

BMFA Wales
Unadopted Minutes of a
General Meeting
held on Thursday 15th February 2024
via the internet platform 'ZOOM'

The meeting commenced at 19:10

PRESENT:

Mike Tiley (Chairman)	Cardiff MAC
Henry Fray (Vice-Chairman)	Eglwysilan MFC*
John Taylor (Secretary)	Cardiff MAC*
Allan Belcher (Area Delegate)	Swansea MFC
Mike Dunce (Treasurer)	Swansea MFC*
Andy Green (Achievement Scheme Coordinator)	South Wales Soaring Assocrn.*
Phil Charlesworth (Education & Outreach Officer)	Fins over Gwent*
Mike Budge (Communications Officer – Web)	Swansea MFC
Gareth Llewellyn	Country Members' Representative*
Dennis Pritchard	Amman Valley Radio Control Club*
Alan Williams	Lleyn Model Aero Club*
Keith Barnes	Eglwysilan Model Flying Club
Andrew Craddock	Eglwysilan Model Flying Club
Alan Dixon	Clwyd Soaring Association*
Jon Greaves	Clwyd Soaring Association
Brady Stewart	Wing Racing League*

* Indicates a voting representative. Ten voting representatives being present, the voting strength of the meeting was confirmed.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Christopher Cole (Bryn Bach Park MFC and ACE) due to injury in a fall. Members wished Chris a speedy recovery.

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

The Agenda was approved subject to the addition of three AOB items.

3. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 30 November 2023

The Minutes of the above Meeting were approved as a correct record. Proposed by the Vice-Chairman (Henry Fray) and seconded by Dennis Pritchard (Amman Valley RCC).

4. To discuss the Area Officers' proposals for the aims and objectives of BMFA Wales and how to achieve them. (Appendix A)

4.1 Aim: to establish a working relationship with Sports Wales.

The Area Delegate informed the group that he had been in touch with Sports Wales prior to the Wales Area being created but no progress had been made at that time due to the then

'cross-border' structure of the BMFA. He agreed to follow up now that the issue had been resolved, after agreement of the Area name change.

4.2 Aim: to establish a working relationship with Local Authorities.

A discussion took place further to a suggestion that members be nominated to liaise with specific local authorities to establish working relationships. It was agreed to defer further consideration until any changes to local authority boundaries took place.

In the meantime the Chairman agreed to draft guidelines for use by members when contacting any outside bodies to enlist their support.

4.3 Aim: to provide clubs with training equipment

It was noted that provision had been made in the budget for four sets of training equipment. The Country Members' Representative (Gareth Llewellyn) indicated that a further four might be available for use by Air Cadets if a working relationship could be established with them.

It was agreed that before any acquisitions took place, a robust system for managing these assets would need to be put into place. A means of fair distribution based on need and evidence of training would be drawn up, against which clubs could provide their proposals.

4.4 Aim: to publicise our activity in Wales.

A discussion regarding our Website and Facebook pages took place. Suggestions were to contact clubs asking for club photos and brief outlines for a clubs link page on the website plus a weekly/monthly feature on both the website and Facebook pages.

The Vice-Chairman agreed to collate pictures for the Communications Officer-Web (Mike Budge) to upload.

Denis Pritchard informed the group that a clubmate had produced articles for BMFA News which had been published recently. He urged members to submit their efforts as BMFA News and RCM&E always welcomed fresh input.

4.6 Aim: to identify other sources of funding and engage with those organisations.

It was agreed to defer consideration until the Area name change had been agreed.

4.7 Aim: to identify other flying locations, particularly for indoor flying.

A discussion took place with some additional suggestions which would be followed up.

Swansea University Beach was mentioned, in addition to those mentioned in Appendix A item 6.

4.8 Aim: Publicise our sport at national air shows

Two air shows take place in Wales, Swansea, 6th/7th July and Rhyl, 27th/28th August. It was agreed to try to get a presence at both but local club support would be needed for displays, interaction with the public and trial flights.

Alan Williams (Lleyn Model Aero Club) informed the group that they will be having a bring and fly meeting on the 27th-29th September, they also invite other areas from around the UK along to fly with them at different events. They would be happy to host an event.

