



## **B.M.F.A. WESTERN AREA COMMITTEE**

### **Unconfirmed Minutes of 02<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 Meeting**

**Virtual Zoom meeting Held on BMFA portal.**

#### **Those Present.**

S Kirby	Beaufort Model Flying Club (Area Chairman)
J. Harris	Bristol Radio Control MAC (BMFA Council Delegate)
P Wilson	Bristol Bulldogs (Area Secretary)
J Stennard	(Outreach Officer)
A Benson-Blair	Frome Model Flying Club (Area Drone Flyers Representative)
B Silcocks	Bristol & West Model Aero Club
A Meaney	Weston MFC
M Mathews	Medbourne Flying Group
A Green	Prestbury Park MFC
C Montagu	Country MFC
B Cole	Wessex MFC (Observer)
J Robb	Beaufort MFC (Observer)
Mervin iPad?	Country Member (Observer)
T Abdy-Collins	Swindon MFC (Observer)
B Mitchell	Country member (Observer)

#### **1. Chairman's Welcome, confirmation of Delegates and AOB items.,**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed the ten clubs present to the first Ordinary Area meeting of 2024. With nine club delegates present we easily meet the quorum requirements. We now need to identify any AOB items at the start of the meeting.

AOB Items noted are three items: -

Achievement Scheme Heli ACE, Train and Test days.

BMFA Funding process.

CAA consultation and restrictions on free flight.

#### **Apologies for absence.**

L Hawkins Iminster & District RC Flying club.

A Fellows Wyre Forest Model Flyers  
Peter Wilson Western Area Secretary  
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## **2. Unconfirmed minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

The unconfirmed minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting and the Chairman noted they were prior to the reformed Western Area, then asked if those present at the last meeting had any comments. With no comments they minutes were offered for approval.

Proposed by the Frome MFC and seconded by the Weston MFC.

Carried unanimously with no abstentions.

## **3. Matters arising from the minutes.**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## **4. Actions and activities of the BMFA Board of Management and the Areas Council. Review Agendas and provide direction to Area Delegate.**

The Area Delegate gave an outline of the process as it is now where we have the Area Director Duncan who has four non-executive directors to support him at the area Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January. This is in preparation for the board meeting to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January. Viewing the agenda for the Area Council you have the normal start up with agenda, matters arising followed by election of members and ratification of ACEs Their certificates will be electronic one this year.

Viewed the agenda for the Board meeting Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January. Again, the normal start up ratifying all the items and board appointments listed and any actions from the last meeting. Duncan will cover details on Junior membership in item 10 a.

Item 10 b rolling membership has been in discussion with clubs over the last 6 months and we need to see if our view has changed with the formation of the revised Area. This was opened to the meeting for discussion, and then a vote taken to rejecting a rolling membership. Eight clubs supporting and one abstention. The one abstention was that club had not discussed it with their members. Several clubs were changing their membership to have individual members be responsible for paying the BMFA directly, this reflects the difficulties in collecting fees.

Item 10 c Recruitment Strategy nothing seen yet but hopefully there will be some more information at the meeting.

The Frome MFC raised the point that item 10 Strategic and Topical Matters makes no mention of the CAA, which should be a key element. The CAA in their Frome MFC view appear to be hugely out of control with the whole field of uncrewed aviation not only model aircraft. This is something we should bring up at board level. We know the BMFA do a lot in this area but maybe it should be shown at a higher level.

The Delegate said we can all see the activities by the current request for members to respond to the proposals from the CAA which closes on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January. We should be asking why the CAA does not appear to be cohesive across all their activities.

The Frome club felt the BMFA has a strong position and should say to the CAA look stop and have a complete rethink as they are destroying uncrewed aviation, they need to come up with an approach the doesn't penalise all forms of model flyers. The Delegate's response was if you look at 13b the CAA team report, you can see they show their responses.

We can help by us all responding to the CAA by the 10<sup>th</sup> of January. Recognize that by the time of our board meeting the closing date for responding to the CAA will have passed.

