



B.M.F.A. WESTERN AREA COMMITTEE

Unapproved AGM Meeting Minutes of 27th November 2018

Held at Filton Community Association, Elm Park, Filton

Those Present

S Kirby	Beaufort Model Flying Club (Area Chairman)
J. Harris	Bristol Radio Control MAC (BMFA Council Delegate)
N White	Woodspring Wings MAC (Area Treasurer)
P Wilson	Bristol Bulldogs (Area Secretary)
E Drew	Bristol & West MAC
R. Muir	Weston MFC
J Stennard	Beaufort MFC
J Bond	South Bristol MAC
R Webber	Lansdown MFC

1. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting at 08:07 and welcomed everybody to the meeting. He was pleased to see eight clubs represented plus one non delegate at the AGM.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from:-

P Tribe Bristol & West MAC (Comp Free Flight)
B Partington ACE

3. Acceptance of the 2017 AGM Minutes (28th November 2017) and matters arising

The minutes from the previous AGM were offered for acceptance.

Proposed for acceptance by Weston MFC and seconded by Woodspring Wings.

Accepted by eight clubs with one abstention.

Matters arising; - There were no matters arising.

4. Officers Reports

Chairman

This was my fifth year as Area Chairman and I'm pleased to say that I believe it has yet again gone well, and as an area we have maintained the previous years' considerable improvements. I have attended two of the three Ordinary Meeting held throughout the year (missing just the May one due to holidays) plus tonight's Annual General Meeting.

I would like to thank all the elected Officers for their usual sterling work during the year, though would like to point out a few notable achievements:-

Our Secretary, Peter Wilson, for again maintaining the improvements in communications within the area. This has involved further updating the email distribution list of all club contacts (he tells me that none "bounce" now), receiving documents from Leicester and

elsewhere, identifying and resolving some “received” errors, and packing all these as appropriate to mail out to Clubs in a timely manner. With all the improved communication it has been good to see more Clubs attending the Ordinary Meetings and the AGM tonight.

Our Education Officer, John Stennard, for yet again conducting many talks and/or demo events over the year, for spending three days at the Thornbury Engineering Exhibition, several days with the Spirit of Aviation schools charity work and the Aerospace Children’s Specials. Well done and thank you John, keep up the good work and spend our grants wisely!

The Area Committee (and that encompasses the Club delegates) for supporting John Stennard’s education efforts with the purchase of models and equipment over the year. I anticipate further support being requested in 2018.

Our Council Delegate, Phil Durant, who has carried out this role for very many years. Phil is now standing down and will be a hard act to follow.

John Harris, Bob Partington and Phil Durant for supporting me on the successful Examiner training day, also thanks to the **Wincanton** club for hosting and to the many volunteer pilots. This will be mentioned again in my Achievement Scheme report.

Peter Tribe, the Area’s Free Flight Secretary, for patiently dealing with the bureaucracy around access to RNAS Merryfield. I believe Peter will provide us with an update later in this meeting.

John Harris for maintaining the accounts and for his work on and for the Achievement Scheme Review Committee.

The Area’s challenges and priorities for next year are to:-

Maintain the communications to the Clubs and persuade the clubs to better communicate important things to their members

Continue the Examiner training events and to reflect any further changes in the Achievement Scheme

Support our Education Officer and our Clubs in their demo/training events.

And all the usual business!

I look forward to another two year “in the Chair” if the Committee wishes!

Treasurer

The treasurer presented the audited accounts for April 2017 to April 2018 they were accepted by all present and signed off by the chairman. Looking after the account has been relatively straightforward, although this year to date we have seen more expenditure than income mainly due to an increase in supports requests for education activities. The treasurer has had to stand in for the chairman on one occasion at the area meeting and has also represented the area at the full council meetings in Leicester as the delegate was not available. The treasurer was prepared to take up the roll of Area Delegate but would prefer another person to take up the roll of area treasurer if that happened.

Secretary

E mail and circulations are now working well; rejections are few and far between. Although the Western Area Web site is now up and running I have not been able to spend time to update this to reflect this area. I hope to be able to do this in the coming year.

Council Delegate

Our delegate has not been well and although he did attend some meetings at Leicester he has now resigned from the roll. I am sure we all wish him well and are grateful for the time, knowledge and support he gave to the Western Area.

Education Co-ordinator (PRO)

During this year the Sir John Thomson Spirit of Aviation Initiative, which our area supports, entered its third year.

