

British Model Flying Association **North West Area**

Agenda for the Area 2019 Annual General Meeting

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Officers reports: Chairman, Vice Chairman
Secretary, Treasurer, PRO
Achievement Scheme Coordinator
Flying Discipline Secretaries
5. Area Chief Examiner's reports
6. Election of Officers:
 - a) Webmaster
 - Flying Discipline Secretaries:
 - b) Free Flight,
 - c) Scale and Indoorfor a one year period.
7. Date for 2020 AGM

There will be a break for refreshments – **Sandwiches provided** – followed by a short general meeting

Agenda for Area General Meeting

1. Meeting dates for 2020
2. Any other business

Draft minutes of the 3rd September 2019 area meeting will be reviewed at the next area meeting.

British Model Flying Association

North West Area

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the B.M.F.A. North West Area held on 20th November 2018 at St Aidan's Parish Centre, Winstanley, Wigan.

Persons Present

Michael Colling	Acting Chairman & Vice Chairman /Wigan
Carl Brotherton	Secretary & Treasurer/Sale MFC
Kevin A Watson	Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator, Blackburn & District Model Aircraft Society
Martyn Kinder	Delegate, SCRCs
Ivan Bradburt	Leek & Moorland Gliding Association
Keith Elliot	Fylde Coast Model Flying Club
Andrew Ellison	Tyldesley Model Flying Club
Gareth Fairclough	Skelmersdale MAC
Gerry Ferer	Timperley Model Flyers
M Johnston	Hesketh Bank Club
John Leadbeater	North West Free Flight Group
Jon Laugton	Oldham MAC
John Minchell	Sleap Model Flyers
Clive Needham	Oldham MAC
Wayne Pendleton	Kilton MFC
Roger Price	Staffordshire Model helicopter Club
Sue Price	Staffordshire Model helicopter Club
Keith Rathbone	Leek & Moorland Gliding Association
Andrew Stanley	Chase Model Aircraft Club
David Worrton	Clwyd Soaring Association

17 voting 3 non-voting

The meeting commenced at 8.00 pm

Apologies for Absence

Keith Barker, Derek Perchard

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

The 2017 AGM minutes were unanimously accepted, with no corrections.

12 acceptance, 5 abstentions 3 non-voting.

Matters Arising

Non

Correspondence

Non

Officer's Reports

Chairman Acting and Vice Chairman

Michael Colling reported that it had been a difficult year for the BMFA NW Area Committee. The optimism of both the Chairman, D Lloyd-Jones and Wayne Pendleton our Achievement scheme co-ordinator at the the time, was overtaken by totally unforeseen events in their personal lives. Realistically, there was no other option than resign from their posts.

Their commitment and enthusiasm has been and will continue to be missed.

On a brighter and more positive note, out of the traumas there have been some achievements.

The Manchester Velodrome Indoor Event which has traditionally been supported by the BMFA NW Area has been reinstated.

The role of "BMFA NW Area "Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinator" (ASC) has been taken onboard by a new appointee. It was agreed with the Leicester office that could be for a period of just over two years. This is allow continuity at an organisational level. The ASC has accomplished many positive achievements in a short space of time.

The area has also been fortunate in a speedy appointed of a "BMFA NW Area Delegate", due to the resignation of the incumbent. Our new delegate has demonstrated an ability to communicate with the BMFA NW area meetings relevant issues that are raised and discussed at council. This has resulted in a two way communication with all present at area meetings.

In light of the changes and challenges that occur in periods of upheaval, Michael Colling has agreed that he would continue to assist the new Chairman and Delegate in this bedding in period. He would seek re-election to the Vice Chairman's position. However it is his intention not to stand for re-election at the next 2019 AGM. On that basis he urged others to seriously consider standing for the role.

Secretary

There have been many communication challenges and a degree of uncertainty during the last year. Initially as a consequence of not having a EMail listing available for BMFA NW Area Clubs and their Chairman and Secretaries.

Once a listing had been compiled, the latest “Data Protection Act” came into force. This indicated that we needed positive opt ins, non-responses were to be treated as: do not communicate. Later discussions with the Leicester office stated that membership of the BMFA came with the condition that the BMFA and its officers could communicate with clubs and the membership in respect to activities relating to the BMFA and its members.

