

British Model Flying Association **North West Area**

Agenda for the Ordinary General Meeting **26th September 2023** (Zoom meeting)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Establish Voting Strength (One representative per club)
3. Minutes of the 2nd May 2023 OGM
 - a. Errors and Corrections submitted in advance.
 - b. Adoption of minutes of 2nd May 2023 OGM.
 - c. Matters Arising.
4. Correspondence Received
5. Officer's reports: Chairman, Area Delegate, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Achievement Scheme Coordinator, Flying Discipline Delegates
6. (Club) Funding requests and assistance
7. Areas Council and Board Meeting Agenda
8. Date for next OGM
9. Any other business

Meeting started at 7:45 pm

Attendees:

Martyn Kinder	Chairman and Area Delegate. SCRCs
Chris Boardman	Vice Chairman. Blackburn DMAC
Carl Brotherton	Secretary and Treasurer. No Vote
Gary Brooks	Dark Peak
Keith Barker	Rochdale Model Flying Club
Kevin Watson	ASC Tyldesley MFC
Dave Cotton	East Cheshire Model Flying Club
Tony Franklin	Cheshire Falcons
Richard Green	Webmaster. BATS
Dave Hindley	Blackpool & Fylde Radio Controlled Society No Vote
Malcolm Ball	Lancaster & Morecambe
John Minchell	Shropshire indoor
Jason Reid	Blackpool & Fylde Radio Controlled Society

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence received from Andy Brough (Whitefield MFC), Keith Elliot (Fylde Coast MAC), Robert Payne (Hough End MAC). It was noted that Gerry Ferer was missing, MK asked CB to check that he is OK.

2. Establish Voting Strength

There were 13 present and 11 voting.

3. Minutes of the 2nd May 2023 OGM

- a. No errors or correction requests submitted.
- b. Minutes accepted as a true record, No corrections. Proposed, Dave Cotton, seconded Kevin Watson. There were 8 in favour with 3 abstentions.
- c. Matters Arising
Monies had been granted for the Area Scale Fly-in and Tyldesley Venture Scouts event.

4. Correspondence received.

MK reported on the success of the T180 competition. He had received a letter from the winner, 7 year old Jackson Gadikor (with assistance from his father Gabriel) thanking the Area for his prize with a second letter to be forwarded to the airframe donor, Colonel Brown. This had been done.

MK had also received an email from Andy Ellison thanking the Area for their support of the Tyldesley MFC Venture Scouts event.

CB reported no other official correspondence.

5. Officer's reports

a. Chairman and Delegate

MK noted that the general redrawing of the BMFA Areas is now complete, with the addition of a new area for Scotland and the redefining of the Western area as Wales. The NW Area had shrunk considerably in terms of land area. However only 7 clubs had been transferred to the new Wales Area. One problem that had been identified was that in terms of members (judging by the mailing list size), we appear to have 'lost' approximately 800. This appeared disproportionate and MK had raised the issue with Andy Symons.

ACTION: MK to report back on progress

A question by KB was raised with respect to the sale of Chacksfield House and what followed from the process. MK indicated that the "National flying Centre" would become the Head Office. This raised the question, would the existing staff transfer to this site, some distance from Leicester. MK indicated that many of the staff were due to retire. Any issues of staff at the NFC are not known to him. It was asked how much Chacksfield House had sold for.

ACTION MK agreed to follow up with the CEO Dave Phipps.

CB saw the move as sensible, maximizing the use of the NFC, by incorporating the head office cost to a single location. Although in his opinion, the running costs of the BMFA as a body, must be separated from the costs of the NFC as an event site. The objective being to provide a clear understanding of the accounts, minimizing ambiguity and providing a clear picture. This could be important as BMFA membership is declining. MK confirmed that overall membership has declined at approximately 1000 members per year for the past 5 years.

KB sought assurances that the money obtained from the Chacksfield house sale (BMFA Headquarters) must go into the running of the BMFA and not cross funding of the NFC.

