

BMFA WALES
Unadopted Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting
held on Thursday 24th November 2024
via the internet platform 'ZOOM'

The meeting commenced at 7pm

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)	Swansea MFC
Gareth Llewellyn	Country Member Rep*
Dennis John Pritchard	Amman Valley Radio Control Club*
Alan Williams	Lleyn Model Aero Club*
Keith Barnes	Eglwysilan MFC
Martin Fraser	

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

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

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Wycliffe Barrett

3 Approval the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on the 30th November 2023

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were approved, proposed by Henry Fray, seconded by Gareth Llewellyn.

Matters arising, it was noted that both area Chief Examiners had resigned, the first having left the area and the second on ill health grounds.

Action: Secretary to write to both thanking them for their service.

4 Area Constitution

The area constitution was received and noted.

5 Cymru Wales Area Delegate Report

The Area delegate report has been included as Appendix A

6 Officer's Reports

6.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that most things had been covered by the Area Delegate Report. In addition he added that we had continued the tradition of providing funding for toilet facilities at club publicity events. He also observed that it had been a quiet year and that some objectives had been missed, particularly in terms of contacts with external bodies such as Sports Wales and Local Authorities.

Regarding contact with the Air Cadets, the Chairman reported that he was still waiting for contact from the Air Officer Commanding Wales.

6.2 Vice Chairman's Report

The Vice Chairman had little to add to the previous reports except progress with Treforest Campus of the University of South Wales was progressing well.

The Vice Chairman also reported that he had been to an event where he spoke to three Squadron leaders who all said insurance was an issue. He had informed them that if they form a club with the BMFA then that would be included as part of their membership.

6.3 Secretary Report

The secretary reported that it had been a busy year. After downloading the various contact lists from the BMFA portal and amalgamating them into one spreadsheet he found that although he had sent out numerous email to clubs the responses were poor and that he was not convinced that the email were getting to the correct people.

6.4 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported there was not much movements in the accounts with the exception of financial support for local club publicity events. He also recommenced that Internet Banking be adopted with multiple people given access.

The accounts to date were then presented but not due until after the 5th April 2025

6.5 Achievement Scheme Coordinator's Report

The Achievement Scheme Coordinator reported that it had been a quiet year. Two email had been sent to clubs with the second offering local visits to explain the scheme. Little response was received with one saying it was too difficult to become an examiner; however one member put their name forward to become a Club Examiners and another to become an Area Chief Examiner.

6.6 Outreach Officer's Report

The Outreach Officer reported that University of South Wales had already been covered. He then reported that the model rocketry club has had a large number of new members and they have had to close new memberships and turn people away.

A number of meetings with the national outreach group had been attended where competitions, challenges and funding were discussed with the aim of getting younger people involved in the hobby.

Cardiff University is starting to show interest.

6.7 Web and Communications Officer Report

The Web and Communications Officer reported that apart from site maintenance there had been little to do. There may be a redesign of the sites for 2025 which he was looking into.

7 Accounts for year ending 5th April 2024 and Budget for 2025

The treasurer presented the accounts which were accepted. Proposed by Dennis Pritchard, seconded by Michael Budge.

The budget for 2025 was then discussed and it was proposed that figures from last year be rolled forward.

Action: Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary to add to the budget

8 Election of Officers

Mandatory positions:

- Chairman (1 year) Mike Tiley – Cardiff MAC, proposed by Gareth Llewellyn, seconded by Keith Barnes
- Area Delegate (1 year) Allan Belcher - Swansea MFC, proposed by Mike Tiley, seconded by Andy Green
- Secretary (2 years) John Taylor - Cardiff MAC, two year term
- Treasurer (1 year) Keith Barnes - Eglwysilan MFC, proposed by Mike Tiley, seconded by Henry Fray
- Achievement Scheme Co-or (2 years) Andy Green – South Wales Soaring Assoc., two year term

Optional Positions:

- Vice Chairman (2 years) Henry Fray – Eglwysilan MFC, two year term
- Education & Outreach Officer Philip Charlesworth – Fins Over Gwent, proposed by Gareth Llewellyn, seconded by Dennis Pritchard
- Communications Officer (Web) Mike Budge – Swansea MFC
- Communications Officer (PR) Wycliffe Barrett, proposed by Mike Tiley, seconded by Michael Budge
- Country Member Delegate (2 years) Gareth Llewellyn, two year term
- British Drone Flyers Representative (2 Years) John Rowlands, two year term

No other positions were deemed necessary at this time.

All candidates were elected unopposed and all officers were in attendance except Wycliffe Barrett (Communications Officer).

9. Date, Time and Venue of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 27th November 2025, either in person or via zoom

The Meeting Closed at 20:37

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 membership would encourage students to join the club at the start of the academic year instead of waiting for the new year.

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 2024/5 to hold test and train days.