

Feed Back from Full Council Zoom Meeting 21 Jan 23

The first meeting as the BMFA Board vice Full Council as a result of the restructuring and streamlining process opened on time at 11.00. Points of interest in the order they came up – to be read in conjunction with attached agenda.

1. **Agenda items 1 – 7.** Completed iaw the Meeting Info Booklet (attached). Very noticeable that the meeting only had 14 attendees with a final voting strength of 13 (down from 28 attendees/22 voting at Full Council).
2. NB new vice Chairman (Keith Lomax), new Finance Director (Mike Woodhouse) and new Honorary Sec (Paul Hoey). Mark Benns has become the Sporting Director and the Members Director (Duncan McClure). Change to the CAA posts were approved and are different to what is shown in the attached information: CAA representation now fulfilled by the CEO and Club Support Officer. It became clear that the CEO also represents the BMFA on a multitude of external aviation related organisations and it was felt that it would be beneficial if the wider membership was made aware of this through the BMFA News.
3. **Adoption of Minutes Full Council 17 Sep 21 and ECM 27 Oct 23 - Corrections/Matters Arising (Item 8 & 9).** Minutes from the last meetings were accepted. Matters arising all covered/complete.
4. **Strategic and Topical matters (10).** Lots of discussion on all points. New ToRs accepted. Very long discussion on the timing and dissemination of Area and Board agendas – new dates for September round of meetings agreed, new diary dates will be published. New forum/bulletin board for the Board will be established but the Full Council Forum will remain as an archive. Work on the Council Handbook to reflect Board practices and procedures is ongoing. The Hon Sec has a planned timeline, aim point is for adoption at the AGM.
5. **LMA and SAA Insurance status (11).** Insurance issue largely OBE wrt CAA Drone regulation and BMFA Article 16 exemption: they are covered. Sparked another discussion regarding competition and temporary membership for insurance purposes. CEO and Tech Sec to take further off line.
6. **Finance Director (12).** Membership numbers similar to last year, but only because approx 200 drone fliers this year against ~1000 12 months ago. Average age BMFA members is 63, fair enough, but the mode is 75 which is a cause for concern (see attached distribution graph). Need to have a dedicated SWOT style study on what age group to target now we are over COVID. Accepted that Insurance is still a driving factor in BMFA membership (approx 50% of the membership fee), but other options are now available and there are 270,000 registered with the CAA so there is a big pool of fliers out there. Finance Director has intentions to fully develop plans for the move to Buckminster.
7. **Chairman's Report (13).** Nothing significant to report (NSTR).
8. **CEOs Report (14).** See attached report. He also gave additional information concerning Altitude Angel and a different notification system (ACOMS): work ongoing.
9. **Vice Chairman's Report (15).** The issue of suspected interference generated by mobile phones near our RC equipment was discussed. It was agreed that it is a very technical subject and will be addressed through a more detailed investigation.
10. **Hon Secretary's Report (16).** Hand over from Mark Benns complete. Council Handbook replacement work in progress. Nothing further to report.

11. **Members Director Report (15).** Nothing further to add to the Areas Council feedback previously given. The Club Support Officer has been working on the email system in an attempt to improve delivery rates and the figures available to date indicate that there has been a definite improvement. On-going work to further improve. There has been a suggestion to hold a further round of Club Chairman Conferences (last run about 10 years ago).

12. **Additional Reports (18-23).** No additional proposals (21). The following points raised:

- a. New world record attempt to beat last year's achievement is provisionally scheduled for 14 May 23.
- b. National Championships: Dispersed venues again, but nothing confirmed anywhere yet because just been informed that RAF Barkston Heath still not available, but economics now dictate that running the Nats in the way we used to pre COVID days have gone. Buckminster Lodge looking favourite.
- c. With this issue the BMFA News will move to a quarterly publication (Jan, Apr, Jul & Oct) and a new print company.
- d. The Outreach Director reported that:
 - i. The Air Cadets is an RAF supported youth organisation that includes aeromodelling in its supported activities. Please encourage your clubs to make contact with your local squadron as trial flights should prove to be of great interest. They may need to join BMFA for article 16 authority.
 - ii. Look for aviation related or other events in your areas as an opportunity to promote BMFA through BMFA branded club gazebo and BMA simulators.
 - iii. Identify local universities that have engineering related courses as they often require ideas for projects which can be some aspect of our sport/hobby.
 - iv. Sport England is to be approached again to see if they can increase the visibility of our sport on their web pages.

13. **AoB.** None.

14. **DoNM.** Next Board meeting is on Zoom Tuesday 9 May 2023.

15. The meeting closed at 16.05.

Kind regards

Peter Disney

For BMFA Non-Executive Directors