flying not less than 30 metres from the pits and parking areas. In particular, pilots should stand together well out in the field, between the two concrete slabs, when we are operating from the SW corner of the field. Pilots should never take off and fly (even with helicopters) from the corner of the field as this is far too close to the pits and parking areas and is thus placing people, parked models and cars at risk.

Web Master:

The club's Web Master reported that he had arranged for the club to buy the stanstedmfc.com web address and that the club's web pages are now hosted at this location. He expressed his view that the club only needed a presence on the web and not an advanced set of web pages and functions.

3. Committee Appointments for 2015.

Jason Channing informed the meeting of his wish to stand down as Treasurer but expressed his willingness to remain as Safety Officer. Shahid Banglawala stated that he was standing down as Web Master because of work commitments. The other current Committee Members stated that they were willing to continue in post, although Bill Mitchie stated (via the Chair) that he would wish to stand down at the end of 2015.

Linda Shepherd volunteered to take over the Treasurer's post and Mark Moulds volunteered to take over the Web Master's post. There being no other nominations, it was proposed by D Fisher that these two candidates be appointed and that the remaining Committee members be appointed for a further year. Seconded L Sheperd. Agreed unanimously.

4. Annual Award of Trophies.

The Chair announced the annual award of the club's trophies:

Alan Banks Trophy: Linda Shepherd for her achievements through her determination and application.

Nigel Smith Trophy: Laurie Poulter for his design and building work.

The Chair also made honourable mention of Jack Channing for his achievement of attaining his 'B' Certificate at the early age of 10.

5. Events for 2015.

The Chair outlined possible events for this winter:

BMFA talk on the Achievement Scheme.

Visit to Duxford to look behind the scenes at restoration work. Any such visit would probably have to take place mid-week and there would be a limit on numbers.

The usual chuck-glider competition in Ugley Village Hall.

"Show and Talk" sessions by members on models acquired or built during the winter.

The Chair proposed that the following events take place at the flying field in 2015:

Hosting an F3A competition in April. This meeting forms part of the UK team selection process and holding it at the club's flying site would both provide interest for club members and would enhance the club's visibility in the model flying fraternity.

Scale, BBQ/Flying Day, and Old Timer Focus Day. Dates to be notified.

Inter-club Meetings, probably with the Royston Club. To be notified.

Several members expressed the wish that we should try and run a Fun Day in 2015. Mark Pearce agreed to discuss the matter with the Secretary.

6. Club/BFMA Subscriptions.

The Treasurer expressed his view that the Club Membership fee for 2015 be held at the current level - £35. Proposer: C Shaw. Seconded: M Underwood. Agreed unanimously.

The Membership Secretary reported that the BFMA Subscriptions for 2015 had also been set at the current level - £32 for Seniors and £17 for Juniors, with minor reductions for Family Members.

7. Talk by the Chair of the BFMA E. Anglia Region.

The Club's Chair introduced the newly elected Chair of the BFMA's East Anglia Area Committee – Peter Jenkins gave a short talk to the meeting, pointing out that:

The E Anglia region held the largest number of clubs in a BMFA region. Peter is now both the Chair of the E Anglia region and that region's Representative on the BFMA Council. If members wished to provide input to the Council they should talk to the Area Committee.

With new people coming into model flying, particularly at the Instructor and Examiner levels, there was a need to revamp the BFMA Achievement Scheme and this was being done through workshops and standards setting.

The new East Anglia Web Pages were now hosted and accessible via the BFMA Web Site.

8. AOB.

The Chair updated the meeting on planning proposals that might affect the flying site. The proposal for change of use from offices, etc, to housing at the location east of the field was unlikely to be approved.

The raffle was held, with Jerome Watson being brave enough to select the hidden prize and thus winning free SMFC Membership for 2015!

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21:25

Laurie Poulter

for Secretary, SMFC

3rd December, 2014