

**BMFA WALES**  
**Unadopted Minutes of the**  
**General Meeting**  
**held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024**  
**via the internet platform 'ZOOM'**

**The meeting commenced at 8:38pm**

**PRESENT:**

Mike Tiley (Chairman)	Cardiff MAC
Allan Belcher (Area Delegate)	Swansea MFC
John Taylor (Secretary)	Cardiff MAC*
Mike Dunce (Treasurer)	Swansea MFC*
Andy Green (Achievement Scheme Coordinator)	South Wales Soaring Assocn.*
Henry Fray (Vice-Chairman)	Eglwysilan MFC*
Phil Charlesworth (Education & Outreach Officer)	Fins over Gwent*
Michael Budge (Communications and Web)	*
Gareth Llewellyn	Country Member Rep*
Dennis John Pritchard	Amman Valley Radio Control Club*
Alan Williams	Lleyn MFC*
Keith Barnes	Eglwysilan MFC*
Martin Fraser	

\* Indicates a voting representative.

Voting representatives of 9 Area Clubs, with approximately 4 other BMFA members also in attendance.

**AGENDA**

**1 To verify the voting strength of the Meeting and accept apologies**

There being 9 delegated voting members from Area clubs present, the meeting was confirmed as quorate.

Apologies were received from Wycliffe Barrett

**2 To Approve the Agenda and agree items for Any Other Business**

The Agenda was agreed with the addition of Support for Indoor Flying in Any Other Business.

**3 To approve the minutes of the General Meeting held on the 5th September 2024 and to deal with any matters arising**

Henry Fray pointed out that he did not attend the last meeting and that his apologies had not been included.

Allan Belcher pointed out that he was not a voting member.

Michael Budge pointed out that he was not a member of Swansea MFC.

Proposed by Michael Budge and seconded by Phil Charlesworth, the Minutes were approved, subject to correction of the above inaccuracies.

Matters arising, all actions had been completed with the exception of 7.1 Action: Suggestions for possible match-funding to be identified and an article for publication to be compiled and sent to Sports Wales. (Allan Belcher, Allan Williams, Mike Tiley).

#### **4 Council Matters (Area Delegate to report)**

This item was reported in the AGM immediately before this meeting, the report is included in that meeting minutes.

#### **5 Area Council Matters (Area Delegate to report)**

This item was reported in the AGM immediately before this meeting, the report is included in appendix A

#### **6 To review progress against the Area's stated aims (see below)**

The Chairman ran through the aims as follows

Aim 1: Establishment of a working relationship with Sports Wales. No progress.

**Action by Ch/Del/Secy required.**

Aim 2: Establishment of a working relationship with Local Authorities. No progress.

**Action by Ch/Del/Secy required.**

Aim 3: Provision of training equipment. Some movement, see Any Other Business

Aim 4: Publication our activity in Wales. Some movement – appointment of Public Relations Officer.

Aim 5: Identification of other sources of funding and engage with those organisations. Under consideration

Aim 6: Publicise our sport at national air shows. Aiming for presence during 2025

#### **7 Any Other Business**

##### **7.1 BMFA Trial Flight Programme**

The group had a general discussion and noted the action being taken by BMFA National to pass potential new member queries for trial flight requests onto Clubs identified as willing to provide trial flights rather than the nearest to the potential new members home.

##### **7.2 Consideration of application for match funding by Cardiff MAC (Appendix B)**

*7.2.1 Disclosure: The Chairman and Secretary declared their interest as Chairman and Secretary respectively of Cardiff MAC.*

Cardiff MFC presented a case for match funding for the purchase of equipment as set out in Appendix B.

A discussion took place, specifically around the source from which the equipment would be purchased and the group insisted that it should be purchased from UK supplier where support could be obtained.

The equipment would remain an asset of BMFA Cymru Wales Area for a three year period after which it's value will be depreciated to zero, 1/3 depreciation for each of the three years. It would then become an asset of the club.

The funds would be drawn on the Area's existing budget for training equipment provision.

