

# ***British Model Flying Association***

## **North West Area**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the BMFA North West Area Held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at St Aidan's Parish Centre, Winstanley, Wigan.**

#### **Persons Present**

Mike Colling	Chairman (acting)
Carl Brotherton	Secretary & Treasurer/Sale MFC
Gerry Ferrer	Timperley Model Flyers
John Biggen	Leek & Moorland MGC
Andrew Ellison	Tyldesley MFC
Gareth Fairclough	Skelmersdale MAC
Howard Jones	Basset MFC
John Minchell	Shropshire Indoor Flyers & Sleap Flyers
Derick Perchard	Sleap Model Flyers
Roger Price	Staffordshire Model Helicopter Club
Sue Price	Staffordshire Model Helicopter Club
Kevin Watson	Blackburn

There were 12 people present, 11 voting

The meeting started at 8.00 pm.

#### **Apologies for absence**

Martyn Kinder, John Leadbeater, Tim Goodwin, Andy Stanley, Mike Johnstone.

#### **Correspondence**

An Email has been received by the treasurer from the Chairman of the Blackpool and Fylde Club.

It stated that the club was eager to build on its second Fly-In, which was held in 2018. The event saw numbers attending increase significantly, from the previous event in 2017. The event was attended by members from many parts of the region, as far as Scotland and Wales. The event takes advantage from Blackpool and the Fylde is once again viewed as a short break and holiday destination for families. The club site is (positively) exceptional in it's setting in many respect and the club welcomes all BMFA members. The club members much appreciated the support that BMFA NW Area provided previously, and are taking this opportunity to signal that we would welcome support from the area for 2019.

**Minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2018**

The minutes were approved, with the addition of the Tuesday 8/5/2019 meeting to the list of scheduled meetings, on page 6. The vote is recorded as 10 for acceptance, 2 abstentions.

## **Matters Arising**

The Agenda for Full Council that is to be held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019, was then considered.

There was a general recognition that the agenda was of general interest, there was nothing specifically that was pertinent to the BMFA NW Area. The matters being addressed were of an organisational nature and other matters relating to records that were in the process of ratification.

There was confirmation that due to the illness of Martyn Kinder, the Vice Chairman (Michael Colling), now the acting chairman, would attend the meeting.

Gerry Ferrer raised the issue of availability of NW Area Minutes on both the BMFA NW Area and the BMFA Organisation Internet Sites. It was explained that the minutes are not presented on either site until endorsed and agreed.

## **Officers' Reports**

### **Chairman, Mike Colling.**

Mike Colling explained that the North West Indoor Gala, held in the Manchester Velodrome is changing some aspects of the competition arrangements, for 2019. The BMFA North West Area has previously provided a donation. It has been previous practice that the donation was used to provide some prizes, specifically "Competition grade Balsa Wood". Now the donation will be used to supplement the funds for hire of the venue. Winners will be awarded a certificate, rather than prizes. The area will be continuing some financial support. This has been the practice until the issue of availability of the venue had forced the cancellation of the event. Hopes of a return to the venue had remained, this is now a reality. The BMFA NW Area contribution is made via the "Indoor Tech Committee (ITC)".

It has been noted that John Minchell holds the scale "Modellers Den" Peanut trophy that was traditionally given at the autumn Allumwell competition. In recent years this has been awarded at the Velodrome NW Area Gala.

### **Treasurer, Carl Brotherton**

The BMFA NW Area, as previously noted in Correspondence, has received notice of Blackpool and Fylde club intention to run a "fly-in" and will seeking sponsorship from the area. A formal request will be made when all the details are formalised at the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 meeting.

The treasurer made known that the practice of issuing a cheque very close to the claimed travelling expenses of the previous area meeting, which was then withdrawn as cash, had been amended, for this meeting. The reason being that the change of signatories to our accounts is being amended, the process is taking more time than is convenient.

In this one instance additional monies has been withdrawn to cover two training workshops at Crewe and Preston. Martyn Kinder had arranged these events, to support Go! Membership. In both instances Martyn had paid for the events, on the understanding he would be reimbursed.

Also anticipating a continuing protracted duration in the change of signatory process, an additional sum was withdrawn to hopefully be able to pay the expenses associated with travel for this BMFA NW Area meeting.

### **Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator**

Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator (ASC), Kevin Watson reported that further progress has both been achieved and further success is expected. An additional 4 enquires have been received with respect to becoming Examiners. There have been 20 candidates mainly for "A" certificates and a "B".

There is an enquiry from the Oldham MAC who are renewing their interest in the scheme. The ASC indicated that he would be progressing this enquiry.

