

Large Model Aircraft Association Ltd
Annual General Meeting
Commenced 11:00 a.m. – Sunday 15th November 2020
Zoom Online Webinar

Minutes

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman Welcomed everyone to the different AGM and expressed his hope that everyone had been keeping safe and are well

He explained how because of the uncertain times we are living in the online AGM was the only option this year. Instead of the usual nice meet up at Cosford crammed into those uncomfortable seats everyone was free to relax in their own armchair with their own refreshments and he thanked everyone for taking the time to log in.

He went on to explain how at this point there would normally be a minutes silence for all the members that have passed away this year, but this year he asked everyone to just pause and think about the ones who have passed away since the last AGM. They are-

Colin Leach, Alan Jones, Peter Mc Kenna, Alan Shipley, Terence Clark, Michael Healey and Dave Baker

He then thanked the members.

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM of the Large Model Association

The Minutes had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting and the Secretary confirmed all eligible members had received the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting, and then called for a proposal for adoption.

The minutes were proposed and seconded and were approved by the members via an online poll during the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

4. To receive the Annual Report from Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and other officers

Tony Hooper – Chief Examiner

This year has been a very difficult and challenging one – we have only had 48 new project registrations.

Prior to the first Covid 19 lockdown in March we had a very fruitful discussion with the CAA UAV Section who we had been informed had now taken on responsibility for the Over 20kg Scheme from the CAA General Regulation Group who we had dealt with for the last 30 years. Within days of this meeting the CAA UAV Section staff went into lockdown working

from home and we were informed a few months later that we would now need to apply for Exemptions electronically as they could now longer accept postal applications. There was some limited success of this method, but we then received notification in August that no further Exemptions would be issued until some aspects raised by the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) on a Commercial drone incident were satisfactorily addressed. We are still awaiting the outcome.

Further changes are in the pipeline in respect of the introduction of new rules and regulations under Article 16 of the Air Navigation Order from 1st January 2021 which will change the weight limit for registration of new projects from Over 20kg (Dry) to Over 25kg (Wet). There will also be a number of models with existing Full Exemptions that will no longer need to be involved in the Scheme. We will keep members updated on these developments as they arise.

The present situation on Exemptions is as follows:-

1. We have some that have not been renewed as they were postal applications during lockdown and have not been resubmitted electronically
2. Some applied for in electronic format have not yet been renewed
3. Applications for Exemptions to Test Fly or Full Exemptions have not been submitted electronically due to the outstanding issues raised by the AAIB.

Dave Johnson - Chairman

At last year's AGM I reported that I expected 2020 to be a challenging year for the LMA with all the new regs etc being forced upon us, but little did I expect it to be the year it's been with Covid etc.

There isn't much else for me to report on this year with all our shows and fly-ins cancelled, but with the news of a vaccine in the new year and hopefully the regulations settling down, we can only look forward to a better 2021. The main show dates have been booked, and we will keep you updated on the website and thro emails from Rob and of course through the journal.

So, all I can ask of you the membership is to carry on and support the association through this unprecedented spell, and hopefully we will get back to normal soon.

Finally, I just want to thank all my board members for the continuing support through this awkward time. THANKS

Rob Buckley – Company Secretary

How long have I been doing this now? Who knows! If anybody else wants a go, come & have a word.

Not much I can say about the current global situation. There is reported to be a viable vaccine in the offing, but we'll have to see how that goes and what that means for us next year.

It does give the impetus to think long & hard about what the LMA is for & how to pay for it. This year has shown that we cannot rely on public shows as the main point or source of funding for the LMA, but it all depends on what you the membership want. More early next year on that.

AGM

There was a change in the law earlier in the year to permit PLC's who are legally required to have AGM's to have online AGM's. We're not legally required to have an AGM, but our rules say we need to have one, so thanks for coming along. We're having to play slightly fast & loose with the exact wording of how an AGM is carried out, but I'm sure you'll all appreciate we're doing the best we can in the circumstances.

Work this year

What have I been up to so far then? Before first lockdown I went to-

2 CAA / DfT meetings to London

1 CAA meeting at Gatwick

1 CHIRP meeting in Oxfordshire

Since lockdown started, all have moved to video meetings, so I've attended

10 CAA

1 DfT

2 CHIRP

2 EMFU

2 other events

1 Cosford show

CHIRP

I'm now on the General Aviation board for CHIRP, the confidential reporting group. There's not many reports concerning unmanned aircraft so far, but hopefully there will be more in the future as it's a route to confidentially report potential or actual safety issues.

EMFU

The EMFU general assembly was via videoconference this year, and will be next year too.

Which is good, as it saves me travelling!

I'm now an EMFU board member, and we're working on the response & challenge to U-Space as the priority as that is then next focus of EASA.