Proposed by Gareth Llewellyn and seconded by Alan Williams, the request for funding by Cardiff MAC was APPROVED with no dissent (the Chairman and Secretary abstaining).

*7.2.2 Lleyen MFC presented a case for funding toilet facilities purchased for a publicity event. Appendix C.*

The request was accepted, proposed by Keith Barnes, seconded by Gareth Llewellyn.

#### **7.4 Support for Indoor Flying**

Amman Valley RCC asked if funding could be provided for indoor flying. The chairman asked that they put together a funding request for the group to consider.

#### **7.5 Consider the extended use of Zoom for club meetings**

The secretary proposed that the use of the zoom facility be opened up for all clubs in Cymru Wales to use. There would be no additional charge for either Cymru Wales or the local club.

The proposal was accepted and the secretary would write out to clubs offering this facility in the New Year (2025), proposed by John Taylor, seconded by Henry Fray

#### **8 Date, Time and Venue of next meeting**

Next General Meeting will be held on the Thursday, 13th February 2025 followed by meetings on Thursday, 8th May 2025, Thursday, 4th September 2025 and (immediately following the next AGM) Thursday, 27th November 2025.

All meetings will start at 7pm via zoom.

Zoom meeting will be opened 30min before the start of the meeting to allow participants time to resolve any connection issues.

#### **The Meeting Closed at 10:10pm**

#### **BMFA Cymru Wales Stated Aims:**

- Aim 1: Establishment of a working relationship with Sports Wales.
- Aim 2: Establishment of a working relationship with Local Authorities.
- Aim 3: Provision of training equipment
- Aim 4: Publication our activity in Wales.
- Aim 5: Identification of other sources of funding and engage with those organisations.

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

This is the first year that our Area has been run by a committee elected only by the clubs in Wales as previously we relied on support from previous committee members of the Mid West Area. The use of virtual meetings via zoom has made this possible and we now have active committee members from all of Wales. This all-Wales approach was strengthened by involving all clubs in the eight Kings Lord Lieutenants award dinners which are organised by the Combined Cadet Forces. Gareth Llewellyn is our committee country member representative and is also a key person on the RAF air cadet's organisation in Wales. I have visited more of our clubs in Wales and have a better appreciation of the strengths and issues present at our club flying sites where we can help. There is a need for more examiners and for us to revive our Achievement scheme training days. We have some clubs with excellent flying sites, with very little restrictions who also make visitors very welcome. We need to further publicise these so that potential new members are made aware of them.

The unusually wet and windy weather in Wales compared to previous years has resulted in many of our club fly-ins and other outreach initiatives being postponed several times and some were cancelled at short notice.

On a more positive note, we are strengthening our links with universities that teach aerospace in Wales. This now includes a BMFA club at Swansea University in the new bay area campus at Crymlyn Burrows. It is well suited as the beach area of the campus is owned by the University is already in use for test flights for students' model aircraft designs.

The BMFA rocketry club at the University of South Wales Treforest campus has now been expanded to include more 'conventional' aeromodelling activities, with membership drawn mainly from students on the aeronautical engineering courses. This has been driven by the Area Committee which has arranged links between this club and local BMFA clubs so that expertise can be shared to support students and provide suitable flying venues. Officers of the Area recently attended the University's annual Innovation Fair to promote the USW club, the BMFA and the local supporting clubs. Complete with a simulator and display models, this resulted in over 25 potential new members expressing interest.

As part of an on-going process of developing financial support for clubs, we have been liaising with clubs to see if they could benefit from the provision of loan aircraft and equipment for training. We are also looking at more flexible ways in which financial support can be provided to clubs to assist them in recruiting and retaining new members.

