

BMFA Wales
Unadopted Minutes of a
General Meeting
held on Thursday 30 November 2023
via the internet platform 'ZOOM'

The meeting commenced at 20:30

PRESENT:

Mike Tiley (Chairman)	Cardiff MAC
John Taylor (Secretary)	Cardiff MAC
Allan Belcher (Area Delegate)	Swansea MFC
Mike Dunce (Treasurer)	Swansea MFC
Andy Green (Achievement Scheme Coordinator)	South Wales Soaring Assocr.
Phil Charlesworth (Education & Outreach Officer)	Fins over Gwent
Mike Budge (Communications Officer – Web)	Swansea MFC
Gareth Llewellyn (Country Members' Representative)	
John Charles (N Wales Clubs Liaison Officer)	Anglesey & District MFC

1. Apologies for absence

Henry Fray (Eglwysilan MFC)

2. Approval of the Agenda and items for any other business

The Agenda was approved subject to the addition of an item concerning the naming of the Area.

3. To discuss what the aims and objectives of BMFA Wales should be and how to achieve them

It was agreed that this items be deferred to allow the newly appointed Area Officers time to consider and produce some proposals for discussion at the next General Meeting.

4. Full Council Matters (Non-Executive Director to report)

Report attached as Appendix A

The Non Executive Officer to the BMFA is a rotating role and incumbents are selected from the Area Delegates on the Areas Council.

The full council meeting has now been replaced by a Board of Directors meeting.

A new Student category of membership has been created to allow students to be members at a lower rate.

Attempts to get the Air Cadets involved are being made but there is an issue with safeguarding which needs to be addressed.

5. Area Council Matters (Area Delegate to report)

Report attached as Appendix B

There are now 15 areas around UK, including the RAFMAA.

The area delegate attends meetings, usually via Zoom, and votes on behalf of the area.

There has been a big uptake in drone membership.

Finances for areas are also discussed at these meetings.

6. Naming of BMFA Wales Area

The Country Members' Representative (Gareth Llewellyn) expressed his view that the name of our Area should be "BMFA Cymru Wales" to add distinction and give the right impression when dealing with official bodies in Wales.

The Area Delegate advised that he had enquired about this and been informed that name changes cannot be authorised by us and has to be put forward via Area Council for ratification by the BMFA nationally.

Accordingly, it was unanimously agreed that a proposal to change the Area's name to "**BMFA Cymru Wales**" should be put to the Areas Council by the Area Delegate. The Country Members' Representative would provide some rationale and background to assist the Area Delegate.

7. Date, Time and Venue of next meeting

It was noted that to meet our constitutional obligations, meetings will take place three times a year in addition to the AGM.

An officers meeting will be arranged for 10/1/2024, 7pm, via Zoom, the main order of business being to action the deferred item 3 above.

Next General Meeting will take place on the 8/2/2024, 7pm, via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 21:20

Appendix A - Full Council Matters (Non-Executive Director to report)

The BMFA full council has since 2023 been abolished. Its purpose was to have votes from all the Directors of the Society of Model Aeronautical Engineers Ltd. All Area delegates were Directors.

Now the BMFA Board consists of the executive Directors and four non executive Directors..The non execs are chosen from the area delegates and serve for two years with a rotation around the 15 Areas.

The full council meeting has now been replaced by a Board of Directors meeting.

A new Student category of membership has been created to allow students to be members at a lower rate.

Attempts to get the Air Cadets involved are being made but there is an issue with safeguarding which needs to be addressed.

Appendix B - BMFA Wales Area delegate annual report 2023

This has been quite a busy year for the Area. At the end of 2022 it was agreed that the name of Area 11 would be changed from Mid-West to Wales. The aim of this was to move Mid-West area clubs that were in England to nearby Areas so that Area 11 contained only clubs in Wales. The purpose of this was to demonstrate to the Welsh government that the BMFA could be clearly seen as the governing body in Wales. During 2023 a wide consultation took place with clubs in adjoining BMFA areas, and this resulted in the formation of the BMFA Wales area. This is still BMFA Area 11 but now has the geographical boundary of all Wales so contains all clubs in Wales. This completed the aim of providing a clear route for the administration of Welsh Government support of our clubs in Wales. Sport Wales has an annual 'funding fair' held in Swansea and BMFA Wales will now be able to be support our clubs there with a new focus.

The Area 11 committee has continued to serve during this transition period but will stand down at the first AGM of BMFA Wales area scheduled for 30 November 2023. This will be a zoom-based AGM so will enable all clubs in Wales to be represented so that geographical locations are no longer an issue.

The main event that we supported this year as an Area was the Swansea Bay full size airshow in July 2023. This was the second year of our providing stands at the airshow with the support of BMFA gazebos and simulators. Thanks to Andy Symons and Charlie Lee for transporting all the equipment from Buckminster and manning the stands (with the help of our clubs). Our clubs in Swansea, Carmarthen, Cardiff and Eglwysilian provided helpers and many ground display models for both days. We had a rocketry display stand from our Fins over Gwent club that attracted much interest. We could not put on trial flights on the Swansea Bay beach this year as it was too windy.

Although we had planned other events they had to be postponed and eventually cancelled due to bad weather.

I was able to visit most of our clubs in the South Wales region to see if there was any issue that the Area committee could help with. I hope to be able to visit the remaining clubs when the weather improves. The main issue was the lack of club members who were BMFA approved trainers and club members who were Achievement scheme examiners. Many previous examiners had retired. I discussed possible solutions with the clubs I visited.

I have also been involved in outreach activities. I visited the Aerospace department in Swansea University on several occasions. I brought BMFA publicity information and assisted with their final year model aircraft test flights. The Aerospace department is now interested in the BMFA being involved with first year students and we hope to start a BMFA student club there. Myself and our area chairman, Mike Tiley were invited to represent the BMFA at an event in University of South Wales Innovation centre in the Aerospace department. This generated much interest from students, and we have been asked to attend

a future event focussed only on BMFA fixed and rotary wing aircraft. University of South Wales Engineering department has a BMFA club devoted to rocketry (supported by Fins over Gwent) so this shows that the University values the practical support that BMFA can give to their teaching and research.