

## Minutes of the SMFC AGM, 4th December 2017

1. Apologies received from: Mark Moulds, Phil Gutteridge, & Tony Sparsis.

A total of 25 members attended the AGM.

2. The Minutes of the 2016 AGM were read out by the Acting Secretary and unanimously approved by the meeting.
3. There were no matters arising from the 2016 AGM Minutes.
4. Committee Members' reports:

The Chairman reported that the club held an Old-Timer theme day, the annual Scale day, and a Family day during the summer months. Training aircraft utilising the buddy-box system have made it possible for both trainees and less able members to enjoy flying at the site. The grass cutting contract with Andy Clayton was going well, with the grass being kept in very good shape. (Subsequent to the meeting, it has been confirmed that Andy will be continuing to cut the grass for 2018 Clayden at same price.)

The Membership Secretary reported that membership currently stood at 67, confirming a gradual decline in membership numbers from a peak of 80 in 2014. Junior membership remained steady but the club is losing some older members.

The Treasurer reported that the income for this year was £2991, with expenditure just £1 less, leaving a balance at the end of this year of £10,135.

The Acting Secretary reported that he had been able to carry out most of the communication duties of this post by going on-line when touring in Europe but had not been able to carry out many organisational tasks.

The Safety Officer reported that he was still seeing poor safety practices at the flying site. In particular, flying and standing too close to the pits, failing to restrain models with "live" motors, and members just not understanding the risks associated with some of their actions.

In the absence of the Webmaster, the Acting Secretary reported that more photos and videos are needed from members for the SMFC Web Site.

5. Committee Proposal - Safety/Rules.

This item was brought forward from Committee Proposals so that it could be dealt with under the chairmanship of the current Chairman (Bill Michie).

The Chairman reported that safe model flying practices are more under the spotlight now, due to European, CAA, and BMFA focusing on this aspect of our hobby. The Chairman noted that EASA and CAA scrutiny, coupled with the new BMFA Guidelines, means that individuals and club could be found liable if an accident happens. Our safety practices are improving but this still needs more work and all club members need to try and improve their operations for the safety of everyone. In view of the updated guidelines contained in the new version of the BMFA Handbook, the Chairman proposed that the new BMFA Handbook be adopted in Toto as part of the Club Rules, commending to members that section covering the legal requirement that model pilots must be confident that a flight can be made safely before flying any model.

6. The Alan Banks Memorial Trophy was presented to Rob Doig in recognition of his sheer persistence in the face of an outstanding crash rate, while mastering a wide range of foamies.

7. The Nigel Smith Memorial Trophy was presented to Tony Sparsis (in his absence) in recognition of his scale model building, particularly in his recent production of a large scale Stampe.

8. Election of Committee Members:

Bill Michie, current Chairman, informed the meeting that he was stepping down for health reasons and would not be standing for any committee position. Jason Channing volunteered to be Chairman for 2018 and was unanimously elected. Jason Channing then took over the Chairmanship of the AGM.

The current Membership Secretary (Laurie Poulter), Treasurer (Linda Shepherd), Safety Officer (Mark Pearce), and The Webmaster (Mark Moulds) were elected unopposed for a further year.

As there were no volunteers or nominations for the vacant Club Secretary post, Laurie Poulter agreed to stay on in acting capacity but pointed out that it would not be possible for him to carry out the full functions of the post as he expected to be out of the country for long periods next year.

9. Committee Proposals:

Two proposals were made for next year's Club Subscription: remaining at £35 and making it up to £36 so that members paying BMFA Subscriptions (£34 for 2018) via the club could pay a round figure (£70) in cash. The proposal for a Club Subscription of £36 for 2018 was unanimously approved (much to the relief of the Membership Secretary, who had not brought any change to the meeting!)

The Acting Secretary appraised the meeting of Bill Michie's long membership of the club and his active work over many years on its committee and in particular his organising ability and leadership. In recognition of this outstanding contribution it was proposed that the club award him honorary membership. Approved unanimously.

10. In view of the deterioration of approach road to the flying site, it was proposed that the club carry out repair work on the potholes there. The Safety Officer agreed to discuss this with the land owner.

11. It was proposed that:

A Chuck Glider Fun Competition, a Bombing Simulator Fun Competition, and a Bring & Buy Evening take place during the spring meetings.

The April Meeting be held at the Flying Site if the weather was suitable

The scale day be held in May or June.

An open invite to the SNMFC Club be arranged in the Summer.

The Safety Officer reported there would not be a F3A meeting held at the site this year (normally April).

12. There being no A.O.B., the meeting closed with a Raffle of mostly Xmas goodies and with the consumption of sausage rolls and mince pies (with especial thanks to Roy Spence, who brought along a container of home-made sausage rolls and also donated a box of chocs for the raffle.)

*Laurie Poulter*

Acting Secretary, SMFC

8<sup>th</sup> December, 2017