

BMFA NW Area Ordinary General Meeting by Zoom. 14/09/2021

Meeting started at 8:00pm

Members present

Martyn Kinder (MK).	Chairman South Cheshire RCS
Carl Brotherton (CB).	Secretary/Treasurer (No Vote)
Kevin Watson (KW)	Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator (ASC) Blackburn DMAC
Keith Barker (KB)	Rochdale MAC
Andrew Brough (AB)	Whitefield MAC
Paul Cusworth (PC)	Blackpool & Fylde Radio Controlled Society
Andrew Dibbins (AD)	Shropshire MFC
Andrew Ellison (AE)	PRO Tyldesley MFC
John Minchell (JM)	Scale Secretary Sleaf MFC
Keith Elliot (KE)	Fylde Coast MAC

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Voting Strength
3. Minutes of the 22nd April 2021 OGM
Errors and Corrections submitted in advance
Adoption of minutes of 22nd April 2021 OGM
Matters Arising
4. Correspondence Received
5. Officer's reports: Chairman, Area Delegate, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO, Achievement Scheme Coordinator, Flying Discipline Secretaries
6. (Club) Funding requests and assistance
7. Area Modernisation Progress Report – Martyn Kinder
8. Full Council Meeting Agenda
9. Date for next OGM
10. Any other business

1. Apologies for absence

John Leadbeater
Chris Boardman

2. Establish Voting Strength

There were 10 present and 9 voting

3. Minutes of the 22nd April 2021 OGM

No errors or corrections had been notified to the Chairman or Secretary

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd April 2021 were accepted as a true record

Proposed: Andy Brough
Seconded: Martyn Kinder
7 in favour, 2 abstentions

Matters Arising

KW advised those present that Model Flying had resumed at the field used by Blackburn DMAC but with some restrictions. 7.5kg Weight Limit, no turbines and all flights need a spotter. The club is now fully operational again.

Club Funding Requests. Jon Laughton has purchased the matting and submitted a receipted invoice for £250 which has been settled.

Sherlowe Aerotow. The event was held and John Minchell submitted a receipted invoice for £62.35 which has been settled.

Blackpool Defibrillator – This has been purchased and Paul Cusworth has submitted a receipted invoice for £250 which has been settled.

Area Modernisation report - MK set up a separate ZOOM meeting to brief clubs on this important topic.

4. Correspondence Received

No correspondence has been received

5. Officers Reports

Chairman and Delegates report

MK reported that he had visited 3 clubs in the summer period, Chorley MAC to assist with a Risk Assessment, East Cheshire MFC following an invitation following the ZOOM briefing and to BATS (Bramhall Area Thermal and Slope). He was concerned that the underlying feeling was that we were there to interfere in the operation of clubs in the Area. Nothing could be further from the truth. The visits were primarily to introduce himself, meet the members and discuss any concerns they may have. MK would welcome any invitation to visit other NW Area clubs.

MK reported that the discussions with respect the re-organisation of BMFA Areas is ongoing, where MK has particular interest with respect to the NW Area of the BMFA. The topography of the area was briefly discussed which is now delimited by county boundaries. The area extends as far North as the Cumbria/Lancashire border and as far South as South Shropshire and includes all of Staffordshire. The West is generally bounded by the English coast, taking in the

Isle of Man and parts of North Wales including Wrexham and the North Wales Coast towards mid-Wales. To the east the Pennines creating a rough boundary. Within this large area there are approximately 113 clubs (including Air cadet Squadrons and Youth groups).

MK outlined the ongoing discussions with respect to what the purpose of the Areas of the BMFA. To reflect the current and developing roles of the Areas it is necessary to rewrite the Area Constitutions, to match the current roles, developing roles whilst providing flexibility.

MK reported that the Rochdale Indoor Events will be reinstated with 6 sessions booked, the latter 3 are provisional. The organiser has set a £10 charge per attendee for a 5 hour session. This will be reviewed after the 3rd session in January to establish the longer term viability of the event. It is both anticipated and accepted that re-establishing the event may well, in the short term, involve some financial loss. CB requested that some details of the charges for the venue and the money collected, as it is necessary to both assist in the revue and monitor the areas ongoing liabilities for the Treasurer. MK acknowledged and thanked Dave Whitehouse (NORWIND) for his assistance in setting this up.

Treasurer/Secretary

CB reported that the Annual Accounts having been prepared and are undergoing examination by Keith Elliot our Auditor. They have been found to be in order, although it is anticipated that a note will be attached to explain an apparent anomaly (due Covid restriction) has resulted in slightly larger balance.

