

MINUTES

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Board Meeting held on the 25th January 2025

Held at 11.00am at 8 Merus Court, Leicester, LE19 1RJ

Provisional until confirmed at the next Board Meeting.

PRESENT

Ian Pallister FSMAE
Keith Lomax FSMAE
Paul Hoey
Simon Vaitkevicius
Helen Jones
Duncan McClure
*Mark Benns
John McNamara
Roy Tarbox
Martin Dilly FSMAE
*Jonathan Robb

Chairman
Finance Director
Honorary Secretary
Technical Director
Outreach Director
Members Director
Sporting Director
Non-Executive Director
Non-Executive Director
Non-Executive Director
Non-executive Director

*Via Zoom conferencing

In Attendance

Linda Harding

Office Manager /
Minutes Secretary

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence.
- 2 Request for permission to be absent.
- 3 To formally receive the Non-Executive Directors.
- 4 To verify the voting strength of the meeting.
- 5 Ratify Executive Directors co-opted since the last meeting.
- 6 To re-verify the voting strength of the meeting.
- 7 To:~
 - a Ratify Membership of the Areas Council.
 - b Note the names of the Area Chairmen.
 - c Ratify Membership of the Technical Council.
 - d Note the names of the Technical Committee Chairmen.
 - e Ratify the BMFA Delegates to other organisations.
 - f Ratify Board-appointed sub-committees and re-confirm membership.
 - g Ratify Board-appointed posts.

- 8 Correction and Adoption of the Minutes of the Board Meetings held on 17th September, 7th October, 10th October, 31st October and 19th November 2024,
- 9 Matters/Actions Arising from the meetings on 17th September, 7th October, 10th October, 31st October and 19th November 2024 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 10 Strategic and Topical Matters:
 - a Membership Strategy
 - b Finance Strategy
 - c Risk Strategy
- 11 To receive a report from the Finance Director to include:
 - a Membership and Financial position.
 - b To receive a proposal "*To consider that funding to Areas in 2025/26 be reinstated to the 2023/24 level of £25,000*". (Attached)
- 12 To receive a report from the Chairman.
- 13 To receive a report from the CEO to include:
 - a National Centre Update.
 - b CAA Team report.
 - c Computer Sub-Committee report.
 - d Club Support Officer's report.
 - e General Aviation Alliance (GAA).
 - f European Model Flying Union (EMFU).
 - g Airprox
 - h Sport & Recreation Alliance
 - i GAAC
- 14 To receive a report from the Vice-Chairman to include:
 - a Summary of reportable incidents.
 - b Report from the Safety Review Committee.
 - c Royal Aero Club.
 - d GASCo
- 15 To receive a report from the Honorary Secretary.
- 16 To receive a report from the Members Director.
- 17 To receive a report from the Technical Director.
- 18 To receive a report from the Sporting Director to include:
 - a National Championships.
 - b UK Hosted World or European Championships.
 - c UK Hosted FAI World Cup or Open Internationals.
- 19 To receive a report from the Outreach Director to include:
 - a Education Working Group.
 - b Payload Challenge.
- 20 To receive a proposal from the South East Area (Attached)

- 21 To receive any reports from the following personnel (reports should be brief, preferably in writing and in advance):
- a AS Controller
 - b BMFA Archivist.
 - c BMFA News Publisher
 - d PR Consultant

22 Any Other Business.

Please note: Items for Any Other Business should be sent by email to the Chairman or the Office Manager before the meeting commences.

Any questions to be asked under AOB that require detailed answers should be previously advised to the Office Manager to allow preparation of replies.

23 Date of next meeting.

MINUTES

2561/01/25 (1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Dave Phipps CEO.

2562/01/25 (2) Request for permission to be absent.

There were no requests for permission to be absent.

2563/01/25 (3) To formally receive the Non-Executive Directors.

The four Non-Executive Directors were received as:
John McNamara (Northern Area), Martin Dilly FSMAE (London Area), Jonathan Robb (Western Area), Roy Tarbox (South Midland Area).

