

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

The meeting commenced at 7pm

PRESENT:

Mike Tiley (Acting Chairman)	Cardiff MAC
Allan Belcher (Acting Area Delegate)	Swansea MFC
Andy Potts (Acting Vice-Chairman)	Gaer Park MFC
Andy Green (Acting A. S. Coordinator)	S Wales Soaring Assocn.
Phil Charlesworth (Acting Education & Outreach Officer)	Fins over Gwent

Plus the voting representatives of 8 Area Clubs, with approximately 16 other BMFA members also in attendance.

AGENDA

1. To verify the voting strength of the Meeting

There being 8 delegated voting members from Area clubs present, the meeting was confirmed as quorate.

2. Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were given.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

4. Area Constitution

It was noted that the Area Constitution had been made available via a link in the Agenda prior to the meeting. A brief overview was given by the Acting Chairman, noting that it set out the rules and procedures by which the BMFA Areas were set up and operated. The Constitution was received.

5. Election of Officers

The Acting Chairman stated that nominations for officer positions had been sought prior to the meeting. Although several had been received, he considered it appropriate to open up all positions for nomination from the floor, prior to declaring any prior nominations. This was to ensure that all present had an opportunity to put themselves or other members forward, to ensure equal opportunity of representation across all reaches of the BMFA Wales Area.

On this basis, nominations for the positions indicated were made or received as follows:

Mandatory positions:

- Chairman (1 year) Mike Tiley – Cardiff MAC
- Area Delegate (1 year) Allan Belcher - Swansea MFC
- Secretary (2 years) John Taylor - Cardiff MAC
- Treasurer (1 year) Mike Dunce - Swansea MFC
- Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator (2 years) Andy Green – South Wales Soaring Assoc.

Optional Positions:

- Vice Chairman Henry Fray – Eglwysilan MFC
- Education & Outreach Officer Philip Charlesworth – Fins Over Gwent
Allan Belcher - Swansea MFC
- Communications Officer (Web) Mike Budge – Swansea MFC
- Communications Officer (PR) ***position not filled***
- Country Member Delegate Gareth Llewellyn
- British Drone Flyers Representative John Rowlands
- North Wales Clubs Liaison Officer John Charles – Anglesey and District MFC (NWCLO)

No other positions were deemed necessary at this time.

All candidates were elected unopposed and all officers were in attendance except John Rowlands (BDF Representative).

Mike Tiley (Chairman) in the Chair.

6. Officer's Reports for 2023

6.1 Chairman's report - given by Mike Tiley

The Chairman reported that while the Area had been in transition from 'Mid-West' to 'Wales', it's work had been limited and mostly involved managing the transition via ad-hoc Zoom meetings of the Officers, the BMFA's Members Director and the Club Support Officer. However, a draft budget for 2024 had been produced and submitted providing a good financial foundation for activities in 2024. The Area had also once again been present at the Wales National Air Show in Swansea, with the support of the BMFA Club Support Officer and members from The Swansea, Eglwysilan and Cardiff Clubs.

6.2 Area Delegate's Report – given by Allan Belcher

Report attached as Appendix 'A'.

In introducing his report, the Area Delegate highlighted that the main work carried out during the year was the creation of BMFA Wales Area. Additionally the Swansea Bay Air show was supported gaining a lot of interest from the public and the inclusion of younger people and their parents.

He also explained the role of Area Council meetings as the link between all Areas of the BMFA, where information is disseminated and received. Some areas have a lot of spare funding and have been supporting their clubs by providing training equipment such as training aircraft. BMFA Wales is deficient in instructors and examiners and needs to increase the number of members willing to take on these roles.

6.3 Treasurer's Report – given by Mike Tiley

The Chairman reported that draft accounts were not yet available, but would be appended to the minutes (attached as Appendix 'B'). In summary the financial position to date was that the Area had a cash balance of £6518.12 after expenditures in the year totalling £562.22. These comprised purchase of the Zoom licence, Delegate's travel expenses and the hire of portable toilets at two events. Further to a question, the Chairman clarified that the expenditure on toilets for an out-of-Area event had been made because the Area currently held the budget for that activity. Going forward, only events in Wales would be budgeted and paid for. The financial position was noted.

6.4 Outreach Officer's Report - given by Phil Charlesworth

Report attached as Appendix 'C'

A number of school workshops had been given with schools providing funding to help get clubs started; however help was needed to support these clubs.

