

# *British Model Flying Association*

## *North West Area*

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the B.M.F.A. North West Area held on 26 November 2013 at St Aidan's Parish Centre, Winstanley, Wigan.**

### **Persons Present**

David Lloyd-Jones	Chairman & Delegate/Halton MAS
Derek Gilbert	Secretary & Treasurer/Sale MFC
Mike Colling FSMAE	Vice Chairman/Wigan
Keith Barker	PRO/Webmaster/ Rochdale MAC
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
Wayne Pendleton	CCMAA
John Leadbeater	NW Free Flight Group
Sue Price	Staffs MHC
Rodger Price	Staffs MHC
Peter Maw	Bickershaw MFC
Frank Fletcher	RAF Shawbury MAC

11 voting

The meeting commenced at 8.02 pm

### **Apologies for Absence**

Clive Needham

### **Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting**

The 2013 AGM minutes were accepted with voting 10 for and 1 abstention.

### **Matters Arising**

The Chairman noted that the MOSI Makers Fair was attended again by the area but the Eddie Riding event was again cancelled with there

being no show at Woodvale this year. He also noted that the Shawbury club is now to be affiliated to RAFMA but we should still be able to hold the area scale fly-in at the airfield. The organisers of the Clayton Green indoor events now require BMFA membership of all flyers.

## **Officer's Reports**

### ***Chairman***

The Chairman, David Lloyd-Jones, reported that we have had a direct involvement in many events in the area including seven indoor meetings at Rochdale, sponsorship of the indoor meeting at the Velodrome, a scale and a general r/c fly in, and manned a stand for youngsters to build and fly small models at the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry "Makers Fair".

We also assisted with the BMFA stand at the model engineering exhibition in Manchester and at various shows in the North West. The Chairman thanked everyone who had given their time with all these events

The area arranged an Examiners Workshop to try and obtain a level playing field in the way examiners carry out their duties. The attendance was poor, but despite the weather we were able to carry out demonstration flights and the response from those that attended was very encouraging.

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.

### ***Vice Chairman***

Mike Colling FSMAE reported that he had been pleased to attend all our Area meetings and help with the Makers Fair and the Model Engineers events.

### ***Secretary***

The Secretary, Derek Gilbert, reported the latest list he had for the area shows 139 clubs – 3 less than last year.

Area meetings continue to be just about adequately supported with usually 13 attending on behalf of 9 clubs.

Last year's AGM saw 15 members attending compared to 15 again today.

He was pleased to see that the proposal we raised regarding help to set up examiners for Helicopters in the I O M was accepted and this has enabled us to appoint an examiner there.

### ***Treasurer***

Derek Gilbert, as Treasurer, reviewed the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 and reported that it was anticipated that the area would run at a small deficit again this year, with the reserves being kept below double the annual income. In fact we made a loss of only £115 which leaves our total funds just over £4k which is about £1k less than we feel should be our maximum.

Our main income, the BMFA grant was £2,565 which is slightly less than last year due to the reduction in club numbers.

The principle points on expenditure are:

Newsletter and Minutes costs – Increase in postage costs is now being felt, but I have contacted members who are on our distribution list who have not attended a meeting for several years and 35 have said they no longer needed them which will save some money next year.

General postage and stationery is mainly Roy's costs and postage of spare wind socks requested by clubs.

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

The Treasurer thanked Gerry and Jim for giving up their time to audit the accounts for us.

The accounts were accepted by a unanimous vote of the meeting,

### ***PRO***

The PRO, Keith Barker, reported that he had continued to maintain the area web site during the year and manned the BMFA stand at all the major shows in the North West. Keith also thanked everyone who had assisted with stands during the year.

### ***Achievement Scheme Coordinator***

Roy Allam, Achievement Scheme Coordinator, reported that again there were not many requests for Club Examiner tests and all the Area Chief Examiners have been able to get their job done as required. Most of them attending the Club Examiners Workshop at Bickershaw.

The visit to the Isle of Man was successfully completed and they now have the ability to test helicopter "B" certificates on the island, which I hope will allow the Achievement Scheme to progress there.

As all the A.C.E.'s are willing to stand for a further year, and as all have submitted a report, I will propose that they are elected on bloc to serve for another year.

### ***Free Flight Secretary***

John Leadbeater reported that Rufford had only been used for one Area event this year. Of the other four events which could have been held there, all were cancelled because of bad weather.

There were no problems with Wild Fowl shooters at Rufford although this is hardly surprising given that we only flew once. However, on the one occasion when we did fly, we met and introduced ourselves to the main landowner who happened to be passing. After a brief conversation he suggested we might like to use one of his upwind fields which was very helpful on the day, and could be a good option in the future.

Free Flight flyers in the North are facing the possible loss of RAF Church Fenton as a venue, now that the RAF has confirmed that they are leaving the site. This is a blow since the only remaining airfield venues are in the Midlands or South, and travelling will be a major issue for some.

### ***Fly in reports***

David Lloyd-Jones said that the Shawbury Scale Fly-in went well and Martin Simmonds is expecting to be able to run this event again next year.

The Eddie Riding competition could not be run again this year and an alternative venue was still proving hard to find.

Keith Barker noted that the Rochdale indoor events were running smoothly and well supported.

### **Area Chief Examiners Reports**

Tom Anyon, Ray Jones, David Lloyd-Jones, Andy Ellison, Richard Budd and Bill Cowell's reports were read to the meeting, all reported low levels of testing again. Tom Anyon informed the meeting that he is looking to retire as A.C.E. at the end of 2014.

Roy proposed that all examiners be ratified for next year and this was unanimously approved by the meeting.

## **Election of Officers**

Both Auditors informed the meeting that, having held the post for several years, they wished to stand down and the Secretary agreed to look for a replacement to be co-opted for the next financial year.

All the other retiring Officers, were prepared to continue in office and as there was no-one wishing to stand against them, they were all re-elected to hold office until the 2015 AGM:

Vice Chairman	Mike Colling FSMAE
Secretary	Derek Gilbert
Achievement Scheme Coordinator	Roy Allam

The meeting also re-elected, unopposed:

Webmaster:	Keith Barker
Free Flight Sec	John Leadbeater
Scale Comp Sec:	David Lloyd-Jones
Indoor Sec:	Keith Barker

All to hold office until the 2014 AGM

## **Date of the 2014 AGM**

The meeting agreed to set a provisional date for the 2014 AGM as 25th November to be confirmed at the next area meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.27 pm

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

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