Thanks were recorded to the retiring NEDs Alan Belcher, Pete Disney and Brian Seymour.

2564/01/25 (4) To verify the voting strength of the meeting.

There were 11 (Eleven) members eligible to vote

2565/01/25 (5) Ratify Executive Directors co-opted since the last meeting.

Keith Lomax FSMAE was formally co-opted as Finance Director at the Board Meeting on November 19th, 2024.

2566/01/25 (6) To re-verify the voting strength of the meeting.

There were 11 (Eleven) members eligible to vote.

2567/01/25 (7) To receive, ratify and note the following in conjunction with the 'Information for January Agenda' Booklet,

a Ratify membership of Areas Council

MEMBERS DIRECTOR	Duncan McClure (Chairman)
OUTREACH DIRECTOR	Helen Jones
EAST ANGLIA	Alan Paul
LONDON	Martin Dilly FSMAE
MIDLAND	Steve Mason
NORTHERN	John McNamara
NORTH EAST	Gary Armstrong
NORTH WEST	Chris Bradbury
SOUTH MIDLAND	Roy Tarbox
SOUTH EAST	Stuart Willis
SOUTHERN	David Smith
WESTERN	Jonathan Robb
WALES	Allan Belcher
SOUTH WEST	Vacant
RNMAA	TBD
NORTHERN IRELAND	Peter Edmondson
RAFMAA	Ben Kennedy
SCOTLAND	Iain Nicol

b Note Area Chairmen

EAST ANGLIA	Ron Grey
LONDON	Steve Brett
MIDLAND	Colin Bernard
NORTHERN	Tim Haigh
NORTH EAST	Martin Johnson
NORTH WEST	Martyn Kinder
SOUTH MIDLAND	Martin Fairchild
SOUTH EAST	Stuart Willis
SOUTHERN	David Smith
WESTERN	Stephen Kirby
WALES	Mike Tiley
SOUTH WEST	Felix Marten
NORTHERN IRELAND	William Scott
RAFMAA	Michael Matthias
SCOTLAND	Alasdair Sutherland

c Ratify membership of Technical Council

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Simon Vaitkevicius (Chairman)
SPORTING DIRECTOR	Mark Bennis
FAI DELEGATE	Julie Fisher
FAI DELEGATE ALT.	Mark Bennis
TROPHIES OFFICER	Vacant
FREE FLIGHT	Ian Kaynes FSMAE
CONTROL LINE	David Wiseman
R/C SILENT FLIGHT	Jon Edison
SCALE	Stephen Jackson
INDOOR	David Whitehouse
R/C POWER	Kevin Caton

Cont/...

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Receive,
Ratify,
Note
names

d Note Technical Committee Chairmen

FREE FLIGHT	Mike Woodhouse FSMAE
CONTROL LINE	Mervyn Jones FSMAE
SILENT FLIGHT	Jon Edison
SCALE	Stephen Jackson
INDOOR	David Whitehouse
R/C POWER	Kevin Caton

e Ratify BMFA Delegates to other Organisations.

Royal Aero Club	Keith Lomax FSMAE
GASCo	Duncan McClure
Airprox	Manny Williamson Development Officer
Sport & Recreation Alliance (S&RA)	Dave Phipps CEO
General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC)	Dave Phipps CEO
European Model Flying Union (EMFU)	Dave Phipps CEO
General Aviation Alliance (GAA)	Dave Phipps CEO

The CEO also represents the BMFA, by invitation rather than appointment, for the following organisations:

1. CHIRP – GA Advisory Board
2. CHIRP – Drone/UAS Advisory Board
(CHIRP: Confidential Human Factors Incident Reporting Programme.)
3. National Police Chiefs Council – Counter UAS panel (NPCC CUAS).
4. The Shared Airspace Council
5. Europe Air Sports – Technical Officer for unmanned aircraft.

f Ratify Board Appointed Sub-Committees and re-confirm membership.

