



Northern Area British Model Flying Association

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Email: area@northern.bmfa.uk

Minutes of the BMFA Northern Area for the meeting held on 6th January 2021

Officers Present

Chairman	Tim Haigh
Secretary	Sheila Marshall
Treasurer	Paul Blakeborough
Public Relations Officer	Martin Lynn
Delegate	John McNamara
Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator	Charlie Lee

Clubs Represented

Pontefract & District Aero Modellers (PANDAS)	Terry Lee
Huddersfield & District (HDMAC)	Tim Haigh
Dewsbury & District MAC (DDMAC)	Martin Lynn
Morley & District MAC (MDMAC)	Paul Blakeborough
Elvington Model Flyers	John McNamara
Keighley & District MAC (KADMAC)	Charlie Lee
Harrogate MFC	Andy Shutt
West Yorkshire MFC	Steven Greenwood
Blackstone Model Flyers (BMF)	John Mosley
Dishforth	Martin Lees
Wharfedale	Mervyn Jones
York Model Aircraft Society	Jon Edison
Brighouse MAC	Denis Pennington
Area Chief Examiner	Andy Symons

Agenda Items

- 1. Minutes of the last meeting.** There were no meetings in 2020 and therefore no minutes.
- 2. Appoint/co-opt Robert Thompson onto area committee as education coordinator.** Proposed by Martin Lynn, seconded by John McNamara and voted unanimously in favour.
- 3. Appoint/co-opt Steven Greenwood & Denis Pennington as area auditors.** Denis said he would stand down and let Steven stand on his own. Proposed by John McNamara, seconded by Denis Pennington and voted unanimously in favour.
- 4. Confirm BMFA Northern Area ZOOM meeting days/dates.** A list of suggested dates was presented to the meeting. Sheila Marshall (NA secretary) asked if the May meeting could be held on a different day to Wednesday because of a clash with



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training day at PANDAS. Martin Lynn suggested that the 15th September meeting be cancelled as this was a normal occurrence, it was agreed that this should happen but as it was the week before a full council meeting, if anything contentious cropped up on the full council agenda then a meeting could be arranged at short notice to discuss this. Tim Haigh suggested that the AGM in November should be held as a face to face meeting if possible. There were no objections to any of the suggestions and below is a list of the agreed dates.

Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 7.30 PM	ZOOM Meeting
Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7.30 PM	ZOOM Meeting
Wednesday 6th October 2021 at 7.30 PM	ZOOM Meeting
Wednesday 10th November 2021 at 7.30 PM	Face to Face at Castleford if possible

- 5. Discuss BMFA Full council agenda (scheduled for Saturday 9th January 2021).** It was decided that on this occasion there was nothing to discuss.
- 6. 'Flight Fest' Event – Provisional dates Saturday/Sunday 10th /11th July 2021 (Pandas Flying Site) including area 'Swap Meet'.** Martin Lynn is going to book the PANDAS Flying Site and the area swap meet will also take place at this event outdoors on the Sunday morning. Martin Lynn is going to book the BMFA flight simulator for the event along with training equipment and aircraft, Andy Symons volunteered to man the simulator if he is available. A funding allocation of £700 was agreed in 2020 and was not used because the event had to be cancelled due to the corona virus pandemic and is therefore in credit, this credit will be used to fund the 2021 event. Advertising to be placed in model shops in the area and the BMFA magazine and hopefully electronic mail shots via the BMFA. Also to try and give trial flights by having as many instructors as possible.
- 7. Achievement scheme events – provisional dates Saturday 21st August & Sunday 26th September 2021 (PANDAS Flying Site).** These events are to be used to show what is expected on an achievement test and not as a criticism of how a flight was made. Examiners and instructors, as many as possible, will be on hand to take or help anyone who wishes to have a go at taking any achievement. Andy Symons to advertise these events on BMFA websites.
- 8. CAP722 & CAA/BMFA Article 16 implications for area clubs.** The Chairman and PRO feel uncomfortable with regards to where the committee and clubs stand in terms of liability. Andy Symons said that it is not the responsibility of clubs to police this for the CAA, it was up to individuals to take responsibility if they have ticked the relevant box to say they are competent and they are not then the individual will have to face the consequences if flying illegally. The BMFA insurance would cover club committees if a member fly's unlawfully. There is going to be a system on the

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BMFA portal or website where club administrators can advise the BMFA that a club member accepts and understands Article 16 when the particular club member doesn't have access to a computer or internet. There are no exemptions in place now because everything is built in to Article 16. If someone new applies through the BMFA for an operator number after the 17th February it should arrive within 24 hours. Members of the public who stop to watch the flying and are within 30 metres become involved if they are spoken to by a club member and told about the activity and safety precautions.

9. **Trinity. Area indoor flying.** There is no prospect for flying at Trinity All Saints College for the foreseeable future. The area is still in credit with the collage for hire charges.
10. **Area Budget 2021.** Funding from the BMFA for 2020 events was not all used because of the pandemic and is held in credit to be used in 2021. A request for £600 will be made to cover area running cost for 2021.
11. **Dishforth flying.** At present there is no flying at Dishforth until further notice because of MOD activity. Despite canvassing on the area website for someone to manage area flying activities no one has come forward to do this. There is concern that there should be no impact on the two clubs (Dishforth and Harrogate) that regularly use the site. It was recommended by Martin Lynn that unless a person comes forward to manage flying at Dishforth including all the paperwork associated with it then it should cease under the Northern Area, and it was also not considered to be value for money. Tim Haigh proposed that Northern Area should not use Dishforth for flying, it was seconded by Martin Lynn and there were no objections to this.
12. **AOB.** Jon Edison said that the York Model Aircraft Society would be asking for supports for their event on the Knavesmire in July 2021 should it go ahead and also to put on some indoor flying events later in the year. It was pointed out that if the Northern Area gave support then the event would have to be open to all Northern Area members. Steven Greenwood also said that the West Yorkshire club would also be requesting support for similar events. Sheila Marshall (NA secretary) suggested that the area accounts should not be included in the meeting minutes that were published on the NA website as this is open to every member of the public, instead the accounts should be sent out to area club secretaries with the agenda for the next meeting, and a copy should be given to any area member if requested. There were no objections to this.

The meeting was brought to a close at 8.50 PM.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 7.30 PM by Zoom.

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