



BMAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES POPHAM, 3 May 2025, starting at 13:00

Attendance

Tim Burrow (TB) Chairman
Cath Spence (CS) Vice-Chair
Simon Heyes (SH) Treasurer
Rob Grimwood (RG)
John Waite (JW)
Giles Fowler (GF)
(CEO post gapped)

Plus approximately 62 BMAA Members (including Council members), each of whom had had currency of membership checked on arrival.

1. Apologies for Absence

Geoff Weighell had given apologies.

2. Welcome and Opening Remarks

TB welcomed all attendees to the BMAA 2025 AGM. He then explained that he wanted the BMAA to recognise the significant contributions that Norman Burr (now retired from being Deputy Editor MF) had made to the BMAA over more than 40 years. In recognition of this, Norman was awarded lifetime membership of the BMAA.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the BMAA AGM 2024

None of the attendees made any requests for changes or clarification on the minutes presented.

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Simon Heyes (12560) and seconded by Andy Hughes (7305). All attendees voted in favour; no votes against and no abstentions.

4. Chairman's Report (including CEO Report)

TB began by giving an up date on the **recruitment of a new CEO** for BMAA. There had been several applications and 5 x candidates had been invited to interview on 1 May 2025. A preferred candidate had been agreed by the selection committee and a verbal offer made and accepted. TB did not intend to share the name of the preferred candidate yet because a contract had not yet been signed. He expected that to happen very soon and the name shared with members in the June MF magazine.

TB turned to the current situation in the **BMAA Tech Office**, reflecting that there are currently some challenges with demand and capacity. These had arisen mostly due to the departure of Mark Bailey from the team and the reduction in working days from 5 to 2 per week of Roger Patrick (Chief Technical Officer).

To address this, two new Design Approval Engineers have been added to the team (Lloyd Smith and Vivek Chanda) who are performing very well and gaining experience.

Carol Buckner (formerly Shepherd) has transferred from the Admin Team (where she led on Permits) to the Tech Office. Carole has extensive technical and aviation experience

from her time as a gliding instructor and inspector, and she has been granted signature status by CAA for new aircraft permits. Carole is also now the individual who will answer most calls to the from members and others to the Tech Office, and will determine how best to action any request.

Two contractors have also been added to the CAA exposition and are now able to support major modifications on a call-off basis.

Finally, there are plans to recruit an additional experienced engineer into the Tech Office to add capacity to deal with the more complex taskings. It is recognised that it is likely to be challenging to find the ideal candidate.

Although service levels from the Tech Office area not as good as desired, TB noted that these above actions should reduce any backlog and waiting times in the near future and prepare the Tech Office for the future.

TB then explained that a new role of **Events Coordinator** has been established and that Amanda Lord will take on the role as 2 x days per week from the beginning of July 2025.

The initial focus will be on supporting the 4 x County Shows (Hertfordshire, Cheshire, Norfolk and Cotswold) at which flying schools will have a static display with BMAA trailer alongside and to promote engagement by clubs and schools for the National Youth Week initiative.

Amanda will also lead on establishing a cohort of volunteer BMAA Ambassadors, to assist with events in their local region as required. Any members interested were encouraged to contact Amanda using events@bmaa.org.

TB then reflected on the great success of the 2024 World Microlight Championships held at Deenethorpe, at which the GB Team had won overall gold medal. The event had also generated a net £7k surplus from budget. This money is being reinvested into supporting future competition events within BMAA.

TB noted that current staff members (all of whom were present at Popham that day) and the membership and permit numbers.

The CAA Licensing Review was noted to be close to concluding the consultation phases and that the final Acceptable Means of Compliance and Guidance Material text will then be published in advance of the regulations coming into force (expected October 2025).

5. Treasurer's Report

SH explained that the accounts for review and acceptance by membership were for the financial year running from 1 Jan 2024 to 31 Dec 2024 (FY24). This was the first occasion that this period had been used; the previous report was for a 16 month period to allow a transition from the old financial year running from Sep – Aug each year.

The 'filleted accounts' produced by the auditors had been shared with membership in advance. SH noted some key headlines:

- This is the second time that KM Business Solutions have been used to prepare the accounts. The Council have been impressed with their performance.
- Members should note that the "deferred income" approach continues to be used. Although the majority of members renew annually and pay in advance for

the period, the value of any membership months still remaining at the end of the FY are classed as “deferred income”.

