

**British Kite Flying Association**  
**Annual General Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2008**

**Members Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>
Derek Kuhn	Kite Workshops /MKF - Independent
Mark De Roussier	WHKF/ LVKF - Independent
George Webster	NEKF - Independent
Peter Bindon	MKF/NKG/NEKF - Independent
Ernest Barton	Secretary BKFA representing NEKF
Phil Scarfe	WHKF
Martin Croxton	WHKF
Doug Jones	WHKF
Arthur Dibble	Representing WHKF
Michael Lowe	Representing Solent Kite Fliers
Jerry Swift	Treasurer BKFA representing MKF
John Caton	Chairman BKFA representing MKF
Keith Griffiths	Representing STACK

**Proceedings.**

**1. Welcome by the Chairman.**

John Caton welcomed everyone to the new venue, the upper room of the Royal Oak in Tabard Street.

**2. Apologies for Absence.**

None were conveyed by the members present, and none had been received by the Committee.

**3. Minutes of the previous Council meeting.**

Jerry Swift proposed the minutes be accepted and Phil Scarfe seconded this. The Minutes for the October 2007 Council Meeting were approved.

### **3. Matters arising.**

Jerry Swift said that the Application Form for Individual Membership had been designed, but had not been made available on the website as yet.

The Chairman said Risk Assessments needed to be reviewed in the light of CAP 393 and some limitations relating to man-lifting etc.. There seemed to be some need for amendments in relation to the deliberate or accidental lifting of persons and heavy objects with reference to Andrew Beattie's recent accident in falling from a kite line that had carried him several feet in the air and thus injured himself quite badly.

**Action** - *Jerry Swift to invite Andrew Beattie to supply a full write up.*

There was still no answer from Andrew about his *previous* accident. This had involved a kite being cut free because a quick release shackle had failed to open under extreme tension. The situation had developed rapidly and the secondary release, cutting the flying line, became necessary..

Andrew was to have been asked to contact Valerie Govig about kite records as he sees her while attending events in the USA – nothing had happened about this so far.

Derek Kuhn introduced himself as an Independent Member and was surprised to find he had just been elected as an official representative by MKF at their own AGM earlier that morning along with John Caton and Jerry Swift. George Webster offered them all his congratulations for it to be acknowledged in the minutes.

Mark De Roussier of Lodden Valley Kite Fliers said he was there primarily as an observer with a view to getting his fellow members interested in becoming affiliated to the BKFA.

### **5. Chairman's Report.**

Jon Caton said BKFA had developed its relationship with CCPR. Jerry was now bombarded with almost daily notes and info. This was also the case with the Royal Aero Club. CCPR have taken up the issues of the Free the Fields Campaign.

**Concerning CAP 393 published by the CAA – the Civil aviation Authority** and its application for kite fliers, Jerry had now made a 29 page analysis of the Air Navigation Order and its annexes and how it applies to kiteflying.

Some items did not apply but a few things might, for example the section on the carrying of pyrotechnic materials might well apply to the use of fireworks on kites.

Flying displays at festivals were the main area of concern – all kites are by definition aircraft (and therefore within scope of CAP393) and big kites are potentially dangerous. BKFA needs to get ahead of the game before an accident occurs.

Questions about this had been put to CAA regarding the legal position of kites weighing more than 2 Kilograms.

Jerry Swift clarified the situation for newer members saying that somebody needed to ask questions of the CAA before an incident occurs with one of the new generation of giant kite. In the past few kites weighed more than 2 Kilograms but this was no longer true for big modern inflatables. As an example the all up weight of the Kuwait Flag Kite must be well in excess of 100 Kg.

Arthur Dibble mentioned here that Martin Lester's big legs are known to weigh 55lb or about 20Kg and yet this is not by modern standards considered a large inflatable.

Derek Kuhn proposed a vote of thanks to Jerry for undertaking this mammoth task of sifting through the voluminous CAA data for the few sections applicable to kite flying and this was seconded.

Coming on to kites in schools Jon Caton said that Unilever were going to put a significant sum of money into kites for schools over three years.

Steve Sutton had told him there were hundreds of school clubs in Leicester who now wanted to be affiliated to the BKFA. This should be encouraged.

THE FUTURE – The Chairman reflected that the grass roots kite community response to the idea of the BKFA has been very negative in some quarters. However he thought it worth the effort to carry on since if the BKFA were to fold now it would be difficult for it to be reconstituted later and even more difficult for it to become re-affiliated to other organisations when this was seen to be needed.

Jerry read out a list of organisations who had been present at the last Water Recreation and Outdoor Pursuits meeting of the CCPR.

