

British Model Flying Association

North West Area

Agenda for North West Area Zoom Meeting, 8.00pm, September 15th 2020

1. Apologies for absence
2. Correspondence
3. Minutes of the 07/01/2020 OGM
4. Matters arising
5. Officers reports: Chairman, Area Delegate, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO, Achievement Scheme Coordinator, Flying Discipline Secretaries
6. Full Council Meeting Agenda
7. Any other business
8. Date for next OGM

Minutes of the Meeting of the BMFA North West Area Held on 14th September 2020 via Zoom Video Communication.

Persons Present

Martyn Kinder	Chairman and Area Delegate South Cheshire RCS
Christopher Boardman	Vice Chairman Blackburn MFC
Carl Brotherton	Secretary & Treasurer (no club represented)
Ian Allman	Chase MAC
Michael Baker	Burnley and Pendle MAC
Mike Colling	Central Cheshire Model Aircraft Association
Paul Cusworth	Blackpool & Fylde RCMS
Christopher Edgar	Lancaster and Morecambe MAC
Keith Elliot	Fleetwood MFC
Gerry Ferer	Timperley Model Flyers
Michael Greenwood	Tywyn MAC
John Minchell	Shawbury Indoor Flyers
Mark Richards	Wolves MAC
Andrew Brough	Whitefield MAC
Ian Lever	Rosendale Valley MFC
Kevin Watson	NW Achievement Scheme Coordinator (arrived at 21:15) (no club represented)

There were 16 members attended, voting strength of 14 clubs represented

The meeting started at 8.00 pm.

1. Apologies for absence

Sue & Roger Price,
Michael Fenlon
John Leadbeater

2. Correspondence

No correspondence has been received by the Chairman or the Secretary

3. Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th January 2020

Gerry Ferer reported two minor omissions to the minutes of the 7th January. These have been added as an erratum to the draft minutes as published.

The minutes were approved (with the changes as identified by Gerry Ferer), with a vote of 5 for acceptance, there being 9 abstentions. The high number of abstentions reflected a change in dynamics of the meeting due to more clubs being represented as this was a Zoom VC meeting.

4. Matters Arising

Due to the COVID pandemic, the Full Council Meeting scheduled for May was cancelled (along with the Area OGM). Subsequently a Full Council Meeting was held in June using a Zoom Video link, open to all Area Delegates and Executives.

5. Officers Reports

Chairman Martyn Kinder

No clubs had sought advice, on COVID restrictions or any other matters. Except for the NW Area Velodrome indoor event, no other (NW Area sponsored) events have taken place in the NW area since the beginning of March because of the various Government COVID lockdown measures.

As mentioned, the Full Council Meeting was held by the Zoom Conferencing Software in June. (MK had notified clubs of this meeting and circulated copies of the Agenda requesting feedback where appropriate. Nothing had been received)

A BMFA members survey that has been undertaken by the BMFA Central Office (Chacksfield House, Leicester). The general mood of the OGM members that the survey prize draw was not the best use of BMFA funds. A suggestion from Head Office that the Area contribute (suggested by Martyn Kinder) £250 to help fund the survey prize draw was not well received and was not discussed further. No vote was taken. There was some discussion from attendees regarding problems with the survey and its limitations.

In line with an assumption by Head Office that the budget for 2021-2022 had been set with membership numbers of 30,000 (this is a reduction from 31,000 set for the 20-21 budget. At the time of writing, BMFA membership was approximately 30,300).

MK reported that full Area funding for 2021-22 appeared to be in the proposed budget

MK advised that the BMFA Insurance Policy that covers all members and clubs is to end in December 2020. BMFA Head Office is now seeking a replacement policy with the same coverage and terms and conditions at no additional cost.

A suggestion was made by MK that BMFA Area Funding for the 2021-22 year should be declined, to reflect the situation that:

- a. funds presently held in reserve
- b. the lack of any substantial spend to date in the 2020-21 financial year due to the COVID pandemic

An alternative suggestion was to accept the grant, and then for the area to donate some or all of the funds to a worthwhile project (for example the proposed fund to hold the 2024 World Scale RC Championship at the NFC Buckminster or similar). After a discussion and examining various options, any decision on this has been deferred to the AGM.

