

BMFA WALES
Unadopted Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting
held on Thursday 27th November 2025
via the internet platform 'ZOOM'

The meeting commenced at 7pm

PRESENT:

Mike Tiley (Chairman)	Cardiff MAC
Allan Belcher (Area Delegate)	Crymlyn Burrows Model Flyers*
John Taylor (Secretary)	Cardiff MAC *
Keith Barnes (Treasurer)	Eglwysilan MFC *
Phil Charlesworth (Education & Outreach Officer)	Fins over Gwent *
Richard Badham (ACE)	Rhyl MFC *
Alan Williams	Lleyn MFC *
Andy Green (Area Scheme Co-ordinator)	South Wales Soaring *
Gareth Llewellyn (Country Members Rep)	Country Members *
Stephen Roberts	Wrexham MFC *

* Indicates a voting representative.

Voting representatives of 9 Area Clubs, with 1 other member also in attendance.

AGENDA

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

With 9 voting representatives in attendance, the meeting was deemed quorate, with 1 other members also in attendance.

No apologies were received.

2 Fixed Agenda for AGM

3 To approve the minutes of the General Meeting held on the 8th May 2025

The minutes were approved with no changes. Proposed by Gareth Llewellyn, seconded by Alan Williams.

4 Area Constitution

Received and noted, no changes tabled.

5 Area Delegate Report

Allan Belcher discussed his report, see Appendix A

Further discussion regarding Carmarthen Club site took place, Keith informed the group that it is now a Large Model Association (LMA) testing site allowing Large model to be tested and flow there.

6 Officers Reports

The Chairman declined from giving a report as other reports would cover anything he might say.

The Secretary reported that it had been a busy year with the usual problem with accurate club

contact details and obtaining responses from clubs specifically with regards to attendance at meetings. Access to the bulk mailing system had been asked for a number of times but was still not possible due to no response. Both Secretary and Country members representative need access.

The Achievements Scheme Co-ordinator provided the report in Appendix C

The Outreach Officer reported that he continued to work out of the base in the University of South Wales where workshops were provided to groups pulled in from schools and clubs around Wales including across the boarder areas. Mainly on **rocketry** and software but not much focus on radio control yet. He had been getting students trained to go out to schools and found a loophole which allowed them to be paid £10 an hour, £12 in the New Year, for this work.

The Country Members Representative reported the contact list from BMFA is less than good, he was not included and quite a few from Shropshire were included. He does not have much faith in the list. He had started contacting the ones from Wales and had mostly positive responses.

The UK government were increasing the funding for Air Cadets to increase their numbers by 40,000 taking them up to 250,000 if this target is achieved. They want an increase in drone flying skills. All clubs in Wales had been contacted regarding support for Air Cadets, only 4 clubs responded, when asked **if** training for drones could be supported, only 4 responded, Cardiff, **Llandow**, Eglwysilan and Clwyd Soaring.

Cosford Air Cadets meeting would be supported by five people at the end of the month, Models, Simulators and FPV equipment would be available for demonstrations.

7 The Treasurer report and Accounts ending 5th April 2025

The Treasurer reported the accounts, Appendix B, for year ending April 2025 had been approved at a previous meeting and had been sent to BMFA central.

Proposed budget for 2026/2027 see Appendix D

8 Election of Officers

Mandatory Positions

8.1 Chairman - Mike Tiley elected Proposed by Keith Barnes, seconded by Gareth Llewellyn.

8.2 Area Delegate - Allan Belcher, proposed by Mike Tiley, seconded by Keith Barnes.

8.3 Secretary - John Taylor, proposed by Mike Tiley, seconded by Gareth Llewellyn.

8.4 Treasurer - Keith Barnes, proposed by, Alan Williams, seconded by Andy Green.

8.5 Area Scheme Co-ordinator - Andy Green, proposed by John Taylor, seconded by Keith Barnes.

8.5.1 Area Chief Examiners - Albert Gay, Andrew Grimes, Mark Barnes, Mike Tiley, Richard Badham

Optional Positions

8.6 Vice Chairman - Henry Fray, proposed by Keith Barnes, seconded by Mike Tiley.

8.7 Education Co-ordinator - Phil Charlesworth, proposed by John Taylor, seconded by Andy Green

8.8 Communications - to be filled at a later date.

8.9 Country Member Rep - Gareth Llewellyn, proposed by Alan Williams, seconded by Phil Charlesworth.

8.10 Drone Flyers - Matthew Stubbs, proposed by Keith Barnes, seconded by Mike Tiley.

8.11 Webmaster - Mick Budge, proposed by Gareth Llewellyn, seconded by Keith Barnes.

8.12 Area Representatives - North West Alan Williams, North East Richard Badam, South East

Phil Charlesworth, South West to be filled at a later date.

9 Date, Time and Venue of next meeting

Next Annual General Meeting immediately followed by General Meeting will be held on the Thursday, 26th November 2026.

