

**Minutes of the Meeting of the BMFA North West Area
Held on 7th January 2014 at St Aidan's Parish Centre,
Winstanley, Wigan.**

Persons Present

David Lloyd-Jones	Chairman & Delegate/Kilton RCMAC
Derek Gilbert	Secretary & Treasurer/Sale MFC
Roy Allam	Achievement Sch Co-ord/FCMFA
Keith Barker	PRO & Webmaster/Rochdale MAC
John O'Donnell	Timperley Model Flyers
Gerry Ferer	Timperley Model Flyers
Jim Radcliffe	Timperley DMAC
Carl Brotherton	Timperley DMAC
Tom Anyon	Fylde Coast MFA
Clive Needham	Oldham DMAC
Wayne Pendleton	CCMAA
Sue Price	Staffs Model Helicopter Club
Roger Price	Staffs Model Helicopter Club
John Leadbeater	North West F F Group
Peter Maw	Bickershaw MFC
Martin Fraser	North West Helicopter Club

12 voting

The meeting started at 8.02pm

Apologies for absence

Mike Colling

Correspondence

The Chairman was sad to inform the meeting that Ron Firth, a Fellow and past Chairman of the Society, had died on 20th December.

The Secretary reported that he had received a note from Allan Dean-Lewis that he now had agreement from all members of the North

West Motorsports Federation to distribute the funds on dissolution to be split Motorsport Safety Fund £192.17 and ACU Benevolent Fund £192.17 and that these final payments have been made.

Minutes of the meetings held on 3 September and 26 November 2013

The minutes of the above area meetings were approved by the meeting with 3 abstentions. It was noted that on page 6 Tom Anyon had only assisted with the fixed wing A candidate and on page 7 it was the Secretary who confirmed the Rochdale hall had been booked for the winter season rather than Keith Barker.

Matters Arising

John O'Donnell asked if there was any progress on the numbers of world events to be discussed with CIAM and was told by Clive Needham that this was still in abeyance and likely to be voted on in April.

John O'Donnell raised the poor quality of the new web site which he thought was not worth the amount budgeted. This generated some discussion which noted some shortcomings. The Chairman said that he had identified some weaknesses himself which he had pointed out to the web site sub committee . Noting that the web site is still in progress it was suggested that John should pass his comments to the sub committee for them to consider.

Clive Needham noted that the BMFA News was much improved. This prompted some discussion which in the main agreed that the magazine was well received, however John O'Donnell did note that whilst reports and photos covered several events, results tables are not included. The Secretary commented that perhaps whilst the majority of members would be interested to see photos and details of the better competition models, the few who were interested in the results would probably be informed direct or seen the detailed results on the web already.

Officers' Reports

None of the Officers had any point or topics of interest to report.

Council Meetings and Agendas

Agenda for Full Council meeting 11th January

The Chairman commented that other than the London Area proposal and the discussion document re Area's future, the majority of the items listed were straightforward "rubber stamping" items which he had no problems with and none were raised by the members present. The London Area proposal generated considerable discussion and whilst many agreed with it in principle, all had concerns that funding was impractical and the method not covered in the proposal.

Wayne Pendleton and Keith Barker both felt we needed more office space at Leicester and perhaps if this is addressed in the future the possibility of part of any new headquarters admin space could be used for a small museum.

It was agreed the delegate should vote in favour, as long as no action was attached because of reservations with the financial implications, with a vote of: for 8, against 1 and 3 abstentions.

The discussion document regarding the future of Areas was raised.

This promoted a lengthy discussion of which the main topics were:

If Areas were done away with –

How will the appointment of ACEs be controlled?

Can Leicester office control and arrange achievement scheme testing in an area?

In this area we organise 13 events and competitions!

Probably there would be little or no saving in costs as more staff would be needed in Leicester!

Most members only join to receive insurance cover – areas may provide a link!

Is this a first step to do away with Council altogether?

Clive Needham noted that we are NOT the BMFA Ltd – we must not lose sight that we are the British Model Flying ASSOCIATION !!

The discussion document does not offer an alternative to Areas!

Gerry Ferer suggested that perhaps we should call an Areas Council Meeting to consider this document?

It was left for the Delegate to convey the meeting's views and report back at the next area meeting.

N W Area Fly-ins

The Chairman confirmed that the Woodvale rally will not happen at the airfield this summer and consequently the Eddie Riding comp will be deferred again.

Peter Maw confirmed the date for the Bickershaw fly in will be 29th June. He also reported that there had been some difficulties in obtaining support from the club members following comments made by Andy Ellison, area Chief Examiner, at the examiners workshop held there earlier in the year. He had however obtained their agreement to allow the use of the club field with the club organising fencing, barbeque and car park only and with the Area manning and controlling the flightline. It was also agreed later in the meeting that as well as the cost of the toilets, the N W Area would cover all other costs incurred by the club for the 2014 meeting with a ceiling of £150.

The Chairman confirmed that a date for the Shawbury scale fly in was still to be agreed.

Keith Barker reported that the Rochdale indoor meetings were being very well supported. The Treasurer noted that Rochdale Council had increased the room hire to £175 a session and asked if we should be increasing the entrance fee. Keith said he was reluctant to do this as the adverts were all placed for the rest of the season quoting the current fee. This was put to a vote and the meeting unanimously voted to leave the fee as it is for now but to consider an increase for next season before any advertising is booked.

Helicopter Testing

Following points raised at the recent examiners meeting it was clear that examiners had mixed views on a few areas but a major concern was the differing views on the size of helicopters suitable for the A and B tests and particularly the distances flown in circuits. The Chairman and Wayne Pendleton agreed to review the examiners guidance notes and produce a report for Roy Allam to send to Duncan McClure.

AOB

The possibility of an alternative site for the Eddie Riding competition was discussed with most suggestions proving to be unsuitable . The Chairman agreed a field large enough for the event is difficult to find, they do exist and Cark was mentioned, but it has to be accepted that for many possible entrants to make a lengthy journey there has to be an additional attraction to make it worthwhile. In the past, the Woodvale rally provided this. All the other model displays in our area are either not suitable in flying area or have radio or full size flying in the evening which would prohibit the flying part of the competition. It seems we still need to wait for a change in CO at Woodvale to help to reinstate the rally.

Meeting Dates

Dates for the remainder of the year were agreed as:

Tuesday 18 March

Tuesday 13 May

Tuesday 2 September

Tuesday 25 November for Area meeting and the Area AGM

The meeting closed at 10.25

These minutes are provisional until approved at the next area meeting.