*Amateur Rowing Association, British Motorcycle Federation, Amateur Swimming Association, British Balloon and Airship Assoc, British Caving, Dragon Boat Racing, Model Flying, British Microlight, Mountaineering, Canoeing, Countryside Landowners Association, Institute of Outdoor*

*Learning, Inland Waterways Association, Mountain Biking, Angling and Fisheries, National Council for Metal Detecting, National Federation of Sea Anglers, Ramblers Association... Yachting and Young Explorers...*

He asked the rhetorical question why would BKFA NOT want to be associated with all of these? Of course in fact we already were yet there was still apathy among many kite fliers which was difficult to understand.

Mark De Roussier interjected that there was a perception among most club members that this was all politics and politics needed to be kept at arms length. So it was this perception that needed to be challenged. Jerry agreed sadly that this was likely to be the case.

George Webster recalled how he had written several articles for the Kite Flier Magazine and at the end always asked for comments from readers and so far the response had been zero. Most kite fliers only want to be involved at club level. We nearly all belong to other clubs unrelated to kiting and almost all those clubs, unless they have some political battle going on, would say that apathy rules.

## **6. Treasurers Report - Accounts**

Reviewing the Accounts sheet we had all been given the Treasurer noted one expenditure of £50 at the bottom had been crossed off because it had been made after the end of the financial year in question and so it should really appear in next years accounts.

The expenditure in question was for flowers which had been sent on behalf of the BKFA to Tony Slater's funeral and which had in turn been donated to BKFA.

**The proposal to accept the Accounts was made by the Phil Scarfe and seconded by George Webster.**

There was some comment on the small size of the available fund.

Mark de Roussier noted it seemed the organisation only had £150 in hand. Jerry said it was actually more than that but we needed to get one of the Affiliated Kite Clubs to pay their subscription. Someone asked when it fell due. It was noted that the subscription fell due on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2008.

Jerry agreed that the money was eroding slowly but there seemed no need to do anything about it at the moment. Derek Kuhn asked who the BKFA account was held with and whether it was a Charity Account. Jerry said it was with the Nat West Bank and indeed it is a Charities Account with no fees and is too small to accrue any interest.

Account signatories need to be reviewed..

*Action - Jerry Swift to review with Jon Caton.*

## **7. Review of the Membership and Fees**

The Chairman asked if we should keep the Club Membership Fee as it is. Jerry recommended that we keep it unchanged for the following year.

**This motion was proposed by Arthur Dibble seconded by Jerry Swift and carried unanimously.**

## **8. Membership of RAeC and CCPR.**

Chairman asked if these Memberships were beneficial to the BKFA?

Jerry explained that he now gets a deluge of emails from the CAA, the RAeC and the CCPR. A lot of it is irrelevant or of academic interest only, but some is useful. So much was available these days and not much of it relevant to our situation

Mark de Roussier asked if any of this material related to health and safety considerations.

Jerry answered that these was more likely to come from the CCPR but he also belonged to an active professional institution that gave him access to relevant Health and Safety Issues which were often useful.

Mark speculated further that there were Health and Safety issues being created that might not come to us through these two bodies.

Jerry agreed that there was a lot out there we probably did NOT get notified about, which was why his own professional institution was so useful. The BKFA can demonstrate quite robustly that we are actively monitoring relevant legislation and keeping our risk assessments under review. This provides evidence that we are managing risk.

**The Chairman asked for a proposal to continue our membership of these organisations. This was proposed Derek Kuhn, seconded by George Webster and carried unanimously.**

## **9. Insurance and Schools Insurance.**

Jerry said he had written to both Zurich and Perkins Slade but that he is awaiting further responses. They have a high turnover of staff and their new staff contacts have to be briefed each time on what for them is an unusual situation.

Arthur asked if the school insurance policy covered workshop teams when working in schools. Jerry said that there was no current policy but that this could be looked at.

Derek Kuhn asked how many members STACK had and was told it was nominally 130 but if he meant active members it was only about 30.

## **10. Schools Project**

Mark De Roussier asked how we might help Steve Sutton to pass the baton to the upcoming generation. Should we formally invite the school clubs to join BKFA? Should we appoint someone from the Committee to work with Steve Sutton? What lessons can we learn from his experience? Could we assist in judging competitions, running workshops etc?

Jerry Swift said they had talked to Steve on several occasions. The concern was that the project might get much bigger and then Steve might have trouble coping. Arthur said that Whitehorse could do more – like publishing an article written by Steve for the WHKF magazine. He agreed that last year the WHKF were noting the increasing age of the fliers and it would be good to get some young blood in from schools.

## **11. CRB/ISA Vetting.**

Jerry was asked to report on both child protection vetting procedures and said it was all surprisingly quiet at the moment. He is attending a briefing by CCPR in May.

He went on to clarify these acronyms. For those not familiar with the initials they stand for the Criminal Records Bureau and the Independent Safeguarding Agency.