Safety Review Committee (SRC)

**As Keith Lomax FSMAE has been co-opted into the role of Finance Director on an interim basis, it necessitated him standing down as Vice-Chairman. It became necessary therefore to ensure the responsibilities of the Vice-Chairman role were redistributed. This includes the SRC and this will now comprise the following on a temporary basis:

Duncan McClure (Members' Director)
Simon Vaitkevicius (Technical Director)
Mark Bennis (Sporting Director)
Dave Phipps (CEO)
Manny Williamson (Development Officer)
Andy Symons (Club Support Officer)
Drone Support Officer (Chris Bradbury)
One Representative from Areas Council (tbc)
With the possibility of involvement of insurers, underwriters, brokers, AIB and CAA

Cont/...

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Receive,
Ratify,
Note
names

Awards Committee

Finance Director & RAeC Delegate (Keith Lomax FSMAE)
(Chair)
Alternate RAeC Delegate (Mark Bennis)
Jim Wright FSMAE
Ian Pallister FSMAE
Vernon Hunt FSMAE
(Rep for Tech Council) TBC
(Rep for Areas Council) Roy Tarbox

BMFA News Publishers

Paul Hoey (Honorary Secretary) and Dave Phipps (CEO)
Supported by Helen Jones (Outreach Director)

The Executive (Eight elected Executives and the CEO)

Ian Pallister FSMAE (Chairman)
Vice-Chairman (Vacant)
Keith Lomax FSMAE (Finance Director)
Paul Hoey (Honorary Secretary)
Mark Bennis (Sporting Director)
Simon Vaitkevicius (Technical Director)
Helen Jones (Outreach Director)
Duncan McClure (Members Director)
Dave Phipps (Chief Executive Officer)

9 Ratify Board appointed posts.

Archivist

Doug Hunt
Andrew Riley (Deputy Archivist)

CAA

CEO
BMFA Chairman (as required)
Club Support Officer
Drone Support Officer

UKRCC

Development Officer

Computer Sub Committee

Dave Phipps – CEO (Committee Chairman)
Andy Symons – Club Support Officer
Stuart Willis – Areas Council Delegate - South East Area
Helen Feaver – Membership Secretary
Linda Harding – Office Manager

Trophy Officer

Vacant

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Election of Achievement Scheme Controller and note names of ASRC members

AS Controller (SF & Power combined) - Duncan McClure
(Appointed for 2 years)

ASRC Members

Kevin Watson, Charlie Cox, Chris Bradbury, Jonathan Robb, Simon Wood.

In addition, the committee have co-opted Jonathan Smith (South Midland & Western Area ACE) to the ASRC for his Silent Flight expertise.

Members Director Proposed we accept all the above (items 7a-h) en bloc, seconded by John McNamara (NED) and carried unanimously.

2568/01/25 (8) Correction and Adoption of the Minutes of the Board Meetings held on 17th September, 7th October, 10th October, 31st October and 19th November 2024.

Minutes of 17th September 2024

There were no corrections.

Proposed by John McNamara (NED) that the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 17th September 2024 be accepted as a true record.

Seconded by the Outreach Director and carried 7 in favour, 4 abstentions.

Minutes of the 7th October 2024

There were no corrections.

Proposed by the Members Director that the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 7th October 2024 be accepted as a true record.

Seconded by the Finance Director and carried 7 in favour, 4 abstentions.

Minutes of the 10th October 2024

There were no corrections.

Proposed by the Members Director that the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 10th October 2024 be accepted as a true record.

Seconded by the Finance Director and carried 7 in favour, 4 abstentions.

Minutes of 31st October 2024

There were no corrections.

Proposed by the Technical Director that the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 31st October 2024 be accepted as a true record.

Seconded by John McNamara (NED) and carried 7 in favour, 4 abstentions.

Cont/...

.../Cont
Correction
/Adoption
of Minutes

Minutes of 19th November 2024

There were no corrections.

Proposed John McNamara that the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 19th November 2024 be accepted as a true record.

Seconded by the Technical Director and carried 8 in favour, 3 abstentions.

2569/01/25 (9) Matters/Actions Arising from the meetings on 17th September, 7th October, 10th October, 31st October and 19th November 2024.