On this basis the area is able to communicate with clubs with respect to “Bring and Buy” events organised by clubs. In addition events hosted by clubs can be circulated throughout our area.

It is understood that are further changes are taking place as the Head Office at Leicester, relating to communications. The roll out up to-date Internet based means of communication, which bring us into the 21st Century. These systems when fully rolled out will probably alter how and what the NW Area communicates to Clubs and members.

Delegates Report

The recently appointed BMFA NW Area Delegate, Martyn Kinder reported that he has now attended:

- Two Area Meetings
- One AGM

On behalf of the region.

It was agreed at the BMFA AGM that BMFA membership fees are to increase by

- Senior Members by £4
- Junior members by £2

These increase are the consequence of a number of issues.

The first being a reduction of membership of approximately 1,000 people. It is anticipated that the membership could shortly reach 30,000. This from a position of a few years earlier of approximately 34,000.

Secondly the BMFA could lose its no claims discount. In the last period there had been 27 member to member claims. These ranged from damage to models to vehicle damage, which resulted in substantial claims.

Andy Ellison asked a number of questions and the aspects relating to the claims, seeking clarification of the basis of member to member claim and the value. Martyn Kinder provided some specific information, although not knowing detail relating to all of the incidents

A suggestion was put forward at the BMFA AGM that technical committees should raise their own funds to cover their activities.

It was decided that there would be an examination of how areas operate. Martyn Kinder was charged with the task of preparing a report on what the NW Areas function is. As part of the discussion a suggestion was made at the BMFA AGM that areas should only be permitted to

hold a contingency of £1, 000. Funds in excess of this amount remitted to the Leicester Office. Areas would then submit an application on a case by case basis for the allocation for funding.

Treasurer

The main income of the BMFA NW Area, is the BMFA grant. For 2018 this was £2,448 which is slightly less than previous year. The indications are that there will be further reductions in years to come, as projected BMFA membership is anticipated to fall.

It was reported that the bank balance had increased this year (2016-17 financial year).

A question was taken from Andrew Ellison as to the actual spend in the year. John Minchell replied that the accounts show £1,480.

The treasurer indicated that the year had not been typical, in that some planned aspects of expected expenditure had not occurred. In part this was a consequence of events that had resulted in some changes to the committee. Recent spends in the 2018-19 accounting year indicates that future expenditure will result in a balanced income and expenditure. The expenditure being related to support of the “Achievement Scheme”, 2 off Fly-ins, and in the near future the return of the Velodrome Gala. The treasurer suggested that catching up with delayed projected activities and a wish expressed to support activities undertaken by clubs in the BMFA NW Area, could result, in a controlled reduction in the areas bank balance.

The Committee of the NW area is committed to supporting the events and activities of the area, balancing the financial support provided to the various disciplines supported by the BMFA, by supporting BMFA events in the region. It is noted that support for both fixed wing and helicopters fly-ins would be favourably received, in the process of both balance and furthering the purpose of the BMFA area grant. The area remains committed to expanding both indoor and FF events, which also have experienced some regrettable reductions and looks forward to proposals from these quarters in the near future. Fixed wing events are also favourably viewed, representing the predominant member activity.

I would like to thank Keith Elliot, for acting as our auditor and reviewing the accounts.

PRO

The PRO, Clive Needham, announced that he would not be standing for re-election, as part of his withdrawing from his active contribution from all BMFA posts. It is something that he has been reluctant to do, although he believes it is in the interest of the BMFA, as health issues are restricting his activities.

Achievement Scheme Coordinator

The recently appointed ASC (Achievement Scheme Coordinator) Kevin Watson stated. As a new ACE (Achievement Scheme Examiner) in 2017, I was honoured to be asked to take over as ASC and continue the good work started by Wayne Pendleton.

The area has now produced a map with locations and speciality of ACE in an attempt to rationalise examiner availability and usage. We have identified a shortfall of Helicopter Area Chief Examiners and plans are in place to recruit 2 more this year.

