

British Model Flying Association

North West Area

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the B.M.F.A. North West Area held on 25 November 2014 at St Aidan's Parish Centre, Winstanley, Wigan.

Persons Present

David Lloyd-Jones	Chairman /Halton &DMAC
Derek Gilbert	Secretary & Treasurer/Sale MFC
Mike Colling FSMAE	Vice Chairman/Wigan
Roy Allam	Achievement Sch Co-ord/FCMFA
John O'Donnell	Timperley MF
Tom Anyon	Fylde Coast MFA
Gerry Ferer	Timperley MF
Jim Radcliffe	Timperley & DMFC
Carl Brotherton	Timperley & DMAC
Wayne Pendleton	CCMAA
John Leadbeater	NW Free Flight Group
Sue Price	Staffs Model Heli C
Rodger Price	Staffs Model Heli C
Peter Maw	Bickershaw MFC
Colin Usher	Webmaster & Kilton MAC
Martin Fraser	North West Helicopter club
Clive Needham	PRO & Oldham DMAC
Derick Perchard	Sleap Model Flyers
Adrian Hatnboar	Red Dragons MFC
Ray Jones	Clwyd Soaring Assoc
John Minchell	Shawbury Indoor Modellers

16 voting

The meeting commenced at 8.06 pm

Apologies for Absence

Dave Swarbrick and Keith Barker

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

John O'Donnell asked that the reference to the model engineering exhibition in Manchester should also state "at Event City".

The 2014 AGM minutes were accepted with voting 9 for and 7 abstentions.

Matters Arising

None

Officer's Reports

Chairman

The Chairman, David Lloyd-Jones, reported that the Area is the largest of the BMFA, both in area and with over 130 affiliated clubs.

The Area has been involved with many events in the area including seven indoor meetings at Rochdale, sponsorship of the Gala meeting at the Velodrome, two outdoor fly-ins but were not able to run the Eddie Riding event again this year. We also helped man the BMFA stand at various events in the North West and I would like to thank all the club members who helped with all these.

We are looking to arrange another Examiners Workshop during 2015 and are hoping to have better attendance numbers than last year.

The Chairman also thanked the elected Area Committee members, the Area Chief Examiners and Club Examiners for all the work they have done throughout the year on behalf of the Area clubs and members.

The Chairman noted that only about 5% of the area's clubs send a delegate to our meetings. The venue is pleasant and we pay travel expenses and an increase in the number of delegates attending would be most welcome.

He also thanked all the Area Chief Examiners and Club Examiners for the work that they put in during the last 12 months carrying out tests for the achievement scheme. He also thanked Tom Anyon for travelling to the Isle of Man on the area's behalf and noted that during the year we have appointed an additional ACE for both Helicopter and Fixed Wing testing.

As he is retiring from the position of PRO he thanked Keith Barker for all the work he has done as PRO and keeping the web site alive. he also thanked all the other committee members without whom the North West Area could not function.

He finally noted that the area will now mainly be communicating with clubs by "Email Notification" which will save the BMFA money and

also give the area clubs the opportunity to take free publicity by inserting event details within our communications.

Vice Chairman

Mike Colling FSMAE reported that he had been pleased to attend all our Area meetings and would be happy to help with the Makers Fair event next year.

Secretary

The Secretary, Derek Gilbert, reported the latest list he had for the area shows 132 clubs – 7 less than last year. Whilst we appear to be the largest Area the number of clubs seems to be falling each year. Area meetings continue to be just about adequately supported with usually 14 attending on behalf of 10 affiliated clubs.

Treasurer

Derek Gilbert, as Treasurer, reviewed the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014 and reported that it was anticipated that the area would run at a small deficit again this year, with the reserves being below double the annual income. In fact we made a loss of £678 which leaves our total funds £3,397 which is nearly £2k less than we feel should be our maximum but still represents a sufficient balance to fund the area. The main income, the BMFA grant was £2,599 which is slightly more than last year.

The principle points on expenditure are:

Newsletter and Minutes costs – Whilst we have made a saving this year by reducing the numbers of copy minutes posted, we will have a bigger saving next financial year as we are only circulating clubs and interested parties by E Mail which will be of no cost.

General postage and stationery is mainly Roy's costs and postage of spare wind socks requested by clubs.[we do have one left if any club would like it]

Eddie Riding – Again no costs were incurred, with this event cancelled again during this financial year.

We have increased the entrance fee for Rochdale this year which will go some way towards covering the increasing costs of the events,

I am not sure if we will be holding another examiners meeting next year, but if we do, I imagine we will be able to reduce the cost to the area. The monies spent last year failed to produce much interest from

the club examiners, so we will be looking at other ways of encouraging attendance.