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 20:15pm

Appendix A – Area Delegate Report

BMFA Wales Area delegate annual report 2025 (R A Belcher)

This is the second year that our Area has been run by a committee elected only by the clubs in Wales, but the first year that the Area grant has been for supporting only clubs in Wales. The use of virtual meetings via zoom has been successful in making all our clubs aware of the range of support available from the Area.

Funding of Training Equipment or Engagement: The Area has established a 'template' for Clubs to follow when applying for financial support for initiatives which promote and increase access to the hobby. Clubs have been encouraged to apply for funds for projects which are assessed against the qualifying criteria for expenditure, as well as the specific heads of expenditure set out in the Area's budget. We ask Clubs to demonstrate commitment by 'matching' their application with a similar level of effort or resources. Recent examples include financing one Club's purchase of multi-protocol transmitters with wireless connectivity, enabling 'buddied' flight of trainers provided and equipped by the Club, and provision of promotional banners to attract and guide members of the public to another Club's self-funded events.

RAFAC - W&W - RAD 30 Nov 25 _ Model aircraft inclusion: Our links with the combined cadet forces has increased through the efforts of, Gareth Llewellyn, our committee member who is the RAF air cadet's link with the BMFA in Wales.

Last year I noted that we should address the need for more Achievement Scheme examiners, and we have been very successful in that aim through Andy Green our Achievement scheme coordinator:

BMFA Cymru/Wales – ACE Test & Training Day: Our Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator, Andy Green led on the organisation of this and provided the following report:

“On 3 August, BMFA Cymru/Wales held its first ACE Test & Training Day to demonstrate to six new ACEs the standard required by the Achievement Scheme. We were fortunate to have Steve Kirby from the Western Area volunteer to run the event. His involvement not only showed us how to organise such a day but also gave me, personally, a clear picture of the standard expected of examiners. Invitations were sent out twice and we initially had 12 confirmed attendees, including a prospective Examiner and a B-test candidate. In the end two long-distance travellers were deterred by a poor weather forecast – which unfortunately proved accurate. The morning was spent under the club's gazebo sheltering from the rain, but by afternoon the weather improved, and several demonstration flights were possible. Everyone who attended gained valuable insights, and we hope this will raise the standard of testing and bring greater consistency across our area. It would have been nice to have more ACEs present, but perhaps next time. This day would not have been possible without the support of the Cardiff Club, Steve Kirby and all the attendees who pulled together to make it a great learning experience. We plan to hold another event early next year, hopefully further north to encourage wider participation.”

Fly-ins and out reach activities: Our Carmarthen club has grown from strength to strength and has been particularly successful in this respect as they have a site that offers camping and is of sufficient size to allow a wide range of BMFA and LMA categories of aircraft to be flown. One of our new BMFA clubs, Eglwysilan has had students from University of South Wales (USW) giving training at fly-in. This was a result of the particularly close ties through Phil Charlesworth who a visiting Professor in the EE department at USW and is also our Outreach Coordinator. The Swansea club (SMFC) has developed strong links with Swansea Airport. This Airport is under new management and is now run through an Alliance consisting mainly of trained volunteers and pilots. The Alliance was formed to take over the lease of the airport and expand the use of the airport for other aviation related activities. As trained volunteers, SMFC club members are also allowed to fly their model aircraft and drones airside by arrangement.

Appendix B – Accounts for year ending April 2025

BMFA CYMRU WALES AREA

Profit and Loss Account for year ending the 5th April 2025

	2023-24	2024-25
	£	£
BMFA Area Grant	4,200	1,000
Expenses		
Car, Van and Travel Expenses	114	0
Rent, rates, power and insurance costs	0	0
Club Support / Workshops	304	773
Bank charges	0	4
Zoom Fees	144	156
	<u>562</u>	<u>933</u>
Profit	<u>3,638</u>	<u>67</u>

Balance Sheet as at the 5th April 2025

	Notes	2023-24	2024-25
Current Assets			
Bank/Building Society Balances		6,518	6,518
Cash in Hand		0	0
		<u>6,518</u>	<u>6,518</u>
Net Current Assets		6,518	6,518
Net Assets		<u>6,518</u>	<u>6,518</u>
Capital Account			
Balance at start of period		2,880	6,518
Net Profit		3,638	67
		<u>6,518</u>	<u>6,585</u>

Profit and Loss Account Analysis as at the 5th April 2025

	2023-24	2024-25
	£	£
BMFA Area Grant		
BMFA Area Grant	<u>4,200</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Car, Van and Travel Expenses		
Travel and Subsistence	<u>114</u>	<u>0</u>
Rent, rates, power and insurance costs		
Rent	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Other Business Expenses		
Club Support / Workshops	304	773
Postage	0	0
Zoom Fees	144	156
Other Expenses	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>

Appendix C – Achievement Co-ordinator Report

BMFA Cymru Wales Area Achievement Scheme report 2025

Andy Green – Achievement Scheme coordinator

We began the year with no ACEs in post, but have since successfully ratified six suitable candidates to take on the ACE role.

To bring the new ACEs up to speed, Steve Kirby from the Western Area kindly ran an ACE Test & Training Day at Cardiff MAC.