The Independent safeguarding Agency was set up about eighteen months ago with a remit from Government to combine a number of the existing lists of people who should be prevented from working with children and vulnerable adults. They are introducing a Fully Portable Check but one that ONLY relates to sex offences. On the other hand a CRB Check is one where you can ask for any relevant offence to be listed – for example if you were needing to employ a minibus driver you can ask for any driving offences they may have to be listed as well. The disadvantage with a CRB check is that it is not portable, it only relates to the specific job and is a snapshot in time. Offences committed after a check was made can only be found by asking for a new CRB check on that person.

The ISA is portable – it will in fact be valid all over the country.

Through BKFA's membership of CCPR, we can get CRB checks at cost if anyone needed one. Derek Kuhn asked if he could get one for running kite workshops. Arthur pointed out you do not need one for workshops in schools as the danger was always assessed as being dependent on the frequency and duration of contact, which for the average workshop is short and none of it is unsupervised by a teacher. Jerry offered to discuss this with Derek afterwards. He added he would follow up on the ISA situation but had heard nothing from them for some months.

Arthur asked what clearance did people in the Scouts and Guides get because their type were fully portable.

The Chairman replied that they were only portable within the organisation. It also depends what organisation you are in. If you are a teacher it only applies within the local authority – the situation is confused.

Michael Lowe for Solent KF said that they could get a check for the whole of Hampshire but only for workshops in scouting groups but it was free and valid for the whole year. Jerry suggested that the ISA would bring a measure of consistency as regards sex offences because anyone who registers they have an interest in an ISA file will then be kept up to date with any changes to it. Unfortunately it only relates to sexual offences so other things that the CRB picks up on are still not covered.

Derek asked if anyone could get a CRB Check done through the BKFA and was told that it had to be for member clubs only. Derek further wondered if this could be made known to people as a service. The Treasurer said it had already been made known to clubs and no one had expressed any interest.

The chairman thought it might be better to tailor advice on the website specifically for kiting needs **and Jerry agreed to look through it with that in mind, following the May meeting.**

## **12. People Providing Services to Schools.**

Jerry had a conversation with Malcolm Goodman that in terms of the work that Steve Sutton is doing we should be offering enquirers the contact details of the likes of Malcolm, Derek Kuhn, Karl Longbottom and Alan Poxon who are four that we know who are effectively professionals delivering kite workshops in schools.

Jerry suggested that as Steve Sutton is going to be looking for people we should be providing information to schools and the details of local fliers who can work with them to deliver this instruction. The chairman thought it was certainly within our remit.

George suggested that BKFA invite the clubs to suggest available tutors to be placed on the website.

Phil Scarfe suggested that it was important to see that the actual workshops were of a good standard and that it was most important to connect schools to good kite makers since the quality of the experience was what mattered. Good kite makers and good kite tutors were not necessarily the same thing. The most important thing was to generate interest on the part of children.

Arthur asked whether the instruction given in the Kites for Schools project was about making or flying? The answer seemed to be mostly it was about flying.

Derek Kuhn raised the possibility of two lists, one for the public of workshop providers and a more comprehensive database of all interested club members. Jon said BKFA could indeed put up a list of names and preferably a synopsis of what they could provide, teaching and or flying . He did not want to choose them or be in a position of deciding who the BKFA should recommend.

Phil suggested that equally the committee could not just make a list of people who said they wanted to do it, with no vetting or selection as to performance and suitability.

Jerry suggested that the BKFA needed to monitor the performance of providers. Jon suggested we could ask for feedback from the users to find if the workshop providers were delivering an adequate service. If appropriate we could actually visit and observe them and then endorse their performance. *This could then be an objective BKFA scheme.*

Derek Kuhn felt uneasy with the idea of being tested in this way, unless it was part of a pre-agreed endorsement scheme that the provider could elect to join or not.

Jerry proposed that BKFA set up a standard scheme. This Scheme would then exclude people who did not want to be monitored.

The chairman then made a proposal that the Committee look into the best way to set up a SERVICE PROVIDER LIST and a scheme for MONITORING WORKSHOPS and defining a suitable BKFA objective standard of assessment.

**There was general agreement although no formal vote was taken.**

**This is now defined as a work in progress.**

### **13. Trade Section**

There was a suggestion we operate as a small Trade Association but after some discussion of various Trade Organisations that had existed in the past but it was agreed setting up a formal trade association might be of limited value.

George suggested that members of the Committee should speak to kite traders at Festivals over the next year and find out what they feel.

It was agreed that next year we all have a talk with traders to hear what they think. In meantime will we accept any trader as an Individual Member.



## **14. Publicity and Website**

The chairman was sanguine about this and concluded that last year our presence at festivals had been of limited value. The only people who came to talk to him at festivals where a BKFA stall had been set up were non kite fliers. Kite fliers generally ignored it.

