

# SMSA AGM Minutes



## Introduction

The 2007 AGM was held at The Shakespeare Inn Harbury on Monday 3rd December. The meeting started at 7:30pm with a brief introduction and the recording of any formal apologies. There were 20 members in attendance and 4 committee members.

## Reports

**The Chairman's Report by Matthew Bennett** covered the two key issues of the year. The move to only using even frequencies and how as a result no interference issues had been raised. The other issue was the incident with the horse and rider at Edge Hill that resulted in the closure of the site. Matthew and John shared with the members how they had worked with the Upton Estates management to understand the facts and come to an agreed resolution. Having agreed a set of words signs are now in place at Edge Hill and there is to be No landing in the field behind the hill.

Several points of discussion were had including the difficulty of landing on the slope and buying a strip of land. Also consideration should be given to a magazine article identifying SMSA flying sites as being members only sites.

The topic was closed with the clear message that these are the rules if we want to fly at Edge Hill. If we follow them we have a basis from which to discuss changes from next year. **However the most important message is that we can now fly again at Edge Hill.**

**The Secretaries Report by David Hill.** Our membership numbers grew to 80 during the year, with members from a wide area. For next year we will work to put new membership forms on the web site and have hard copies with our frequent flying members, to hand out to interested individuals. Membership cards for the coming year will have a new design to signify the year on year change and the AGM date shown to promote a better response to the meeting.

**The Treasures Report by Mark Freeman.** The clubs opening bank balance was £506.07 with expenditure for the year being £868.38 and income of £955. The clubs bank balance to be carried in to 2008 will be £592.69

**The Safety Officers Report by John Neal** included the following key point; members must report any issues and incidents immediately. Discussions with the Upton House Estate management were severally hampered as they knew more details of the incident and other significant field crossing aircraft recovery dates and times than we were aware of.

If we want to have the support of the land owners and continued use of the site we must be responsible ourselves. Follow the rules and coach other flyers of the consequences if we don't.

**The Web Site Administrators Report, by Brett Sirrell.** Brett was unable to join the AGM due to work commitments however Matthew read out the following summarized report.

This year has shown the value of the website as a way of communicating news and information to the members and also visitors to the slopes. I have not had a lot of time to make major changes to the website apart from updating news and adding items for sale etc. The discussion group at [www.rcgroups.com](http://www.rcgroups.com) has also been of some value to a number of our members.

In early 2008 I would like to update some of the pages of the website and refresh some of the images.

In order for me to do this and for the website to remain of interest to the members I would like to make a plea for more content. Almost everybody today has a digital camera and many of us probably have camera with video capabilities on our mobile phones. With this in mind all ask of the members is to just to take photos from the slopes or new models and email them to me. Providing the content is suitable (no crash images etc) then they will get added to the website and shared with the club members.

A good website is one which is continually being updated and contains fresh and up to date content. However this does involve a large amount of "content flow" but a small amount of effort from all of us this easily achievable.

Alternatively if you don't have photos maybe email me if you find an interesting link or relevant You Tube video and I will add it to the site.

For those of us who don't have access to the flying site as often as we would like then the website can be a great way of seeing what is happening and keeping in touch. If you visit the slopes then please share your experiences and keep in touch!

It was noted at the meeting that the web site shows the location of our flying sites. It was agreed that as we have members only flying sites, reference to their location should be removed and a statement about being for members only inserted.

### **Subscription Fees**

BMFA Membership for 2008 was set at the BMFA AGM at £28 for Seniors. The SMSA AGM agreed to hold membership at £5 for 2008.

A proposal to have a £15 new members joining fee, to cover the cost of meeting the member on the slope to go through the rules as well as landing approaches and use of the peg board etc. was rejected by the members.

An amendment was proposed and approved so that new members to the sport would not be deterred by additional cost. The £15 to support an introductory meeting on the slope will be covered from the clubs funds.

### **Election of Officers**

The meeting asked if anyone wished to stand for a position on the committee. In the absence of any nominations the existing 2007 committee was elected to stand for another year.

There was a vote of thanks from the members present for all of their work during the year.

### **Any Other Business**

**Guests & Visitors**, clarification was requested. After discussion and debate it was made clear that the rule is, that there are No guests or visitors allowed. The SMSA is a member's only club, as stated in the agreements with the flying site owners. Anyone wishing to fly would need to pay £5 to join and be able to prove they had BMFA insurance.

This would be better supported in 2008 by online membership forms and the agreement that frequent flying members could carry membership forms and collect subscription fees. Immediate membership can be recognised after signing to say that the SMSA rules will be followed and BMFA insurance proven.

### **Shennington Full Size Gliding**

The invitation by Shennington full size gliding club posted earlier in the year was not taken up due to the low level of response.

### **New Sign At Burton Dassett**

It was agreed that we need to get a new SMSA sign on the notice board and hut to introduce the club and point out that flying is for members only.

### **Next AGM**

The meeting concluded with coffee and traditional mince-pies after agreeing to December 8th 2008 as being the date for next years AGM.

**Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year from your committee.**