The ASC was able to confirm that an Achievement Scheme Roadshow, will be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> March at Oswaldtwisle (near Blackburn).

At a national level the National Achievement Scheme Controller (NSC), Duncan McClure is organising a workshop, for the purpose of "Harmonisation of Standards" across England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

The area is also developing the Silent Flight structure in the area. An area where historically there has been little interest or demand, with respect to the achievement scheme. There are signs that this situation is undergoing change, this area is responding to the changes.

Duncan McClure has now accepted all the Achievement Scheme Examiners (ACE) that has been submitted in 2018.

### **Public Relations Officer**

The BMFA NW Areas new appointment of PRO, Andy Ellison, informed those present, that the area now has a Facebook presence that reflects the areas "Event Calendar".

### **AOB**

#### **First AOB Item**

The treasurer indicated at the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018 meeting that as a consequence of the increased activity of the BMFA NW Area, it would be prudent to consider the 2019-20 expenditure and the areas priorities. It was agreed that a draft budget would be drawn up by the Treasurer, to be presented and discussed at the 8-1-2019 meeting, by those present.

The preliminary table is presented in appendix 1.

Items 1 & 2 were seen as of a high priority, of “travel and room hire”.

These are seen as essential in that a room is required to hold the area meetings and that travel expenses do encourage attendees from the extreme limits of the area.

Priority High.

Item 3, Rochdale Indoor Flying is seen as Beneficial as a regular event, it is located in the area designated as Greater Manchester. An area where approximately 2.55m people live. It is also acknowledged that the annual room hire, paid as a one of payment of approximately £1,300 is significant to either an individual or a club. In this case the event is open to all BMFA members. It is understood that is the basis that the BMFA NW Area retrospectively funds the hire charge.

It was noted that in recent years there has been a shortfall in the income from participants, which typically can amount to circa £400. It was also noted that running a deficit on a regular basis is a breach of the BMFA Area Constitution. The Treasurer was instructed by the meeting to establish what measures are being taken to eliminate the deficit, by the event organiser.

Priority Desirable

Action 1. Treasurer

Item 4, Velodrome, was seen as a regional competition of importance for indoor flight. It is considered to be of significance to the competitive sections of the BMFA. The sum typically donated in the form of sponsorship, is seen as commensurate to its importance and keeping the BMFA brand to the fore, whilst supporting the general BMFA membership.

Priority Desirable +.

Item 5. Achievement Scheme Workshops, are seen as fundamental to ensuring that the scheme is functioning effectively. In essence they ensure that the schemes ACEs that operate the scheme, have a clear understanding of the current regulations pertaining to model aircraft, that the subjectivity of demonstrating the various manoeuvres are assessed to a common standard. It is acknowledged that in a social climate where the activities of modellers is under ever greater scrutiny, support to the scheme is essential.

An issue was expressed as to the validity of the sums indicted. These were thought to be higher than would be incurred. It was suggested that the ASC should make an assessment for 2019.

Action 2 Keith Watson

Priority High

Item 6, Travel to support the “Achievement Scheme”. It was recognised that travel by the ASC was essential. That it is unreasonable for ASC to fund this aspect themselves. The ASC view that where ever possible, the supporting clubs are asked to fund his expenses.

The Treasurer agrees that this is desirable, although has a view either Central funds or BMFA NW Area funds need to be provided when club funding is not available. With this in

mind an allocation needs to be provided, somewhere.

Priority to be further investigated.

Item 7, AGM Refreshments. It was overwhelmingly acknowledged that an AGM is required by the “BMFA NW Area Constitution”. It is also recognised that the sum of money is not excessive.

Priority High

Item 8. Web Hosting. A frequent criticism of the BMFA, is poor communication with members. The BMFA NW Area having a presence on the web, where minutes and other BMFA activities was seen by those present as very useful. The minimal cost when contrasted with the benefits, is such that all agree it needs to continue.

Priority High.

Item 9 Stationary. The BMFA NW Area minimises the cost incurred in functioning. The sum of £15 is primarily to cover the cost of UK postage. At present a book of 12 stamps is costing £6.96.

Priority high

Item 10, IT Support. The discussion revealed that a more accurate description would have been, “Go! Member Support”. There was agreement that now that Go! Membership, has been successfully launched by Leicester (Head office). That BMFA NW area contributed to club official training by funding training venues for the area. In future all support is an issue for the Head Office. Accepting the argument there will be no funding identified for the activity for 2019.

Priority None.

Item 11. Fly-in Fixed Wing. Support to fly-ins can be considered an area where debate often occurs.

In general terms the BMFA has provided some support to open competitive events. Various arguments are put forward as to the validity and benefits from such events. In more recent years interests all in forms of competitive model flying has seen a decline in participants.