MK is of the opinion with the appointment of a new Treasurer Mike Woodhouse, that all funding matters will be clarified.

Area funding: As in previous years, areas will not receive funding on the old area membership ratio principle. Areas must now submit a budget and only approved budgeted items will receive funding. MK advised the meeting that this will be reduced for those Areas with substantial 'Reserves' (like the NW Area) who will be expected to now contribute to the running costs of the Area from their Reserve funds. This is despite assurances made 3 years ago that Area Reserve funds would be ring-fenced. Areas are now obliged to use the 'ring-fenced' funds to fulfil their obligations to their Area Clubs and members. However, it should be recognised, that due to the decline in membership, there is now a significant shortfall in income and it is only right that Areas use the funds previously allocated to support Area clubs and events.

(MK note: In this context, my interpretation is that Ring-fence means that it may only be used by the Area for Area activities, it does not mean that it will remain unused).

MK advised the meeting that the handover of the management of the NW Area website to Richard Green had been completed and Richard was now primarily responsible for the day to day administration and the Area mailings.

MK reported on an incident at the Sherlowe Scale Glider Aerotow event. The toilet had been badly damaged and the owner was very upset and demanded that this should be repaired very quickly as it was required for another event. JM identified and arranged for a plumber to repair the toilet. MK, CB and JM discussed how this should be funded and MK advised that the NW Area will pay for this as it was a NW Area event. Although this was non constitutional (as an OGM should have been called to approve), the fact that as this repair had to be paid quickly and there was no question that the NW Area was ultimately responsible, MK would raise payment for the invoice and CB would approve. This was done. The meeting discussed this action and agreed that there was no other real course of action. It was suggested that the officers should be allowed to use NW Area funds for this situation without an OGM being called. This would mean a change to the constitution. MK to consider how to achieve this.

GB asked MK whether this would have been covered by the BMFA insurance and how we would deal with this.

ACTION MK to discuss with Dave Phipps

ACTION MK to identify a fast track payment system for emergencies.

b. Treasurer/Secretary

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

c. Achievement Scheme

KW reported that the changes that have formed the Welsh Area, have been addressed, with workshops planned to reflect the situation.

d. Scale Delegate

Competition and Events at Sherlowe

JM reported that the 2023 North West Sherlowe Scale event was cancelled due to poor weather.

Two GPS Triangle glider competition events are planned for 2024 along with two Scale Glider Aerotow events. There will also be a Scale contest coordinated with the STC.

JM has received approval from the RAF to restart the Shawbury Indoor events, from November 2023 to May 2024 and a full season from Autumn 2024.

JM has become involved with an outreach programme with Wolverhampton University (Telford Engineering Campus) to assist with the design and build of an airframe that could be used at the IMechE UAS (Unmanned Aerial System) Challenge 2024.

ACTION JM to provide an update at the next OGM.

6. Club Funding Requests

No funding requests have been received.

7. Areas Council and Board Agenda

MK thanked Chris Boardman for deputising for MK at the previous two Areas Council meetings. There were no items to vote upon for the impending Board meeting. The Areas Council meeting had been held 2 weeks earlier.

8. Date of next meetings

The next meeting will be the NW Area AGM followed by a short OGM on the 21st November 2023

OGM meetings for 2024:

- 9th January 2024
- 7th May 2024
- 10th September 2024
- 2024 AGM and OGM – TBA (November).

9. AOB

Richard Green is the new Web Master. JM will contact him, to ensure that the Forthcoming Shawbury Indoor events are listed on the site.

ACTION JM to contact RG

JH (Blackpool & Fylde RCS) reported on the progress made with the college “Model design and flying” competition. A number of problems were encountered at principally college level. The experience gained has resulted in improvements to the competition format and liaising process. He will be seeking further NW Area Support for this current college year.

Meeting closed at 21:15