



British Drone Racing Association - AGM Meeting Minutes

Date: 1st October 2022

Time: 6:30pm

Committee Hosting Meeting:

Will Annison (*Chairman*)

Jamie Cole (*Secretary*)

Member Attendance (No):

37 (In Person)

2 (Online)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Review/accept the minutes from the last AGM
3. Reports from:
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Treasurer
4. Membership Fees
5. Proposed amendments to the BDRA constitution from the 2019 edition
 - a. Clearance from the membership to continue to run the BDRA if a Membership Secretary is not in post.
6. Proposed ruleset changes for the 2023 season
7. Questions presented to the Committee for inclusion at the AGM
 - a. Information requested to be disclosed around how the BDRA is currently funded and if there is interest/activity around finding commercial sponsorship or monies from sports/lottery funding.
 - b. Can a BQE submission deadline be instated to 'lock in' dates before the start of the season?
 - c. What is the number of BQE's per host club going to be for 2023 season?
 - d. Can iFPV and the BDRA websites be merged?
 - e. Possibility of a BDRA track equipment shop/affiliates?
 - f. Courses for operation of Livetime for new clubs/race directors?
 - g. Coaching sessions for new Pilots?
8. Election of Committee Members
 - a. Posts up for Election are:
 - i. Chairman
 - ii. Treasurer
 - iii. Membership Secretary
9. AOB

Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and Introduction (Will Annison)

- Will Annison welcomed all attendees

Agenda Item 2 – Review/Accept Minutes from the Last AGM (Will Annison/Jamie Cole)

- JC showed minutes on screen in person at the meeting.
- No comments received, so taken as true and fair reflection of last year's AGM.

Agenda Item 3 – Reports from the Committee

- **Chairman's Report - Will Annison**
 - We had a sizeable AGM last year and set out to do lots of things – most of those we have managed to successfully implement.
 1. Lap Caps – have been successfully trialled over the course of season and is accepted by most (with the occasional explanation of why its being done). Has worked really well with very little negative feedback.
 2. HDZero Integration – succeeding in adopting this and supporting at all BDRA-affiliated events. Have worked closely with HDZero and have managed to secure a large amount of equipment to support this integration – supported by O2/Virgin Media. These relationships have opened up some channels for us which we hope will grow over time.

The HDZero Event VRX's are there for any BDRA affiliated clubs to use and we now have 2 pairs to loan out on request.

- We have again completed a lot of events but has been an 'odd' year again in terms of sign-ups. Some have filled up immediately, some have taken a bit of time to fill, some have not filled at all and had to be cancelled.

- **Treasurer's Report – Will Annison**

- PayPal Balance of £4,465.73
- Bank Account Balance of £1,695.40
- Total: £6,161.13 (*as of today*)
- Outgoings for the Championships and Blades over Buckminster is still to be paid – and a 'kitty' needs to be held in-case of any up-front payments required for the 2023 season.
- Total spend for the year-to-date is £6,378.38 which includes Weston Park and Cosford events, Race Director and Gate Hire Services, Website costs etc.
- Full breakdown will be made available on the website at year end based of figures at 31st December 2022.

- **Secretary's Report – Jamie Cole**

- Membership figures – 2021 we had 106 members for 2022 we reached 125, so a small increase.
- 15 British Qualifier Events (BQEs) have been held over the course of the season with a spread around the country.
- Some events have been more successful than others and we are looking to see what we can do to support the more poorly attended races with discussions over the Winter period for the 2023 season.
- Continued to have website issues in 2022 which have taken us a while to sort with various iterations. The website is now hosted on a platform managed by the BMFA. Thanks passed to Eric Li-Koo for hosting the website on his servers since the dawn of the BFPVRA/BDRA.

Agenda Item 4 – Membership Fees

- Membership fees we are proposing to freeze at £10 per year. Especially due to the current economic climate.
- Any 'hike' in these would not bring the BDRA a significant amount of additional income and would rather have members than not. The maximum we could raise them to is £12 as can only be completed at a certain percentage per year.
- However, until the BDRA can start providing extra additional value for membership fees we do not feel we could raise them anyway.
- At present, after attending a couple of events with the discount our affiliated clubs provide, our members see this fee back – so feel it does currently represent good value for money.

Agenda Item 5 – Proposed changes to the Constitution (David Allen)

- Proposed changes were sent out with the AGM invite. Last amendments were made in 2019.
- David Allen (as current Membership Secretary) ran through the proposed amendments and the various reasonings behind doing this. (Changes proposed can be seen in the Appendix below).
- As more than 20% of the membership are in attendance at the AGM – we moved forward to vote on adoption of these changes.
- **VOTE: 38 for the changes and 1 against. Due to this, changes were approved and will be adopted.**
- A further item was discussed around the BDRA being able to continue if a Membership Secretary was not in post as no-one had come forward to fill that role and is classed as a core committee member. However, a candidate had come forward during the course of the weekend – so was no longer a required discussion.

Agenda Item 6 – Proposed Ruleset Changes for the 2023 Season

- No changes proposed.

Agenda Item 7 – Questions presented to the Committee for Inclusion at the AGM

1. Information requested to be disclosed around how the BDRA is currently funded and if there is interest/activity around finding commercial sponsorship or monies from sports/lottery funding.

RESPONSE (JC): Quite a lot of activity in this area over the course of year. Substantial payment in from Virgin Media/O2 at the start of the season which has enabled us to purchase the HDZero kit. We do not know if this will be an ongoing arrangement from VM/O2 – more conversations to be had. There is an awareness in the committee we need to stop fishing in our little pond of sponsors and we do need to start thinking bigger.

