

RREC WESSEX SECTION

Minutes of the Annual General Meetings held on Saturday 11 September at 11am at East Boldre Village Hall, Main Road, East Boldre SO42 7WD

Annual General Meeting for the Year Ended October 2020

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Messrs Bladon, Brenner ,Crofts, Higgins, Littlefair, Trinder, and Wragg, and Mr and Mrs Dence.

2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Brian Palmer, began by saying that it had been a strange period since the start of the pandemic. Reports for the 2020 AGM had been circulated in November 2020 but it had not been possible to hold a physical AGM. This part of the AGM was therefore somewhat academic. The meeting agreed and approved the Chairman's Report.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report had also been issued last November and the meeting agreed and approved this.

Annual General Meeting for the Period to August 2021

1. Chairman's Report

The Chairman began by highlighting aspects of his Report for the period from 1st November 2020 to date. It had been a bleak period from which the Section had only recently emerged with a number of events starting with a picnic on 24 July at Wareham and followed by similar picnics in the New Forest and Somerset.

A Newsletter had been published on an at least Monthly basis as a way of keeping in touch with Section Members. This had been well received.

Considerable investment had been made in the Section's quarterly printed magazine, Torque, and the Chairman thanked the Editor, Stuart Bladon, for his much valued work.

The Chairman concluded that the Section had been busily reorganising itself in response to the challenging circumstances and now looked forward to the next fabulous period in its history. The meeting agreed and approved the Chairman's Report.

2. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Simon Crofts, had earlier sent his apologies as he had been taken ill overnight. The Chairman then read through some notes that the Treasurer had provided in order to highlight his Report. Accounts for the Year to 31 October 2020 and Period to 31 July 2021 had been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and had been Examined. There had been a good uplift in Member Subscriptions and a significant increase in advertising revenue. The Section's Funds stood at £9,508 as at the date of the AGM. There was no intention to increase the subscription to the printed magazine, Torque. The meeting approved the Accounts and agreed the Report.

3. Election of Steve Wilks to the Committee having been co-opted since the previous AGM in December 2019

The meeting unanimously approved the appointment of Steve Wilks to the RREC Wessex Section Committee.

4. Re-Election to the Committee of Brian Palmer, Gary Trinder, Simon Crofts, Stuart Bladon, and Michael Dant

The re-election of the above five Members to the Section Committee was unanimously approved in the meeting.

5. Election to the Vacancy on the Committee of Events Co-ordinator

There had been no volunteers for this important role.

6. Any Other Business and Motions from the floor

There was neither other business nor motions.

The Annual General Meetings ended at 11:30am.

Presentation by the RREC Club by Board Member Philip Brooks.

Philip Brooks began by outlining his long association with the RREC beginning with his father who founded the Northern Section. Philip is the Board Member responsible for Sections and also happens to be the nearest RREC Board Member to the Wessex Section.

He highlighted the work to the much loved magazine, Spirit and Speed, and the change to Showroom to include technical content and rename it Technical and Showroom.

He then described the work to overhaul the Club's website with the new one having been only recently launched. It was the intention for members to have access to a diary which would display events from all Sections so that members could see all that is planned with the ability to sign up to and pay for these.

Talk on the history of the Hall and the New Forest Flying School established in 1910.

Following Philip Brooks' presentation we then enjoyed a talk by Stephen Robson, Chairman of the Charles Rolls Heritage trust.

Stephen showed us some very old film footage of the July 1910 Bournemouth International Airshow which included a wide variety of planes including that flown by Charles Rolls. We saw film of Charles himself climbing into his plane. Stephen then described how his accident happened and the film concluded with officials surrounding his stricken plane to avoid onlookers.

Stephen was followed by Gina Antczak who was in charge of the Hall. She described how East Boldre became home to the New Forest School of Aviation. The School was established in May 1910 by William McArdle of Bournemouth and John Drexel. McArdle flew to and from the Airshow and East Boldre.

In 1915 the site was taken over by the Royal Flying Corps for training WW1 pilots and was known as RFC Beaulieu. By 1918 it was an extensive military airfield but by the end of 1920 the site had been returned to pasture. The only building to survive was the Hall with its stage for holding entertainment.

The future of the Hall is assured with plans progressing to extend it and house a Community Shop.