

Feed Back Report for Area Committees
BMFA Areas Council Meeting
5th January 2023

This feedback is intended to provide Area Committees, and their clubs and representatives, with a brief report of the outcomes and 'flavour' of the above meeting. This report isn't a blow-by-blow account, or the definitive minutes, which will be posted on the Areas Council Forum in due course.

The meeting was held on 'Zoom'. The meeting opened at approximately 19.15 (15 minutes late) due to delays in some attendees logging on.

Agenda Item

- 1) RAFMAA were the only non-attendee
- 2) The previous minutes only became available very shortly before the meeting. Delegates were invited to make any comments via the AC Forum.
- 3) Matters arising were covered in the meeting.
- 4) There were 5 applicants for the 4 positions on the ASRC. There was an anonymous vote which returned:-
 - Chris Bradbury
 - John Harris
 - Joseph Kemp
 - Simon Wood

Jonathan Land was the unsuccessful applicant, the Chairman to write and thank him for his application. Three posts on the ASRC will come up for election in 2023.

- 5) The members of the ASRC for 2023 are therefore:-

- Chris Bradbury
- John Harris
- Joseph Kemp
- Simon Wood
- Brian Cooper*
- Charlie Cox*
- Kevin Watson*

*current member, position up for election in 2023.

- 6) After a lengthy debate, during which NW Area voiced concerns expressed by some of their clubs in North Wales, the Chairman withdrew the proposal to allow wider consultation with potentially affected clubs, before re-presentation of the proposal at a future meeting. Chairman to arrange.
- 7) The Chairman and the Club Support officer advised that late last year, the number of BMFA members and Clubs in Scotland exceeded those of the SAA. It was recognised that this 'critical mass' deserved the proper support of an Area committee and the wider organisation. Thanks should go to NE Area for their previous support of members in Scotland, notably in support of the Achievement Scheme. As a result of the above, the BMFA had opened discussions with the SAA regarding the establishment of BMFA Scotland as BMFA Area 15. Negotiations are on-going at this time.

- 8) Brian Seymour, South Mid. Area Delegate, appointed for 1 year as AC representative on Awards Committee.
- 9) Several Areas expressed concerns over Area emails going to spam/junk, reducing the effectiveness of communications. There was a lengthy debate led by North West, South East, Northern and the Club Support Officer. It was agreed that these individuals would meet independently to prepare as suggested way forward. This might involve modest investment (~£100 per Area) in software.
- 10) The Chairman reported his intention to hold Areas Council meetings just before the scheduled BMFA Board meetings, to enable Area Council to advise it's 4 non-executive Area Directors on how best to represent the views of Areas Council. These meeting will be on the Thursday 4th May and Thursday 14th September, start time 19.00 on 'Zoom'. It was noted that the Board meeting scheduled for the 6th May clashes with the coronation, and hence the meeting date may change. If this is moved to an earlier date, then the AC meeting scheduled for the 4th will also need to be changed. The Chairman also indicated his intention to hold other meeting, potentially at short notice, to deal with any issues affecting Areas in a timely manner.
- 11) There were several items of AoB.
The Chairman reported that he had identified some errors in the new Areas Constitution and associated Guidance document, mostly related to the Achievement Scheme. The documents, with suggested corrections, are on the AC Forum for comment ASAP please.

He also reported that several Areas are concerned regarding the lack of Area grant allocation. He has consulted the Hon. Treas., who had suggested a way forward. It was noted that only seven Areas had completed the required return. The Chairman will shortly hold a 'Zoom' meeting accompanied by the Hon. Treas., for all Area Treasurers, to hopefully avoid this in the future. The treasurer's suggestion is to pay the grants requested for those Areas who completed a return, and £600 to those who didn't, with the proviso that these Areas can apply for further funding, if they need it. AC voted unanimously to accept this proposal. It should take approximately 10 days for the funds to appear in Area accounts.

Northern Area reported concerns regarding potential rolling membership (i.e. not annual). There was a lengthy debate with many other Areas expressing similar concerns, noting more work for club secretaries. The Club Support Officer noted that this wouldn't necessarily be compulsory, and that annual and rolling memberships could exist side by side. It was also noted that any move to a rolling membership was some way off, and would involve the BMFA Management Board.

North West Area requested that AC recognise a change to their Area Constitution. There was a long and 'lively' debate about the advisability and legitimacy of this, which the Chairman had to bring to a close without any definitive conclusion. Further debate referred to the AC Forum for now.

North West indicated that they had another AoB item, but due to the late hour, agreed to hold this over to the next meeting.

The meeting closed at approx. 22.00

Duncan McClure
Members Director