

**Agenda for the Ordinary General Meeting
10th May 2022**

(This meeting will be held by Zoom)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Voting Strength
3. Minutes of the 4th January 2022 OGM
 - a. Errors and Corrections submitted in advance
 - b. Adoption of minutes of 4th January 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
 - a. Financial Support for BMFA NW Area Scale Fly-in (22 May)
7. Area Modernisation Progress Report – Martyn Kinder
8. Full Council Meeting Agenda
9. AOB
10. Date for next OGM

BMFA NW Area Ordinary General Meeting by Zoom. 10/05/2022

Meeting started at 7:45 pm

Clubs present

Martyn Kinder (MK).	NW Area Chairman and Delegate (SCRCS)
Carl Brotherton (CB).	Secretary/Treasurer. (No Vote)
Keith Elliot	Fylde Coast Model Flying Club
Paul Cusworth	Blackpool & Fylde Radio Controlled Society
Gerry Ferer	Timperley Model Flyers
John Minchell (JM).	Shropshire indoor and Sleaf MFC

1. Apologies for absence

Robert Payne (Hough End)

Andy Brough (Whitefield).

2. Establish Voting Strength

There were 6 present and 5 voting

MK expressed concern and disappointment that this meeting had only just attracted sufficient clubs to form a quorum (5 clubs represented).

3. Minutes of the OGM – 4th January 2022

a. No errors, omissions or corrections had been submitted.

b. JM proposed that the minutes were a true record, seconded MK

Vote 2 for, 3 Abstentions

c. Matters Arising:

MK reported that the four Bungee systems for FxRES had been purchased and expenses had been settled.

MK reported that the NW Area Scale meeting (a BMFA Centenary event) would proceed courtesy of Shropshire MFC on the 15th May.

An action on the Lancashire Drone Flyers is carried forward. (Kevin Watson to provide an update).

4. Correspondence Received

CB reported that no official correspondence had been received since the last Area OGM

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5. Officer's reports

Chairman and Area Delegates report

MK reported that he attended DLJs funeral to represent the BMFA (at Ian Pallister's request). MK spoke with the family and advised them that DLJ had worked on the NW Area Committee for 42 years and expressed his gratitude for his service. He noted that the memorial card had an unusual amusing poem printed which was recited during the service. MK agreed to share this with the meeting attendees and unless there were any objections, would attach to these minutes. (See last page).

MK reported that he had been invited to the Bramhall Area Thermal and Slope Soaring Society (BATS) to give a talk on the BMFA which was well received. Feedback and questions indicated that few members had a clear understanding of the workings of the BMFA. MK reiterated his offer to visit ANY Area club, either on their field during the summer months or at a suitable evening when the autumn season commences.

MK reported that the Rochdale Indoor Events and Calendar had been successfully rolled out for the 2021-22 financial year with a small loss of approximately £150. The intention is to continue the events in the 2022-23 financial year as they were considered a success and also received a very positive write up in RCM&E by Alex Whittaker.

Treasurer/Secretary

CB reported that the Annual Accounts having been prepared. CB is to arrange a meeting for examination by Keith Elliot our Accounts Inspector.

CB reported that that a degree of uncertainty exists with respect to the financial status of the Rochdale Indoor profit or loss until all the invoices for events have been received by the area. The issue is to be addressed via a "not attached to the accounts" statement.

Action: MK to chase Kingsway school for the March invoice. All others had been settled.

Scale Secretary

JM reported that the first 2022 Northwest Aerotow Scale Fly-in is going ahead (28th and 29th May) on the private airfield at Sherlowe, near High Ercall in Shropshire, and the Area had committed to make a contribution to the operational costs.

The RC Scale competition to be held at the Blackpool club has been confirmed.

Although the "Calcutta Cup" teams' competition of the Scotland vs England will now be held at the re scheduled nationals to be held at Buckminster. Blackpool will remain as a BMFA Sunday Flying only Scale competition, incorporating Light Scale.