In contrast, non competitive events, be they social flying or fun flies are increasingly attractive. Often being attended by significantly more than model flying competitions.

The question that is being asked, do we support events that are popular with ordinary members (and some competitors), if so why or why not? The same question has been asked with regard competitive events, in this case the arguments are well rehearsed.

Although not voiced explicitly at the meeting, fly-ins go some way to answer a frequent charge, “what use is the BMFA other than insurance”. Perhaps more usefully fly-ins attract participants from a wide region with a wide range of model types.

Andy Ellison made the meeting aware of a development that is now in discussion, the “Fun Fly Group”. The meeting is hopeful that as the concept develops and that Andy (Ellison,

PRO) will keep the area informed.

In the meantime, the area acknowledges that both Blackburn and Blackpool clubs are developing their own visions of fly-ins. The area looks forward to being informed of the Long Term visions that these and others are developing.

Priority Desirable.

Item 10, Fly-In slope. Andy Ellison indicated that the nature of slope soaring and its adherents was one of individualism and opportunity. With these attributes in mind, the discipline is one that is closely aligned in autonomy, rather than adherence to predetermined agenda, going with what the weather provides and when almost spontaneously individuals arrange to meet. With these variables in mind, long term timetables is not in the mind-set, of slope soarers.

Priority not applicable.

Item 11, Helicopter. At present there is no apparent demand for an organised event.

Priority Not applicable.

Item 12, Education. At present there is no annual allocation set for education. The funds available are solely due to the generosity of the Vice Chairman (Michael Colling). Education as a concept is very closely aligned to the ethos of the BMFA, both in the past and remains so today. It is the bedrock on which Aeromodelling is set and to which aeromodelling wishes to contribute. As such the area wished to pursue the concept via STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics), University Heavy Lift, and other BMFA initiatives CDT (Craft, Design & Technology). It is agreed that this is area that we wish to support and as such, should be part of the forward budget planning

Priority High

Second AOB Item

The Keith Watson the ASC Introduced John Biggens of the Leek & Moorland Club as a candidate for a position as a Silent Flight ACE.

John introduced himself with respect to his history as an aeromodeller. It was apparent that John has a long history in aeromodelling in multiple disciplines. From the recommendations expressed it is also apparent that his flying abilities are well respected, particularly in the Silent flight area. Continual professional development is also part of the package, demonstrated by attending many of the BMFA workshops.

Kevin Watson indicated that he would put forward John to be appointed as an ACE at the next area meeting, when all the "I"s had been dotted & "t"s had been crossed".

Third AOB Item

John Minchell reported that the "Eddie Riding Competition" would be held at the end of June 2019. Again the event will be held at the NFC (National Flying Centre) at Buckminster during the SAM 35 vintage and retro event.

Forth AOB Item

Gareth Fairclough of the Skelmersdale MAC, urged all clubs to check that their procedures with respect to DBS have been adapted to change from CRB (as it was previously known) etc. He posed the question are clubs procedures up-to-date and that as clubs we implement those rules, to be fully compliant.

Action 2. Secretary to establish with Head Office are the BMFA compliant, so that clubs can either cut and paste, or amend the nomenclature.

**AREA MEETINGS 2019**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>     January for Area meeting  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>     May for Area meeting  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>     September for Area meeting  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>    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.*

# Outline Budget 2019

## BMFA NW AREA

We actually receive circa £2400

Will there be any implications with respect to EASA/CAA registration and legislation test requirements when they become known. Who will fund any BMFA workshops etc?

Item	Description	Est. Cost £	Comment	Priority	Amended value
1	Travel Exp. Meeting	1,000		Travel Exp. Meeting	
2	Room Hire	80	4 *£20	Room Hire	
3	Rochdale Indoor	500	Approx. 1300-800	Rochdale Indoor	
4	Velodrome	200		Velodrome	
5	Ach. Workshops	500	Needs to be managed longer term	Ach. Workshops	
6	Travel (Ach, etc)	100		Travel (Ach, etc)	
7	AGM Refreshments	50		AGM Refreshments	
8	Web Hosting	50		Web Hosting	
9	Stationary	20	Stamps, envelopes Misc.	Stationary	
10	IT Support	150	Is this ours or central office?	IT Support	
11	Fly-in fixed wing	300	2 off	Fly-in fixed wing	
12	Fly-in Slope	100	1 off	Fly-in Slope	
13	Fly-in Heli	100	1 off	Fly-in Heli	
14	Education	100	Has to be the right thing!	Education	
15	Sum £	3,250		Sum £	

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