

5th MEETING OF THE BMAA COUNCIL 2020

Tuesday 2nd June 2020

By GoToMeeting, 0930 hrs

MINUTES

PRESENT

Rob Hughes	RH	Chairman
Richard Bisiker	RB	
Tim Burrow	TB	Vice Chairman
Bill Davis	BD	
Rob Grimwood	RG	
Derek Lamb	DL	Treasurer (from 1030)
Eddie McCallum	EM	
John Waite	JW	

Geoff Weighell GW Chief Executive

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1. None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (11 May 2020)

2.1. Approved with a correction to the spelling of Eddie McCallum at point 2.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (2020)

3.1. None not covered by agenda items.

4. ACTION LIST (those considered requiring immediate attention only)

4.1. 478 RG *Check Flying Video*. **No progress.** RG to discuss with Rob Mott to coordinate flights and arrange for a camera modification approval for his aircraft. RB suggested that a written and spoken text could be used to create the video with some flying as illustration.

4.2. 508 *Unairworthy aircraft*. GW explained that all inspectors had either attended a seminar covering standardisation, responsibility and dealing with pressure from owners, or else had been written to with the information following the cancellation of the third and fourth seminar due to Covid-19 lockdown. It was agreed that the action could be closed but that individual complaints against inspectors should be addressed as soon as possible after the complaint is made. Closed.

4.3. 532 GW *To review all costs with a view to reducing*. **Open.** A spending review throughout the BMAA is to be conducted.

4.4. There was a discussion following comments on Facebook that the BMAA should have responded directly to the LAA Chairman following what the person posting considered misleading statements in the LAA magazine regarding the reasoning behind the LAA pulling out of merger discussions. It was agreed that RH would draft a letter to be sent directly to the LAA Chairman, following Council agreement of content, making the point that his publicly stated reasons for withdrawing from merger discussions were unfounded. No further action is expected following this. **Action 536 RH**

5. MEMBER'S REPORTS

5.1. RH Reported that there had been breaches in the security of the Forum. The person responsible for hosting the Forum had suggested that he apply the necessary security patch for £300. This had not been agreed and a figure of £150 had been discussed, but not formally agreed. The patch has been applied. The Council considered whether the cost of maintaining the Forum, which appears to have only around 40 active users, is worth the expense. RB suggested reviewing the current software and contract to gauge whether a cost saving could be made. The Forum contains historic information which is thought to be a valuable resource for members. To see how much that information is used RH will produce page reports to assess activity. **Action 537 RH**

5.2. JW As reported later in the CE report the Aston New Horizons aircraft is to put up for sale as the current health restrictions make it likely that little progress will be made for the foreseeable future. The Benenden project will be restarted following lockdown with extra build periods allocated so that completion will still be in Summer 2021.

5.3. RG Members of Plaistows have said that BMAA weekly newsletters have not been received. GW to look for possible reasons for missing emails. **Action 538 GW**

5.4. RG asked when dual flight training might resume. GW explained that along with other organisations he was asking the DfT to encourage Government to allow dual flight training, which is to be considered as a business not just a recreation, to restart at the earliest opportunity. The DfT are aware of the pressure from the training industry but are tied to Government guidance. GW had asked for open cockpit aircraft to be considered as a separate class that might be allowed for dual training ahead of enclosed aircraft, but DfT had responded that they didn't want to have different rules for different aircraft.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

6.1. There was no formal Treasurer's report this month as it is too early to obtain financial information for May. DL asked that future meetings be scheduled towards the middle of each month so that a financial report could be made available.

6.2. GW confirmed that following the return to flying on the 15 May the BMAA bank account value had increased by in the region of £15,000.

6.3. DL advised caution and not to rule out the possibility of a further period of lockdown if the UK

health situation became worse. He also suggested that the total number of BMAA employees be under consideration going forward.

6.4. GW presented the activity report for the first nine months of the year. The dip that was expected due to lockdown was obvious, and as pointed out by RH the decision to furlough staff had proved to be the correct one.

7. CE REPORT

7.1. GW had submitted a report and briefly went through those parts not already discussed.

7.2. GW had attended a CAA meeting to be briefed on the outcome of the 600Kg consultation. The CAA made clear that the UK would effectively be opting out of the EASA regulation as consulted on, and the new fleet between the existing microlight definition and 600kg will be called microlights. This news is not to be publicised ahead of the CAA release of a Comment Response Document later in June.

7.3. The meeting discussed ways in which the BMAA could take the best advantage of the change and encourage aircraft falling into the new definition to become part of the BMAA fleet and not be lost to other organisations. RH agreed to produce concept ideas for promotion to be developed into a promotion campaign. He would ask the editorial staff to assist. **Action 539**

RH

8. NEW HORIZONS

8.1. Discussed earlier in the meeting.

9. AOB

9.1. RH asked whether the refusal of Cherwell District Council to give a business grant to the BMAA had been challenged. It has not yet. **Action 540 DL & GW**

9.2. RG asked for an update on the proposal to use amateur built microlights for uninhibited flight training. GW responded that there is to be a briefing on the 11 June at which the current CAA position will be advised. It is likely that there will be restrictions imposed during the first year whilst data is gathered to assess the safety risk.

9.3. JW said that some members at Plaistows were confused by the revalidation extension arrangement and asked GW for further explanation for members. **Action 541 GW**

10. DONM

10.1. 20/07/2020 0930 by GoToMeeting

END 1200hrs