As we've left the EU and EASA, the CAA & DfT now have no representation on EASA. We do have the stated intent though to, if not use EASA regulations directly, to be 'inspired' by them. That means our only route to influencing EASA is via Europe Airports & the EMFU.

DfT

The DfT have done the 'Unmanned aircraft EU regulations find & replace bill' to transfer the new EASA rules into UK law but with minor changes to reflect us not being in the EU or EASA. None of the detail content changes. The Air navigation Order is being updated to reflect the new normal, and will be published before the end of the year.

CAA

As well as the ongoing Article 16 negotiations & everything else I'm on the EC working group, Unmanned EC working group & Midair challenge working group.

I'm working with Uavonix to get a trial of ground-based ADS-B underway, and hopefully that will be early ish next year when it stops raining & we can go above ground. That will show the area in which model aircraft are flying to both manned aircraft, air traffic control & other unmanned aircraft.

Electronic ID will also be coming soon, and the position on that is we don't need it either, just the area the models are flying in.

Over 20kg

As Tony has explained, we're currently working with the CAA to address audit findings by the CAA to allow over 20kg exemptions to continue.

Back on 10 March - on site audit of LMA over 20kg process & records. No report of unsatisfactory findings

25 June – requirement from CAA to submit all applications electronically. LMA quickly introduced a new electronic signature workflow

12 August - last batch of over 20kg exemptions issued

20 August - request from CAA for additional over 20kg records for audit

21 August - records provided by LMA for audit

24 September - Meeting with UAS team to be told of the audit findings and that no more over 20kg exemptions would be issued

This week – Escalated within the CAA

We have some process assurance work to be done and hopefully we'll get things going again soon, along with some improvements to the way things work.

For avoidance of doubt, the new weight limit of 25kg with fuel is with all batteries installed, all fitted fuel tanks completely full and everything fitted ready for flight. The upper weight limit will remain as 150kg.

Article 16

As the EASA regulations now come into force on 1 Jan next year, what we all need to be able to fly in the same way as we have before is an article 16 operating authorisation.

I've been working with the BMFA, SAA & FPVUK on the contents since the start of the year, and we are nearly there. There was an almost final draft from the CAA on Friday, there are still some issues to resolve & I need to provide the evidence of how we as an association will be meeting the requirements placed on us.

The basic concept of operator registration, remote pilot competency blanket 400ft height limit remain,

Everyone of you who want to fly under the authorisation will need to agree to abide by the terms and a summary will be on the membership document, so there may be a slight delay to being able to accept renewals until our machinery is updated (and with the insurance changes too).

I've been told that the final authorisation will be issued in December, along with an upissue to the Air Navigation order to reflect the new rules.

Mandatory Occurrence Reporting

The CAA very keen on occurrence reporting, as it signifies a 'mature safety culture'.

In our Article 16 permission will be a requirement to report to the AAIB require all accidents involving unmanned aircraft of any size or weight to be reported to them. That includes a broken model, somebody being hurt or a chuck glider stuck in a tree. I'm speaking to the AAIB to clarify exactly what they are expecting and hope to achieve.

Reporting of incidents can give useful information (like a specific model of servo stops working after 5 minutes, or most people run out of fuel on a Wednesday) but the aim of reporting is to gather data an improve safety, it is not to punish anyone.

There has been an incident reporting requirement on over 20kg exemptions for a while, but not a single report has been made, and this makes the CAA suspicious.

If there are no reports made, it does not show that nothing is happening, it shows that people are trying to hide what is happening, and that means that the CAA will be more reluctant to grant or renew permissions & authorisations in the future. That applies to all the associations, not just the LMA.

Operator Registration

If you registered with the CAA as an operator through the LMA last year, we can register you again as part of your LMA membership renewal, but we can't make it free this time. It will cost £9, and you'll be able to pay as you renew your membership, even though for most the CAA registration renewal date is 13 Feb. We'll process the renewal direct with the CAA at the appropriate time, and the new registration number that you need to mark all your models will come direct from the CAA.

We will be doing it direct to to the CAA, who initially wanted £100k to develop an API which we associations would need to pay for!

There have so far been over 180k operator registrations.

U-Space is the next upcoming issue, I was at a SESAR presentation on Thursday to see the research findings of Europe wide development, testing & research done so far. It is a big enabler of BVLOS commercial drone operations, so there is a lot of money & momentum behind it.

We are pushing to have model aircraft included in U-Space as an obstacle to be avoided rather than a paying customer of the 'service'. The service providers are smelling money, so the service won't be especially cheap.

Journal

The next issue will be more of a pamphlet due to lack of content. We can only publish what we have, and that is not a lot.

It is though one of the things we use to justify our article 16 authorisation, the quarterly posting of a mag to the whole membership do disseminate training & operational information, so we need to send something out.