MK reported that Head Office (Andy Symons) have provided for download (from the BMFA Website), a COVID Risk Analysis Spread Sheet. This details the "Track and Trace" requirements, provision of Hand-gel, Social Distancing etc. and should be used by any club

planning to hold club events – including normal club gatherings or more organised events where attendees may be from other clubs within or outside the Area.

The Area Council meeting in June had been cancelled and the Area modernisation workshop meeting had also failed to happen. MK outlined the conversations that he had held with Andy Brough, thanked Andy for his contribution but was sad to report that there had been no further progress.

Vice Chairman Christopher Boardman

Nothing to report.

Treasurer Carl Brotherton

As outlined by Martyn Kinder, the Area finances remain healthy, as stated due to the general lack of activity, both events and Area Meetings are in abeyance, the balance sheet has grown as a consequence.

Secretaries Report Carl Brotherton

Nothing to report.

Achievement Scheme Kevin Watson

At present, on the Isle of Man, a problem with respect to examining has arisen. Bill Cowell has resigned as ACE and is no longer fit enough to undertake “B” tests and David Norris has left the island.

Due to the restrictions that the Isle of Man has regarding COVID 19, it is not possible for non Isle of Man residents to visit the island without self-isolating for 14 days on arrival.

In addition, there is the practicality of mainland based ACEs going to the island for the purpose of officiating “Achievement Scheme” tests.

However:

- David Harris has been identified as a new ACE candidate to cover the Isle of Man.
- A demonstration video of his flying capability has been provided
- Bill Cowell has supported and underwritten his application to be an ACE
- He is also well known and respected by Kevin Watson, with regard to fitting the profile necessary to undertake the role

Due to the present exceptional circumstances, it is proposed that David Harris should be appointed as ACE (Area Chief Examiner) to examine both FW A & B tests and future examiners to continue the process.

A vote was taken, the result was 14 in favour of appointing David Harris as the new Isle of Man ACE.

Action Kevin Watson to trigger activities to complete the appointment

Scale Secretary John Minchell

RC Scale events have taken place adhering to the COVID protection recommendations.

The first event held was in August at Buckminster, the next scheduled event is at the Blackpool on the 20th September with some additional measures implemented to protect competitors, organisers and helpers.

The FF (Free Flight) Nationals Scale event that was to be held at the August Nationals will now be held at Old Warden Modelair Scale event on the 19th/20th September.

It was noted that all RAF sites are closed to visitors for events by RAF instruction.

Shawbury events have been put on hold and the situation will be reviewed in January 2021. The Eddie Riding competition is also postponed until 2021.

6. Full Council Meeting Agenda

Following a review of the Full Council meeting agenda, here were three items that required a vote.

- a. Item 14a. Regarding the rewording of Appendix G – Formation of, and Terms of Reference for, Technical Committees. It was understood what the Technical Secretary was attempting to achieve with this proposal, however, it was considered that the wording was ambiguous. It was requested that the MK should write to the Technical Secretary to explain our concerns, if no further action then the Area vote would be to abstain.
Action MK to discuss with the Technical Secretary and vote accordingly
- b. Item 14b. To rework the entirety of the BMFA Handbook to improve compatibility with usage via IT and to reflect changes associated with the passage of time, was discussed. The consensus was very supportive of this initiative and following a vote; 14 (unanimous) approving the proposal.
Action MK to vote accordingly
- c. Item 11c. To determine the eligibility of Jo Halman FSMAE (Competition Secretary) (having served for ten or more years in the current position) to stand for re-election in accordance with rule 1.8 of the Council Handbook.
This was discussed at length and the meeting recognised the Competition Secretaries hard work, knowledge and diligence over the length of her appointment. The Area could see no reason why she should not be permitted to stand for re-election. The vote was 14 (unanimous) approving the proposal.
Action MK to vote accordingly

7. AOB

No AOB items were raised

8. AREA MEETINGS 2020

Tuesday 17th November is scheduled for the NW Area AGM and Area OGM. This will be a Zoom meeting. Invitations and Joining instructions will be sent out in late October.

The meeting closed at 10.27 pm

These minutes are provisional until approved at the next Area meeting.