

BMFA WALES
Unadopted Minutes of the
General Meeting
held on Thursday 29th May 2025
via the internet platform 'ZOOM'

The meeting commenced at 7pm

PRESENT:

Mike Tiley (Chairman)	Cardiff MAC
John Taylor (Secretary)	Cardiff MAC *
Henry Fray (Vice-Chairman)	Eglwysilan MFC
Phil Charlesworth (Education & Outreach Officer)	Fins over Gwent *
Alan Williams	Lleyn MFC *
Andy Craddock	Eglwysilan MFC *
Denis Pritchard	Amman Valley *
Mark Kelly	Swansea MFC
Huw Dennis	Swansea MFC *
Albert Gay	Haverfordwest MC *

* Indicates a voting representative.

Voting representatives of 7 Area Clubs, with approximately 3 other members also in attendance.

AGENDA

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

Voting representatives of 7 Area Clubs, with approximately 3 other members also in attendance. They are listed as attendees, 7 voting, 3 other, total 10 attending.

Apologies were received from Allan Belcher

2 Approval of Agenda and items for Any Other Business

An item to Discussion the CAA Drone Regulations Consultation Paper was added as item 8.6. The Agenda was agreed with the above addition.

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

Proposed by Alan Williams, seconded by Phil Charlesworth the minutes were unanimously approved.

No matters arising were discussed.

4 To review and approve the accounts for year 5th April 2024 to 4th April 2025

In the absence of the Treasurer the Chairman presented the accounts.

Income from the area grant was the standard £1,000.

Expenses were for supply of toilet facilities for Eglwysilan and Lleyn clubs, the provision of trial flight and training radio equipment for Cardiff Club, and Zoom fees.

Bank charges were £4 every quarter from now on.

There was a small profit of £67 over the year starting at £6,518 increasing to £6,585 at the end of the year.

Proposed by Denis Pritchard, seconded by Andy Craddock the Accounts were unanimously

approved.

5 Council Matters (Area Delegate to report)

In the absence of the Area Delegate no report was given.

A written report would be provided at a later date.

6 Area Council Matters (Area Delegate to report)

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A written report would be provided at a later date.

7 To review progress against the Area's stated aims

Aim 3 – Provision of training equipment had been achieved and a process is now in place. This Aim has been achieved.

No progress had been made on any other aims since the last meeting.

Action: Chairman to chase our PR representative in an attempt to progress Aim 1,2 and 4

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Business Case for funding

Alan Williams, Lleyn MFC, presented a bid for an advertising sail flag. This was discussed and it was pointed out that a BMFA Cymru Wales logo should be added. Members present agreed this was an acceptable case, The business case was accepted, proposed by John Taylor, seconded by Albert Guy.

8.2 RAFAC - W&W - RAD 30 Nov 25 _ Model aircraft inclusion.

In the absence of Gareth Llewellyn (Country Members Representative) the date was noted and discussion deferred to the next meeting. (Background information attached as Appendix A).

8.3 ACE Training and testing dates.

The proposed date will be the 3rd August at Cardiff Model Aircraft Club. Organisation of an event in the north would be attempted at a later date.

The invite would be sent to all clubs, ACE's, CE's E's and any club member wishing to take their A or B certificate.

The ASC would lead on this, supported by ACEs and the host Club.

8.4 Secretary Report regarding Club Contacts.

The secretary reported that he had emailed all clubs asking for confirmation of their club details from the BMFACymruWales@gmail.com address, Out of the 34 clubs in Wales only 16 responded.

A further email was sent from the secretaries' personal account with a further 8 responses. 24 clubs having responded with 10 unresponsive.

A discussion took place regarding the non responsive clubs with the following agreed:

South Wales Rocketry Society – Philip Charlesworthy (3158) Chairman and Secretary (*to be listed as contact?*)

Amman Valley – Dennis Pritchard (*to be listed/provide details?*)

Fins Over Gwent - Philip Charlesworthy to provide details.

A number of known contacts in the other clubs would be approached to encourage those clubs to engage, i.e. Delyn Model Flying Club, Monmouth & Raglan Model Aero Club, South Wales Soaring Association, Gaer Park MFC, South Wales Valley Flyers, Merthyr College Rocketry Society (YG), Sky Rangers Drone Club, Coleg Y Cymoedd Rocketry Society (YG)

8.5 Discussion regarding competitions in our area.

This item came from a University perspective with the intention of giving students an aim for their education.

It was noted that Clubs based in local colleges were becoming involved in payload challenge type events. It was agreed that members should offer assistance where possible.

8.6 CAA Drone Regulations Consultation Paper

The document is available at <https://www.caa.co.uk/publication/download/25025>

It was noted that the proposed weight limit for models would be dropped from 250 gr to 100 gr.

The document also discussed the potential requirement to use ID Beacons if not flying at a registered club site.

