

Feed Back from Areas Council Meeting 30 Jan 21

The Zoom meeting opened at 13.06 following the attached agenda. Points from the meeting in the order items came up for onward distribution and action please. **Items specifically requiring addressing and feed-back are in red text.**

Having asked in my Full Council feedback 3 weeks ago (attached again) for thoughts on renewing/updating/changing BMFA branding to tie-in with the upcoming centenary guess how many replies I have had? (I am once again wondering why I bother).

1. **Minutes from Areas Council 14 Mar 20.** Voting strength verified at 14. One minor correction, accepted as record with 3 abstentions.
2. **Ratification of ASRC Members.** Two more delegates joined the meeting, voting strength now 16. ASRC members voted on candidates and committee members ratified.
3. **Matters arising from last Areas Council.** Display Code of Conduct has been updated and due for publishing soon. Official documentation review has started: ongoing (as are several other matters arising due to COVID situation). **Discussion on moving the BMFA Flight Fest initiative (that was due for May) to September: majority agreement to do that.**
4. **Area Funding.** **Because of the lack of activity in the last year and the corresponding highly reduced levels of Area's expenditure, last years funding allocation will roll forward to this year and no additional grants will be made (Areas will not be asked to return remaining money either). Should any Area not have the funds for planned activities in the coming year and require additional support, then a request for the extra is to be made to HQ.**
5. **Achievement Scheme Reports (Item 8).** **NB CAP 658 has now been withdrawn necessitating a swift re-alignment of AS documentation due for publication. See attached report.**
6. **Area Reports (Item 9).** Very little activity to report from any of the Areas: I have all the written reports if anyone wishes to read them.
7. **Elected Officers Reports (Item 10).** NSTR.
8. **2020 Statistical Survey Data Discussion and Areas Constitution Discussion (Item 11 & 12).** Understandably we spent a long time running through and discussing a 40 slide presentation of the data arising from the recent membership survey. Very interesting results, particularly with respect to communication and Areas role/benefits, but there are also some glaring disconnects in answers which raise further questions/issues to be addressed. What is clear is that there is much more to being a BMFA member than solely for the insurance, although pretty understandably insurance cover does rank very highly. The data is being thoroughly analysed in relation to the BMFA's standing in the "market place". Given that the CAA have over 160,000 model flying registrations we can no longer assume the BMFA has a monopoly and action is clearly required. Achievement Scheme activity is I detected a ground swell of opinion from other Area Delegates that we are only supporting a process with our Areas rather than adding value and enabling any active engagement, citing things like the extreme difficulty in filling elected officer posts and the general lack of response from clubs as examples. Due to COVID hardly anything has happened in the last 11 months and has anyone noticed: "What does the Area do for

me?”. The feeling is the current Areas construct probably has another 12 to 18 months to demonstrate that it still works, making use of tools such as Zoom (no need for travel, doesn't matter if the weather is bad, can still take part when on holiday in the Caribbean, etc) to reinvigorate the system before a complete root and branch reappraisal is required.

Would the Clubs miss an Areas organisation – Discuss (during our first Zoom meeting! 😊)

A sub group of 7 Areas Delegates have volunteered to take a close look at (in broad terms) where the Areas construct/constitution stands now, what is wanted to go forward and what needs to change to achieve it.

9. **AoB.** Use of new logos alongside the current one (subtle changes in font and also a grey scale version) have already proved positive in the digital realm, but comment still requested. Any suggestions for BMFA Centenary events are also sought.

10. **Date of Next Meeting.** Next Area Council zoom meeting to discuss sub group Areas progress on Saturday 6 March 2021 on Zoom.

The meeting closed at 16.45.

Take care and stay safe,

Pete Disney

Area Delegate