Our club involvement in the Bristol Model Engineering and Model Making Exhibition in August continued this year. Our static display and the indoor flying zone are very popular as are the 'have a go' sessions which are enjoyed by the young and not so young. The BMFA support us through banners, information leaflets, handouts, furry things (very popular!) etc. This three-day exhibition is quite demanding on the club member volunteers but provides an excellent opportunity to showcase our hobby and the BMFA.

Our educational activities involving young people are possible through the enthusiastic support of the local area committee and the funding they make available.

Bristol Aerospace Museum held a half term "children's day" which was very successful and supported by members of the Beaufort MFC.

John Stennard

Comp (Free Flight)

Free Flight in the Western Area has done a bit of a nose dive during 2018 caused by the loss of Merryfield Airfield for the 8 Free Flight Area events.

Despite strenuous efforts by the BMFA Officers, the FFTC, Western Area Officers, South Bristol MAC and Bristol and West MAC, 'sponsors' who could satisfy the Airfield Access requirements of RNAS Yeovilton could not be found.

The result had been that mostly only Free Flight enthusiasts who are within easy travel distance of Bodmin Moor or Salisbury Plain and are fit enough to withstand the rigours of these venues have participated in the Area Centralised events during 2018.

The Western Area F/F Comp Sec has contacted the Officer in Charge at Merryfield to see if there have been any changes in the Merryfield Access requirements which might allow a return of Free Flight to this venue in 2019, but was informed that there were none. The requirement for sponsorship by a serving Royal Nave person based at Yeovilton still applied.

I have also contacted the Chairman of the FFTC on the subject of Merryfield, but he has not been able to help. I have also tried to contact the secretary of Ilminster RC club, and await a reply.

Peter Tribe
Western Area F/F Comp Sec.

5. Election of Officers

Five positions came up for election for a two year period according to the Area constitution. Chairman, Treasurer, Council Delegate, PRO and Auditor.

Chairman

The current Chairman was happy to stand again and informed the meeting that Ian Armstrong the Area Auditor would also be prepared to stand again for another two years. With no other volunteers coming forward Weston MFC proposed to accept Steve Kirby of the Beaufort MFC as the Chairman and Ian Armstrong as the auditor this was seconded by Bristol & West MFC. Carried by all present with one abstention.

Treasurer and Council Delegate

The current treasurer offered to take up the roll of Area Delegate but did not want to cover the Treasurer roll as well if it could be avoided. Thankfully Nick White of the Woodspring Wings MAC volunteered to take on the roll of area treasurer.

South Bristol MAC proposed to accept John Harris of BRMAC as the council delegate and Nick White of Woodspring Wings MAC as the area treasurer this was seconded by Bristol Bulldogs carried by all present with two abstentions.

The PRO roll continues to be looked after by John Stennard under the roll of education coordinator

6. Ratification of Area Chief Examiners

The chairman read through the reports from the three of four chief examiners, these are attached in annex (a). Due to ill health no report was offered from P Durant.

The meeting then voted and ratified the Chief Examiners as follows

S Kirby	8 for with no abstentions
J Harris	8 for with no abstentions
P Durant	8 for with no abstentions
B Partington	8 for with no abstentions.

7. Dates of Next AGM for 2018

The date for the 2019 AGM is Tuesday 26th November 2019.

Other dates for your diary in 2019

Ordinary Western area meetings to discuss Full Council meeting agenda's Tuesday 8th January, Tuesday 7th May, Tuesday 3rd September 2019 and Tuesday 7th January 2020.

If the Area Council agenda has something we need to respond to there may be a requirement for a provisional meeting on Tuesday 12th February and Tuesday 8th October. All will be advised if required including the venue.

Examiner workshop dates proposed are Saturday 22nd June and Saturday 7th September Location yet to be decided.

Meeting closed at 08:52.

Post meeting note first Examiner meeting date amended to 22nd , it was 15th at the meeting.

Annex (a) ACE/ ACI Reports as received

Area Chief Examiner/Area Co-ordinator report to the 2018 Western Area AGM from Steve Kirby

2018 has been a relatively quiet year even though this was my first in the additional role of area co-ordinator. I would like to thank Phil for looking after this for many years previously and hope I can continue his good work.

In June I ran an extremely successful "Examiner Workshop" training day at Wincanton, ably assisted by the other Area ACEs (Phil, John and Bob) and the Wincanton Club. The event was well received by the ten attendees and a Frome member achieved his Fixed Wing "A" later in the afternoon. A big "Thank You" to Wincanton for the use of their excellent facilities and their provision of catering.

