



Minutes of the BKFA Committee Meeting
Held via a Skype Conference Link on Sunday 10th Feb 2008
from 7.00pm until 9.41pm

Members present on Skype link:

Jon Caton – Chairman
Jerry Swift – Treasurer
Ernest Barton - Secretary – who did take notes.

Apologies for absence from:

Arthur Dibble

AGENDA:

1. Review of AGM Action Points.
2. Progress on CCPR
3. 3 - Fold Leaflet - including the Feedback Form for the Membership and AGM action points.
4. Risk Assessments and Code of Conduct.
5. Festival Presence.
6. Traders Section.
7. Web Reference to Height Clearance Form.
8. Review of Website Upgrade.

AGM Action Points.

Action for the production of an individual members section.

Jon Caton had started doing this but at the moment there was no sign of Peter Bindon -the de facto webmaster- so it had not yet been put on the website.

The Chairman –JS - asked for his phone number to get in touch.

The question then arose –what do we need to put in it?

There was a problem that nearly all our membership are there as members of a number of affiliated Kite associations not as individuals without an affiliation. In the future this would change. At the moment it was suggested by JS that the word Supporter would be a better than Individual Member

“You can Support the BKFA by supporting the Individual Members section”

After some discussion it was decided that an Application Form should be available both as a Printed Form and as a Printout on the Web but that in both cases it would JUST be an application to Join and not an automatic entry.

‘Fill out the Form and we will send you an individual pack...’

You would then be sent a Pack containing a longer and more detailed Application Form to be returned to the BKFA Secretary at his home address.

The pack would also contain a leaflet about Data protection issues asking if them if they would care to have their Data available on the BKFA Database when it becomes operational

‘Are you happy to have your Data Released to others, other individual members or organisations who may wish to contact you, etc.’

It would also include a ‘Code of Conduct for Kitefliers’ document listing all the relevant height and airport regulations and the general standards of sensible behaviour expected from fliers in the field.

Affiliation to the Royal Aero Club and CCPR.

We are now affiliated to the RAeC.

Ernest had volunteered to attend the CCPR meeting at Farrer and Co, 66 Lincolns Inn Fields as he lives in London and so would not have a problem getting up there. He was unsure what the relevance might be and was advised to adopt a watching brief and report back.

Mention was made of access to fields and the 'Free The Fields' Campaign and how little it actually signifies to kitefliers – being mostly about motor rallies and raves on Set Aside Land.

Action was needed to get Andrew Beattie to write up the incident involving the Mega Kuwaiti Flag Kite where the patented bridle release mechanism had stuck under load and a Dyneema Kite cable under several tonnes of tension had to be cut with a knife. It was evident he had not yet written it up in full but still ought to be asked to write a brief account which might be included as an example in the Short Version of the Risk Assessment Analysis.

Jon was asked to get him to talk at length about the incident so a longer written report could be made available on the BKFA website as an exemplar of some extreme Health and Safety Issues on the field.

Jerry Swift said he had nearly finished the Risk Assessment for the possibility of Kiteflying frightening horses and would pass it on to the Chairman before the Swifts went to Malaysia.

Ernest asked in connection with giant kites if they needed an airworthiness certificate from the CAA.

Jerry said no airworthiness certificate was required for an aircraft that weighed less than 145 kilos which lets nearly all framed kite makers off the hook but that he wasn't sure how much a Kuwaiti flag sized inflatable kite weighed. He said the EASA – European Aircraft Safety Agency gives certification to manufacturers who apply and conform to their standards but kites are not specifically built as EASA aircraft so the certification does not apply to them.

Mention was made that the Short Form Risk Assessment explanation page on the Website was not clear and the tables in it were designed for the long form assessment.

Apparently the short version is a copy from the Midland Kite Fliers Assessment including the details about driving tethering stakes into buried cables and any underground services that may pass across a kite flying site.

Child Protection Certification

Next Jerry Swift agreed to be nominated as Child Protection Officer and the Nomination would be posted on the website.

Once we have CCPR accreditation it will help. CCPR Checks are valid outside the Local area whereas CRB checks are only for one locality and specific employment. In this case Jerry would probably do the risk assessment on himself.

Once we have CCPR membership we can have Association Officers and put on the website that this is in progress

Action Committee to consider further Health and Safety Issues

1. General Health and Safety

2. Rehabilitation of offenders – it is a requirement of having CRB checks done that that we must have a policy statement on the Rehabilitation of offenders - in case it be thought we advocated crucifixion.

3. Data protection – statement of Policy. Advise people you are going to keep records but if we are doing a list of members interests we need to register this database. There is no immediate hurry for this.

For all these documents there are models available from CCPR

Jerry Swift asked that Peter Bindon put all downloadable Documents in PDF format but to also have downloadable Word documents for the members own use within their clubs. These could be identified in the Properties section.

