



British Drone Racing Association - AGM Meeting Minutes

Date: 9th October 2021

Time: 6:30pm

Committee Hosting Meeting:

Will Annison (*Chairman*)
Jamie Cole (*Secretary*)
Lee Robinson (*Treasurer*)

Member Attendance (No):

28 (In Person)
3 (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. Election of Committee Members
 - a. Posts up for Election are:
 - i. Chairman
 - ii. Secretary
 - iii. Membership Secretary
5. Proposals presented to the Committee for inclusion at the AGM
 - a. Membership Fees
 - b. Proposed Ruleset Changes for the 2022 season
 - c. Discussion around the use of digital video systems for the 2022 season
6. 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)

- WA explained that no AGM minutes were passed from previous Secretary – and apologised to the membership for this. JC commented it was a ‘very slim’ AGM due to COVID.

Agenda Item 3 – Reports from the Committee

- **Chairman’s Report - Will Annison**
 - Commented on it being an interesting, and busier year, with 15 qualifying events due to COVID restrictions lifting and us being able to put on events whilst following COVID-safe guidance.
 - Events have been well attended and have seen some really competitive racing – and thanked the membership for this.
 - BDRA have worked really hard to make sure events are available and are incredibly grateful to Race Organisers who put on events – especially due to the risk of planning events that may not be able to go ahead if COVID restrictions changed.
 - Not had a single case of COVID reported from any events – which proves our social distancing and other measures have been effective.
 - During the last year our previous Secretary, Julian Whitfield, decided that he did not have the time to commit to being the Secretary so bought in Jamie as our interim Secretary.
- **Secretary’s Report (Interim) – Jamie Cole**
 - Only came into post ‘officially’ in January 2021 – but had been backstopping the role for some time.
 - Its been a year of ‘trying to get done what we can’ around COVID restrictions.
 - Membership numbers this year have reached 106 – which is significantly reduced from previous years.

- Website has been very poor – so people may have struggled to sign up – this will be resolved for the 2022 season. Planned to move the membership payment over to the BMFA platform (*more works to be completed to confirm this – as needs development on BMFA side*).

- **Treasurer's Report – Lee Robinson**

- PayPal Balance of £2,503.23
- Bank Account Balance of £1,695.40
- Total: £4,198.63 (*as of today*)
- Outgoings for the Championships is still to be paid – and a 'kitty' needs to be held in-case of any up-front payments required for the 2022 season.
- This year we have been able to fund 2 x Weston Park events (which had issues!). 2nd Weston event was free from the organisers which paid for the TV screen.
- Full breakdown will be made available on the website as soon as possible.
- Trying to give back to the membership where we can – just one of those ways have been the T-Shirts for all Champs attendees this year.

Agenda Item 4 – Election of Committee Members

- **Chairman**
 - 1 nomination – Will Annison
 - Unanimous vote in favour from all members attending (*online and in the room*)
- **Secretary**
 - 1 nomination – Jamie Cole
 - Unanimous vote in favour from all members attending (*online and in the room*)
- **Membership Secretary**
 - 1 nomination – David Allen
 - Unanimous vote in favour from all members attending (*online and in the room*)

Agenda Item 5 – Proposals presented to the Committee for inclusion at the AGM (Will Annison)

