

BMAA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

28 February 2022, 0930

1. Welcome

Present:

Tim Burrow (TB) Chairman
Derek Lamb (DL) Treasurer
Richard Bisiker (RB)
Rob Grimwood (RG)
John Waite (JW)
Rob Hughes (RH) BMAA CEO

Apologies:

Bill Davis
Eddie McCallum

Conflicts of interest

Rob Grimwood & John Waite have a beneficial interest in ab-initio training in kit-built aircraft.

2. Agenda approval, additional items

None

3. Approval of previous minutes

September 2021: Proposed DL, seconded JW. **Approved unanimously.**

November 2021: Proposed DL, seconded RG. **Approved unanimously.**

a. Matters arising

None

4. Action list

537 BMAA Forum: RH to obtain a copy of the forum data and store on the BMAA server.
556 Speakers for clubs & schools: RH to supply list to Karen for distribution.
557 Develop a Young Person's award - Open
560 Pooleys Student kit - Amanda Lord to provide costs and options.
563 FI(R) course – this would be a commercial venture for RG & Marcus Dalgety. There would be space for 6 students.
577 Amanda Lord plan for county shows – waiting for final plan. Consider including the Herts county show.

5. Reports: a. Chief Executive Officer

Panel of Examiners – a new Panel member and also an FIC Instructor are being interviewed soon and it is hoped both will succeed.

RG will have trained 4 new Flexwing instructors by the end of 2022.

A new applicant for the flexwing instructor bursary. The candidate showed good potential at the pre-entry exam. RG will teach him. It was agreed to offer a bursary to this candidate.

A second applicant for the flexwing instructor bursary, also showed potential at the pre-entry stage, also to be trained by RG. It was also agreed to offer a bursary to this candidate. **ACTION: RH**

The auditors (Ellacotts) have previously been charging a below-market rate for audits but have signalled that this arrangement will end. Should BMAA change auditors for good practice?

ACTION: RH to ask Ellacotts for details of the new rate, to consider an audit every second or third year. RH to also obtain alternative quotes.

SSDR: why do aircraft operators choose the SSDR system? Council would benefit from better knowledge. **ACTION: RH to investigate reasons**

Airspace4All Trust: A4AT have received a grant from DfT to investigate air space issues.

b. Treasurer's report

2020/21 was an exceptional year with lower-than-normal costs plus two government grants. This has produced a much higher than expected surplus. The underlying activity, however, is break-even before exceptionals.

2021/22 is currently on budget. Inflation is a concern; with the underlying finances at break-even, the treasurer proposed a with-inflation increase to the membership fee of £5 for a regular member and other fees to be increased at a similar rate.

c. Chief Technical Officer's report

There was a recent question regarding an increased insurance requirement for 500kg+ aircraft. This has been confirmed by an email to David Bacon/Crispin Spears insurance and the information has been incorporated into TIL600.

d. Chief Inspector's report

One potential LSM supplier sources their aircraft from CZE. As part of their A8-1 approval application, CAA had required an on-site inspection of the CZE factory. This has been relaxed and instead CAA will accept an alternative means of compliance.

The Wings scheme has undergone significant updating and will be re-launched in May. Cath Spence will present the scheme to instructors at the Instructor Seminar. Cath nominated the core team for Certificates of Thanks – **unanimously approved. ACTION: RH to arrange CoTs for Cath & core team.**

e. Administration report

Preparation for Popham and AGM2022 is under way. The new gazebo has been ordered and will be taken to the Instructor Seminar 2022.

The membership card scheme was discussed but not agreed; it would be compulsory for all members, would cost £5 and the system for obtaining discounts was too complex and not user friendly.

f. PR & promotion

Pooleys have offered a £750 bursary prize to celebrate their 65th anniversary. Instructors will be asked to nominate suitable candidates. **ACTION: RH to ask for nominations.**

g. Activity graphs

The 'trend' graphs indicate normal activity. The number of new aircraft permits is expected to rise in 2022.

6. Award nominations for 2021

Awards winners were selected for 2021. **ACTION: RH to notify winners and arrange trophies/certificates.**

7. Revision of BMAA Rules & Articles

Three issues:

i) Add the CEO as a non-elected executive director. **Approved unanimously.**

ii) Rotation of appointments – to ensure continuity. Proposal to be further considered and then put to the membership for approval at AGM2022.

iii) Term limits for directors. This was introduced in 2016 though there is no formal record in AGM minutes. The wording is poor and does not account for all situations. It was proposed at a time when there was discontent on council and the situation has stabilised since, meaning the need for term limits is no longer relevant. Proposal to remove term limits to be further considered and then put to the membership for approval at AGM2022. RB agreed to help RH in drafting new texts.

8. Instructor bursary: terms of reference/contract

Currently, candidates for flexwing instructor bursaries are asked to produce media to publicise the scheme but no more. Proposal to create a 'contract' between BMAA and candidates so that instructors who decide not to complete their instructor course are obliged to return any bursary money back to the BMAA. **ACTION: RH to write terms.**

It was agreed to not award any more bursaries in FY2021/22 for reasons of cost. There will be 6x bursaries of £1000 for FY2022/23.

9. Electric flight strategy (see email from Deepak Mahajan).

The proposal was discussed but considered to be too specific.

BD and DL both expressed the need to focus on electric flight and agreed to host a seminar at Popham. **ACTION: BD & DL to organise seminar on Electric Flight, to take place after the AGM.**

10. Activities

a. New Horizons: G-WDUS (Benenden) was nearing completion and expect to conduct first tests in spring. Rugby has been adversely affected by CV19 but now expects to make good progress and to deliver a completed kit in 2022.

b. The instructor seminar will take place on Tuesday 8 March. 100 delegates.

11. Directors' activities

RB to stand down at next election after serving two full terms. Council agreed to award RB a 'Certificate of Thanks' to thank him for his service. **ACTION: RH to organise CoT.**

12. Any other business

Ab-initio training in kit-built aircraft. CAA have published their requirements and they include that aircraft must follow maintenance manuals – including the engine. This means that Rotax 912 engines must follow the Rotax manual, including TBO limits. This requirement far exceeds that for all other microlights. **ACTION: RH to challenge CAA to remove the requirement and instead to agree the same maintenance as for all other engines in the BMAA fleet.**

GA instructors teaching on microlights: GA instructors have no contact with the BMAA panel of examiners and no obligation to make themselves known to the BMAA. **ACTION: RH to discuss with Mark Young and Justin Willcocks (CAA Licensing).**

Staff members will clear out old/unwanted items from the BMAA cellars on Wednesday 9 March, making use of RH's van after the Instructor Seminar.

13. Date & time of next meeting

Start at 0930 unless otherwise stated.

25 April 2022 (Monday) TBC

30 April 2022 (Saturday) AGM, POPHAM AIRFIELD

Rob Hughes

BMAA CEO

March 2022