In September I also had planned another "Examiner Workshop" at Woodspring Wings but this unfortunately was cancelled due to a combination of a poor weather forecast and a low number of attendees. Subsequently I received feedback that this event was not known to members of some clubs, I find this very disappointing as the date had been circulated to all the area's clubs in the minutes of our January meeting and confirmed at all subsequent meetings along with further advertising nearer the time. With the possibility of these Workshops becoming the method of "Examiner Continued Competence" it is important that all Club Examiners especially are made aware of these event dates by their Club Secretary/contact at the earliest opportunity.

In August I was again part of the Beaufort MFC's team demonstrating indoor flying and offering "trial sessions" on micro helicopters at the three-day Bristol Model Engineering Exhibition in Thornbury, an event again supported this year by the Area. Unfortunately this formerly annual event will not be taking place next year.

I have also helped several Club members in their training as well as assisting our Area Education Officer with whom I will again be visiting local schools as part of a charity project in the coming weeks.

At my own Club I have presided over successful A (FW) and A (MR) tests for the same member, plus an A (MR) for a non-member of the BMFA. I also presided over the A (FW) test at the Wincanton Workshop.

As Area Achievement Scheme co-ordinator I received requests from two Clubs to arrange assessments for the position of Club Examiner. However neither of the nominated Club members has been in a position to proceed so as winter is upon us I will contact the Clubs concerned and ask them to review the suitability of their candidates and re-nominate them next year if appropriate.

I am looking forward to 2019 and will be arranging two more Workshops with the dates soon announced.

Steve Kirby.

BMFA WESTERN AREA – AREA CHIEF EXAMINERS/INSTRUCTORS REPORT FOR 2018

Please find below my Area Chief Examiner/Instructor report for this year in preparation for the Area AGM and ratification of our Area CE/Is.

As with previous years, I have had no Club Examiner tests allocated to me to perform this year. However, I have been able to support one of the two workshops, the second workshop being cancelled. I have run a B Certificate workshop at a local club early on in the year which was very successful.

I have supported all of the Achievement Scheme Review Committee (ASRC) meetings this year, the first in January and the second last Saturday, 3rd November 18. The ASRC held two Road Shows and a Fly-in at Buckminster. Time has flown by and my two years on the ASRC has come to the end. Hence, I have reapplied for a position on the ASRC and await the outcome of the selection process.

With Phil Durant retiring as Area Delegate I have temporarily taken over the position. I would like to continue in this role as I believe working with the ASRC and as Area Delegate I will have a better understanding of what is being presented to Areas Council. Regarding my role as Area Vice-Chairman, I have chaired one Area Meeting whilst our Chairman was away in the US. Before closing this short report, I would like add a personal thanks to Phil for all his help and support over the many years he has been involved with the Western Area, Area Co-Ord, ACE/ACI. I hope the committee will write to him expressing our thanks and best wishes in his retirement. For the record, I would be delighted to continue as an ACE/ACI for the Western Area.

Yours Aye

{Original Signed}

John HARRIS

BMFA No: S027760 AS Examiner Ref: 1696

5th November 2018

G R PARTINGTON AREA CHIEF EXAMINER REPORT 2018

This year I have engaged in discussions with club instructors and examiner as to the preparedness of candidates for the Achievement Scheme Tests and to advise on the need for further tuition. I have performed training at the request of candidates to reinforce a lesson, detail the requirements of the appropriate test and help to correct faults in the trainee's technique. I helped with queries on the Achievement Scheme and the BMFA Handbook from both individuals and at club meetings. I was engaged in a licence application, with risk assessment, to the local MoD site management for the appropriate signatures and then for submission to Defence Lands.

I was able to attend the Examiner Workshop and was happy to offer my help and advice. I am keen to support these and personally I've found them very beneficial. I have been encouraging others to attend them, to maintain standards across the region and ensure that all examiners are conforming to the same criteria. A club member who expressed interest and aptitude for instructing and examining was encouraged to attend the workshop. He found this very interesting and rewarding. I hope there will be Examiner Workshops held next year.

I helped Bath University with their student project to build a UAV for the University Challenge. The aim was to produce a vehicle which in the case of a disaster in a remote area of the world could deliver a payload to the affected sites. I was consulted during the design studies and was present during the testing phase to offer advice. This year the test and safety pilot, who though very experienced had neither his A nor B, sought my help. I demonstrated the tests and guided him to the appropriate documentation on the BMFA website in preparation. However, he was forced to drop out and the previous year's pilot stepped in.