



## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

### **Those Present.**

S. Kirby	Beaufort MFC
J. Stennard	Beaufort MFC
J. Paton	BRCMAC
J. Harris	BRCMAC
E. Drew	Bristol & West MAC
P. Tribe	Bristol & West
N. Ball	Frome MFC
P. Blackman	Frome MFC
C. Booth	Hullavington MAC
K. Hatter	Hullavington MAC
P. Durant	Warminster & District RCFC

### **1. Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed the delegates.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

None

### **3. Minutes of Meeting 29 January 2007 and matters arising**

The minutes were accepted as correct with minor amendment. The Secretary apologised to the ~~Beaufort~~ Beaufort MAC for consistently misspelling 'Beaufort' throughout the minutes. The Secretary was quick to pass blame onto the computer spell checker. While on the subject of the Beaufort MAC the Beaufort delegate confirmed that his club are willing to hold a 'C' Test Training Day in September 2007. Further details will be published nearer the date.

### **4. Report – Area Council Meeting 03 February 2007 and matters arising**

#### ***A939/02/07 (12) To discuss deliberations of Area Committees regarding appointment of Area Chief Examiners.***

Chairman advised that only a few of the Areas had responded to the request for submission of the Area's views on the procedures for appointing Area Chief Examiners, which was disappointing. Copies of the ones received were circulated.

ASRC had also produced a document with recommendations for changes to the appointment of Area Chief Examiners.

The meeting generally approved of the recommendations. Chairman instructed Areas to provide ASRC Chairman with any comments or suggestions they might have on these recommendations before the next ASRC meeting, scheduled for 17th March.

This would allow ASRC to take the comments on board so that they could submit the recommendations in a proposal to the next Areas Council Meeting in June.

## **Helicopter 'Up & Away'**

The Hullavington delegate asked if there was any mention of the helicopter 'Up & Away' in the minutes of the meeting. The Area Delegate read the following extract;

"ASRC Chairman reported that the Committee would be discussing the Helicopter 'Up and Away' at their next meeting, with a view to making a positive move to publishing a booklet."

The Hullavington delegate said that it was his understanding that, as the helicopter 'Up & Away' had been under review for two years, a copy of the publication was taken to Traplet who are interested in putting the manual into print as a Traplet publication. It was also the delegates understanding that within one hour of the publication being offered to Traplet the BMFA made contact to say that they were interested in publishing the 'Up & Away' themselves. The delegate made the point that the BMFA had two years to reach that decision but only came to that decision after the publication was offered to Traplet! He also pointed out that for the last six or eight area committee meetings he had attended he had asked the Area Delegate for a progress report on the helicopter 'Up & Away'. The Hullavington delegate said that it was an absolute disgrace that new helicopter pilots would be expected to pay for a copy of the manual through Traplet Publications.

The Area Treasurer explained that there had been difficulties in producing the publication in that the person given responsibility to produce the 'Up & Away' had found it more involved than he had first anticipated and he was not in a position to complete the manual. The Achievement Scheme Review Committee are now in negotiations with Traplet to see how the information previously submitted can be used to produce the publication as the ASRC were unable to do so.

The Area Treasurer confirmed that the helicopter 'Up & Away' will be split into two separate books. The Hullavington delegate replied that the information he was given was that the two books would address those who wanted to teach themselves to fly a helicopter and those who would receive instruction. He went on to say that his main bone of contention was that helicopter pilots would be expected to buy the booklet from Traplet because the BMFA Council had 'dropped the ball'.

The Area Treasurer passed a copy of the minutes of the last ASRC meeting for the delegates information. The Hullavington delegate responded that the situation was absolutely disgusting and the ASRC should make an official apology to all BMFA members as their inaction will cost the members money.

## **5. Agenda – Full Council Meeting 05 May 2007**

### ***Item 6 (b) – Confirmation of reduced membership fees from July***

The Beaufort delegate raised the problem of changing club paperwork when the BMFA fees change. He would like to see each member pay the fee in full but receive a credit note for the difference in fee. There was some discussion regarding procedures in other clubs and the general consensus was that the current scheme of reducing BMFA fees mid year was acceptable.

### ***Item 6 (c) – To receive a proposal from the Honorary Treasurer that the budget for the Flight Challenge in financial year 2007/08 is increased from £2,000 to £7,000.***

The Area Chairman explained that it was his understanding that the increase was due to a reduction in the amount of support offered by the events main sponsor. There were no objections to the proposal.

### ***Item 6 (d) – To receive a proposal from the Honorary Treasurer that the Capital Expenditure of £608 is authorised to purchase a lightweight pylon system to be used for pylon racing contests, team selection and team training.***

There were no objections to the proposal.

***Item 6 (e) – To receive a proposal from the Honorary Treasurer that the Capital Expenditure of £1119 is authorised to purchase a portable, standalone, rechargeable wireless PA system to be used for silent flight contests.***

There were no objections to the proposal.

***Item 14 (a) – To receive a proposal from South Midland Area that the BMFA should investigate hiring a professional PRO on a full or part-time basis to enable a more professional approach to fund raising and raising the image of the BMFA.***

There were no objections to the proposal subject to a proper cost investigation.

***Item 14 (b) – To receive a proposal from Mid West Area that access to the on-line forum be restricted to paid up members of the BMFA***

The Area Secretary commented that there is bound to be some political discussion on the BMFA forum and it would be easy to set up a secure area for such discussion that can only be accessed by BMFA members. There would be no advantage in restricting access to the entire site as that would discourage new potential members. The Area Secretary answered questions regarding the security and feasibility of a secure area.

***Item 14 (c) – To receive a proposal from North West Area that all Full Council, Area Council and Technical Council minutes are published on the BMFA web site.***

The Area agreed with the proposal.

***Item 14 (d) – To receive a proposal from North West Area that all Full Council, Area Council and Technical Council agendas are published on the BMFA web site.***

The Area agreed with the proposal.

## **6. Any Other Business**

The Area Treasurer submitted End of Year accounts for the period 2006/07. There were no corrections and the accounts were accepted unanimously.

The Area Chairman thanked the Bristol Radio Controlled MAC for another successful Examiners Workshop. The BRCMAC delegate acknowledged the vote of thanks.

The Frome delegate confirmed that they will be hosting a fixed wing Examiners Workshop on Sunday 15 July 2007 and further details will be sent to clubs in due course. The Area Committee agreed that the meeting should go ahead.

The Area Chairman confirmed that he had sent a letter of condolence, on behalf of the Western Area, to the widow of Roger Bedford, the Chairman of the Southern Area.

The Beaufort delegate introduced John Stenner as a potential candidate for the post of Area Education Coordinator. The committee welcomed John and hoped that he would consider taking the job following further investigation into the duties of the post.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Area Committee will be on Monday 04 July 2007 at the Filton Folk Club, Filton, Bristol, commencing at 20:00