BMFA Cymru/Wales – ACE Test & Training Day

On 3 August, BMFA Cymru/Wales held its first ACE Test & Training Day at Cardiff MAC for six newly appointed ACEs, to demonstrate the standard required by the Achievement Scheme.

We were fortunate to have Steve Kirby from the Western Area volunteer to run the event. His involvement not only showed us how to organise such a day, but also gave me, personally, a clear picture of the standard expected of examiners.

Invitations were sent out twice and we initially had 12 confirmed attendees, including a prospective Examiner and a B-test candidate. In the end, two long-distance travellers were deterred by a poor weather forecast – which unfortunately proved accurate.

The morning was spent under the club's gazebo sheltering from the rain, but by the afternoon the weather improved and several demonstration flights were possible. Everyone who attended gained valuable insights, and we hope this will raise the standard of testing and bring greater consistency across our area. It would have been nice to have more ACEs present, but hopefully we will see greater attendance next time.

This day would not have been possible without the support of Cardiff MAC, Steve Kirby and all the attendees, who pulled together to make it a very worthwhile learning experience.

We plan to hold another event early next year, ideally further north to encourage wider participation. A write-up of the event has been submitted to BMFA News.

Overall, it has been a relatively quiet year, as reflected in the individual ACE reports below.

On a personal note, I am now chairman of my local club and will be promoting the virtues of the Achievement Scheme at every available opportunity. I plan to organise an evening of Test & Training flights during the summer months.

I currently sit on two Area Committees:

- BMFA Cymru/Wales as ASC
- BMFA Western Area as a club BMFA representative

In spite of my best efforts, I'm still not getting quite enough flying in!

Individual ACE Reports

Mark Barnes – ACE

As I reported to my North West Area, this year has been very quiet on the flying front. Family issues have kept me away from many events, as well as from my own club and the Orme.

I am, however, planning for a more active 2026 and already making arrangements to attend more events, shows and competitions throughout the year. I am also happy to continue in the ACE role if required.

Mike Tiley – ACE

Since my ratification as an ACE earlier this year, I have attended the examiners' workshop held at Cardiff MAC and organised by that Club and our Area ASC. This had an excellent turnout and was expertly run by Steve Kirby from the neighbouring Western Area. I think all who attended agreed that it proved very instructive, particularly in clarifying the specifics of the various manoeuvres to be

performed and establishing a uniform standard of assessment.

Prior to that I received a few enquiries about A tests from individuals within my own Club and from further afield. I have been tentatively approached by a neighbouring Club re the organisation of tests, but so far this has not become a positive request.

My aim for 2026 will be to work with the ASC and other ACEs to take a more proactive approach to local Clubs, by visiting them and organising training days tailored to their needs. As an instructor, my Club has a few promising trainees in 2025 and I'm confident these will become certificate holders in 2026.

Albert Gay – ACE

Unfortunately, it's been a trying time to persuade members to go for their tests, A or B. I have had promises that when the weather gets better and they have had time to brush up on what is required they might have a go.

I watch members fly and many are very capable and I suggest to them to have a go. I'm then told that my plane won't do this or that.

I suggest that they use another model that will, "I need more practice". Then the matter of the question which the members seem to think they need to know the rules word perfect but this is not the case as I tell them.

I hope when the season starts again that I can get members to have a go with confidence and competence.

Our Chairman puts it out that they have an ACE in the Club and that they should take advantage of this. Also there is an age element that say they no need for this and they don't fly at shows.

Some think it's a BMFA requirement, Why would they think that.

As I say, this has nothing to do with shows its testing your own abilities and knowledge and safety guide lines.

So to sum up, I think it's hard going to persuade the senior members and from a time when we had up to 80 + all ages, now down to 40 with a couple of youngest supported by parents, it's the cost of the hobby.

Richard Badham – ACE

Nominated as ACE during 2025 season

No tests carried out during 2025

I have discussed achievement scheme at local club level asking if any clubs would like to have a designated club examiner at their club

At my own club we have no new members at present, I have asked all current members with the minimum "A" certificate whether they would like to move forward in attaining a "B" certificate and whether they would like to take tests in silent flight with no uptake.

Andrew Grimes – ACE

I'm happy to continue my role as ACE in the north. There has been no requested tests etc so nothing to report from my end.

Appendix D – Area Budget for 2026/2027

British Model Flying Association – Wales Area Forecast Budget	
Area Budget request 2026/27	
Area	<u>Outturn 26/27</u>
Basic funding	
Venues/hospitality for Wales Area launch and promotion	500
Travel/subsistence for Wales Area launch and promotion	600
Website	0
Achievement Scheme/examiners travel expenses	1000
Zoom	170
Nominal sum for unforeseen expenses	80
Wales Area publicity materials	500
Total	2850
Additional funding	
Area events	1500
Club events	800
World Cup events	
Championships	500
Other: Trainer/Support gear	1000
Total	3800
Total Expenditure	6650
Income (-)	
Events	0
Other	0
BMFA	2000
Total	2000
Total	4650
Sums included within "other" to be explained	