

# *British Model Flying Association*

## **North West Area**

The North West Area will be meeting on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017** at 8.00pm in St Aidan's Parish Centre, Highfield Grange Avenue, Winstanley, Wigan WN3 6TB.

See how the BMFA maintains contact with clubs such as yours in the area

Learn what is going on in the modelling world

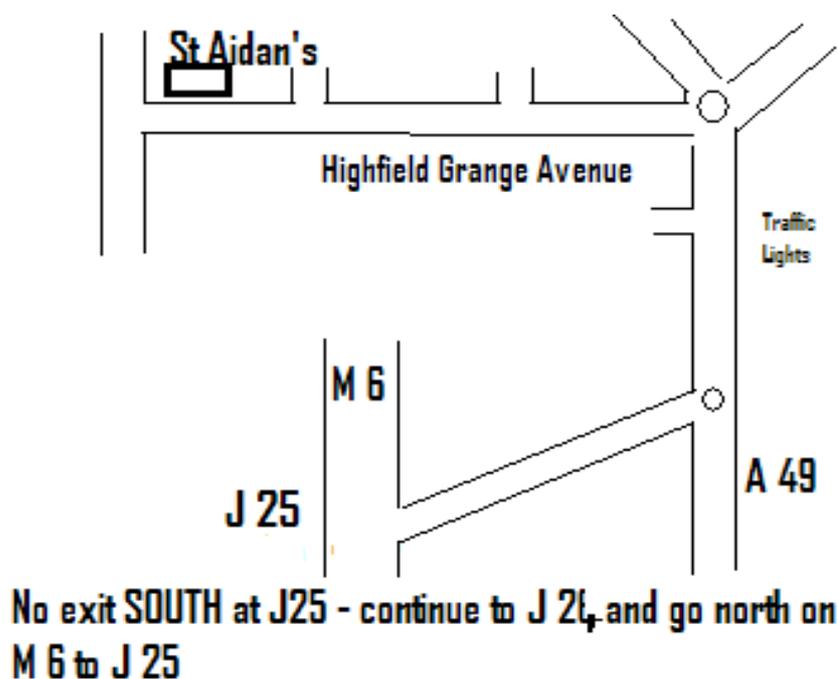
If you can't come to the meetings, would one of your members be interested – please pass this on to them

**If you have a problem or subject you would like to discuss but can't make it to the meeting, E Mail it to us and it will be discussed and a reply sent to you. [carl\\_brotherton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carl_brotherton@yahoo.co.uk)**

Hope to see you there

*Carl Brotherton*  
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***British Model Flying Association***  
**North West Area**

**Agenda for North West Area Meeting**  
**8.00pm, August 29<sup>th</sup> 2017**

St Aidan's Parish Centre, Wigan

**Apologies for absence.**

**Correspondence.**

**Minutes of the last meeting.**

**Matters arising.**

**Officer's reports.**

**Council agenda.**

**AOB**

- Area Chief Examiners

**Minutes of the Meeting of the BMFA North West Area  
Held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at St Aidan's Parish Centre,  
Winstanley, Wigan.**

**Persons Present**

David Lloyd-Jones	Chairman & Delegate/CCMAS
Carl Brotherton	Secretary & Treasurer/Sale MFC
Roy Allam	Achievement Scheme Co-ord/FCMFA
Gerry Ferer	Timperley Model Flyers
Keith Elliot	Secretary FCMFA
John Minchell	Shorpsire Indoor Flyers & Sleaf Flyers
Wayne Pendleton	Kilton MFC
David Swarbrick	Blackpool and Fylde MFC

There were 8 people present, 7 voting

The meeting started at 8.00.

**Apologies for absence**

Tom Anyon, Mike Colling, Martin Fraser, Martin Kindler,

**Correspondence**

None

**Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016**

The minutes were approved with the following alterations with a vote of 4 to accept and 3 abstentions.

Tom Anyon to be added to "Persons Present" at the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 meeting.

**Matters Arising**

David Lloyd Jones, read out the contents of a letter sent by Derek Gilbert, who resigned the post of NW Area Secretary due to ill health. Mr Gilbert thanked the NW Area BMFA for the recognition

of his services as the secretary for the area.

The secretary noted that after circulation of the previous minutes a small number of requests had been made for additional information outlining the detail of some discussions. Due to the involved technical nature, and the intricacies of some of the arguments, it is not sensible to present the discussion in the main body of the minutes. The preferable solution to these issues is for those with an interest to attend the area meetings, to make their views known, preferably by attending. The alternative is an appendices, written and agreed by those contributors and were conversant of the issues, by those present etc.

