

BMFA Cymru Wales
Unadopted Minutes of a
General Meeting
held on Wednesday 8th May 2024
via the internet platform 'ZOOM'

The meeting commenced at 19:05

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*
Gareth Llewellyn	Country Members' Representative*
Dennis Pritchard	Amman Valley Radio Control Club*
Alan Williams	Lleyn Model Aero Club*
Jon Greaves	Clwyd Soaring Association*
John Charles	Anglesey Model Flying Club *

* 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 Andrew Craddock (Eglwysilan MFC), Richard Badham (Rhyl and District MFC), Christopher Cole (Bryn Bach Park MFC and ACE) and Tom Smith (Haverfordwest Model Club).

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

The Agenda was approved subject to the addition: National Council Matters.

3. Minutes of the General Meeting held on 15th February 2024

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. National Council Matters (Area Delegate to report)

Report attached as Appendix B .

The decision to proceed with the Club of the Year award was noted, despite members' reservations regarding the basis for making such a determination and the usefulness of the exercise.

Members were also pleased to note that action would be taken to prevent forcing through of policy changes by small numbers of Clubs physically in attendance at the BMFA AGM.

5. Area Council Matters (Area Delegate to report)

Report attached as Appendix B

It was noted that the formal proposal for the Area's name change had been submitted and would be considered by the Areas Council on 9th May. *(At time of writing these minutes the name change had been presented and accepted.)*

Regarding BMFA Cymru Wales Area Logo, the matter had been discussed with the Chief Executive and no issues were foreseen however small steps toward changes need to be taken.

6. Accounts for year ending 31st March 2024 and Budget for year ending 31st March 2025.

It was noted that the accounts for 2023/24 were not finalised and consideration would be deferred to the next meeting.

It was noted that Area's budget submission for the year to 31st March 2025 had been considered, but had been limited to £1,000. It was noted that the existing bank balance was sufficient to cover proposed activities for the coming year.

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

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

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

These items were deferred until the area name change had been accepted.

7.3 Aim: to provide clubs with training equipment

Aim was deferred as no response from BMFA had been received to date.

Allan Belcher and Phillip Charlesworthy agreed to contact the National Outreach Director, Ellen Jones, regarding this request.

7.4 Aim: to publicise our activity in Wales.

RCM&E publications were discussed for which there would be a two month lead time from article submission to publication. Clubs were encouraged to follow this line of publicity.

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

Members attended several of the HM The King's Lord Lieutenants Ceremonies, outcomes included in item 8 below.

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

Swansea and Treforest Universities were discussed with the suggestion that a presence at freshers week in September would be a good time for interactions with the new students.

Matt Stubbs agreed to investigate this possibility.

7.8 Aim: Publicise our sport at national air shows

The Swansea National Air Show will take place on the 6th/7th July. It was agreed that the Chairman should to discuss the benefits of previous years' presence with Andy Symons, BMFA Club Support Officer before deciding if we would have a presence this year. It was noted that Swansea Club were no longer in a position to 'anchor' the event and that some Clubs already had prior commitments for other events on the same weekend.

9. Report on attendance at HM The King's Lord Lieutenants Ceremonies and follow up actions (Armed Forces Covenant)

Gareth Llewellyn reported that attendance had a positive outcome and that he and Philip Charlesworth would progress this matter further.

Air Commander Woods was enthusiastic and would like to visit a site to get a better understanding of what we could offer members of the armed forces.

It was also suggested that a competition be created for Scouts, Air Cadets and Schools to encourage them to get involved with our sport.

10. To appoint a British Drone Flyers Representative

It was agreed by all present that Matthew Stubbs should be appointed as the Area's British Drone Flyers Representative. Other names were put forward and the Chairman agreed to make enquiries to see if they would be interested in supporting the role.

11. To review progress in establishing a Cymru Wales F3A group

The secretary reported that in response to his enquiries of all Clubs in Wales, only two clubs had responded to confirm they had none.

Accordingly it was concluded that there was insufficient interest to form a team.

Andrew Green informed the meeting about the UK Classic F3A events which were much more relaxed affairs and focussed on airframes which were less financially exclusive than those used in the Triple Crown event. He would investigate if the organisers would consider an event in Wales.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 Request for event funding

Eglwysilan Model Flying Club were having a "Fly in" on the 26th/26th May for which they requested funding to provide toilet facilities.

It was agreed to cover the cost of toilet facilities amounting to £196.

12.2 Association Of Helicopter Aerosports

The papers regarding Helicopter Aerosports was discussed and it was agreed that no further action would take place as all clubs had received the information as attachments for this meeting.

12.3 Popularisation of Aeromodelling

The papers regarding Popularisation of Aeromodelling were briefly discussed and it was agreed that no further action would take place as all clubs had received the information as attachments for this meeting.

12.4 Instructor and Examiners

Andrew Green, Achievement Scheme Coordinator, would like to contact all clubs requesting information regarding their Instructors and Examiners. It was agreed that he would compile an email and forward it to the Secretary for circulation to all clubs.

7. Date, Time and Venue of next meeting

Next General Meeting will take place 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 20:40

**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.

**Area Delegate's Report
National and Areas Matters**

1. Club of the Year:

Areas Council decided (on the Chairman's casting vote) that this would go ahead. The Members director and 4 non execs will decide on final details but briefly:

It's a subjective judgment and a club can self-nominate

Areas can nominate club of the year just for their area but the intention is that Areas submit clubs for a BMFA club of the year award.

2. Constitutional issue:

There is concern that a small number of clubs represented at the BMFA AGM can overturn a recommendation made by the Executive.

At this years meeting, a small coterie of Clubs physically present submitted a motion from the floor and were able to push through a proposal at variance with the Executive's recommendation. This year it resulted in an increase in fees. The disproportionate advantage enjoyed by Clubs physically present was being investigated in order to ensure such decisions were taken more democratically.

3. The election of members to the ASRC committee

The election has now been defined so that no one with a commercial interest can be a member.

4. Rolling individual BMFA membership

Rolling membership is available informally but not well understood by clubs. The possibility of making it part of the club renewal process was being considered.

Is the area in favour of club based rolling membership?

BDF members have rolling membership and gift memberships are also rolling.

Some clubs in England don't like the idea as its more admin but we already have to do that with CAA.

5. BMFA Cymru Wales:

The only comment about changing our name was why not just BMFA Cymru? I explained there were several options and the committee chose BMFA Cymru Wales.

RAB