

South Warwickshire Electric Flyers

Minutes of AGM 6th September 2020

1) Introduction

Will Freeman, the club secretary opened the meeting at 14.00 hr, welcoming the members and introducing the current officers:

David Lydford as Vice Chairman

Jamie Hall as Treasurer

Noel Cross as Training officer / club Examiner

Members in attendance:

Laurie Barton

William Blair-Hickman

John Eborall

Roy Markham

Pedro de Oliveira

Bradley Witney

Nigel Bentley-Beard

Barry Clay

Bill Kent

John Neale

Jonathan Saunders

Tony Wyatt

Robin Childs

Simon Eastman

Mick Loynes

Edward Needham

Keith Walpole

2) Apologies for Absence

Steve Goodman

Chris Mucklow

Paul Hannell

Brendan Mc Donald

Chris Leadbeater

Rupert White

3) Minutes of 2019 AGM and Matters Arising

The previous minutes were discussed and accepted as a true record, and the achievements highlighted, David and Keith were acknowledged and thanked for all their efforts and hard work over the last 12 months in making many of the plans come to fruition.

4) Officers Reports

Treasurer

Copies of the accounts were provided for members present and the figures explained, the accounts show a surplus balance for the year. A copy of the accounts will be available on the notice board in the club house

Secretary

The club has seen an increase in members this season, despite the difficult conditions with the Covid 19 pandemic. The membership has risen to 70, and after consideration by the committee it was decided to cap the numbers at this figure, in the interests of not causing the site to become crowded during busy periods. A waiting list has been opened and currently we have 6 names on this list, places will be offered to these people as and when they become available.

5) Summary of Last 12 Months

Despite the difficult conditions earlier in the season, great progress has been made to the benefit of the club. A container has been purchased and now houses the Mower and new Generator, which provides power, heating and lighting to the club house, which has made it possible for members to make a hot drink and recharge flight batteries, while on site. The runways are being kept in very good order and the mowing rota is working efficiently, it has helped enormously having the mower on site and at our disposal when ever it is needed. 4 new benches have been bought and are now on site.

6) Election of Officers to the committee

As the chairman stood down some months ago, and Jamie Hall had decided to resign as treasure, the two positions were open to candidates.

Keith Walpole was the only candidate standing for the position of Chairman. Keith was proposed by Roy Markham and seconded by Jonathan Saunders, and voted in to the post unanimously by the members present.

Paul Hannell was the only candidate standing for the position of Treasurer. Paul was proposed by Keith Walpole and seconded by Pedro de Oliveira, and voted into the post unanimously by the members present.

Keith was welcomed as our new Chairman by all members present and Paul will take up his post on the committee when he returns from a short holiday.

The other officers remain unchanged

David Lydford: Vice Chairman

Will Freeman: Club secretary

Noel Cross: Training and Club examiner

7) Subscriptions and change of date for re-newels

The members were informed that our landlord (Thomas Paton) has made the club secretary aware of his intention to increase the rent to double the current figure of £600.00 per annum. Although this increase seems to be considerable, it was pointed out to the members that the rent has not seen to be increased since 2003. The understanding with the landlord is that the rent will increase to a figure of £1200.00 per annum, this figure will be held for the 2021/2022 seasons and will thereafter be index linked to inflation, and increased accordingly. It has also been agreed that our rent due date will be moved to the middle of February each year, commencing February 2021, when the first payment at the new figure will become due.

It was asked by the members, that the committee seek to draw up a formal agreement with the landlord in this matter, and to ask for a 10 year lease extension in the interests of affording the club ongoing security.

7) cont/

It was explained to the members, that since the BMFA has changed its subscription renewal procedure, where by members now pay their annual fee directly to the BMFA and it is not collected through the club, as part of the membership fee as was previously the case, the club is experiencing problems, where members are paying their direct debit to the club at the beginning of November, but then not renewing their BMFA membership which becomes due at the end of December. As the clubs affiliation to the BMFA clearly states, all club members, and any guest flyers to the club, must hold current BMFA membership. Without this, the club insurance which is covered through the BMFA, could be seriously at risk and so to the serving officers of the clubs committee, in the event of any claims for personal injury or damage to property whilst using the club site, including our indemnity to our landlords and their property. To remedy this problem, it was explained to the members that the committee were seeking to change article 11 of the club constitution to read that our renewal date be changed to the 1st of February commencing 2021, and that the direct debit procedure be changed to fall inline with this date. Membership subscriptions will be increased to £60.00 per year as from this date.

Any member of the club who has not paid their BMFA membership by the beginning of January will be prompted to do so by the committee, failure to comply with this request will result in the club Treasurer declining their direct debit payment and their membership of the club will be automatically cancelled. In exceptional circumstances, where a member has contacted the committee to explain an acceptable reason why they have not paid the BMFA fee on the due date, an arrangement of dispensation might be agreed and the member be given a time frame in which to address the fee's due, but the member should not fly at the club site until this has been done.

These changes were agreed upon, a vote was taken and past by the members present

8) Plans for the next 12 months

The chairman outlined projects for site improvement and the benefit of club members, subject to funding availability, they include:

Improved heating system for the club house (warm air)

Bridge over drainage ditch providing easier access into the adjoining field for recovery of aircraft etc.

Purchase of Solar Panels for charging the supply batteries in the club house, and ease the work load/ fuel costs, by allowing reduced running periods of the generator

Refurbish and improve the toilet facilities at the club

Purchase a roller to further improve and maintain the condition of the runways

Purchase another 4 benches to match the new items onsite

9) Any other Business

A small quantity of “New old stock” club clothing that has been lying around for sometime was offered to the members, although only limited items were available, all items were sold for £5.00 per item and monies are to be paid into the club account. This line of merchandise could be resurrected, as Bill Kent still has the original supplier details, if enough interest was shown by the membership

Covid 19 is again showing signs of resurgence, and members were asked to observe social distancing and conduct due diligence when on site. The committee will keep close observation as to the BMFA guidelines, and convey any changes to rules and guide lines to the members through our club website / facebook page as they become available.

As there was no other business to discuss, the Chairman thanked all members for attending, and closed the meeting at 15.00hr