Mark de Roussier said it was only those who were already motivated would want to join. The Chairman thought . Kitefliers go to Festivals to fly, not man a stall, but some presence was needed to advertise the existence of the BKFA. Phil Scarfe emphasised that the question asked was always about the purpose of BKFA and suggested that we need to be visible at festivals if only to combat that perception.

George offered to give the BKFA a good plug over the microphone at Bedford and the Wirral. Jon supported that and said that BKFA should send out more info to clubs. George also offered to write articles on kites for the club magazines.

Suggestions were made for putting active Links to the BKFA website on club websites – some already have them but most do not.

## **15. Kite Competitions**

Jerry had obtained the German National Kite Competitions Rules from Jurgen Ebbinghaus and is tidying up the translation for possible use at events over here. They are far more comprehensive than ours.

The BKFA Award for kite Innovation had been made in previous years at Bristol Kite Festival but had lapsed for a number of reasons.

George had been investigating the original Edwardian Kite Competitions with a view to reviving them in a modern form and his article on them has already appeared on the BKFA Website.

There was also the possibility of reviving Rokkaku kite battles with a prize at the event. STACK are supporting a National competition hopefully with assistance from KSGB and other event organisers.

The Chairman said the BKFA are very keen to promote a competition that involved everyone.

It was felt that the Altitude sprint was straight forward, though dependent on the vagaries of the wind.

George suggested that the Edwardian type of competition offered the BKFA a unique type of event which involved participants flying their kites as steadily as possible for one hour. He imagined a kind of stately contest at the Wirral which the Royal Aero Club might take an interest in as they

had organised the actual Edwardian Events in the years before the Great War.

Jerry feared the RAeC would not be interested to the point of providing a trophy as they were strapped for cash themselves, but they might be interested in including it for their Annual Awards.

It was felt that the Edwardian Event might encourage involvement from British kitemakers more than Rok fighting. There was also the possibility of the Award for Innovation in Kiting, designed to encourage British Kitemakers..

There was some debate about whether competition should be limited to British nationals. Phil Scarfe was not sure about this and thought there was not a big enough group or the intensity of activity in this country to run a competition for innovation limited to the British.

George referred to the Eddie McGrath Prize which was specifically for UK makers and would be run about the same time. He still thought the Edwardian style competition promotes something that has not been done at any recent event and could promote our kite designers and kite makers at International Kite Festivals.

The Secretary thought the BKFA MUST have to have at least one competition of its own .

George agreed that we should be seen to hold one official BKFA competition at a Festival with enough space to do it and the Wirral seemed ideal. There was a good chance of a suitable wind. He emphasised that the locals there were one of the most positive crowds you could meet, not easily put off by rain and enthusiastic about kites..

The Proposal was that the BKFA run an Edwardian style Kite competition at the Wirral next year in the first Week in June open to any size and style of kite. **It was carried unopposed.**

There was some concern that we should run the kite innovation competition as well but it was decided we might do that one the following year instead of the Edwardian Event.

## **16. Election of New Committee**

The Chairman can remain for 2 years this was therefore proposed and seconded so Jon stays on as Chairman.

Jerry Swift stood down from the committee as he had already served for 4 years.

There were seven members willing to serve on the committee including John Dobson.

## **17. AOB**

Jon had received a letter from Tony Slater's widow Chris thanking the BKFA for the flowers sent to his funeral. Paul Morgan was writing an obituary which would soon be available for the website.

The card on the Floral tribute from the BKFA had the following inscription

*"In memory of Tony Slater, who has gone to play in a place where the wind is always just right."*

Funds have been donated to BKFA to cover the cost.

## **18. International Liaison.**

The Committee had previously discussed the sending out of offers of liaison to other clubs but not done much of this because few of the continental clubs were active now so the contact would generally have to be through individuals. It was an ongoing situation.

## **Next AGM**

After some consultation as to possible dates the next AGM date was fixed for **29<sup>th</sup> November 2009.**

**The Chairman then declared THE AGM CLOSED.**

One or two members left as they had long journeys home.

**A Committee meeting was then immediately declared open.**

Most Members remaining round the table stayed to take part.

### **1. Election of officers**

The Chairman remains in office for another year.

Ernest Barton was elected to continue as secretary.

There was now a vacancy for the post of Treasurer. Nobody wanted this. There was a brief discussion on the BKFA .

Because it seemed no one else would be willing to act as Treasurer it was pointed out that the constitution allowed for members to be co-opted onto the Committee – Jerry was therefore invited to accept co-option as Treasurer.

Other committee members were elected as follows:

Kieth Griffiths, Stack

Mike Lowe, SKF

Arthur Dibble, WHKF

**This was voted on by the Committee Members present and carried unanimously.**

## **2. A New Committee Meeting for 2009**

This was provisionally agreed for one evening in February on Skype. The Committee meeting then closed at around 6pm.