David Allen has started looking into Sports/Lottery funding – hence some of the constitution change requirements to begin to enable this. These applications need a lot of thinking about and specific use-cases for it would be used for – its not a case of ‘can we have some money please’.

Any funding such as this has to benefit the wider community too – just not our little FPV community.

2. Can a BQE submission deadline be instated to 'lock in' dates before the start of the season?

RESPONSE (WA): Ask confirmed as ‘can we fill the calendar with BQE’s before the season starts’. We do not have that many organisers, so we need flexibility – so we need to be careful that we don’t lock potential organisers out.

Obviously, we schedule large events in early on – such as Weston Park, Champs etc. – but then the rest of the calendar needs to be flexible for when other organisers may be free to do an event and have venue availability etc.

3. What is the number of BQE's per host club going to be for 2023 season?

RESPONSE (WA): Due to the above, we will continue with the 2 BQE’s per organiser booked in advance then can book a further BQE after 1 is completed on a rolling basis.

4. Can iFPV and the BDRA websites be merged?

RESPONSE (JC): The websites are 2 different technologies – one database driven (iFPV) and one content driven (BDRA – Wordpress). Combining them could be a difficult ask.

RESPONSE (Ben Drew): Explained how he sees iFPV and the BDRA site. The BDRA carries the information about the sport if people are coming into it – and iFPV is the management back end. Will look into concerns around the re-direction to the iFPV site to sign up for the BDRA to see if this can be more closely aligned.

5. Possibility of a BDRA track equipment shop/affiliates?

RESPONSE (JC): Yes absolutely would be of interest, but would need someone to find these opportunities and manage them. We currently have a finite resource within the BDRA committee – so would need someone to come forward who is interested in doing this.

6. Courses for operation of Livetime for new clubs/race directors?

RESPONSE (JC): Livetime setup guide is on the BDRA website (compiled by Will) which gives the overall setup for Livetime for a new starting club. But rather than this being all on the BDRA – it should be experienced Race Directors helping new Race Directors (like has been done with myself and SGDC over the last couple of years). Should be community-based knowledge sharing and not seeing new clubs as competitors – but helping grow the sport as a whole.

7. Coaching sessions for new Pilots?

RESPONSE (JC): Again, we do not see this as something the BDRA can hold itself centrally, its about growing grass root local clubs for new pilots to come and hone their skills and get help/advice. Something the BDRA can offer is a chance for its members to get the new BMFA 'FPV Racing' certificates and we have examiners available to do that.

Agenda Item 8 – Election of Committee Members

- **Chairman**
 - 1 nomination – Will Annison
 - 37 in favour, 1 abstaining, 1 against = Vote for WA to continue as Chairman.
- **Treasurer**
 - 1 nomination – David Allen
 - Unanimous vote in favour from all members attending (*online and in the room*).
- **Membership Secretary**
 - 1 nomination – John Knight
 - Unanimous vote in favour from all members attending (*online and in the room*)
- **Non-Elected Positions**
 - Eric Li-Koo to continue in his current role as Technical Standards Director/BMFA Liaison – which continues to be invaluable to the BDRA
 - Opening for 2 non-elected positions – Technical and Safety Standards Director & Public Relations/Social Media Officer. Any interest in these posts should be made via email to any of the BDRA Committee Members.

Agenda Item 9 – AOB

- **Martin Glass – Suggestion for clubs to have a more formal way of getting on-board with the BDRA**
 - Suggestion for any club to put a member on the 'committee' to be able to run a BQE then will improve communication between grass roots and the BDRA.
 - RESPONSE (WA): There is a long-forgotten group on Facebook 'BDRA Race Organisers' which has not been used regularly by Race Directors/Organisers. So the forum is there, its just unused.
 - Other club organisers commented they do have links with the BDRA and are affiliated – so do not see an issue.
- **Jacob Blakemore – Weston Park is a public-facing, prestigious event - could this not be a qualification event for something bigger (like Champs)?**
 - RESPONSE (WA): Something we would need to look into to see if this could be achieved. But changing the time of year of the Champs would need 1 short season to achieve.
- **Lewis Boatang – Has the BDRA looked for an indoor venue for the Championship event or to continue a Winter season?**
 - RESPONSE (JC): Has anyone found a suitable indoor venue for 5 inch at a sensible price that isn't geographically challenged? They are very few far between – usually come with a lot of caveats about damage, are expensive and in metal buildings which cause video issues.
- **Steve Rhodes – would like the Veterans League to be split up further in the age categories.**
 - 0-35 – Pro Class, 35-55 - Sports Class, 55-Infinity - Coffin Dodgers
 - RESPONSE (JC): The 45-year age start for the Veterans league was determined from a poll of all the members in December 2021. Therefore we are going to stay with this for the time being.
- **Jacob Blakemore – would there be an opportunity to bring whoop races into 5 inch racing by giving winners of the 'whoop league' a place at BDRA Championships?**
 - RESPONSE (JC): May be zero interest in this as some pilots only fly whoops and they are different disciplines. Piloting skills will most likely not be transferable. However, there is some mileage in looking at other FPV racing avenues and bring them into the BDRA league.

Appendix A – Documents for Review by Membership



BDRA_AGM_Meeting_Minutes_9th_October_2021.pdf



BDRA_Constitution_Proposed_2023_edition_with_changes_shown.pdf