9 Date, Time and Venue of next meeting

Next General Meeting will be held on the Thursday, 4th September 2025 followed by the next and AGM on 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 7:45pm

Appendix A - RAF Air Cadets (RAFAC) of the West & Wales Region (i.e. the English Midlands and all of Wales) Regional Activity Day Report

Background

As a member of the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association – Wales Region (RFCA Wales) I've been introducing our hobby to the air cadet fraternity as you know. As such, I was invited to present our hobby to the RAF Air Cadets (RAFAC) of the West & Wales Region (i.e. the English Midlands and all of Wales) at their Regional Activity Day (RAD) held at RAF Cosford yesterday.

I'd put together a team of 7 flyers to do this. When the LMA members learned that space at the event had been reduced, they declined to attend, understandably. So, it was Chris Bradbury and myself who presented; I hadn't realised until the day that this is the chap who is the editor of BMFA News.

We supported each other well – and he looked after the people across the border, and I chatted with Wales attendees in some detail. Chris is also the BMFA Drone Support Officer, and he was able to dwell on that a lot as he earns his living in the commercial drone marketplace – inc film and TV work.

I have to say, for many adults and cadets this was their 1st exposure to the hobby – I only met one who knew of the BMFA (lapsed member) that said, a number knew of local model flying clubs but had not realised they come under a form of regulation.

More background

The adults who volunteer their time to train air cadets are collectively known as Cadet Force Adult Volunteers (CFAV); these inc adults who remain as civilians (Civilian Instructors) (CI) and members who don uniform, both as senior non-commissioned officers (NCOs) or commissioned officers.

(There are a very few who are full-time at Regional level). Additionally, there are a few admin people (civil service) at Wing HQ and Regional HQ – these seem to be reducing in number. There are 3 Wings in Wales, and the Regional HQ is at Cosford. Not to be forgotten, as you may come across them, are the civilian committees. Most squadrons try to have a cmte – they are responsible for fund raising, accounts, welfare, and occasional support – but tend not to be CI's.

All CFAV are unpaid volunteers who give a great deal of their own time, in addition to their civ jobs, to deliver a plethora of support as mandated by the RAF, via MoD rules and regulations and very stringent child safeguarding laws, on a very tight budget. Most local squadrons vary in size hugely, in both terms of cadets and/or adults, most need assistance.

The cadets are mainly school pupils who are air minded (but not always). Occasionally, you may come across university students or apprentices who are till cadets.

The day

The cadets were organised into small groups who went around stands undertaking various activity training and tests from drill to first aid and including leadership. Chris and I were in with the Drone stand and we introduced our hobby via my simulator and our collection of models after they had undertaken a knowledge competition and flown a virtual drone test.

My experience and observations Those adults and cadets we did see were almost universally enthusiastic. Word spread, and some cadets/adults not slated for the Drone Stand came looking for us. Some adults hung around for as long as they could. Informally, the feedback given was that the hierarchy had been told that our hobby presentation had been very well received – and they want to undertake this exercise again, on a bigger scale in the future – Why?

The positives – the simulator led the way; all but a few cadets enjoyed the sim and some adults came back for more. In conversation with the adults, the thoughts were progressive:

- ◆ Identify a lead adult(s)
- ◆ Buy a sim set-up; thought to be achievable by most; and considered a good purchase for its own sake as it could fulfil a purpose as a stand-alone on sqn premises
- ◆ The Sim – the adults valued the training modules; the stage approach – beginner / intermediate / experienced / plus all the other menu options to make use meaningful.
- ◆ The other pulls being ...

- ◆ STEM trg – a must for cadets, model matls and build Options, inc adhesives
- ◆ Types of model, f/w, r/w, glider, jet, drones etc, rocketry
- ◆ Power options and trg in them
- ◆ Btty charging – types and trg
- ◆ Tx / rx set-up
- ◆ Flying – phased flying trg – such as buddy box and SAFE type tech also appealed, also providing phased trg aka the sim = graduated trg syllabus
- ◆ Achievement scheme – the fact that the BMFA test options can contribute to DofE Awards was of much interest * Insurance – there was some debate over what existing arrangements cover, up to and inc attendance at a club site; Chris advised that a lead adult could join the BMFA with up to 6 youth membership rates; it was noted these youths do not have to be named and that the 6 could change; thus 6 cadets could complete an agreed course and then a different set of 6 could do the same, under the existing cost.
- ◆ Future Employment – many of the adults recognised that cadets may benefit from future employment in the drone/UAV environment, be it mil or civ, and more likely than being a F35 pilot!

The Way Forward?

PSA the info sheet I prepared was taken by adults who said they would follow-up. Although some contact may be made by RAFAC quickly, I think physical progress will take longer. Given the time of year, progress will be governed by Christmas/NY, GCSE and A Level mocks and exams, plus the RAFAC internal exam process. That said, all local arrangements are likely to be unique. I suspect it may be a set of steps as below:

1. Adults may contact us randomly by geography
2. Sims will be bought, and if that goes down well,
3. Contact will be made for visits to clubs for model flying experience sessions
4. An arrangement may be made for a course of model flying training – mainly using club trg resources. And if that goes well,
5. Sqns may purchase their own model flying set-ups – adults are aware of the possibility of grantaid for sensible applications,

And interspersed with all this will be STEM and DofE trg, as this can be integrated into the cadet life, with or without, flyers interaction.

I hope this helps?

Gareth