CB is also concerned that the position with respect to NW Area commitments needs some clarification. This a consequence of the Area having agreed to roll forward previously approved support, where they have been cancelled because of Covid restrictions. The reorganised date in some cases have subsequently been cancelled or postponed again. In addition, the Area has agreed further funding. There is now a degree of uncertainty as to the areas continuing financial commitments. To deal with this longer term issue it is suggested that MK and CB produce jointly a long term budget and commitment note. It should be noted that the Annual accounts states the current understanding for the past financial year.

PRO

AE reported that events in the area are starting to return to the Pre-COVID social and business landscape. An example being Weston Park, where there were signs that trade was nearing pre Covid normality.

It was noted that BATS (Bramhall Area Thermal and Slope Soarers) produced their 500th consecutive issue of their Newsletter. It is believed that this is a record for a NW Area Club and is a remarkable achievement.

AD asked whether the NW Area Website could be adapted to send change notifications (e.g. new or changed content) to subscribers. MK agreed to discuss with Andy Symons.

Action MK to discuss with Andy Symons

Achievement Scheme Co-coordinator

Delyn test and train day was a huge success

- 26 participants
- 2 A Tests completed
- 1 B Test completed
- 1 Approved instructor certified
- 1 Fixed Wing examiner certified

KW indicated that some re-evaluation of the Workshops was underway. Experience with many clubs, more recently Delyn has indicated that a revised format was under construction.

The format could typically comprise of:

- Test
- Train
- Instruct.

With much close involvement directly with clubs. Several Clubs across NW have taken up offer of ACEs visiting them. These include; Telford MFC, Burton MFC, South Cheshire RCS, East Cheshire MFC, Phoenix MFC. Fylde Coast MAC, Burnley MAC, and Lancaster MAC. Several successful dedicated club events had been run, including SCRCS, Pheonix MFC, Fylde Coast and Lancaster.

Action KW to update on progress at the AGM

Scale Secretary

JM reported on the highly successful Aero-Tow held at Sherlowe, which the NW Area had sponsored.

It was also noted that The RC Scale competition held at the Blackpool club was a great success. Those competing and observing enjoying a great day out, where the organisation was top notch at an outstanding location

JM reminded those present that the area had made a commitment to support a bid to run the Scale World Championship by contributing a sum in the region of £200-250 as minimum, more if possible.

MK indicated that some clarification had been requested from the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer, the responses, which to-date have been ambiguous. He agreed to progress this at the Full Council meeting.

Action MK to discuss at Full Council

There was a consensus from the voting and non-voting membership present that the area should state the areas intention to contribute, if and when the UK is awarded the event.

There was a vote that all were in favour of supporting the UK World Championship bid and the subsequent event.

JM reported that Shawbury was still unavailable for indoor flying but was hopeful this would change in the early New Year.

JM reported that the next Sherlowe Aerotow was scheduled for the 16/17 October and thanked those present for supporting these meetings.

Note: Keith Barker apologised and left the meeting, Voting strength now 8

6. Club Funding Requests

There have been no funding assistance requests received since the last meeting.

7. Area Modernisation Report

MK covered this in his Delegates report above. Nothing further to add.

8. Full Council Meeting Agenda

The Agenda for the meeting had been circulated in advance. No questions or clarification requests were raised about the content.

There were 5 proposals to be discussed at the meeting.

- a. The proposal for the BMFA to host the 2024 Scale World Championships at Buckminster. Those present were emphatically in favour of the UK hosting this event and felt that it would be a wonderful showcase for the finest aeromodelling to be presented to the UK public.
- b. Chief Executive granted Voting Rights. There was one issue raised which was the controls to be placed to prevent the CE voting on matters where he has a vested interest. However, the consensus was that the NW Area was unanimously in favour of this proposal. A secondary issue was raised regarding the liabilities that a Director (e.g. the Area Delegate) would be responsible for in the event that the BMFA had financial difficulties or became bankrupt.

Action MK to discuss with the CE (Dave Phipps)

- c. Introduction of a Members Director. Those present were very positive about this proposal and felt that this was a good initiative. Voting unanimous in favour
- d. Ratification of Teams and Members will become the responsibility of the Competition Secretary. AE explained the background to this proposal. Voting unanimous in favour
- e. Change to section 4.2.7 to support (d). Voting unanimous in favour

9. Date of next AGM/OGM

The date of the AGM has been set for the 23/11/2021. This will be followed by a brief OGM to discuss AOB and urgent Area Business. This will be a Zoom meeting

10.AOB

MK noted that this year's popular Ashbourne Scale Fly-in would be the last and would like the NW Area to hold a similar event (Scale Fly-in) which would be attractive to the average modeller rather than the more contest orientated flyer. He will canvas clubs to try and find a suitable host. AD (Shropshire) indicated that his club may be interested in hosting this event.

Action MK and AD to discuss further

Meeting closed at 9:53

Ratified