



British Model Flying Association

East Anglia Area

Briefing note to Club Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers on the 73rd AGM of the BMFA held as a webinar on Saturday, 14 November, 2020.

Attendance: Over 76 clubs were represented plus Council members and Fellows of the Association

- Ian Pallister (chairman) opened the meeting by thanking clubs, the BMFA staff team and volunteers for their magnificent and creative response to the Covid 19 pandemic.
- The member survey has had over 10,500 responses and the draw for the prizes has been made, winners will hear shortly. The survey will provide a rich source of information to advise the implementation of the 7 strategic priorities, one of which is the Association's centenary in 2022. Clubs are asked to start thinking about this may be celebrated locally and to promote model flying.
- **Membership:** As anticipated there was a decline in membership from 31,902 in 2019 to 30,578 in 2020, a loss of 1324. Factors on the reduction are the aging membership, Covid 19 and CAA registration.
- **Finance:** Keith Lomax, our treasurer, reported an operating surplus of £51,853 for the year ending 31 March, 2020. The National Centre which is reported separately in the accounts had an operating surplus of £5,397.

Keith reported that there were savings in the current financial year arising from new ways of working, for example all BMFA meetings have been held on Zoom therefore saving costs, reduced travel and there being no World or European Championships in 2020.

Membership fees will be the same in 2021 as in 2020 at:

- Seniors	£38
- Junior	£17
- Family partners	£25
- Family Juniors	£13

- **Insurance:** Our current underwriter is ceasing to provide cover for sports of which model flying is just one element of this part of their business. A new underwriter has been found at a slightly reduced premium however the Government is possibly increasing Insurance Premium Tax causing a slight increase overall. Allowance has been made in the 2021 budget and further details will be available of the cover in due course.
- **CAA Registration:** The CAA has issued a draft Article 16 to the BMFA for consultation following joint working involving Dave Phipps, our CEO. Dave is planning to hold a Webinar to brief clubs once the Article is finalised

Currently there are approximately 185,000 registered flyers with the CAA. The challenge to the BMFA is, how can we encourage non members to benefit from membership.

- Jo Halman, who has been Competition Secretary for 18 years was thanked for her outstanding service and wished well in the future.
- Andy Symons, Club Support Officer, was awarded the Kath Watson bowl for administrative excellence. If you have engaged in any of the Zoom seminars or meetings Andy has facilitated this year you will know this recognition is richly deserved.

... and it was all over in an hour without a 2 hour drive each way!

Paul Hoey
East Anglia Area Chairman and Delegate
15 November, 2020