6.5 Achievement Scheme Coordinator's Report – given by Andy Green

Report attached as Appendix 'D'

It was noted that Richard Morris had resigned as Heli examiner. BMFA Wales is now in need of two Area Chief Examiners in the south (one FW and one Heli) and ideally, a North Wales Chief Examiner also needs to be appointed. It was suggested that the Rhyl club be approached as they have an examiner.

Accordingly it was agreed that the Committee needs to identify the Area's existing examiners and that the ASC, Chairman and NWCLC should approach likely candidates for the positions.

7. To discuss BMFA Wales' annual budget submission for 2024/25

The draft annual budget submission, as circulated with the Agenda, was received and noted.

8. Ratification of Area Chief Examiners

The following were ratified as Area Chief Examiners:

Christopher Cole (Bryn Bach Park MFC) - FW

Keith Setchell (Swansea MFC) – FW

Other ACEs would be ratified when suitable candidates had been found to fill the vacant positions as noted in 6 above.

9. Date, Time and Venue of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 28th November 2024

The Meeting Closed at 20:30

Appendix A - Area Delegate's Report (Allan Belcher)

In introducing his report, the Area Delegate highlighted that the main work carried out during the year was the creation of BMFA Wales Area. Additionally the Swansea Bay Air show was supported gaining a lot of interest from the public and the inclusion of younger people and their parents.

He also explained the role of Area Council meetings as the link between all Areas of the BMFA, where information is disseminated and received. Some areas have a lot of spare funding and have been supporting their clubs by providing training equipment such as training aircraft.

BMFA Wales is deficient in instructors and examiners and needs to increase the number of members willing to take on these roles.

Appendix B - Treasurer's Report

British Model Flying Association – Wales Area
Area Budget request 2024/25

Area	Forecast 23/24	Notes (forecast)	Budget 24/25	Notes (Budget)
Basic funding				
Meetings	0		1000	Venues/hospitality for Wales Area launch and promotion
Officers expenses	150	Area Delegate's travel expenses	600	Travel/subsistence for Wales Area launch and promotion
Website	0		0	
Achievement Scheme	0		300	examiners travel expenses
Zoom	144	Area Zoom licence	150	
Administration	0		50	Nominal sum for unforeseen expenses
Other	0		360	Wales Area publicity materials
Total	<u>294</u>		<u>2460</u>	
Additional funding				
Area events	275	Portable w/cs and trophies (£75) for 'Wings over Wales' (Gaer Park MFC)		
Club events	120	Portable w/cs Chedworth MFC Fly-in	1100	Provision of w/cs and trophies for events x 4
World Cup events	0		0	
Championships	0		1250	All-Wales 'Nationals' organisation & set-up expenses (Club-based)
Other	0		1600	Trainer aircraft + support gear x 4 (trade prices) + 25 BMFA Darts
Total	<u>395</u>		<u>3950</u>	
Income (-)				
Events	0		-500	Wales 'Nats'

Appendix C - Outreach Officer's Report

A total of 6 schools rocketry workshops have been run. Premises and materials were provided by the University of South Wales, and launch facilities were provided by Fins Over Gwent (FOG, BMFA Club 2746). FOG was visited by several schools and universities and one RAF Air Cadet squadron who wished to launch their model rockets. Support has been given to University of South Wales for the formation of their model aircraft club. A model rocketry stand was present at an all-day public science event at Ebbw Vale, attracting interest from parents and children who attended the event.

Appendix D - Achievement Scheme Coordinator's Report

This year has been very quiet as can be seen from the individual ACE reports below, we've only had the one Club Examiner test to do. Pleased to report the candidate passed.

There may have been an overlap though as the area wasn't formally formed until part way through the year so any north Wales requests may have been handled by the old North West area.

Going forward we now have a stable Wales area, and budget for 2014 to hold test and train days.

Individual ACE returns as below.

Christopher J Cole.

Like you I to have had a very quiet year. No tests at all this year.

I would like to continue as ACE for 2024.

Richard Morris

This is my report for the 2023 flying season during which time I received no requests or even an enquiry to take any examinations. It has been a very quiet year following on from the previous year which was also very quiet. This lack of activity and interest in the hobby in general is what has lead me to resign my position as Area chief Examiner.

Keith Setchell

I have not done any tests this year (partly because I had a heart attack in April and have not been to the flying field that much since). There are some club members interested in taking a B test. Hopefully next year.

I am willing to continue as an ACE/ACI in 2024.

Keith also took the one Club Examiner test we had this year.

Tim Whitcombe was on list but hasn't been an ACE for a while, so has not been ratified.