17th September Meeting

Pg 5/6

Strategic & Topical Matters – setting up register listing clubs’ approach to welcoming new members – Sub-committee set up headed by Andy Symons, CSO. No update but Andy Symons has this in hand.

CSO

Pg 10

Sporting Director Report - proposal to look at Aston Down venue as possible replacement to host the Nationals –

Sporting Director advised that the consensus of those involved with investigating was that the venue is suitable for model flying but wouldn't give us a major venue for anything larger than one or two disciplines at any one time.

A further suggestion today was to investigate the ownership of former RAF Finningley. John McNamara (NED) offered to follow this up.

JOHN
MCNAMARA

The following points were noted:

- It would be a major undertaking to try to recreate the Nationals as previously held at RAF Barkston Heath. As an alternative we could perhaps consider holding a 'Showcase' event.
- We are hosting the 2026 Scale World Champs at the National Centre, which is a major event and a massive PR opportunity, plus the Technical Committees are already committed for 2025 and considering 2026 for their respective National Champs. We would need to plan for 2027 if we wanted to hold another major 'Showcase' event.
- We should also consider the loss of revenue for the National Centre if we were to source another venue to hold events.

Pg 11

Outreach Director Report, planning Outreach days and forging links – A few activities took place, and more activities and links made. Covered in more detail in the Outreach Director's report.

Payload Challenge – Covered in Outreach Director's Report. **(APPENDIX H)**

Cont/...

Formal Review of Policy Documents – Safeguarding – Covered in Honorary Secretary's Report. **(APPENDIX D)**

7th October Meeting

Actions overtaken by events.

Pg 5, AOB item – Rolling Membership – Included on the agenda for this meeting. The Chairman also included this in his article for the BMFA News.

10th October Meeting

No actions to carry forward.

31st October Meeting

Pg 2, Review Supplementary Accounts –The accounts were published on the BMFA website and approved at an EGM on Tuesday 26th November

Pg 3, Board agreement not to accept membership application from Mr Ling, due to his clear disregard for the safety of air traffic and regulations - The CEO formally wrote to Mr Ling to inform him that his application to re-join had been declined.

19th November Meeting

Pg 2, To accept the LMA (Large Model Association) to join as an Affiliated Body to the BMFA, subject to an agreement document - The LMA held their EGM on the 28th November, which voted overwhelmingly to formally apply to the BMFA as an Associate Body (subject to an acceptance that some of the current T&C's do not entirely fit). For membership administration purposes, they are currently set up as an affiliated club with 764 members. This included a greater than expected number of members new to the BMFA. They had 3 members who have left because they refused to join the BMFA.

Pg 3, Formally appoint AON as our insurance broker for 2025 – This is going well, and the CEO has regular meetings with AON.

Pg 4, Migration of accounts from SAGE to Xero – Work in progress. We will engage the services of Robin Tidd, finance guru recommended by the previous Finance Director, if and when it is deemed necessary.

This completed matters arising.

2570/01/25 (10) Strategic and Topical Matters:

- a Membership Strategy
Weekly membership figures as of yesterday are looking good. It is interesting to note that we have almost 3,000 that joined/renewed on the rolling membership option.
Introducing rolling membership was due to be discussed today, but we could really have benefited from the CEO's input.

Cont/...

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Memb'shp
strategy

The current BMFA News (February 2025 issue) includes an article by the Chairman, contemplating the changes within the Society while still looking ahead.

The Chairman had hoped members would have received their printed copy in time for this meeting. He read out an excerpt from the article, encouraging clubs to think seriously about embracing a rolling membership scheme as we must do all we can to break the cycle of managed decline. Improved membership management and banking systems have changed the operating environment, and we believe that expanding the options for a 12-month membership now has the potential without imposing major change on established clubs. The Chairman, in his article, requests that if any club has a view, they would like us to consider, they should make it known to their Area Delegate prior to the Areas Council meeting on 6th May 2025.

