

South Warwickshire Electric Flyers

Minutes of AGM 20th August 2023

Agenda:

1) Introduction

Jonathan Saunders the club Chairman opened the meeting at 13:58, welcoming the members and introducing the current officers:

David Lydford as Vice Chairman

Mick Loynes as Treasurer

Laura Mucklow as Secretary (absent)

Members in attendance:

Jonathan Saunders; David Lydford; Mick Loynes; Nigel Bently-Beard; Joe Harvey; Stuart Markham; Bradley Witney; Zsolt Szabo; Rupert White; Pedro deOliveira; Paul Hannell; Mark Turner; Austin Wade

2) Apologies for Absence

Laura Mucklow; Chris Mucklow; John Neale; Steve Goodman; Brendon McDonald; Bill Kent; Will Freeman; Isaac Wilkinson; David Wilkinson

3) Minutes of 2022 AGM and Matters Arising

The previous minutes were discussed and accepted as a true record, and the achievements highlighted. Copy made available on club noticeboard

Proposed by: Jonathan Saunders, Seconded: Keith Walpole

4) Officers Reports: Treasurer

Summary of accounts was made by Treasurer.

Current balance of funds is £6630.67, with main expenditure this past year of £1500 for rent. Roller hire and spares (tyres, belts) for the mower were the other large items, remaining is sundry items for upkeep of club and facilities.

Membership this year running to (confirm – circa 80) and collected within 28days of renewal date by goCardless in the main.

A copy of the accounts will be available on the notice board in the club house

4) Officers Reports: Chairman

Summary of Last 12 Months

Mainly upkeep on clubhouse – special mention to Bob for repainting the clubhouse.

Desk/worktop renewal process) – thanks to all involved for providing good enhancements

SWEFEST – success (despite some weather), continues to be worthwhile weekend & well attended.

No further charging incidents – thanks to all for diligence and use of the “consumable” charging boards and areas by the doors.

N.B. Reminder of caution on battery charging though – Please do not leave batteries un-attended on charge (esp if out searching for a lost/downed plane)

Rolling of runway a success – Agree to repeat again in spring ‘24 and loose proposal to maintain either annual or biennial.

Mowing rota has been established with 7 volunteers – please see committee members for help next season (membership rebate to members on rota on completion of a year service – expectation for swap and notice if unable to complete on nominated week)

Lawn mower continues to be in good service (thanks David L) - Agreed to keep maintaining in preference to purchasing another.

Club trainer, buddy box & Helicopter continue to be available, although not know of any significant usage.

Clear out of rubbish to skip (David L to arrange removal in September)

Emptying of toilet – completed once, but acknowledge it needs to be more regular (call for volunteers to be available during week to support for guiding in truck!)

Suggestion to purchase 2nd toilet, potentially with disabled access and relocate closer together at front of the container to provide small wash area and shelter between.

=> Committee to investigate purchase and organise rework party towards the end of the season.

Brief overview of rental situation with the Landlord – Tom Paton (farmer): Rent increase last year after several years of static rent – Farmer positive about probate completion and has plans to update site to ensure continued diversity and success of the model railway, flyers and car racing clubs. Rent escalation of approx. 15% per year requested for 3yrs to make “credible” - counter is that we can’t increase membership size significantly to avoid infeasible traffic and access & recognition that we won’t increase subscriptions significantly. Maintain current sustainable position and confirm outlook (ie long term rental agreement) when probate completed.

Agreement to maintain membership subscription at current level, but allow for modest increase in membership to account for expected end rental prospect.

6) Election of Officers to the committee

Jonathan Saunders: standing Chairman.

Proposed by: Keith Walpole

Seconded: Pedro deOlivera

David Lydford: standing Vice Chairman.

Proposed by: Pedro deOlivera

Seconded: Keith Walpole

Mick Loynes: standing down as treasurer.

Laura Mucklow: standing Club secretary.

Proposed by: Jonathan Saunders

Seconded: Mick Loynes.

Open positions:

Treasurer: Austin Wade

Proposed by: David Lydford

Seconded: Mark Turner

Committee and membership thank Mick Loynes for his service this year and welcome Austin Wade – transition will take place over the next few months, with Austin fully assuming role by Jan '24 in preparation for membership renewals.

7) Proposals for next year

- **Events:**
 - SWEFEST to continue – agreed (Keith W volunteered to liaise with farmer to secure dates)
 - Propose Family day one SWEFEST in September '24 (or August as alternate) – bring in friends & family, new members?
- GoCardless and email comms preferred for membership - reminder to have details updated
- BMFA insurance - continue & request BMFA member numbers (Check coverage) as part of membership renewal. (Membership information required as part of renewal: Payment by 28th February; Contact email & telephone number; BMFA member number)
- Maintain membership rates this year at £70 (Feb '24) and review following rent/probate status in '24
- Membership size – current is comfortable, not crowded and manageable: open to modest increase (circa 80 max)
- Continue to maintain mower in favour of replacement.
- Still need website and comms updates, committee roles info.
- The club website is still in need of urgent maintenance, Bradley Witney & Pedro deOliveira volunteered to review and support - It was discussed that email should be primary communication (as not all members on Facebook group, nor use Whatsapp or other platforms) Facebook will continue to be used, but AGM and notices, etc, by email.
- Club Domain name – SWEF.co.uk is up for renewal & after some debate, agreement to spend ~£20 to renew for the year whilst we confirm internet operations (as above – Pedro & Bradley) and any alternative. Use BMFA hosting service, but refresh of information there (contact for committee, facebook links etc) required.

- Club constitution needs update – proposed draft based on BMFA template for consultation – propose 28day consultation and any updates to committee members. Following 28days, if no objections raised Committee to vote to adopt on behalf of membership. Objections will trigger EGM to openly discuss and vote with membership. Draft to be published in September following committee review.

8) Any other Business

- Rupert White raised topic of LMA weekend on 22nd October @ Gaydon motor museum – SWEF have a table for sales & a good weekend to participate in during winter season. Encourage attendance & contact Rupert for details.
- Paul Hannell raised subject of contribution of Clive Grisold who was one of the founder members that brought SWEF into being with John Neal & Bill Kent. All present recognised the contribution from Clive and agreed that we should recognise with Honorary Membership. Thank-you Clive.
- Noted that many member planes are stored in the clubhouse – whilst this can be convenient for the members, it must be made clear that this is at owners own risk as club & BMFA insurance will not cover damage in storage. Please also store sympathetically near wall without the counter-top, as this has been pt in place to serve members with setup area & it defeats the purpose if one cannot access due to overhanging airframes!
- Car Park confirmed as closing in winter, but noted that the parking area outside is more muddy the further from the entrance - Jonathan Saunders agreed to review with the Farmer with view to laying some gravel/chipping/hardcore to make more usable.

9) Votes on actions (recorded here)

Topic	For	Against
Membership size – maintain max 80	13	0
Membership rates – maintain at £70 in Feb'24	13	0
Honorary membership – Clive Grisold	13	0
Consultation process for new constitution	13	0

10)

Chairman thanked all for contributions and closed meeting at 15h15