

# BMFA NW Area Ordinary General Meeting by Zoom 13/09/2022

## *British Model Flying Association* North West Area

### **Agenda for the Ordinary General Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Voting Strength
3. Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 OGM
  - a. Errors and Corrections submitted in advance
  - b. Adoption of minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 OGM
  - c. Matters Arising
4. Correspondence Received
5. Officer's reports: Chairman, Area Delegate, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Achievement Scheme Coordinator, Flying Discipline Secretaries
6. (Club) Funding requests and assistance
7. Area Modernisation Progress Report – Martyn Kinder
  - Creation of Wales Area - Update
8. Full Council Meeting Agenda
9. Date for next OGM
10. Any other business

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The meeting was held by Zoom and started at 19:45

Present:

John Laughton	Oldham MAC
Martyn Kinder	Chair and Area Delegate and South Cheshire RCS
Gerry Ferer	Timperley Flyers MAC
John Minchell	Sleap MFC
Keith Elliot	Fylde & District MFC
Chris Boardman	Vice Chair and Blackburn & District MAC
Richard Hughes	Lleyn MAC
Kevin Watson	Area ASC (No vote)
Philip Norris	Burton MFC
Carl Brotherton	Area Secretary and Treasurer (No vote)
Peter Witherington	Parkway MFC
Keith Barker	Rochdale MAC

## 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from:

Andy Brough	Whitfield MAC
John Simm	Mossborough Hall MFC
Robert Payne	Hough End MAC

## 2. Voting Strength

The voting strength is 10 clubs represented

## 3. Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 OGM

### a. Errors and Corrections submitted in advance

No errors or omissions or corrections to the minutes were submitted

### b. Adoption of minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 OGM

The minutes were proposed as a true record by KE, seconded by JM. The vote was 4 in favour, 6 abstentions.

### c. Matters Arising

Section 3. Lancashire Drone Flyers. KW reported that turnout at events had been mixed. There was good collaboration between Lancashire and the Yorkshire Drone Flyers Group.

Section 5. All (5) invoices from Kingsway School had been submitted and settled.

Section 7. MK had submitted the revised Area Constitution and Guide documents to NW Area Officers. No comments received.

## 4. Correspondence Received

Nothing received

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## 5. Officer's reports:

### **Chairman & Area Delegate**

MK advised that he had been approached by a NW Area member at the Weston Park show to discuss a personal matter. As this was confidential, he felt it could not be discussed further at this meeting but the matter had been raised at Areas Council and would be followed up.

MK advised that he would cover his other activities in the Area Modernisation section

### **Vice Chairman**

ChrisB had nothing to report

### **Secretary & Treasurer**

CarlB reported that the accounts had been audited by KE. They would be submitted to BMFA HQ in due course.

A request for mileage expenses had been submitted by KW. Discussions between CarlB and MK had mutually agreed to increase the reimbursement rate to 25p/mile following the increase in fuel costs. This was based on a fuel consumption of 40mpg with a small allowance to cover tyre wear and oil costs and this is in line with industry practice for ad-hoc users.

### **Achievement Scheme Coordinator**

KW had visited 3 clubs to carry out assessments. He has produced an article for BMFA News.

MK has discussed an initiative (with KW and the club) by Leek and Moorland MGA offering 1 year free membership to those who take and pass their SF 'A' accreditation. MK thought that approximately 25 members would take advantage of this offer and the first training and test events have already taken place.

### **Scale Discipline Secretary**

JM reported on events at Sherlowe and that the final Scale contest of the year would be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

The Shawbury Indoor sessions were due to restart (following extensive site refurbishment) in October with 9 events planned. These are subject to final approval of the license by the BMFA and RAF and sign off of the associated Risk Assessment.

## 6. (Club) Funding requests and assistance

None had been formally received but MK has received advanced warning of a request for a PA system and ancillary equipment to support FxRES glider events. There was some discussion regarding whether the NW area should be funding equipment that will be used nationally as well as in the NW Area.

Action: MK to discuss this type of funding with the Hon Treasurer (Keith Lomax)

## 7. Area Modernisation Progress Report – Martyn Kinder

MK advised that there had been very little progress during the summer months on the Area Modernisation Activities. The MAG7 group had met the previous week to review the documents and actions. As a new Members Director had now been appointed (Duncan McLure), the MAG7 chair would write to Duncan and ask for his views. MK explained that work had to be completed shortly as there were also changes required to be made to the BMFA Articles of Association which would be

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presented at the BMFA AGM in November.

## Creation of Wales Area – Update

A suggestion had been made to create a new WALES Area to take advantage of club funding opportunities by Sports Wales. The NW Area has 9 clubs affected by this plus potentially a number of border clubs who may have members residing in Wales.

MK had written to all clubs discussing this suggestion and had asked for responses. Seven Welsh clubs replied with 4 expressing a preference to remain in the NW Area.

It was considered (by those attending) that the N-S split between the clubs in Wales along with the relatively small number of clubs would make the creation and running of this Area unviable.

However, at an Areas meeting to discuss this it was agreed that a formal proposal would be raised.

Action: MK to report back on progress.

## 8. Full Council Meeting Agenda

There were two proposals that required a vote:

### 1. Sale of Chacksfield House

MK provided the background to this sale. A lengthy discussion ensued and the following points were raised: (Note MK annotations following Full Council meeting).

- a. How would the released funds be used? (MK. Invested)
- b. How is the future of Buckminster assured? (MK. 35 year lease reviewed every 5 years)
- c. A request for more transparency on the funding of Buckminster. Attendees felt that it was not clear exactly how Buckminster is funded.
- d. Can we extend the Flying Area at Buckminster? (MK. Different landlords in different directions so not straightforward. Scope to extend in one direction but this had not been considered.)

It was agreed unanimously that the proposal should be supported. (MK. The Proposal was passed unanimously)

### 2. Development of Café area at Buckminster

Another lengthy discussion regarding this proposal and the following points were raised: (Note MK annotations following Full Council meeting).

- a. £90k seemed expensive for a Café. (MK. This was expanded on at FC. Basically the £90k was an upper limit. The work involved covers the modernisation of an existing Volunteers Area to allow the creation of a small Café facility, office area, and a new Volunteers Area. The Budget was considered (by the CEO) to be 'Rolls Royce' and it was expected that substantial savings could be made by bringing much of the work in-house.)
- b. Is it for modellers or open to the public? (MK. BMFA members)
- c. Is there a business plan? (MK. The plan is that the facility will be made available to an external contractor to provide refreshments for major events. It would not normally be open)

With the information provided, this was considered 'risky' and the Area Delegate was instructed to vote against. (MK. Following questioning by MK and others it was clear that this was well thought out and the dependency was that Office space could be created to allow the vacation of Chacksfield House. In light of this MK voted in favour

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of the proposal and this was passed with one abstention.

### 9. Date for next OGM

The next OGM will follow the AGM on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022. This is historically a short meeting only to cover business that can not be discussed at the Area AGM. This will be a Zoom meeting.

The next full OGM will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 at 19:45 by Zoom.

### 10. Any other business

CarlB advised that Barclays were altering their Banking protocol. He considered that they were trying to 'push out' small business accounts. John Laughton responded that the additional difficulties were being felt by all banking users and were intended to cut back on banking fraud.

KW noted that he had provided flight line commentary at the Model Show and the LMA show.

Meeting closed at 21:30.