

Minutes of the SMFC 2016 AGM

Apologies: Tony Sparsis, Phil Gutteridge

1. Minutes of the 2015 AGM. The minutes of the 2015 AGM were approved.

2. Matters Arising.

Matters arising from the Minutes included: Paul Pichel's demise, Safety, Club Trainers, and Grass Cutting. For clarity, the discussions are included under the relevant sections below.

3. Committee Member Reports for 2015:

The Chairman reported that:

Several club members had attended the late Paul Pichel's funeral on 2nd July. The club had contributed £50 to the Essex Air Ambulance – the Pichel family's chosen charity.

A contribution of £50 had been made by the club to the new memorial at Little Walden to the USAAF personnel who had served on the WW2 Hadstock Airfield.

The effort that Andy Clayton had put in to cutting the grass at the flying site was generally recognised. It was agreed that the grass was in better condition now than it had been for many years. It was also agreed that the club would give Andy a bonus, probably in the form of a small present such as a bottle of whisky, this Xmas to show our appreciation for his efforts.

A new Club Trainer had been purchased and was in use. A good By-Product of having the associated "Buddy" system was that members who had become less able to continue to fly model aircraft could be supported when flying either the trainer or their own models by a safety pilot by making use of this system.

Several new members had been checked out using the new "Competency" test.

The Membership Secretary reported that:

There were 73 members in 2015; last year we had 76 members. There had been a gradual reduction over recent years in members renewing their BMFA membership through the club.

Members were asked to indicate their competency levels on this year's application form. In summary, it was found that we had 11 Beginners, 31 "A"/Competent, "B"/Experience, and 2 "C"/Expert, model flyers, together with a total of 10 Instructors including 4 Examiners.

The new Membership Cards had been issued this year and the 2017 version would have information on the back of the card to enable members to provide guidance to the emergency services to help them find the flying site.

The Treasurer reported that: the club's income for the year was £3,335 and its outgoings totalled £3,268, leaving a current bank balance of £10,134. Unusual items, such the purchase of a new trainer and the contributions listed by the Chairman above had been accommodated without reducing the club's bank balance.

The Safety Officer reported that:

Safety awareness continued to improve during the year. The Chairman noted that a "Drip Feed" approach was proving effective in slowly but continuously raising safety standards.

Some pilots had not been standing at the concrete markers on the field when flying model aircraft. It was pointed out that these are positioned to provide the minimal

separation recommended by the BFMA from the pits and parking areas. It was also pointed out that pilots should stand together to facilitate communication between them.

The motors on electric models should be treated as "live" as soon as the motor battery is connected. Therefore the model must, just as for piston engine models with an engine running, be restrained or held from this time until the model is launched.

The Web Site Manager reported that the web site Hosting and Domain Name had been renewed. Some 65 new photos listed under "2016" and a link to the SMFC Facebook page had been added to the web site.

4. Annual Award of Trophies.

There were two nominations for the "Alan Banks" trophy this year. It was awarded to Roy Spence in recognition of his enthusiastic and practical support to other members at the flying site through providing guidance and training and his efforts during the club's event days during the summer.

There were also two nominations for the "Nigel Smith" Trophy this year. It was awarded to "Pinky" Thompson in recognition of his continuing production of impressive scale models, (not many modeller paint the lozenges on a model of a German WW1 aircraft by hand!)

5. Election of Committee Members for 2017.

There were again no nominations for Committee Positions. The existing Committee Members offered to continue in post and this was enthusiastically approved of by the members present!

However Bill Michie stated that the Chairman's post will definitely become vacant at the end of the coming year. He also pointed out that the Secretary's post remains vacant.

6. Club Membership Fees for 2017.

It was unanimously agreed that the Club Membership fee for 2017 would remain at £35.

7. Club Events.

The Acting Secretary stated that the usual "Fun" Indoor Chuck Glider Competition would take place at the February Meeting and that the very successful "Fun" Simulator Bombing Competition run last year would be re-run at the March Meeting.

Summer evens proposed were for a possible Training Day in June, a Scale Day in July, and a Families Day in August. The options to stage short "fun" competitions, such as glider duration, spot landing, and "limbo dancing", were discussed - without coming to any conclusion. The Chairman stated that such events could indeed take place, preferably in May and June, if any members were prepared to run them.

The Chairman reported that he hoped to arrange a visit to the South Norfolk Model Flying Club during the summer.

8. AOB. There being no other business, the meeting closed for the Raffle and for hot Sausage Rolls and Mince Pies.

L G Poulter

Secretary, SMFC

7th December 2016