

Beaulieu Model Flying Committee - AGM 2021

Date: Thursday 18th November 2021

Location Virtual -- Zoom meeting

Time 7:30am start

AGENDA

1. Introduction, Apologies for absence

(none received as yet)

Apologies were received from Ian Hammond and Roger Newman(lack of internet access); Trevor Butcher (health issues);

2. Reports for 2021 (Summary reports, fuller reports at the meeting)

1. Chairman's Report (R.Sharman)

2021 has been a busy year for the committee, but a less eventful year of flying due to the Covid Regulation lockdown periods, and the changeable weather conditions experienced at various times. Nevertheless a good deal of flying has taken place. No serious incidents were reported this year. The condition of the access track has been fair (although it is deteriorating now, as usual for the winter months).

The main achievement from the committee has been the reversal of the Forestry policy to close model flying for a greater part of the year. The ability to fly models at any time during the year has been re-established, but some other onerous restrictions have been placed on us. The Committee is continuing to protest about these and some relaxation is expected for 2022.

Report given: Emphasis laid on the difficulty and length of negotiations with ForestrEngland and the successful conclusion which was finally reached. Richard explained his reasons for standing down from this role, as previously indicated, due to personal health and family issues, and the fact of having done it for a decade.

2. Secretary's Report (M. Derbyshire)

The BMFC has been operating as Club 2523 of the BMFA. Correspondence with head quarters has been managed as usual.

Report given: Mark explained the contact we have had with the BMFC, and various issues relating to the BMFA memberships scheme. He explained how a simplified permit system for 2022 would reduce the secretary's workload.

3. Treasurer's Report (R.Thomas)

Despite a lower issue of permit sales, there has been a reduction of costs and the accounts are in good shape at this time. Whether an increase in the permit cost is needed will depend on how the Legal costs are affected at the current time with our ongoing relationship with Forestry England.

Total Income from Permits was £1862.00 from 178 Permit sales, down from 232 sales of 2020.

Major expenditure of 2021 was Forestry Commission Licence Fee of £1087.50.

Other expenses Totalling £307.60 was for AGM and committee office expenses.

Total funds at year end in the current and savings account , total £10338.40

Report given: Robbie gave the up to date amended figures for the BMFC accounts, and the prospects for the financial viability of the BMFC which is good. It was noted that the Forestry fee was less than usual due to a rebate having been obtained in compensation for the lockdown periods which made use of the field impossible.

4. R/C operations report (I.Hammond)

(to be supplied)

Report from Ian Hammond reported by Robbie: No incidents reported this year. It was noted that more dog owners have been using leads to restrain their dogs, which is very much appreciated by us when they are in the vicinity of the airfield.

5. Free Flight Report (R. Newman)

There has been minimal activity with free flight during the first half of 2021, compounded by initial uncertainty regarding rules & availability of the site ... , continuing restrictions imposed by Covid

regulations and ... the usual vagaries in weather. However, the BMFC ... has enabled a small amount of flying to be done, sufficient to complete the years scheduled flying, for which we are grateful, plus a little sport flying on rare occasions. ...

Report given by Roger courtesy of access made by Tony Shepherd: It seems that despite the Forestry stating that "free flying is not permitted" some free-flight activity will be permitted [since free-flight models are in fact partially controlled; RS] when the wind is SE or NW [since the adjacent runway can be used; RS] but not in other conditions. The BMFC is trying to get more flexibility over this restriction.

3. Constitution Amendment

It is proposed to allow additional members on the committee.

Amend the Constitution, section 2.4 Officers, to include:

The committee may also contain additional members. The additional members would have no specific duties, but be prepared to assist any other committee member on any topic related to the running of the committee. Additional members are to be appointed at the discretion of the Committee. (vote needed).

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Review of new flying constraints

Discussion of the main new restrictions now in place, and the measures being taken to alleviate them.

Richard gave a short explanation of the situation:

- The process was triggered in 2020 because of an HRA approval requirement from Natural England (as in 2015)
- Delays and difficulties were due in part to Forestry misconceptions about our activity, its nature and possible impact on wildlife .
- The difficulty in retaining our previous rights was due in part to Forestry resistance to accept outside advice from MPs, organisations such as the BMFA and the Airfields Historic Trust, and displeasure at local press reports from Lymington Times.
- Discussions were found to be difficult due to Covid lockdowns, and Forestry staff shortages and unavailability.
- The current contract is unsatisfactory partly due to its having been written in a hurry under time pressure.

What we, BMFC, did was to patiently produce information, rebuttals, and positions to the Forestry. Information was fed back to permit holders via emails and newsletters whenever possible. The result has been the substantial restoration of our previous rights, albeit with some irksome restrictions.

5. Election of Officers for 2022

1. Chairman (R.Thomas)

Only one nomination has been received. The nomination is therefore accepted (without a vote)
Approved.

2. Secretary (M.Derbyshire)

Willing to stand again for next year. Post accepted (without a vote)
Approved.

3. Treasurer

(Post vacant). T.Butcher and R.Thomas can cover this until full replacement available.
Approved.

4. R/C representative (I. Hammond)

Willing to stand again for next year.
Approved.

5. Free-flight representative

(Post vacant) R.Newman to advise.

Roger to stay in post, awaiting outcome of latest Forestry discussions.

6. Additional committee members

Available to stand as "members without portfolio": R.Arrow, R.Sharman.

6. Any other business (none advised)

- It was noted that the Christchurch club are believed to be negotiating with a farmer for access to a field in the Sopley-Branscombe area, presumably instead of Strawberry fields.
- The current status of the attempt to get a legal review of our rights is that Richard and Trevor have produced a 12-page lawyers briefing paper, with an additional 20 reference documents, which has been sent to a lawyers chamber in London which specialises in these sort of cases. We are waiting for the name of a barrister to respond with the aim of getting a legal opinion on the process.
- It was noted that some recent Forestry personell changes have occurred which may affect us.

6. Close of meeting

7.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm.