

Cotswold Radio Control Society

Minutes: AGM, 7'th November, 2019

Aston Down
Meeting at 20.00 hrs.

Present: Committee Members: Jon Parker (Chair); Bob Maltby; Terry Clarke; Gordon Bishop; Ian Halliday; Doug Garland; Sid King. 18 other members attended.

Apologies: Paul Howie and Andrew Evans

1.Minutes: The Chair read the 2018 Minutes.

It was agreed that the numbers beyond the Committee members should be added.

They minutes were then agreed unanimously and signed by the Chair.

2.Matters Arising:

The advertising of the AGM was raised. Terry explained the date and place were always on the Web Site.

3.Chairman's Report:

There was no formal Chairman's report this year.

The Chair emphasized what a great flying year we had enjoyed.

The WhatsApp system for organizing flying sessions had worked very well. But the group was in danger of becoming clogged with other enjoyable chatter; so the Chair had decided to start a new group on WhatsApp to try to separate the enjoyable chat, videos, etc from the flying session organizing. Members would receive invitations to join the new group.

The main item for discussion was the Government Drone legislation and the BMFA, LMA reaction and proposals. The Chair had produced a summary of where we were at this point of time. Copy below. Drones include model aircraft.

Several members had taken and passed the CAA test allowing them to fly but had discovered that the current web-site only allowed this if they also registered as an operator and thus paid the £9 fee. The examination was not

difficult but somewhat legalistic in style and was clearly intended to educate the pilots with knowledge of legal limits and best practice.

The CAA website does not mention any exemptions or agreements with BMFA.

However, the BMFA clearly believes that an agreement will be reached that means they can collect the £9 operator fees with BMFA subscriptions and that for example the BMFA A certificate can be used instead of the CAA flying exam.

The Chair thus strongly advised members to do nothing until the BMFA produce a definite statement.

Chairman's Summary :

**“Cotswold Radio Control Society
Drone. Registration. Education. Scheme.
(DRES) Members Summary.**

The UK's new Drone and Model Aircraft Registration and Education Scheme will go live on 5 November 2019 (please note that you cannot register before this date).

There will be two elements to the online system.

Anyone responsible for a drone or unmanned aircraft (including model aircraft) weighing between 250g and 20kg will need to register as an operator. The cost for this will be £9 renewable annually.

Anyone flying a drone or unmanned aircraft (including model aircraft) weighing between 250g and 20kg will need to take and pass an online education package. This is free and renewable every three years.

Both of these requirements become law on 30 November 2019.

From 5 November 2019 the system will be available at Register-drones.caa.co.uk

Where a UK model aircraft association already has an established and CAA reviewed 'competency scheme', members who hold an appropriate achievement certificate or award (such as the BMFA 'A' certificate) will also be exempt from having to undertake the online education training and test.

Any operator/PILOT who is not covered under the conditions of a permission/exemption or does not hold a recognised association competency will need to complete the free online course.

To allow operators to demonstrate competence if challenged (for example by the police) the CAA will be issuing a formal exemption that can be used alongside existing permissions / achievements and any other relevant documents. This exemption will be in place until 30 June 2020, when new regulations are expected

We have been assured once again by the CAA that the facility does not exist in the DRES database for the police to have the access to get a list of registered operators in a certain locality for a 'dragnet' operation in case of another Gatwick style drone incident.

4.Membership Secretary and Treasurer Report:

Club Accounts: - Terry was pleased to announce that, with Andrew Evans back, the accounts had been audited and passed. Unlike last year where he produced detailed accounts and offered to send them electronically to anyone interested, but received no requests, the accounts this year will be placed in the Library section of the CRCS Web Site.

The Club ran a surplus of £468. Income was down by £514 mainly due to a fall in membership from 57 to 53 members.

2019 Subscriptions: - Both the CGC and the BMFA have forecast additional costs The CGC will probably increase the Associate Blokart and Modeller fees by £2.50 to £80 and the BMFA will propose an increased subscription for senior membership at the AGM later this month. It was proposed by Graham Birt and seconded by Mario Malecki to set a total fee (excluding drone £9) of £140 . This was approved unanimously.

Discussion: The question was raised of whether the club could withstand a further drop in numbers; possibly serious due to Drone effect, It was explained that essentially all our costs were proportional to the number of members as was our income so both would shrink or grow together.

The Treasurer raised his worry that he was the sole source of knowledge about many matters in the finance, BMFA and web-site areas and asked for help.

5. Secretary's Report:

Club Committee meetings: As you know the Club Committee meets each month on the last Thursday of the month; December excepted. Minutes can be found, when approved, on the club web-site. Sid provides us with excellent snacks and coffee and deep historical knowledge.

Drone Legislation: As agreed by the Committee I wrote to our local MP David Drew and Baroness de Vere then the appropriate Minister. The tenor of my letter was that the Club had operated for many years on an airfield originally operated by the RAF and latterly owned by the Cotswold Gliding Club. In each case in proximity to actual aircraft with no problems. The Club could thus see no reason or need for the imposition of the registration with fee and CAA exam.

Needless to say the answers were not to the point of the letter. Maybe the letters added .1% to the pressure to reduce the fee.

6. Presentation of Annual Awards and Trophies:

The awards were ;

Secretaries Cup: Graham Birt for his Curare build and flight.

Nastend Brick: Graham Birt

For the immortal words , during flight, "Anyone see my plane?"

Jon Parker Scale: Bill Cousins for revived Spitfire.

7. Election of 2019 Committee: The proposed committee is

Chair: Jon Parker

Vice Chair: Bob Maltby

Secretary: Ian Halliday

Membership Secretary and Treasurer: Terry Clarke

Gordon Bishop

Doug Garland

Sid King

John Wood proposed and Mario Malecki seconded a motion to elect the committee by a show of hands. Committee was agreed unanimously.

8.Subscriptions:

As discussed above the Subscription was set at £140. With the BMFA Drone £9 uncertainty Terry was reluctant to start collecting subscriptions until this was resolved

9.AGM 2020: 5'th November 2020, Aston Down 20.00 hrs