

BMFA Wales
Notes of an
Officers Meeting
held on Thursday 10th January 2024
via the internet platform 'ZOOM'

The meeting commenced at 19:00

PRESENT:

Mike Tiley (Chairman), Henry Fray (Vice-Chairman), John Taylor (Secretary), Allan Belcher (Area Delegate), Mike Dunce (Treasurer), Andy Green (Achievement Scheme Coordinator) , Phil Charlesworth (Education & Outreach Officer), Mike Budge (Communications Officer – Web), John Charles (N Wales Clubs Liaison Officer), Gareth Llewellyn (Country Members' Representative).

1. Apologies for absence

None

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

The Agenda was approved.

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

3.1 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.

3.2 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.

3.3 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.

3.4 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.

3.5 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.

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

The objective was to identify other possible flying locations such as the hanger facility at the University of South Wales and Airbus in North Wales, where hanger facilities might be available, to engage with those organisations and come to some arrangement for their use.

It was noted that a rocketry club had been formed in the University of South Wales.

3.7 Aim: Publicise our sport at national air shows

The objective is to ensure we, BMFA Cymru Wales, 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.

4. A.O.B.

4.1 Administration

The chairperson, Mike Tiley, spoke about the administration of the group and the difficulties obtaining contact details for clubs in Wales.

It was agreed that he would talk to Andy Symonds regarding identification of clubs in Wales.

It was agreed that the Secretary, John Taylor, would contact BMFA to gain access to the areas contact addresses.

4.2 Finance

The chairperson informed the officers that he was able to disperse funds while the transfer of banking to the treasurer was completed.

4.3 Zoom

Zoom management was discussed.

It was agreed that the secretary, John Taylor, would attempt to change the login email address to ensure we have full control.

4.4 The merits of a BMFA Cymru Wales regional structure

A possible regional structure similar to BMFA was discussed but the low number of clubs and members would make that type of structure too complex; however, having regional leaders when engaging with Sports Wales, Local Authorities and other organisations would be beneficial.

4.5. Engaging with Air Cadets and the associated Lord Lieutenants Award ceremonies.

Engaging with the air cadets was discussed with the suggestion that members attend local Lord Lieutenants events.

If you would like to attend any of the meetings, along with any other suitable persons, please reply to Gareth (llew.glas@btinternet.com) giving your full name, address and email along with the meeting you would like to attend.

Thursday 11th Jan – Powys - Elephant & Castle Hotel, Broad St, Newtown SY16 2BQ –

Thursday 25th Jan – West Glam - Army Reserve Centre, John Chard VC House, Glamorgan St, Swansea, SA1 3SY

Thursday 8th Feb – Mid Glam - Pontypridd Army Reserve Centre, Broadway, Pontypridd CF37 1BW

Thursday 22nd Feb – South Glam – HMS Cambria, Cargo Rd, Cardiff CF10 4LY

Thursday 7th March – Dyfed - Picton Barracks, Picton Terrace, Carmarthen SA31 3BS

Thursday 21st March – Clwyd - High Town Barracks, Kingsmill Rd, Wrexham LL13 8RD

Thursday 11th April – Gwent - 100 Field Squadron/Ty Coch Way, Cwmbran NP44 7HB

Thursday 25th April – Gwynedd - Caernarfon Army Reserve Centre, Caernarfon LL55 2DD

5. Date, Time and Venue of next meeting

No officers or additional officers' meetings were identified.

The next general meeting is on the 8th February 2024 starting at 7pm via zoom.

If a list of local representative contact details could not be obtained three weeks prior to this date the meeting would be delayed.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm