

BMFA Achievement Scheme Review Committee Meeting

Minutes of the meeting of Saturday 11th February 2017, at Chacksfield House, Leicester

Those present:	Area	Role
Peter Willis (PW)	Southern	CE Chairman
Terry Rounce (TR)	London	CE
Duncan McClure (DM)	South Midland	RC P&SF Controller & Sec.
Andy Symons (AS)	Northern	ASC & Club Support Officer (non-voting)
Brian Cooper (BC)	South Midland	CE
John Harris (JH)	Western	ACE
Dick Whitehead (DW)	South Midland	
Chris Bradbury (CB)	Southern	CE
Peter Jenkins (PJ)	East Anglia	CE

Invited attendees:

Mark Bennis Hon. Sec.

ITEM

ACTION

1 Welcome & Apologies for absence:

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and welcomed Chris Bradbury and Dick Whitehead as new and returning members respectively. He also noted that Mark Bennis, the acting Hon. Sec., would be attending the meeting from approximately lunch time onwards.

2 Election of ASRC Chairman and appointment of Secretary:

DW Proposed **PW** for the role of ASRC Chairman for 2017, and this was seconded by **JH**. There were no other nominations. Voting: 8 for, 0 abstentions, 0 against.

DM indicated that he was happy to continue in the role of Sec. and **PW** proposed **DM** for the role of ASRC Secretary for 2017, which was seconded by **JH**. There were no other nominations. Voting: 8 for, 0 abstentions, 0 against.

3 Minutes of the meeting of 12th November 2016:

PJ requested that he be listed as 'CE' rather than 'Area Chairman and Delegate'. With this correction, the minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Voting: 6 for, 2 abstentions, 0 against.

4 Matters arising (actions) not covered in agenda:

Item (4) – FPV Extensions for the BPCs.

DM reported that he had made and circulated the agreed changes to the FPV tests.

Item (5) – Video Guidance Document.

DM reported that he had received a significant volume (several dozen) of e-mail comments following the publication of the M-R guidance video. The vast majority of comments were both positive and complimentary, the only criticism being regarding some background noise at one particular point. To summarise, the general consensus was along the lines of "excellent, can we have some more please".

Item (6) – M-R safety section for Members Handbook

AS reported that this had been posted on the website and **DM** reported that this had been passed on to the Tech. Sec. who expressed his thanks for the input.

Item (9) – AoB Examiners not listing Mandatory Questions on tests form

DM reported that he had written an appropriate article for BMFA News, which had been published in the Christmas issue, with a suitable front-page headline for examiners. **AS & DM** reported that a number of incomplete tests forms had still been received by the office after the 1st January deadline, and that, as a result, **DM** had written a letter of explanation, which had been sent to all of the guilty individuals along with the returned test form. **AS & DM** reported that following this they had both received a number of phone calls from these slightly embarrassed examiners. Most were quite apologetic after the situation had been explained to them.

AS reported that there had been >7000 attempts at the on-line quizzes, and that the results i.e. the scores achieved by individuals, showed significant improvement from when these were first introduced.

5 Review of Materials for AS Conference / Roadshows

Comments were invited on the draft combined presentation PP that **DM** had circulated prior to the meeting, which included contributions from **PW** and **JH**. **PW, JH & DM** then all made short presentations of the draft material they had prepared. This effectively represents all of the morning presentations. There was useful and constructive feedback and debate and **DM** took notes to implement the changes, notably to include a reference that candidates should expect to have to practice, and that it is a National scheme i.e. a common standard and run by volunteers. **DM** also took a further action to prepare drafts for all of the remaining (afternoon) presentations, with the exception of the Video Guidance, which **PW** would complete. **PW** also agreed to complete the preparation of the conference booklet, and reminded everyone that ideally he would like to include short (approx. 200 word) biographies for all ASRC members, to include one or two suitable photographs. Action on all to prepare and send to **PW**.

A list of the equipment and props required for the conferences was agreed, along with suitable back-up / redundancy.

AS to arrange:-

- 2 x laptops
- 2 x Projectors
- 2 x Feather Flags
- Screen

PW to arrange

- Name tags
- Booklets

DM to arrange

- Box of materials for Workshops (clip boards, pens, etc.)

DM agreed to prepare and circulate the revised combined PP during the following week for comment by all via e-mail.

All

6 Development of Achievement Scheme Communications Strategy

The Hon. Sec. joined the meeting at this point.

PW invite comment and discussion on the draft document that he and **DM** had prepared and circulated prior to the meeting.