Insurance

The underwriter for our insurance next year will change as our previous one has pulled out of our market completely, but the level of cover will remain the same. Negotiations are underway with different underwriters to have the insurance in place for next year.

The End

You'll be glad to hear that's all for now, so thanks to the board & the Advisory committee for their support in 2020, and thanks to you the membership for not having me in court for anything! Hopefully next year will be better in every way that it can.

Ian Russell - Treasurer

Ian Russell presented and explained the accounts (Appendix 1)

Lynne Roberts - Membership Secretary

Rob Buckley explained the membership breakdown (Appendix 2)

5. To Receive the Annual Accounts

The accounts had been sent to every member beforehand and the Chairman invited the members to vote on the 2020 Annual Accounts. The Accounts were proposed and seconded and were approved by the members via an online poll during the meeting.

6. To Ratify the Annual Subscription

The chairman invited the members to vote on the proposed subscriptions of £30 for full members (£25 discounted renewal) for new members and £20 (£17 discounted renewal) for SAA Associate members. The subscriptions were proposed and seconded and were approved by the members via an online poll during the meeting.

7. Elect the board of directors and officers

The Chairman conformed with custom and practice and requested a block vote for both the re-election of the Board members who are offering to return for 2020. The following Board members were proposed and seconded and were approved by the members via an online poll during the meeting.

Returning - Dave Johnson as Chairman, Rob Buckley as Secretary, Ian Russell as Treasurer, Paul Needham, Graham Ailsby, Shelagh Russell, Tony Hooper, Ian Jones, Lynne Roberts, Robert Maltby, Perry Lambert, Ian Turney White, James Ladell

8. To elect the Advisory Committee members

The Chairman conformed with custom and practice and requested a block vote for both the re-election of the Board members who are offering to return for 2019. The Chairman brought the meeting to order and called the vote. The following Board members were proposed and seconded and were approved by the members via an online poll during the meeting.

Returning - Ian Turney White as Chairman, John Rickett, Robin Hart, Neil Tidy, Dave Hayfield

The following new board member Andrew Taylor was proposed and seconded and was approved by the members via an online poll during the meeting.

9. Amendment to the LMAA Ltd. Articles of Association

A proposal had been sent to all members beforehand to amend the LMAA Ltd. articles of association to allow Advisory Committee mid-year appointments, and bring into line with the same provision for members of the board.

The amendment was proposed and seconded and was approved by the members via an online poll during the meeting.

The meeting closed at 11:55.

Arthur Searle Memorial Award

The Chairman of the advisory committee advised that as the award could not physically be given to anyone, it would not be awarded in 2020.

Rob Buckley
Company Secretary
18 November 2020

Appendix 1

AGM Accounts 2020 draft 1.xlsx

<u>Income</u>	2020		Description
	£		
Subscriptions	24052.52		
Ticket Sales	9220.14		
Camping	852.00		
Traders	1721.13		
Sale of Goods	1694.06		
Journal Ads	200.00		
Donations	95.00		
Refunds	0.00		
NW Club	1196.00		
Bank Interest	28.97		
Other			
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>39059.82</u>		
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Events/Flyins	4926.48		
Shows	13677.00		
Committee	5226.19		
Prof & over 20kg Scheme	642.95		
Journal	7941.06		
Website	2474.40		
Membership	4582.24		
Trade Stand	778.06		
Insurance	16449.98		
Marketing/Advertising	1208.22		
Equipment/Repair & Renewal	309.97		
Office Stationery/Postage/Tel	678.21		
Computer Software	721.30		
Donations	4650.00		
Billing Water	250.00		
Business Entertainment 100%	168.00		
Field Rent/Flying site	1686.87		
General Expense	736.54		
PayPal Charges	413.65		
Bank charges	455.91		
Legal& Professional	1441.44		
Corporation Tax	2334.72		
Sundries	0.00		
Refunds	0.00		
<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>71753.19</u>		
<u>Surplus</u>	<u>-32693.37</u>	LOSS	

Appendix 2

Membership Report 15/11/20

Current Membership:	1029	Membership 2019:	1127
		Not Renewed	- 198 <i>*(186)</i>
		Renewed	929 <i>*(990)</i>
		New Members	100 <i>*(137)</i>
		Total	1029

Membership Breakdown:	<i>Ordinary Members</i>	935
	<i>Honorary Members</i>	25
	<i>Oversea Members</i>	12
	<i>SAA Associate Members</i>	35
	<i>Advisory Committee</i>	6
	<i>Mail only</i>	6
	<i>Co-opted (for insurance)</i>	10

LMA Proficiency Certificate Holders: 374

**(2019 Figures)*

Lynne Roberts

Membership Secretary.