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6. Club Funding Requests

MK had received a request for the funding of two portable toilets at a cost of £150 total. MK also requested that the Area provides funding for spot prizes up to a maximum of £50. This request was carried unanimously.

JM requested funding of £40 for the October Sherlowe BMFA Scale scheduled for the 1st and 2nd October. He also requested up to £150 for the August Sherlowe Glider Aerotow. This will be used to pay for fuel for the Glider tugs.

This request was also carried unanimously.

7. Area Modernisation Report

MK updated those present to the work that he had been involved in on the Area modernisation activities. Discussions with respect to the BMFA officers and their roles continues. It is intended to reduce the number of Directors to a more manageable number. The purpose is to both improve the efficiency of the BMFA and reduce the legal onus of some BMFA officials.

Areas (and members) will continue to be represented at the Management Level by the election of four non-executive directors from the pool of Area Delegates. The four members will be elected by the Area Delegates at the January Areas Council meeting.

A provisional Area (Boiler Plate) constitution has been produced. The intention was to produce an outline constitution which can be tailored to meet the needs of specific areas, suitable for amendment as required immediately and into the future.

The topography of the area was briefly discussed. The area extends as far North as the Cumbrian Border and as far South as South Shropshire. The West is generally bounded by the English coast, taking in the Isle of Man and most of North and mid (north) Wales including Wrexham and the North Wales Coast. To the east the Pennines creating a rough boundary demarked by county boundaries. Within this large area there are approximately 142 clubs (including Air cadet Squadrons). MK considered that this was geographically too large and prevents proper engagement by officers with Area clubs. There is a suggestion by the Areas working group that this area could be revised as part of three or more regions. It was suggested from the floor (the Zoom attendees) that this proposal faced the difficulty of obtaining sufficient active officers to fill the additional officer posts that this idea would create.

The 'Guide to the Constitution' that MK had been working on was discussed. MK explained that the intention is that the Guide is a statement or guidance on how an Area works while the constitution is the legal framework. To enable the constitution to be adapted much of the 'meat' of the present constitution had been moved into the new Guidance document. It was suggested that MK circulate the revised constitution and guidance to Area club officers.

Action: MK to circulate the latest drafts of the Constitution and Guidance for comment.

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8. Full Council Meeting Agenda

MK reviewed the Agenda with those present. There was nothing to vote on and no matters were raised by those present.

9. AOB

Keith Elliot queried with respect to CRB (now DBS) checks was raised via the floor with respect to a general discussion with respect to the presence of children at BMFA Club sites. MK stated that he had been DBS checked as part of his STEM Ambassador activities and would clarify what the situation is regarding the BMFA.

Update: Lisa McDade (lisa@bmfa.org) at the BMFA office can assist with any valid request for DBS checking.

10. Date of Next meeting

The date of the next meeting is provisionally set for the 13th September

Meeting closed at 9:33

Poem

The Man With The Little Blue Box

DLJ was a guy with his mind in the sky
And a heart full of wonderful plans.
But now I am told that these plans are controlled
by the little blue box in his hands

He belongs to a group, a most curious troupe,
Whose principal purpose, it seems,
Is to gather a crowd, and then gaze at a cloud
While clutching a box full of dreams

They work night and day, but to them it is play;
They would rather fly airplanes than eat
The weather won't stay them, winds merely delay them,
For their stuff is too stern for defeat.

The planes that they pilot are prone to run riot,
If it crashes they don't seem to care,
With some balsa and glue, and a gadget or two,
They soon have it back in the air

Some planes have been known to take off on their own,
Sending pilots in a hot hurried chase.
It's a school of hard knocks, but they don't blame the box,
And the wreck is brought home in disgrace.

But he was always the man with the box in his hand,
Though it may put grey hairs on his head.
He did not complain; because if it weren't for that plane
He wouldn't have made lots of friends in the club.