5. Area Council Matters (Area Delegate to report)

Report attached as Appendix B

It was noted that together with the Country Members' Representative, the Area Delegate/NEM had completed the formal proposal form for the Area's name change.

Proposed by the Country Members' Representative and seconded by the Secretary it was agreed unanimously that the proposal should be submitted to the Areas Council.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Administration

A discussion took place regarding club member lists provided by BMFA and that we had now firm evidence of anomalies in that data. A list provided of the Country Members did not have our Country Member Representative in it.

A view of the JustGo Portal was shared, with the persons permission, and during that session it was identified that a member's address county was wrong. Looking at the county list it contained counties that no longer existed, e.g. 'Glamorgan'.

It was agreed that the Secretary would work with BMFA to resolve the issues and try to get accurate lists from the system.

6.2 British Drone Flyer Representative

It was noted that the BDF representative appointed at the AGM had resigned. Possible replacement candidates were discussed with a number of names being suggested. The individuals concerned would be canvassed and invited to complete 'expressions of interest'.

6.3 F3A group

A query had been received from an F3A flyer in Wales asking if Wales had a F3A team.

Scotland, Northern Ireland and England compete in the 'Triple Crown' plus an 'International' fourth team drawn from representatives of the others.

It was agreed that the Secretary (John Taylor) would contact all clubs to find out if they have any F3A flyers willing and able to form a Welsh team.

6.4 Web site contact forms

Our website has a contact page with four different forms. It was agreed that a single form be used with all queries being sent to the secretary who would log the queries and forward them to the relevant person to provide the answer.

7. Date, Time and Venue of next meeting

Next General Meeting will take place on the 8th May.

Following General meeting would be on the 5th September.

Followed by the Annual General Meeting and General Meeting on the 28th November.

All meetings will start at 7pm via zoom.

The meeting closed at 21:30

**Area Officers' proposals for the aims and objectives of BMFA Wales
and how to achieve them.**

1 Aim: to establish a working relationship with Sports Wales.

The objective is to attend the Welsh Government Funding Fare with the view of providing training and disability support. The types of grants available were for improvement of facilities, training for instructors, provision of equipment, etc.

It was agreed that Mike and Allan would establish contact with Sports Wales with reference to STEM training, Benefits to the community and what we can offer.

2 Aim: to establish a working relationship with Local Authorities.

The objective is similar to that for item 3.1 above but that aim would have to be achieved first.

3 Aim: to provide clubs with training equipment

The objective is to support clubs in the provision of training.

The funding available for this provision should cover four full sets of equipment. Clubs would have to put forward a brief describing why they should be provided with training equipment and what equipment they would need. A requirement for funding would be the club proactively providing training with identified qualified members as trainers. They would also be a requirement for the club to have a club examiner.

An equitable means of distribution, management and usage of the equipment would have to be identified.

BMFA would be approached to identify appropriate discount facilities for provision of equipment.

4 Aim: to publicise our activity in Wales.

The objective is to engage our flying community and publicise our sport to the wider public community.

Discussions around the our website and Facebook pages took place. To engage our community of clubs we would need to provide information regularly and ask for clubs to be proactive in providing information in return.

A suggestion was to post featured article on club ensuring something new is posted frequently to engage our community and publicise clubs around Wales.

5 Aim: to identify other sources of funding and engage with those organisations.

The objective is to find other sources of funding for our activities.

Organisation would be approached in a similar way to that of Sports Wales. Suggested organisations were the Institute of Physics, the University of South Wales, Airbus, etc.

6 Aim: to identify other flying locations, particularly for indoor flying.

It was noted that the University of South Wales had a substantial indoor sports facility at Nantgarw. Airbus in North Wales was mooted. It was agreed that we should try and engage with those organisation to see if some arrangement could be made to make those facilities available to us. The best way would be through student (or employee, in the case of Airbus) engagement.

It was noted that a rocketry club had been formed in the University of South Wales under Phil's guidance and that Allan was trying to persuade a colleague in the Aeronautical Engineering department to set up an aeromodelling club.

7 Aim: Publicise our sport at national air shows

The objective is to ensure we have a presence at air shows such as the Swansea Air show and Rhyl Air show.

Local clubs would have to support any involvement at these shows by providing static displays, members to chat with the public and possible trial flight sessions for the public.