It will be interesting to see what feedback we get from Areas Council. We will leave it with the CEO, Finance Director and Accounts Manager to progress, and look at the mechanics of introducing a rolling membership, with a view to implementing later in the year.

**CEO/FIN
DIR/ACCTS
MGR**

Martin Dilly FSMAE (NED) enquired whether we had a crisis management plan in place. The Honorary Secretary advised that we are amid updating/renewing important Society documents and agreed this was something worthy of considering.

An action was placed on the Honorary Secretary, CEO and Chairman to look at implementing and emergency/crisis procedure document.

**CEO/HON
SEC/CHAIR**

- b Finance Strategy – Please refer to the Finance Director's report. **(APPENDIX A)**
- c Risk Strategy – Please refer to the Honorary Secretary's Report. **(APPENDIX D)**

2571/01/25 (11) To receive a report from the Finance Director.

Written Report (APPENDIX A)

Referring to the fourth paragraph in his written report, the Finance Director advised that we are addressing the various issues highlighted by the previous Finance Director in the briefing document that he produced on his resignation. Some of the priorities are as follows:

- Restructure of the Chart of Accounts (CofA), which has been in existence for at least thirty years and is very much out of date and massively complicated for a company of our size.
- Implementing new accounting software (Xero) by the end of the financial year. Our Accounts Manager, Gemma Garrett has experience with Xero and it will cost less.

Cont/...

- We will be working with the accountant to implement a less-complicated process to deal with accruals of membership income and to make sure it is done properly. This will mean a one-off apparently large surplus which is not real and will most likely mean that next year we need to present two sets of accounts showing what it would have been under the previous arrangement for comparison with prior years.
- We will be integrating the National Centre finances into the main BMFA accounts as it is no longer practical or sensible to report the Centre separately from core business. This will be incorporated into the new Chart of Accounts.

It's work in progress and the Finance Director is meeting with the Accounts Manager next week to start the ball rolling.

**FIN DIRECTOR
/ACCTS MGR**

a Membership and financial position

The Finance Director guided the meeting through the budget for 2025/26, included in his report (**APPENDIX A**), prepared and uploaded to the Board Forum prior to the meeting.

A point raised by Martin Dilly FSMAE (NED) was that as a sporting governing body it is unthinkable that we no longer fund a training and excellence scheme.

The Sporting Director concurred that he would be happy to see the training and excellence scheme regenerated, as it was only suspended temporarily. With careful management of the budget, it might be possible to reinstate it. It is important however that we get up-to-date budgetary information from Technical Committees.

The Sporting Director was happy to liaise with the Technical Director with a view to discussing further at Technical Council, to get a view on how the Technical Committees would spend the money.

We need to look at the old scheme and see if we can broaden the scope to improve on it.

**SPORTING
DIRECTOR/
TECH
DIRECTOR**

b The Finance Director introduced the following proposal:

To consider that funding to Areas in 2025/2026 be reinstated to the 2023/2024 level of £25,000.

Seconded by the Members Director.

There was an amendment to the proposal:

That £5000 of the £25,000 be allocated to the Outreach budget.

Seconded by the Outreach Director and carried unanimously.

The substantive proposal is:

To consider funding to Areas in 2025/2026 be reinstated to a level of £25,000, to include £20,000 to Areas and £5,000 allocated to the Outreach budget.

Seconded by the Members Director and carried unanimously.

2572/01/25(12) To receive a report from the Chairman.

Written Report (APPENDIX B)

The Chairman was unable to attend (even remotely) the last EMFU (European Model Flying Union) General Assembly however, the CEO's report provides a succinct summary. The Chairman highly commends the EMFU website. All of the countries post links to their own websites. It is worth visiting to learn from our overseas colleagues.

Particularly of interest was a series of videos posted by the French Association (FFAM), where pilots and engineers enthusiastically explain how our sport brought them into their aeronautical careers. It highlights the different perception of model flying in other cultures and suggests that we may be somewhat lagging in exploiting our membership base for PR purposes.

It would be prudent for us to re-establish the aviation links we had.

