

BMFA

Cornwall Sub-Area.

January 24th 2022.

Minutes of Cornwall Sub-Area Extraordinary General Meeting held Jan 20th 2022 at Falmouth Arms. Ladock.

The meeting opened at 7.20pm, ten in attendance.

Peter Lander briefly explained that it had been necessary to call an Extraordinary General Meeting as the Annual General Meeting, arranged for Dec 2nd 2021, had been unable to proceed as insufficient affiliated clubs had been represented – three are required to form a quorum and only two had attended. Accordingly, and in accordance with the Sub-Area Constitution, an EGM had been called to deal with matters set out in the Notice of the AGM.

Apologies for Absence:- No apologies for absence have been received.

Minutes of the last AGM (held Dec 14th 2020):- The minutes of the last AGM were read. The Secretary reminded those present that due to Government restrictions in force at the time, the AGM had been carried out on a postal questionnaire basis, and that all items on the agenda for that meeting had been satisfactorily resolved. Whilst nobody had actually been 'present' at the meeting, nine replies to the questionnaire had been received, seven clubs being 'represented'. The minutes of that meeting (circulated on Dec 29th 2020) were accepted by those present and signed accordingly by the Chairman.

Matters arising therefrom:- Copies of the minutes of the previous AGM and the accounts for the year ending 31/3/20 signed by the Chairman and required by the BMFA had not been available, so these had been submitted, signed by the Secretary.

Officer's Reports:-

- **Chairman** - Mark Milne advised that he had little to report as covid restrictions, although not too severe during the latter part of the year, had continued to significantly curtail activities.
- **Secretary** - Peter Lander also advised that he had not much to report, as only one ordinary Sub-Area meeting had taken place during the past year, due to covid restrictions. Whilst these restrictions had not ended as quickly as had been hoped twelve months ago, most clubs had introduced a slot 'booking' system and it was hoped that flying had not been significantly affected. The CAA registration introduced two years ago seems to have been accepted, and all hoped that the registration numbers issued for last year would not be changed for 2022. Thanks are due to Truro club for organising the swap meet at the end of October, although attendance was not quite up to the levels of previous swap meets. As indicated in the Notices of the AGM and this EGM, he had advised that he did not wish to continue in the role of Secretary, and would not be standing for re-election.
- **Treasurer** - Barrie Galley provided a report for the 20/21 financial year of the Cornwall Sub-Area, the period April 1st 2020 to March 31st 2021. The accounts for the period have been audited as required. The end of year bank balance stood at £2158, an increase of £685 from the previous year's balance of £1473. Due to the continuation of covid restrictions on our activities only two transactions have taken place during the year. In April

2020 we received our annual grant from the BMFA, amounting to £760, an increase on the previous year's grant of around £450. We have received no annual BMFA grant for the financial year 2020/2021. Only one payment was made - £75 to CVA in respect of team expenses for membership of the UK team at the F1E championships. It will be noted that five cheques, totalling £35 in payment for travel expenses to our meetings, have not been cleared through our bank account. We were not aware of these unpaid cheques until some time later, as no statements had been sent out by Barclays for transactions after November 2020 – something to do with covid restrictions apparently. I suggest we cancel these payments and start from scratch again. All these cheques were for travel expenses to our Area meetings, three cheques for CSSA over three successive years, and one each for Redruth and Cornwall RC Flyers. As a follow-up for 2021, in my last report I also advised that the BMFA had decided that the 2020 grant would be carried through into 2021. However, where Areas had incurred unavoidable pre-planned expenditure in 2020, additional bids would be considered. I reported that I had been asked by BMFA to provide an online budget for our Sub-Area for this financial year. This outline budget was a precursor for possibly revising the existing formula for the allocation and disbursement of annual BMFA grants. I have had no further correspondence regarding this proposal. However, on Dec 20th we received the sum of £300 from the BMFA for which I have received no explanation – this is presumably the annual grant for 2022, a substantial reduction from our previous grants of around £700. Our current bank balance is £2307.98. In summary, our Sub-Area is therefore in a better financial situation than in previous years, and I recommend that we should now be encouraging clubs to bid for the funding of events, etc, within our Area.

- **Delegate** - Peter Disney reported that, from the date of the last AGM, he had attended three Full Council meetings, two Area Council meetings, five Areas/BMFA re-structuring discussions, one ACE presentation/discussion (ACSR and myself unable to contact our ACE so I stood in), and the BMFA AGM. All the above were on Zoom. Additionally I attended the Sub-Area AGM, which did not proceed. I have produced comprehensive feed back from all Council meetings but received extremely little response to my requests for comments/information. I am very disappointed and disheartened in the overall level of interest in anything I have relayed from BMFA HQ.