- **Membership Fees**
 - To stay at £10 for the 2022 season
- **Proposed Ruleset Changes**
 - 'Lap Cap' and anything Eric Li-Koo may need to change to align our ruleset to BMFA/FAI to make our inclusion to their model easier for international competition.
 - Explained we are open to ruleset changes – and can implement some as a 'trial' mid-season (*as we have done with the Lap Cap*). Have certainly seen benefits from this (close racing, less dead Lipo packs etc.)
 - If anyone does wish to submit suggestions for rule changes to the BDRA these must be backed up with the benefits in doing so to even be considered.
- **Discussion around the use of digital video systems for the 2022 season**
 - Some pilots have been and bought DJI systems, Sharkbyte system – or indeed both.
 - We are actively looking to test the integration of Sharkbyte into racing for next year – especially with the widespread use of this at the MultiGP IO event recently.
 - What we do not wish to do is implement a system than impacts the systems we already have in play (i.e. analogue). We do not wish to force anyone to use digital or analogue – we wish to be able to give the choice.
 - People have spoken about getting DJI Digital FPV integrated for racing – but do not feel this is possible due to the way this uses the 5.8GHz band and causing interference to other Pilots. It also causes issues around sorting into finals to integrate into 'normal' race events.
 - We are open to the idea of running DJI-spec racing if there is interest in this from pilots and organisers.
 - Will Annison and Jamie Cole (along with new Technical and Safety Director) to organise testing of this over the winter months to check the full spectrum of 6 pilots running either FPV system can be supported without interference.
 - Question from Ali Barrett – how do you plan to have spotters for Sharkbyte?

- Plan is to have a HDMI splitter to view through the goggles – but pointed out by Eric Li-Koo that ‘technically’ a spotter should be watching the craft line of sight, not through the FPV feed.
- However, spotting by line of sight does come with drawbacks (checking track flown correctly etc.). Hoping to see a ‘matrix’ style box from HDZero which will be able to show analogue and sharkbyte feeds together and we can pump that to the flightline – but need to watch this space.
- Livestream is going to need some investment from the BDRA to be able to support this. This will be shared out via BDRA Race Organisers as per the LapRF arrangement.
- Question from the room: should we be heavily investing in a product that is still in development – as something better could come along?
 - **Response from JC:** We need to start we ‘something’ could be end up with an older and a newer solution. Going to attempt to reach out to relevant manufacturers to try and get a hefty discount on RX technologies for digital.
- Comment from Online (Simon Pow): Think bigger, discount on digital gear for all association members via a ‘group buy’.
- No rush to do this – so got a bit of time to ‘tap up’ people to try and help our implementation of a digital system.

Agenda Item 6 – AOB

- **Opening for a non-elected position – Technical and Safety Standards Director.**
 - Cerberus Velvet – has shown interest in this role and we welcome him into the Committee.
- **Opening for a non-elected position – Public Relations/Social Media**
 - 1 person has shown interest, Chris Ray, but not well known by the committee – but are going to attempt to reach out.
 - Need to find sponsors outside our circle of manufacturers as we do now – and this role is pivotal in completing this.
- **Steve Rhodes – Seems like all pilots attend events just to support the Top 6 pilots, the BDRA need to start doing something to recognise their more mature membership base.**
 - *NOTE: This was a long, multi-layered, discussion and salient points were picked out below.*
 - A lot of people ‘give up’ as they get to a certain point and cannot improve any further.
 - Need to do something to get recognition in their own area with similar abilities/age groups.
 - **Response from Will Annison:** We can do something about this but it will not be at a per event level. We can look at doing an opt-in league, but would need to collect Date of Birth information from interested pilots, on iFPV to achieve this. Could also potentially look at Pilots making their ‘own league’ between their own clusters of Pilots – just like we do at events and personally.
 - Ben Drew confirmed that iFPV could support the above model.
 - Jamie Cole confirmed that we would be looking to make the British Champs the final event of the season to set any additional tables – as well as the main national table.
 - Eric Li-Koo stated that the AGM is not the place to discuss a final solution to the above – and should be discussed with the membership at a later date via a EGM.
- **Female Pilots competing – should we have a female league?**
 - Currently only 1 female pilot – we need a few more to make this a true reality. But no reason this cannot be introduced as and when it is necessary.
- **Ordering of Heats – What is the method?**
 - Jamie Cole suggested that he uses the ELO 50/50 method to avoid having very slow pilots with very fast pilots in the same heat – although still allowing a ‘randomness’ element.
 - To be discussed further at EGM where we discuss about the rules.

Appendix A – Recording Link

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12KITw0GQarwrPPaVX8aQpIF8PBhe5Y9K/view?usp=sharing>