As a non-executive Director of SMAE Ltd I have attended Board meetings and taken part in communicating information from the Area Council and reporting back to it. One of the key issues has been retaining and recruiting members. Rolling 'gift' membership is something that in my experience clubs are not sufficiently aware of. When I have explained it to some of our clubs, they have used it to recruit members who would otherwise not have joined until the new year. In my opinion the decision of the Board to have a 'Student' membership class that cost the same as a Youth membership will encourage students to join a BMFA club. Making this available as a club rolling

## Appendix B – Cardiff Model Aircraft Club Funding Request for Radio Equipment

TO: BMFA CYMRU WALES

FROM: CARDIFF MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB

RE: GRANT FUNDING REQUEST - 2024/25

PURPOSE OF FUNDING:

These funds are needed to acquire 2no. Radiomaster Boxer transmitters, plus ancillaries and 2no. FrSky X6R receivers. The transmitters have wireless buddy-box facilities and multi-protocol modules which will enable a variety of aircraft to be bound to them for training purposes. It will also avoid reliance on Club members' and second-hand transmitters of varying age, type and reliability. One transmitter has already been acquired by our Club Secretary personally, for evaluation purposes. It has proven to be reliable and fit for purpose.

*NOTE: any funds granted will be used in part to reimburse our Secretary's outlay.*

FUNDS REQUIRED:

Instructor Radiomaster Boxer transmitter	£235.87
Trainee Radiomaster Boxer transmitter	£175.88
2 X FrSky X8R Receivers @ £nn each	£73.92
TOTAL	£485 .67

These prices are current list from UK suppliers. They can be sourced more than £150 cheaper from overseas online dealers if the Committee requires us to do so.

The Club proposes that it will incur the costs and provide receipts to the Area Treasurer for reimbursement.

JUSTIFICATION OF EXPENDITURE:

Cardiff MAC is actively promoting itself as a gateway to the sport/hobby in line with Area and BMFA objectives, being capable of training new members to BMFA 'B' Certificate standard. We have held a few 'introductory flight' days, resulting in 5 new members in 2024. The success of these days was only marred by problems in getting transmitters bound and trimmed to suit our Club's trainers. Dedicated transmitters and receivers will obviate this.

MATCH FUNDING COMMITMENT:

Via donations from Club members and ex-flyers contacting via our website, we have acquired and equipped two trainers (both i.c.) with a third to be constructed over the winter. In flying trim, these have a nominal value of £300 and we are seeking to protect these assets by using new control equipment.

OWNERSHIP:

Cardiff MAC makes application for these funds on the basis that the assets purchased will be in the sole custody of the Club, but owned by the Area.

Mike Tiley – Chairman; John Taylor – Secretary,

Cardiff M.A.C

7 November 2024

## Appendix C – Lleyn Model Aero Club Funding Request for Portaloo Hire



**LLEYN MODEL AERO CLUB**  
**lleynmac.org.uk**

Alan Williams

Phone: \*\*\*\*\*

E-Mail: [webmaster@lleynmac.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@lleynmac.org.uk)

26 November 2024

BMFA Cymru

RE: Reimbursement of Portaloo hire cost at Lleyn MAC Bring & Fly Public event

### Purpose of Funding

Reimbursement of Disabled Portaloo hire for the Bring & Fly public event held at the Lleyn MAC flying field at Penrhos, Pwllheli on 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

The hire costs have already been paid by the club treasurer who has been reimbursed from the Club funds and the monies from BMFA Cymru will be used to replace this outlay.

### Justification

The club flying site does not have easily accessible toilets, the nearest being those in the adjacent Holiday Park a short drive away. As this was an event open to the public, we felt it was prudent to have a toilet facility at our flying site within the spectator area.

### Supporting Material

A short report of the weekend event, the poster and receipt paid by the club are attached.



B&F2024 Report.pdf



Poster 2024  
LMAC.pdf



B&F2024 Portaloo  
Receipt.pdf

At the Lleyn Mac AGM held this month (November 2024) it was agreed based on the success of this event, despite the weather, that we will begin planning to repeat the event next year and any support BMFA Cymru can provide us will be gratefully accepted.

Kind Regards

Frank Pilling (Chairman), Austin Massey (Secretary) and Alan Williams (Webmaster).  
Lleyn Model Aero Club

Lleyn Model Aero Club is an affiliated member of the British Model Flying Association

