BMAA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
19th June 2023 at 0930

Present:
Tim Burrow (TB) - Chairman
Bill Davis (BD) – Vice Chairman
Derek Lamb (DL) - Treasurer
Rob Grimwood (RG)
Simon Heyes (SH)
Rob Hughes (RH) - CEO
Cath Spence (CS)
John Waite (JW)
Roger Pattrick (RP) for item 4

1. Welcome
a. roll call, apologies, conflicts of interest, confidentiality

2. Agenda approval, additional items
SH asked for Airspace to be added.

3. Approval of previous minutes (27th March)
a. Matters arising
DL proposed, JW seconded, approved unanimously.

4. BMAA roles and portfolios 2023-24
Roles and portfolios were agreed and published in a separate document.
RG stepped down as Chief Test Pilot; he had not been consulted on all the changes to test pilot flying, did not agree with all of them and there were, in his opinion better qualified test pilots.
Roger Pattrick joined: BCAR Section S was amended following a public consultation to reduce spinning requirements. EASA produced an equivalent level of safety with no spin testing.
RP asked RG to confirm his resignation in writing for the purposes of the BMAA Quality Management record. RG agreed to continue as a test pilot and to help when possible. RP will seek to appoint a new chief test pilot.

5. Action list
SH asked for an authorisation matrix for payments. ACTION: RH

6. Reports:
a. Chief Executive Officer
Ellacotts (BMAA auditors) had made a very late change to the 2021/22 accounts. Whether or not the change was necessary, the timing and level of service provided were both poor. ACTION: DL to draft letter for RH to send to Ellacotts, requesting that the accounts as approved by the membership are filed.
A vote of thanks was made to staff members, in particular to the CEO and also to the Chairman for their involvement in the office relocation.

i. GAA proposal to fund ACP responses
There was agreement in principle to the GAA proposal to fund a professional response to ACPs. RH will ask for further details.

b. Treasurer
The office move was nearing completion and liquidity will improve as a result. Inflation appears to have peaked and should reduce, perhaps to 5%, by the end of the year. Council had agreed to an extra person in Tech Office and this would have an effect on the operating result.
There was a proposal to re-align the financial year with the calendar year. Action on RH to Investigate with a view to change this year. Vote: 6 in favour, one against.

c. Chief Technical Officer
d. Chief Inspector (continued airworthiness)
e. FTL&SO
i. Request for increased hours
ii. CAA Safety Data (for info)

Chloe Eriksen reported on the shoulder harness campaign. SH suggested asking for 'I'm on board" supporting photos from members.
AAIB were also asking for input regarding the EN966 standard for helmets in airborne sports.
Council asked for an explanation of the terms used on the CAA safety data sheet.
There was a proposal to increase the FTL&SO budget to provide an extra 3hr/week to concentrate solely on training and Panel of Examiners work. This budget item will be revised as part of the overall budget adjustment at year end. Approved unanimously.

f. Administration / PR & promotion

Advertising sales were performing to budget.
ACTION: Provide the fixed wing to flexwing licence application ratio.

g. Activity graphs

7. Activities
a. New Horizons – ??

The Rugby ATC project has progressed, though the doors and screen remain.

b. Wings – Cath Spence
c. Publications – Derek Lamb
d. Competitions / Open Series – Tim Burrow

BMAA's bid to organise the 18th FAI World Microlight Championships was approved. TB will be part of the organising committee.
RG asked about flying in France; there has been no change from previous agreements.

e. Round table

RG: Plaistows club will host an event to which the CAA chairman Sir Steven Hillier will attend.

8. Any other business

a. Articles of Association –Simon Heyes

SH had worked on a comprehensive list of revisions to the AoA. ACTION: SH to complete this work and then present to Council with a view to then presenting to the membership for approval.

b. Flexwing instructors/examiners – Bill Davis

The number of flexwing pilots and also instructors was declining. The geographical spread of flexwing instructors was also an issue. BMAA had created the flexwing instructor bursary scheme but how else could BMAA encourage flexwing instructors. There was also a lack of FICI (flying instructor course instructors); what was the Panel of Examiners doing to ensure a sufficient interest?
RG stated that the Panel actively encouraged new FICI applicants with a view to their progression to the Panel. Potential FICI candidates need to be encouraged.
Proposal: BMAA to pay the flying related examination costs for any FICI candidate who successfully passes the interview stage. Approved unanimously.
ACTION: Aaron Bliss to provide a map of FICIs and availability of FI courses.

c. Legal agreement for check flying with no insurance cover

A request had been made for the BMAA to fund a solicitor to write such an agreement. It was decided that aircraft owners were able to add check pilots to their own insurance. Action: RH to investigate and obtain quote.

9. Date & time of next meeting

Next meetings:
14 August, Adderbury, 0930
20 November, Adderbury, 0930
22 January, Zoom, 0900
25 March, Adderbury, 0930
AGM

Council Airwaves rota:
July: Derek
September: Simon
November: Bill
January: Cath
March: John
May: Rob G

The meeting closed at 1645.
Rob Hughes
BMAA CEO