The Treasurer thanked Carl Brotherton for acting as our auditor and I hoped he will be willing to continue for next year.

The annual accounts were approved with a unanimous vote by the meeting.

PRO

The PRO, Keith Barker, was not able to be present at the meeting but had asked that he could be replaced as both PRO and Webmaster.

Achievement Scheme Coordinator

Roy Allam, Achievement Scheme Coordinator, reported that this year sees the addition of another A.C.E to our number and the remainder all wish to continue in the position for the next year. All Chief Examiners have sent in a report to the Area which will be copied to the A.S. Controller and he hoped they all will be ratified at this A.G.M.

Most of the requested Club Examiner tests have been completed with a few outstanding, waiting for a mutually acceptable time and place for the examination to be arranged.

I still get a number of requests for “A” & “B” tests for all disciplines from country members which I try to pass on to Club Examiners local to the area and hope that they will be encouraged to join a Club.

Everything appears to be going along as it normally is at this time of the year and I hope it continues in this way.

Free Flight Secretary

John Leadbeater reported that the Rufford site has been used for four Area Events this year, all of which were held in the latter half of the year. The remaining events were all cancelled either due to bad weather or because they were scheduled for the main crop growing season. We remain committed to fostering good relations with local farmers.

There were no problems this year with Wild Fowl shooters at Rufford although we discovered late last year that the Mereside Model Club had moved onto a site close to where we normally fly. This is a slightly unwelcome development because it means that our freedom to find the best flying base has been constrained. However, contact has been made with the Mereside Club and initial discussions lead us to believe that we may be able to share their site at Rufford when the wind direction makes it sensible.

Early this year it was confirmed that RAF Church Fenton would no longer be available as a venue and consequently Free Flight flyers in the North and particularly the North West, have had to come to terms with longer journeys to the remaining airfield venues in the Midlands or South of England.

Fly in reports

David Lloyd-Jones reported that Keith Barker is willing to continue organising the Rochdale indoor events, which were well supported again this year. The Shawbury Scale fly-in is now managed by the Shawbury club and continues to be sponsored by the Area.

Area Chief Examiners Reports

Bill Cowell, Wayne Pendleton, Richard Budd, Tom Anyon, Andy Ellison, Ray Jones and David Lloyd-Jones's reports were read to the meeting. The reports showed in the main low numbers of testing again. Tom Anyon had indicated at last years AGM that he may retire as A.C.E. this year but he noted that he was willing to continue for another year.

The Chairman informed the meeting that he understood most Areas voted individually for the ratification of A.C.E.s and suggested we follow suite. As four of the A.C.E.s were present, it was agreed, to avoid any possible embarrassment, that this would be a written anonymous vote. Two non voting persons present were asked to manage the count of the voting papers and this was undertaken by John O'Donnell and Mike Colling FSMAE . The vote was declared: Bill Howell, Wayne Pendleton, Tom Anyon, Ray Jones and David Lloyd-Jones to be ratified and Richard Budd and Andy Ellison were declared unsuccessful.

Election of Officers

Keith Barker had informed the committee that he did not wish to continue as PRO and Webmaster. Clive Needham had informed the committee that he was willing to take over the position of PRO and Colin Usher was willing to take on the duties of Webmaster.

As no other person offered to contest any positions and all the other retiring Officers were prepared to continue in office they were all re-elected as follows:

Chairman	David Lloyd-Jones
Delegate	David Lloyd-Jones
Treasurer	Derek Gilbert
PRO	Clive Needham
Auditor	Carl Brotherton
All to hold office until the 2016 AGM	

The meeting also re-elected, unopposed:

Webmaster:	Colin Usher
Free Flight Sec	John Leadbeater
Scale Comp Sec:	David Lloyd-Jones
Indoor Sec:	Keith Barker
All to hold office until the 2015 AGM	

Date of the 2015 AGM

The meeting agreed to set a provisional date for the 2014 AGM as 24th November 2015 – this to be confirmed at the next area meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.46 pm

These minutes are provisional until approved at the next annual general meeting

Elected Officers

Chairman		
David Lloyd-Jones	d@vidlloydjones.co.uk	01565 734 040
Vice Chairman		
Mike Colling FSMAE	mike@skyhi.org.uk	01257 452 624
Secretary & Treasurer		
Derek Gilbert	derek.gilbert@ntlworld.com	0161 748 5380
Achievement Scheme Coordinator		
Roy Allam		01253 763 566
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Delegate

David Lloyd-Jones

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PRO

Clive Needham

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Area Webmaster

Colin Usher

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Flying Discipline Secretaries**Free Flight**

John Leadbeater

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Scale

David Lloyd-Jones

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Indoor

Keith Barker

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