AGM/Dinner

The Board agreed that we look again at splitting the two events this year. There were several factors that may have suppressed the number attending the Awards Ceremony in 2024 which made it difficult to draw a conclusion on the pros and cons after just one event.

Date of the AGM is Saturday 1st November at the National Centre.

Date of the Dinner was provisionally set as 15th November but with minimum contracted dinner numbers reduced to 100.

OFFICE MGR

New website

With the aid of screensharing, the Chairman provided a demonstration of the new website, which is nearing completion.

The dual aims of the new site are promotion of model flying to recruit new members and the provision of information and guidance for existing members and clubs for whom the primary need is clear and simple navigation.

The Board recorded a vote of thanks to all involved in the development of the new website and are in full agreement to go ahead with the launch as soon as the CSO is able.

2573/01/25 (13) To receive a report from the CEO.

Written Report (APPENDIX C) which includes:

**National Centre Update
CAA Team report
Computer Sub-Committee report
Club Support Officer's report
General Aviation Alliance (GAAC)
European Model Flying Union (EMFU)
Airprox
Sport & Recreation Alliance**

Cont/...

GAAC

The CEO wasn't in attendance due to illness however everyone should have had a chance to see his report as he uploaded it to the Board forum several days ago.

The Chairman noted the reference in the CEO's report that the CEO was contemplating giving up his Presidency on the EMFU Board. The successor he had in mind however has decided he prefers to carry on in his current role on the EMFU. The CEO would only consider extending his role on the EMFU with the approval and support from the BMFA Board.

The Board were unanimous in their support for the CEO in whatever decision he makes.

He does an excellent job as President of the EMFU and has the respect of the other delegates. It is important that GBR retains a strong influence in Europe

CEO

2574/01/25 (14) To receive a report from the Vice-Chairman

******* Written Report, incorporated in Finance Director Report (APPENDIX A)**

a & b Summary of reportable incidents & Safety Review Committee report is now the responsibility jointly of the Chairmen of Areas and Technical Council.

c Royal Aero Club (RAeC)– The Finance Director will carry on with his duties as BMFA delegate to the RAeC partly because he has recently been appointed as RAeC Treasurer. There have been some changes in administration of the RAeC and the BMFA CEO, Dave Phipps is stepping down as RAeC secretary. The Office Manager of the BHPA, Michelle is picking up the secretariat for the RAeC.

The Light Aircraft Association have now left the RAeC, which is a loss of around £8,000 income. This is coupled with an inflationary 3% increase in the FAI subscription and unfavourable exchange rates (FAI is paid in Swiss Francs) which means an overall increase of 16% in subscriptions from other Associations.

Other general duties covered as Vice-Chairman were attendance at the AGM, EGM and Annual dinner where he was happy to carry out the role of Master of Ceremonies.

He normally attends and represents the BMFA at some of the major model shows, however several of them are no longer continuing. Changing priorities at Shuttleworth mean that there will not be any model shows in the format we have done before, at least for this year and likely in future years. With the demise of Wings and Wheels show also, the only show he will be attending is Popham Model Show, which has moved from September to May.

d GASCo – no report.

2575/01/25 (15) To receive a report from the Honorary Secretary

******* Written Report (APPENDIX D)**

The Honorary Secretary briefly recapped on his written report.

There are minor revisions to the Governance Handbook this year. Board members had been provided with a copy of the amended document prior to the meeting.

The amended document as presented, was accepted and agreed, with the following proviso as highlighted by Martin Dilly FSMAE (NED):

Appendix G

Area Funding – Budgeting, Allocation and Reporting.

5. Advancement of Model Flying, Area Events, Contests and Competitions: heading “*Competition*” – first line, delete “and open to clubs and members within the Area”

HON SEC

Strategic Risk Assessment Matrix – Director Assessments

Board members were provided with a colour-coded copy of the matrix. The Honorary Secretary provided the background as to how the matrix has evolved and the plan going forward in terms of strategic target setting.

An action was set for all Directors to review the SRA and set their own targets. The Honorary Secretary is happy to arrange a working zoom session for anyone requiring a consultation to discuss their respective targets.