One of these identified has passed his Examiners Test for helicopters last month and will therefore be able to take on fixed wing and helicopter duties once ratified. The 2nd. Recruit has yet to be tested but this is expected before the close of 2018.

Area has supported one examiner and instructor event at Skelmersdale with 22 attendees and excellent feedback. I thank Area for their support.

Plans are in place for a BMFA Achievement Scheme Roadshow event in spring 2019.

Moving forward the area wishes to reverse the low profile in evidence during the last 5 years and be an accessible resource for those wishing to instruct, examine or just to take part in the achievement scheme.

Each Examiner has supplied me with a report for 2018 activity and I am therefore happy to propose that all the existing ACEs be ratified for 2019. It is fair to say that some ACEs have been less active due to ill health and I trust that they will be back up to speed by the time this is accepted at the NW Area AGM. Bill Cowell is standalone examiner on the Isle of Man and due to his current health I have suggested we try and find a second person thus reducing his workload and succession planning.

It is noted that several achievement scheme tests have been undertaken at Lower Drayton club by an ACE from outside the area. I have spoken with the scheme controller and the club concerned. Andy Stanley will approach the club, make himself known and available for further tests.

Lastly I must thank the ACEs for their enthusiasm and professionalism in delivery of the achievement Scheme throughout our NW Area.

Andy Ellison sought an insight into the number of testers available for slope soaring and flat field soaring activities. A number of issues were discussed, typically sites frequently in use, the numbers of individuals involved, and the informal nature of Slope Soaring in particular. Rob Stenhouse was suggested as a useful contact, to enable a clearer understanding of the issues.

Kevin Watson indicated that the issue relating to numbers of examiners was now constantly under review, particularly with respect to the Silent and Quite Flight membership. Until recently many of the clubs had been self regulating outside of the Achievement Scheme. With the event of the influence of EASA directive and developments within the UK regulatory environment, this is changing.

A final question was raised as to the number of existing A & B certificate holders nationally relative to the RC flying membership. This was not known. The implication being, has or will the work load for the scheme operatives, increase, remain constant at present levels, or potentially decline. Kevin Watson indicated that the full implementation and understanding of the yet to be announced regulations by the CAA is not fully known. When it is, a clearer understanding of any impact on the "Proficiency Scheme" can be assessed

Flying Discipline Secretaries Reports

Keith Barker was not present to present a reported relating to the Rochdale indoor events. The Chairman had been advised by Keith Barker that he would continue in the role.

John Leadbeater, the free flight secretary, reported that there were no Competitions held in the North West this year. The lack of activity was due partly to bad or unhelpful weather but also to a lack of participants. Some individuals have chosen, where practical, to travel to one or other of the locations which still enjoy access to an airfield. This situation is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

Unofficial competitions were held at Tatton Park over the summer months. Unfortunately the site is too small for unrestricted completion but is a useful venue for smaller models and larger models when the wind speed is low

Election of Officers

Chairman

As a consequence of the resignation of David Lloyd-Jones, Michael Colling the then Vice Chairman took up the position, on a temporary basis. Hence the position of Chairman has become vacant. Prior to the BMFA NW Area AGM, three individuals declared an interest in standing for election for the position.

Preceding the AGM Christopher Boardman one of those declaring an interest, withdrew from the process. The decision was reached in that he thought it beneficial to establish a relationship with attendees of area meetings. This would allow those voting to be in a position to assess what he would be bringing to the role, beyond a CV and a presentation to those present.

The two candidates that stood were

- Jon Laugton
- Martyn Kynder

Curriculum Vitea (CV) had been made available prior to the AGM, both applicants in turn, review their CVs verbally, fleshing out in greater detail the salient aspects of what they could do for the BMFA and the NW Area. Both candidates were well received, both displaying outstanding attributes.

A secret ballot was then held, with the following results:

- Jon Laugton with 4 votes
- Martyn Kinder with 13 votes

The new Chairman was announced as Martyn Kinder by Michael Colling.

Secretary & Treasurer

The present Secretary and Treasurer reiterated that he would not stand if anybody had an interest in either role. There was no interest shown. The Secretary and Treasurer was re-elected to the positions.

