



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the BKFA
held at The Hay Barn and Byre, Ploughley Lane, Bicester
on 28 November 2010, commencing at 2 pm.

Present: Keith Griffiths(chair), John Dobson (secretary), Jerry Swift (treasurer), Phil Scarfe (WHKF), Doug Jones (WHKF), George Webster (NEKF), Vee Griffiths (STACK), Derek Kuhn (MKF), Jon Caton (MKF), Gareth Williams (KKF), Bill Andrews (KKF), Doug Irvine (STACK).

1. Welcome

The chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Francesca Caton, Malcolm Goodman, Ernest Barton, Mike Lowe, Ernie Williamson.

3. Minutes of the last AGM

Derek Kuhn would have liked to have been associated with MKF in the list of those present. With this amendment, the minutes were approved (proposed Jerry Swift, seconded George Webster).

4. Matters Arising

Derek Kuhn reported having received nothing to support the 30th anniversary of the Dieppe Kite festival (Item 18a).

5. Chairman's Report

Keith Griffiths gave the Chairman's report.

Finally this year, thanks to Jerry's tireless efforts, we have been able to offer insurance cover to our member organisation. I truly believe that this is a point through which the BKFA becomes a relevant to the wider kite community. Fear of litigation is becoming ever present in our lives and this cover will give members peace of mind at least when indulging in what should be a fun pastime.

It is gratifying to see our membership rising in 2010 with the affiliation of both Kent Kite Flyers and the Essex Kite Group, and I hope to be able to welcome more clubs to our ranks in the future. Together we can provide kite fliers a voice.

This year has seen the introduction of a new information leaflet, which you should have all had copies of for your membership. Thanks to my wife Vee for the work to 'declutter' the text and to all of those that provided photos and feedback on the design process. In addition to the leaflets I designed a minimalist banner to use alongside the STACK information banners at our events, raising the profile of BKFA amongst fliers and public alike.

I have to admit I have leaned very heavily on Jerry and John for this year, and it is them that have done the work of updating the website. For any of you that have your own website to maintain you know how much time it can take to keep a website fresh and full of useful content.

As for competition, the Rok challenge that BKFA, along with STACK and KSGB, support generated sufficient numbers of competitors again this year to make it interesting at the top, although there were less event organisers prepared to actually run a competition without the direct support of a BKF or STACK member to co-ordinate it, which is a shame. The Edwardian kite competition, despite having a most impressive trophy for the winner, didn't attract any competitors at Rougham. It is difficult to say why this was, perhaps just a lack of appropriate publicity at the event, or simply the wrong location for those interested in the competition.

In discussion it was agreed to update the leaflet every two years. It was also agreed that George Webster and John Dobson would jointly consider an appropriate recognition of the services to kiteflying of the late Ron Moulton (the original owner of the BKFA brand).

6. *Treasurer's Report*

Jerry Swift gave the Treasurer's report. A copy of the accounts is attached to these minutes. The financial statement was accepted (proposed Keith Griffiths, seconded Phil Scarfe).

7. *Secretary's Report*

John Dobson reported on the committee meetings held via Skype. There had been technical problems, but the technology worked well when it worked. John announced his intention to serve (if elected) on the Committee for at most one more year, during which a modest celebration of his 70th year would be held.

8. *Constitutional Matters.*

a) Constitutional Changes.

Jerry Swift explained the rationale for proposed changes to the Constitution, which had been tabled last year. These were accepted in their entirety (proposed George Webster, seconded John Dobson), and a revised copy of the Constitution is attached to these minutes.

b) Number of Council Members.

It is a requirement that the Council reconsider the representation of member Clubs on a regular basis. Currently the representation is: up to 25 club members: 1 council member; 26-100 club members: 2 council members; more than 100 club members: 3 Council members. It was agreed that for this purpose, club secretaries would be asked to report their membership numbers as at 1 November of each year. Subject to this clarification, it was agreed to keep the representation as is (proposed Jon Caton, seconded Doug Jones).

c) Membership Fees.

After due discussion, a number of administrative changes were agreed (proposed Keith Griffiths, seconded George Webster):

- (i) the current fees for 2010-11 are unchanged at a basic rate per council member of £25;
- (ii) the membership year begins on 1 November;
- (iii) as from 2011, invoices will be dated 1 December each year (i.e. after the AGM, at which annual fees are decided)

(iv) as a transitional arrangement, invoices for 2010-11 will be dated 1 November 2010, but will run until 1 December 2011

9. *Affiliations to Other Institutions*

a) CCPR.

CCPR provide a lot of information to its member bodies, some of it very relevant to the BKFA. The annual subscription is considered value for money. It was agreed to continue our subscription (proposed Jerry Swift, seconded Keith Griffiths).

b) RAeC.

It is not clear what benefit we get from our membership of RAeC though it seems that they are keen, for historical reasons, to keep us in membership. It has some use as a conduit to and from the CAA. Jerry Swift offered to talk to the chairman and/or secretary of RAeC to see if a reduction in membership fees could be negotiated in view of our small membership and limited resources; and also to what extent we can, as members, use their name and logo in our promotional material.

John Dobson offered £100 towards our fees for the current year and George Webster made a similar offer for the following year. These were gratefully accepted if required.

10. *BKFA Competitions*

As far as STACK is concerned, the Rok Challenge will continue in its present form with the BKFA name attached to it.

A collation of possible rules for various kinds of competition is in place and will shortly be placed on the website as a matter of information, for promoters of competitions to adopt and adapt.

It was accepted that the Edwardian Competition was not of particular interest either to the public or to kitefliers, and would be dropped for the time being.

After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to set up a competition to judge 30 second video entries which could be submitted by anybody. The Committee were tasked with promoting the competition and agreeing the judging protocols.

11. *Children and Vulnerable People Protection*

Jerry Swift reported on the current legislative situation, which is very confused. He will continue to monitor events and receive relevant information from CCPR. It seems not to be relevant to kiteflying activities at the current time.

12. *Risk Assessment and Reporting*

No accidents or incidents have been reported.

13. *Insurance*

Currently we have 126 users of the basic policy and 5 of the enhanced power kiting policy. No claims have yet been made. The meeting recoded a vote of thanks to Jerry Swift for all the work he has put in to negotiating and finalising this arrangement.

14. *Conserving Kite History*

This item has been laid down due to the other commitments of the people involved.

15. *Kite Flying Hall of Fame*

George Webster reported that he had written to *Kiteflier* about the suggested the Hall of Fame, but they had chosen not to publish his letter. They will be making an announcement on a similar initiative of their own in the January 2011 issue.

16. *Election of Committee*

The following nominations to the Committee were accepted: Keith Griffiths (STACK), John Dobson (NEKF), Jerry Swift (MKF), Jon Caton (MKF), Doug Jones (WHKF), Gareth Williams (KKF), Derek Kuhn (independent), Mike Lowe (SKF) (subject to consent).

17. *Any Other Business*

a) Donation by Malcolm Goodman

John Dobson was asked to write to Malcolm Goodman conveying BKFA's thanks for his financial contribution.

b) Presence of the Committee on the website.

Members of the Committee were asked to send mugshots and a brief history of kite flying involvement to John Dobson for display on the website.

c) Doug Irvine

The meeting recorded a vote of thanks to Doug Irvine for hosting the meeting.

18. *Date of Next AGM*

The next AGM would take place on Sunday 27 November 2011 at a venue to be decided by the Committee.

The meeting then closed at 4.50 pm. and was immediately followed by a short Committee meeting.