A number of questions were then raised by various attendees, directed to DLJ, with respect to the “Full Council” held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017. As follows

- What is known with respect to the new co-opted BMFA secretary Mark Benns, who has replaced Robin Sleight. The reply indicated that the new incumbent, is by profession an Architect, who has been involved in many areas of aeromodelling for many years. To date he has been highly regarded.
- A generally phrased question was made with respect to the voting by DLJ and the outcomes of each of the votes for each proposal. DLG explained there were some difficulties in recoding the events on the day. Although when the minutes are published DLG will report on the detail of the voting. With reference to the ratification of the British Teams to compete at the 2017 FAI World & European Championships
  1. Composition of the “Team members” Supported by the NW area .
  2. That the proposed “Team Managers” ” Supported by the NW area .
  3. To support the proposal that the BMFA received from the Northern Ireland Area, following proposals:
    - 3.1 that the BMFA agree and permit the Northern Ireland Area bid to hold an F2 European Championship in Belfast in 2019.
    - 3.2 A proposal from Free Flight Technical Committee; -
      - a) To decentralise all ‘Area Centralised contests’.

b -The proposal to reduce ‘Fly-Off’ start time from 10mins to 5mins;  
c – The proposal to provide general guidance on how to select a suitable location for a flight line. These proposals were not supported by the NW area.

DLJ indicated that it is necessary to reference the full minutes of the meeting by the “Full Council” to accurately report the outcome.

A number of issues were raised and concerns expressed as to the management and development of the “Proficiency Schemes”. These are summarised as follows

- Important aspects with respects to changes in regulations are not being directed to the individual administrators of the scheme, typically examiners. A typical example is the CAA stipulations with respect to metal model helicopter blades.
- Changes to the structure and content of the testing within the schemes. An example is the requirement to select from a list of twenty (mandatory) questions, a minimum of 5 or 8 questions. There were a number of issues regarding the introduction and management of these schemes
  - a) The process by which this aspect was both determined and introduced.
  - b) The ambiguous nature of the selection of appropriate questions. For example would a drone specific question be relevant to a fixed wing candidate? Could a candidate decline to respond to a question that is irrelevant to their discipline being tested?

The use of the schemes have expanded beyond the original format, which was directed to personal achievement. The schemes have developed from a nice thing to do, to an integral component of our relationship with the CAA and other bodies. Typically, today the schemes are a fundamental component in club management determining if a member should be allowed to fly without supervision or restrictions on their site. Organisers of public displays also make use of the scheme, for similar reasons. More recently bodies such as the CAA, view the schemes as a means of both demonstrating a knowledge of the Legal obligations of aeromodellers

and an acceptable level of skill for safe operation. There have been suggestions that the personal aspect of the achievement aspect is no longer the prime use of the schemes. Examiners are aware that at the full Council level these and other issues are being addressed.. To the disappointment, also producing a little frustration the views of the examiners appear to go unheard. It is the hope and aspiration of the examiners that they should play a fundamental role in helping in the formulation and of schemes. The top down, “Command and Control” style acts a demotivating influence for many of those whose knowledge and corporation would be a positive force in shaping the future of the schemes. The issues highlighted earlier are a manifestation of the trend. There has been some suggestion that purpose, structures, requirements should be addressed at a fundamental level.

## **Officers’ Reports**

**Chairman**, David Lloyd Jones. No report

Vice Chairman

## **AOB**

John Mitchell presented a short verbal report with respect to the “Shawbury Indoor RC Scale National Meeting”, held at RAF Shawbury on the 26<sup>th</sup> March . The event financially broke even. The event was a success attracting 28 spectators and 15 entrants in total to the RC indoor scale. Of which there were 6 entries in the scratch built class and 13 in flying only

Keith Elliot reviewed the “The Scale Free Flight British National Championship of 2017” held at Walsall. This years event had the highest entries ever with 54 fliers, entering 118 places, in the various categories.

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Dave Swarbrick representing the Blackpool and Fylde RCMS asked for clarification for an application for financial support by the NW area of the BMFA, to hire toilets for a RC fixed wing model “ Fly

In”. The requirements of the BMFA for such funding was detailed by DLJ. The principal requirement being that it is a requirement that the BMFA is to be prominent in all references and advertising for the event. Dave Swarbrick was able to assure those present that this was the case for this years event, together with other requirements of those attending being suitably insured via membership of the BMFA etc. Although it was unfortunate that any application was to-late for this 2017 BMFA funding year, it was acknowledged that for the future that in principal the event could be supported. Dave Swarbrick indicated that the event and issue would be brought to the NW Area of the BMFA in 2018 for financial and other support.

As a consequence of discussions earlier in the meeting, the subject of Workshops to develop and maintain the knowledge and skill sets of the examiners was discussed. The NW Area recognises that there is a continuing necessity to ensure that the Proficiency schemes are supported by the areas. To achieve both objectives it was decided that two “examiner workshops” should be arranged for the NW area. One in the south of the region, another in the north. This arrangement suiting both the geography of the region, also maximising the M6 corridor for the ease of travel of the examiners. No immediate venues have been identified. Roy Allam the senior examiner gratefully accepted the generous offer of D. Swarbrick (BFMFC) to support Roy in the task of identifying suitable venues and willing clubs to accommodate the workshops. David Lloyd Jones is to provide D. Swarbrick with a listing of all the clubs in the region. (Action DLJ).

Note: that six members were eligible to vote in all cases.

## **AREA MEETINGS 2017**

Tuesday 29 August

Tuesday 7 November for Area meeting and the Area AGM

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

*These minutes are provisional until approved at the next area meeting.*