In other words we put a Word version up but in the Author field write “Downloaded from BKFA”– the properties section will then have this first origination recorded. But such downloadable and subsequently modified documents must NOT have the BKFA logo on them as it might be thought they were issued directly by us.

4. Kiting Records - Andrew Beattie was to ask Valerie Govig about the AKA records archive but we have heard nothing so far.

5. Kite Competition. Dave Holt at the Wirral seemed fine with holding one there.

6. Ask Derek Khun for the Rules of the German Kite Competitions.

7. Review of the BKFA structure.

Jon Caton said he had produced the Three-Fold colour Leaflet and that it will cost £279 to print 1000. This still below the number where they needed to charge us VAT. He asked did we want them folded, which would cost £40 and both Jerry and Ernest said three fold was very hard to do by hand so YES by all means have it done properly by machine.

What have we achieved in 2007.

Notice of BKFA Membership of the Royal Aero Club had now been added to the Website. This will also be the case for CCPR.

The Competition for Kite innovation was now in hand and we were taking names and details from those who thought they would enter it.

The Risk Assessment Section was nearly complete but the end of the Long Assessment had been removed by the previous Secretary for some reason and not replaced. A partial rewrite was now necessary.

Risk Assessment

The Code of Conduct can be found at the end of the Risk Assessment procedures on the Website.

Festival Presence

It was generally felt that our presence at Kite Festivals last year was not very high profile. It was suggested we should go to Festivals and man a stand full time.

EJB suggested taking it in turns to spread the load.

Jon said they had tried this but it often meant the stand was unmanned for long periods because people volunteering to be on the stand also had kite flying duties as well. We all fly and generally it is our main interest. No absolute solution to this problem was arrived at except we resolved to do better this year.

It was also mentioned that although the BKFA Banner had been available last year and could be posted to various people for events, it had got damaged last year.

There was some worry over Festivals like Weymouth and Portsmouth – which are organised and run by the Kite Society - as to whether a flying a BKFA Banner would be acceptable. It was generally felt that while one of the organisers would most probably say yes, the other might not.

The Three-fold leaflets could be passed out 5 -10 at a time to BKFA fliers and committee members to be distributed to other fliers and interested members of the public. In this case *interested* is the watch word, since we only have 1000 leaflets to play with.

John Dobson.

Ernest agreed to contact John over a missing set of notes from a previous meeting which took place but for which no minutes were ever circulated.

“So let it be written. So let it be done.”

Involving the Traders.

Even if we have no stand at a Festival we could get the banner set up outside the stall of a cooperative trader. It can be posted to the event as the Pole breaks down into sections and the package is only 1.25 Metres long.

Jon Caton said he would check if this still qualified as Letter Post.

First attendable Festival 2008

Weymouth - leaflets and Banner as discussed.

Traders Section of the BKFA

How do we involve the traders and start a Traders section? It was thought that Derek Khun was keen to get involved.

Jon Caton mentioned that although the current CE certificate applied to toys and hence to childrens kites it was only a self imposed standard on the part of the manufacturer However the new EN71 Regulation would soon introduce proper testing.

Ernest wondered if testing was just about seeing if it could be safely chewed or broken or if they might actually try flying the product and reading the garbled instructions. This was considered unlikely.

Air Navigation Orders Height Regulation.

The CAA Department of Air Movements, Air Space Utilisation Section had a whole load of available forms including the HIGH CLEARANCE FORMS needed to allow kites to fly above 60 Metres. Jerry said he would pass on the relevant telephone number on to Jon for posting on the website.

It was suggested we could put it on the website together with a downloadable copy of the actual FORM to save Festival organisers having to search for it at the CAA.

This might require CAA approval?

Free the Fields Campaign.

We said we would approve this general idea at the next meeting so it was duly done. Do we put it on the BKFA site? There was a question as to how relevant it was to kitefliers since most of the set aside land was apparently being used for motor sports. New EEC regulations are coming in which will make the present dispute over the use of set aside fields outdated.

The general conclusion was that it might give Kite Buggiers more places to fly.

Vulnerable Adults

The necessary Documents were to be passed from Jerry to Jon for rereading and typo checking.

Update on BKFA Fliers Insurance

The gentleman we were using at Perkins Slade to further with this matter had left last year and a new girl will now be available to carry on with it once we have decided to go ahead with the policy.

AOB.

Ratification of Ernest Barton as the new BKFA Secretary by the NEKF.

As this is his main club he thought it might be politic to wait until after their recent troubles had passed into history. He will now be contacting Pete Sturrs ASAP.

General Update on BKFA, Whitehorse Kite Fliers and MKF.

Follow up on emails from Steve Sutton about UNISERVITY – an Agency of the Dept of Education – a Quango promoting interschool computer networks - would this have relevance for those organising kite workshops ?

At that point, the communications link broke and the meeting ended.