- HSBC remain the bank for BMAA current account and there have been some challenges in accessing the accounts and approving payments following the departure of the previous CEO. These issues have now been mostly resolved, and the Council have decided to add more individuals (both staff and directors) to the mandate and to hold authority to approve payments. There will also be additional financial controls introduced.
- In FY24 a net surplus (profit) of £67k was realised (compare with £169k for previous 16-month FY). This was partly due to increased income (~£10k) but greater reduced Cost of Sales and Expenditure.
- In FY24 Capital and Reserves were £768k (compare with £699k for previous 16-month FY). The cash holdings are quite high, and a Reserves Policy will be created to determine appropriate levels for the future. The recent work by Council in producing a new BMAA Strategy document (also shared with membership) will help identify which activities and infrastructure should be prioritised for any additional expenditure.
- Cash is now saved across several different banks through the Flagstone platform, and this has increased the interest received (£26k in FY24). Each bank has FSCS protection for up to £85k of savings.

SH summarised the current position as BMAA having a strong financial position with significant reserves available to continue operating. The Association has good financial controls and is well regarded amongst the peer group.

SH concluded by explaining that the Council had approved a budget for FY25 to deliver a -£16k deficit. Most years the budget is prepared to deliver zero surplus, however because in FY24 certain software and IT infrastructure projects were not delivered, these would be part-funded from the FY24 surplus.

6. Member’s Questions Received in Advance

None were received.

7. Member’s Questions Received During Meeting

It was asked if Council Members could or should be remunerated for time spent when engaged on BMAA activities. SH explained that although the Articles of Association do allow for this, it is normal for non-executive directors of not for profit organisations to not be paid for this activity.

8. Results of 2025 Council Elections

One current council member’s term had expired (JW), and so was putting themselves forward for re-election. There were also two vacancies on Council and only one candidate. Therefore John Waite was re-elected unopposed and Brendan Digney would become a new Council member unopposed immediately following this AGM meeting.

[Post AGM note: the Council composition for May 2025 – May 2026 is:

- Tim Burrow (Chairman 2025/26)
- Cath Spence (Vice-Chair 2025/26)
- Simon Heyes (Treasurer 2025/26)
- Rob Grimwood
- Giles Fowler
- John Waite
- Brendan Digney]

9. Proposals for Membership Approval

There were 4 x proposals for membership approval.

- a. **Proposal 1** – “That the BMAA membership accepts the BMAA FY 2024 Accounts as prepared by KM Chartered Accountants”.

This was proposed by Norman Burr (2324) and seconded by Chris Wills (648). All attendees voted in favour; no members voted against and no members abstained. There were also two proxy votes in favour through the Chair. The proposal was therefore approved.

- b. **Proposal 2** – “To approve KM Business Solutions Ltd, 1st Floor, Block C, The Wharf, Burnley, Lancashire, BB11 1JG as the Auditors for financial year 2025”.

This was proposed by Mike Morris (2008) and seconded by John Bradbury (72). All attendees voted in favour; no members voted against and no members abstained. There were also two proxy votes in favour through the Chair. The proposal was therefore approved.

- c. **Proposal 3** – “To increase the regular membership fee by 3.5%; other membership categories to be increased at the same rate”.

This was proposed by Cameron Spence (12151) and seconded by Lee Westwood (8962). All attendees voted in favour; no members voted against and seven members abstained. There were also two proxy votes in favour through the Chair. The proposal was therefore approved.

- d. **Proposal 4** – “To revise the Objects as stated in the Articles of Association to those now recommended by the BMAA Council”.

The new, expanded and revised Objects recommended by Council had been shared with the membership in advance, as well as the new Strategy document from which these were derived.

One member stated that the text in Object F should be amended from:

“To support & promote the development of flying skills through Club meetings, national and international competitions and the Association’s Wings scheme for pilot development”

to

“To support & promote the development of flying skills through activities such as Club meetings, national and international competitions and the Association’s Wings scheme for pilot development”

This amendment was proposed by Steve Uzochukwu (9656) and seconded by Andy Fell (5343). All attendees voted in favour of the amendment; no members voted against and no members abstained.

The original proposal with the agreed amendment was then put to the membership for approval. This was proposed by Brendan Digney (11997) and seconded by Jacqueline Aldous (8102F). All attendees voted in favour; no members voted against and no members abstained. There was also one proxy vote in favour and one proxy vote against through the Chair. The proposal was therefore approved.

10. Any Other Business

No requests were made.

11. Date of Next AGM

Provisionally set for 2nd May 2026 at Popham. The Chairman then closed the meeting.

DRAFT (until approved by membership at 2026 AGM)