There was a lengthy but useful and constructive debate on the document, which provided feedback that **DM** took an action implement. DM also agreed to flesh out the document further before circulating to members prior to the next meeting.

It was felt important, as mentioned earlier in the meeting, to stress that the scheme was run by volunteers (like much of the BMFA) and that the aim was to inform and promote consistency to a National standard.

The Hon. Sec. noted his support for the communications initiative and its relevance for what he was hoping to achieve with the Areas Council. He also stressed just how relevant he feels the scheme is for members, and expressed his support for it going forward. **PJ** noted that the scheme is probably only second to insurance in terms of 'visibility' to the membership.

Key outcomes from the discussions were;

It was agreed that every Area should be compelled to run at least one Examiners workshop each year, but that they should appreciate that the ASRC is there as a resource that can help them with this.

It was also agreed that we should create an ASRC Facebook page, **AS** to implement.

We should seek to develop a planned (annual?) programme for articles in Model Magazines.

We should target communications with examiners direct to all examiners and co-ordinators i.e. direct to ACEs, co-ordinators and Club Examiners simultaneously, not to Club Examiners via ACEs and or co-ordinators.

DM & AS

7 Scheme use of the National Centre:

There was general agreement that we should utilise the national Centre for scheme events, both for flying and or conference type meetings. There was some discussion over whether we (the ASRC) would be expected to 'fund' the use, and it was appreciated that this might involve a slightly false internal transfer of funds to perhaps pay the daily hire fee. However, it was agreed that it would be inappropriate to charge individual members for attendance, as this would go against the spirit of not charging for any tests, should we organise testing days for example. It was also recognised that we should avoid any activities that could potentially cause a conflict with commercial model flight training schools.

The possibility of holding a Jet 'C' Examiners workshop at the NC was also considered.

A provisional date(s) of 9th & 10th September were identified for the first AS use of the NC, with the exact format and nature of the event to be discussed and agreed at our next meeting. The Hon. Sec. agreed to log this event and explore the 'payment options' for the hire of the facility with the Exc. and Development Officer.

8 AoB

The Hon. Sec. enquired how the committee felt about the recent change to the way that members were elected to the ASRC. He indicated that he had assumed that the committee had suggested the change. **PW** indicated that the proposal had not come from the ASRC, and several members expressed their concerns regarding the impact it could potentially have on the future make-up of the committee. It was noted that the new election process was actually in conflict with the requirements of the composition of the ASRC as defined in the Council Handbook, which requires Areas Council to endeavour to ensure a range of knowledge and skills in the make-up of the ASRC. On this basis the Hon. Sec. asked if the committee would like him to lobby for a reversal of the decision regarding the election process i.e. for a return to a vote by Areas Council. A vote to this effect was formally proposed by **DM** and seconded by **JH**. Voting: 8 for, 0 abstentions, 0 against. Hon. Sec. to pursue, as appropriate, but possibly for vote/discussion at the May Full Council meeting.

Hon. Sec.

DM suggested that it might be helpful to make some minor changes to the ASRC ToRs, not because there are any glaring errors, but simply to reinforce and bolster some of the elements. This was agreed, action on **DM** to do this for the next meeting.

DM

AS reported that he had discussed with the office the possibility of changing all the AS tests forms to a downloadable format similar to the BPCs. The office reported that they couldn't see any issues with this, and as a result **AS** indicated that he would work with the office to develop these over the year, potentially for introduction in 2018.

AS

Following on from Item (17) in the draft AS Comms. document, there was some discussion on how to thank and encourage and reward examiners and instructors for their contribution to the scheme and the sport as a whole. The Hon. Sec indicated that he felt this had relevance to Areas Council (and Area committee members) as well. It was recognised that some form of formal recognition for all these 'volunteers' would be beneficial. Some of the thoughts included; discounted membership, 'Gold' membership card, badges/certificates etc., but there was no formal conclusion to the discussion.

AS & DM reported some recent correspondence they had received from two individuals calling for 'Atti' mode, and some GPS modes, to be permitted in the 'A' test. The argument the individuals presented was that for certain commercially available machines it was not possible to switch these modes off. There was a lively debate, which included the fact that it is the candidate's responsibility to present for the test with a machine capable of flying the test as described in the guidance, and it was also recognised that this was not a new situation. It was agreed that any such change would be inappropriate for the 'A' test. However, it was felt that there might be some merit in considering a change for the BPCs for next year, but that this would only be after further discussion at a future meeting.

9 Date of next meeting:

This was set for Saturday the **1st April 2017**, at Chacksfield House.