**5. Unfilled Area vacancies from the 2023 AGM. Communications Officer X2, British Drone Flyers Representative and Country Members Representative.**

The Chairman pointed out the above vacancies are still outstanding from the AGM and asked if there was any input from the assembled clubs. Andy Green from Prestbury Park flyers had suggested he may be available, however as Andy was voted back into the role of Achievement scheme coordinator for the Wales Area, he would not be available for the Western Area. The Chairman thanked Andy for stepping forward at the AGM. There were no other responses for the role of communications officer. Angus Benson-Blair was happy to step forward and cover the British Drone Flyers Representative for the Western Area as he is a professional drone flyer. The chairman said this role was primarily to report back from the BDF. With a request for a show of hands Angus Benson-Blair of the Frome MFC was elected to the position. There was nobody prepared to step forward for the Country Members Representative at this time. The Chairman said he would add a comment at the end of this meeting.

**6. Review Area funding requests and status.**

There were two requests for funding support, one had been circulated with the agenda from the Wessex model flying club and one was received just prior to the meeting from the Frome Model Flying club. The Chairman talked through the proposals and said as we have seen both proposals in earlier years, he felt they were both fully justified. The meeting was asked for proposer and seconders for the following proposals.

The Wessex MFC request for STEM Day support 2024 amounting to £269.34.

The Frome MFC request for Cheese Show Stand 2024 amounting to £253.00.

BRCMAC proposed acceptance of both requests, and this was seconded by Woodspring Wings MAC. Accepted by all with no abstentions.

**7. Any other business. (As agreed in note 1)**

Achievement Scheme Heli ACE, Train, and Test days.

We lost our Helicopter Area Chief Examiner earlier last year as anybody come up with any proposal as this was raised at the AGM. The Frome MFC delegate expressed an interest, but as he is not a Heli club examiner this would not be a quick fix. You need to be an examiner for six months before becoming an ACE. While the route is there if he wished it would not solve the current problem. The secretary asked if we knew how many Heli examiners are contained within the new Western Area. While this was not known the Chairman pointed out that the roll of the ACE in working to promote examiners and other activities may not necessarily be a good fit with all examiners with regards to workload and other requirements. The Area Delegate thanked the Frome delegate for putting his name in the hat and said we should progress people through in any event as we always need examiners and Area chief examiners. The Chairman also thought there was another potential candidate that we could approach.

**Peter Wilson Western Area Secretary**  
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With respect to Train and Test days the Chairman was waiting on some feedback from the Swindon area with the possibility of running a training day at Kemble Airfield however a lot of things need to fall into place for that to happen not least the availability of a slot when the Kemble airfield would be free.

BMFA Funding process.

We have seen two clubs awarded support from the western area and clubs should be aware that funding is available to support train and test days and other activities. The Chairman proposed to send out via the secretary the outline approach that clubs can take to request funding support, not only for train and test days but other events. While we are not about to purchase things like barbeques there is opportunities to support other expenses incurred.

Note at this point Brian Mitchell a country member connected to the meeting and proceeded to vent his anger in relation to connecting to the meeting, the CAA and BMFA trying to apply difficult rules and doing nothing to stop the loss of flying fields. With some discussion from the Delegate and the representative of the Weston MFC club, Brian having made his point the meeting continued. The secretary agreed to call Brian later after the meeting and see what his connection issues were.

CAA consultation and restrictions on free flight

From B Silcocks (Bristol & West)

Brian asked if he could get a better understanding of the CAA document especially a response relating to Free Flight activities. The Chairman suggested that if Brian read through the draft responses from the BMFA and LMA to see if that answers his question. There would appear to be no specific questions for free flight. The Chairman said we need to understand that with increasing use of the airspace there will continue to be revisions to the CAA rules.

## **8. Date of next meeting**

**Next ordinary meeting is at 7:00pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 via Zoom.**

The Chairman advised that we may call another meeting prior to the May meeting to progress any feedback relating to the open positions.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.01pm.