

BMAA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
27th March 2023



1. Welcome

- a. roll call, apologies, conflicts of interest, confidentiality

Present: Tim Burrow (TB) Chairman
Derek Lamb (DL) Treasurer
John Waite (JW)
Cath Spence (CS)
Rob Grimwood (RG)
Eddie McCallum (EM)
Rob Hughes (RH) CEO

Bill Davis (BD) Vice-Chairman sent his apologies

2. Agenda approval, additional items

Flexwing examiner numbers in the UK.

3. Approval of previous minutes (16 January)

a. Matters arising

No matters arising. Proposer to approve Minutes: EM, Seconder: DL. Unanimously approved.

4. Action list

557 [Young Person Award] CS has researched among younger people. Age limit of 30 or under. Consider the criteria carefully to ensure the award has value, perhaps to include someone promoting, furthering or expanding microlighting. This would ultimately be a subjective value judgement in order to recognise those who are encouraging others into microlighting by their words or actions. ACTION: CS TO COMPLETE BY END OF DAY.

581 [SSDR Analysis] On the agenda as a separate item.

585 RG: There is a need to continue to apply pressure. Instructors need access to more affordable training aircraft, there are long waiting lists for new factory built aircraft. Instructors need an affordable aeroplane on which to teach. ACTION on RH to create a 'watch list' of ongoing issues with CAA.

593 [PoE influence over SEP instructors] No progress. SEP Examiners can examine students for NPPL. Move to watch list.

595 [Cash reserves] No action due to intended purchase of 6 Somerville Court.

596 [Council elections] Complete. No election needed in 2023.

5. Reports:

a. Chief Executive Officer

New office building: Council agreed to buy 6 Somerville Court, Banbury Business Park, Adderbury, OX17 3SN as the new BMAA headquarters. ACTION 597 on RH to plan and execute the relocation.

Dave Simpson has retired as Quality Manager.

There was a discussion on electronic conspicuity. RH has been invited to sit on the CAA Technical Coordination Group (TCG) whose purpose is to identify a solution for future medium term EC requirements.

Does the BMAA have a lone working policy? Yes, regular on-screen training is carried out and logged.

New Horizons – what to do for the future. G-WDUS is now complete and sold. There is a commitment to complete G-WEPW by summer 2023. ACTION 598 on RH to start advertising in September 2023 for building in 2024. The

proposal would emphasise the requirement to maximise the PR and marketing information that the new builders could offer. The target date for placement of the next kit is September 2024 if the builder is a school.

Paratrikes – An approach from a current paratrike instructor asking about how to import a BCAR 'S' paratrike into the UK and the requirements to teach on that trike.

b. Treasurer

i. Membership fee 2023/24

The finances are stable at this time, expecting to break even in FY 2022/23. The book value of Trek House is £170k so a sale at £350k would increase the book value of the association. The current cash position is robust and able to absorb the purchase of the new building.

After discussion, it was agreed to invest in the Technical Office and start to recruit a new engineer.

RH suggested we investigate the installation of solar panels in new office. The heating/cooling is electric and we would be able to put some of the surplus cash reserves into an investment that is ecologically friendly and would produce a positive return. ACTION 599 RH.

c. Chief Technical Officer

No further comments.

d. Chief Inspector (continued airworthiness)

There was a discussion regarding the flight simulator. It is tired, in need of repair and would benefit from some upgrades. ACTION 600: Mark Bailey to investigate and report back.

e. FTL&SO

Description of work being done.

f. Administration

A new web page www.BMAA.org/join has been created as a first landing page, to be used on stickers and postcards to encourage new people to consider joining.

g. PR & promotion

Kelly Thacker has produced a plan for shows and events in 2023, starting with Popham.

h. Activity graphs

Noted.

i. Half year survey

The two main takeaways are that the website could be improved and Microlight Flying remains popular.

6. Activities a. New Horizons – Eddie McCallum

G-WDUS (Benenden) has been sold. G-WEPW (Rugby); the build manager is intent on showing the aeroplane at an RAF event in June and therefore was hoping to have completed it by then.

b. Wings – Cath Spence

CS plans to update the Wings video. She asked for suggestions regarding new course content – Safesky, PilotAware, Pooleys Academy.

c. Publications – Derek Lamb

DL reported that the Microlight Flying team morale was high. Geoff Hill had commissioned a series of 600kg flight tests. General feedback is good and the editorial budget is intact.

d. Competitions / Open Series – Tim Burrow

Owain Johns has indicated that he expects to bid for the FAI World Microlight Championships 2024.

e. Round table

No other topics.

7. AGM Preparation

There are no proposals to put to members, except for the regular membership fee and accountancy topics. There is a form on the website to submit questions in advance.

RH asked for input to the annual report. CS offered to give a presentation on Wings during the Popham Microlight Trade Fair.

8. Any other business a. Council Elections 2023

There is no need for an election this year.

b. SSDR analysis – Mark Bailey

The annex was presented.

c. Mark Hilton bursary request

RG indicated that becoming an FICI required commitment in both time and money. Only 1 in 10 interviewees were successful as candidates underestimated the requirements.

Council agreed to support FICI candidates; once they had successfully passed the interview stage, BMAA would fund the flight assessment fee.

d. Flying wires

The 7 year window for the replacement of some P&M flying wires is drawing to a close (in 2024). The Technical Office was tasked with raising the topic with the approval holder.

e. Part 21 Light

RH pointed Council members to Part 21 Light, a proposed new airworthiness regime to be introduced by EASA.

9. Date & time of next meeting Council Airwaves rota:

29 April 23 (AGM)

The meeting closed at 1600 and council members were invited to visit the proposed new office building.

Rob Hughes
BMAA CEO
20 May 2023