The Secretary and Treasurer, highlighted the need for succession planning, to avoid a repeat of more recent events, some of which were related to age. The Secretary and Treasurer being of an age, that the certainty of youth is diminished.

PRO

Clive Needham resigned from the Position. Andrew Ellison volunteered to take over the role. No one else put themselves forward. Andrew Ellison was elected unopposed.

Web Master

As no person offered to contest the position. Martyn Kinder was re-elected to the role.

Free Flight

No new interest was registered by those present, and the existing officer agreed to continue their role. John Leadbeater was re-elected.

Indoor Rochdale & Scale

No new interest was registered by those present, and the existing officers agreed to continue their roles as follows:

- Rochdale, Keith Barker
- Scale , John Minchell

Both were re-elected.

Chief Examiners

Kevin Watson reported the activity and appointments of the Chief Examiners for the NW Area. A secret ballot was held, all were confirmed in post for a year.

KEVIN WATSON	ACE & ASC
DERICK PERCHARD	ACE
ANDY STANLEY	ACE
ANDY RIGBY	ACE
WAYNE PENDLETON	ACE
WILLIAM OWEN	ACE (IOM)
David LLOYD-JONES	ACE
MARK BARNES	ACE
ROBERT STENHOUSE	ACE

Date of the 2019AGM

The meeting agreed to set a provisional date for the 2019 AGM as 19th November 2019. This to be confirmed at the next area meeting.

Any Other Business

- a) The treasurer made a proposal that the annual accounts should be simplified. The principle reason is for the purposes of transparency. The previous treasurer was a Chartered Accountant (Derek Gilbert). Standard practice for large companies with complex accounts has been adopted to date. The accounts presently carry charges

into and out of a financial years. This is where the charges, payments are not solely within a financial year. These sums are frequently fractional value relative to a receipt or payment. This practice although logical, requires an understanding of the detail of both receipts and payments. Without this knowledge the accounts become opaque.

It is proposed that payments or receipt made in a specific year are simply recorded as such. Irrespective if a fraction can be argued as being related to a past or future period. The basis of the proposal is that activities of the BMFA NW Area are undertaken on a yearly basis and are generally simple. Where the need to account for transactions outside the financial year are the exception.

The Chairman (Martyn Kinder) asked if this would show up a significant discrepancy in the 2018-19 accounts. The Treasurer did not believe there would be any significant issue.

A vote was taken, with the proposal being accepted by 17 votes.

- b) In order for the Committee and those who attend the BMFA NW Area meetings to be in a position to vote on issue of expenditure, from a position of knowledge, it was proposed that a projected budget should be prepared for the next meeting, covering the 2019-2018 year.

A vote was taken, with the proposal being accepted by 17 votes

- c) The treasurer queried if the assets as included in the annual accounts are relevant. Mainly comprising Competition Cups and competition related items, which are not presently in usage.

The meeting was unanimous in that they remained relevant to the BMFA NW Area.

- d) The treasurer expressed concern that there were substantial sums of money related to travel expenses that had not been claimed, which stretched into the distant past. The meeting decided that after the current meeting all unclaimed travelling expenses would be returned into the BMFA NW Area Cash box.

- e) Due to the substantial changes to the committee members the bank account authorised signatures need to be changed to comply with the NW Area Constitution. The changes will be as follows:

- 1) Chairman Martyn Kinder to replace David Lloyd-Jones.
- 2) ASC Kevin Watson to replace Roy Allam

The meeting ended at 10.45 pm

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

Elected Officers

Chairman

Martyn Kinder kmartyn@yahoo.co.uk 07989025198

Vice Chairman

Mike Colling FSMAE mike@skyhi.org.uk 01257 452 624

Secretary & Treasurer

Carl Brotherton carl_brotherton@yahoo.co.uk 01253782565

Achievement Scheme Coordinator

Kevin Watson fgivitsum@gmail.com 07973343893

Delegate

Martyn Kinder martyn@czd.org.uk 07989025198

PRO

Andy Ellison slopetrashuk@Gmail.com 07969 460032

Area Webmaster

Martyn Kinder kmartyn@yahoo.co.uk 07989025198

Flying Discipline Secretaries

Free Flight

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Scale

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Indoor

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