Adoption of Accounts:- A copy of the audited accounts for the financial year 2020/2021 were circulated on Nov 16th 2021 with the Formal Notice of the AGM. The accounts were proposed for adoption by Ron Marking, seconded by Peter Smedley. All in favour of adoption, and the accounts were signed by the Chairman. In respect of the matter of unrepresented cheques for attendance at meetings (some of which were already replacement of previously unrepresented cheques), it was agreed that payments would continue to be made as previously agreed. However, if the cheques were not presented, then no replacement cheques would be issued!

Election of Officers:- Whilst not on the agenda, the position of Vice-Chairman (currently vacant) had previously been discussed at ordinary Sub-Area meetings. Subsequent to the EGM Notice being sent out, Ron Marking had indicated that he would be prepared to accept this role, subject to the agreement of the meeting. After brief discussion, it was accepted that filling of this position would be desirable, and Ron Marking was proposed by Peter Lander and seconded by Peter Smedley. All were in favour.

By rotation, the positions of Secretary and Treasurer are up for election this year.

Secretary- Currently Peter Lander who, as previously noted, does not wish to continue in this role. There were no nominations for this position. This item was held over for further discussion towards the end of this meeting.

Treasurer- Currently Barrie Galley who has indicated that he is prepared to continue in this role. Proposed by Roly Smith and seconded by Ron Marking. All were in favour.

Appointment of Area Chief Examiner and Achievement Scheme Controller:- Both positions are currently held by Mark Milne. Mark advised that he was prepared to continue in these roles. Proposed by Peter Smedley and seconded by Barrie Galley. All were in favour.

Appointment of Auditors:- These positions are currently held by Ron Marking and Kingsley Martin, both of whom have previously indicated that they would be prepared to continue. However, as Ron Marking has now been voted in as Vice-Chairman, he is precluded from the role of auditor. Peter Lander indicated that he was prepared to undertake this role. Accordingly Kingsley Martin and Peter Lander were proposed by Ron Marking and seconded by Barrie Galley. All were in favour.

Discussion on the future direction of the Sub-Area:- This item was included on the agenda following Peter Disney's report provided at the Sub-Area ordinary meeting held on Sept 7th 2021 (minutes previously circulated). Whilst Peter Disney provides full notes and comments on the relevant content of meetings that he attends, and circulates these clubs and many individuals, he rarely, if ever, receives any comments or feed back. Most at the meeting agreed that they do receive and read Peter's notes, but it seems that Peter Smedley is the only one taking notice, and adds the notes and comments on the Sub-Area web site – a site which many at the meeting were unaware existed. Several at the meeting queried the actual organisation of the BMFA, and were referred to the BMFA web site. Additionally, most had not seen the Sub-Area Constitution, and Peter Disney agreed to send a pdf copy to Peter Smedley, who would circulate to the affiliated clubs. It was pointed out that there are likely to be changes to the Area system during the current year, but overall the constitution sets out the Sub-Area organisation. Discussion took place regarding the usefulness of the BMFA and the Sub Area to the affiliated clubs and various items were mentioned. These included support for indoor flying meetings, loan of model flying simulator for outdoor events, negotiations with National Trust regarding model flying over their sites, forthcoming purchase by BMFA of marquees for loan for outside events, organisation of swap meets, inter-club competitions, etc. This year is the BMFA Centenary, and although this has been mentioned in Peter Disney's circulated notes and comments, he has received no feedback from clubs regarding ideas from clubs on how they intended to celebrate this event. Discussion took place, with a view to Redruth possibly hosting an event as their site had adequate parking space (which other clubs do not). This matter to be discussed, together with any other proposals, at the next Sub-Area ordinary meeting. The general conclusion at the end of this discussion was that the Sub-Area continues as is, it would be a retrograde step for the Sub-Area to cease to exist and the clubs to go it alone. It would be helpful if Peter Disney received feed back from the notes and comments that he circulates following BMFA meetings, and it may be that not all at the meeting were fully aware of what the BMFA and Sub-Area organisations provide.

Final item is a return to the election of a Secretary. Again no nominations were received, and accordingly this position becomes vacant. Peter Lander, as outgoing Secretary, agreed that he would complete necessary returns to the BMFA, and will meet with the new Secretary (when appointed) to go through what is required and hand over files etc.

There being no further relevant business, the meeting concluded at 8.25pm.

The next meeting will be a Sub-Area ordinary meeting, to be held on Thursday **MARCH 3rd 2022** at the Falmouth Arms, Ladock, commencing at 7.15pm.

Clubs present:- Redruth; Truro; Davidstow; CVA; St. Austell; CSSA; Culdrose.

Peter Lander

Secretary, Cornwall Sub-Area.