ALL DIRECTORS

2576/01/25 (16) To receive a report from the Members Director

******* Written Report (APPENDIX E)**

The Members Director brought forward an AOB item which he had provided the Chairman with prior to the meeting and Andy Symons, CSO uploaded the draft criteria document to the Board forum for Directors to consider.

The concept is a Club of the Year Award.

The outline is basically to recognise the hard work of clubs and reward excellence in recruitment, community engagement and increasing the visibility of the sport of model aircraft flying in their locality, regardless of discipline.

The hope is to implement the concept for this year’s award process.

The Board were happy to approve in principle, the concept of a Club of the Year Award.

Proposed by the Members Director

Seconded by the Outreach Director

Vote carried 10 in favour, 1 abstention.

An action was placed on the Chairman and Members Director to finalise the scheme and ultimately incorporate it into the Governance Handbook.

CHAIR / MEMBERS DIRECTOR

Cont/...

The Finance Director referred to a request from the family of the late Robin Gowler FSMAE, ex BMFA Chairman, that they would like to sponsor a lasting memorial to Robin, and he thought the Club of the Year Award might be appropriate.

.../Cont
Members
Director
Report

Robin was very much club focused, and it would be a very fitting tribute.

The Chairman will liaise with Robin's family to follow up potential sponsorship for a trophy.

CHAIR

2577/01/25 (17) To receive a report from the Technical Director

******* Written Report (APPENDIX F)**

The Technical Director briefly recapped on some key points from his written report.

Rule Book updates. Scale is outstanding but imminent.

RCPTC formation changes – a meeting will be scheduled in the next few weeks to consider reviewing the RCPTC ToR to bring them more into line with the other Technical Committees, in terms of continuity..

Trophies Officer – the post is still vacant, but a solution may be to split the jobs. This is work in progress and the Technical Director will report back at the May meeting.

There are two missing trophies. The Technical Director will be submitting a proposal to the Board to replace them.

We are looking to update the Honours Boards at the National Centre but require up-to-date information for the Euro and World Champions board. This also applies to updating the website. The Sporting Director will check the FAI website for the relevant information.

The Members Director offered to investigate arranging the Honours Board updates in terms of appointing a local signwriter and will liaise with the Centre Manager.

**TECH
DIRECTOR**

**SPORTING
DIRECTOR**

**MEMBERS
DIRECTOR**

2578/01/25 (18) To receive a report from the Sporting Director

******* Written Report (APPENDIX G)**

a National Championships

Good news is all Technical Committees and Specialist Bodies advised Technical Council at their recent meeting, that arrangements for their respective Nationals are in place. All were urged to publish the dates as soon as possible to encourage good attendance.

B World or European Championships

- F1D ECH – Indoor Duration – December 2025
- F1A,B,C,Q ECH – Free Flight – Salonta Romania July 2025
- F3K WCH 25 July –. Tarp, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany 2 Aug 2025
- Space 2025
- Pylon Racing WCH July 2025 Germany

Team support funding allowance has been amended for 2025/26, which is still within budget. Written report (APPENDIX G) refers.

Cont/...

UK Hosted FAI World Cup or Open Internationals reported as follows:

- Free Flight F1A,B,C,Q -RAF Sculthorpe GBR
- F3A World Cup – Buckminster GBR
- F3F North of England Open – Pickering GBR
- 2025 Interglide Ashford Kent GBR
- F3F Welsh Open Cardiff GBR

Junior Team Members 2025 - The Sporting Director has been working closely with Helen Jones to ensure that any junior team members have appropriate support (manager etc) well before they are sanctioned to travel to World & European Championships. Any Team manager/s for Juniors have to be DBS checked via the BMFA ahead of being sanctioned. All is to support Juniors especially in terms of their safeguarding.

2579/01/25 (19) To receive a report from the Outreach Director

Written Report (APPENDIX H)

The Outreach Director provided a brief recap of her written report. It's been a very busy time of late, but many new links have been forged and hopefully many more outreach days to come. Any new ideas always welcome.

None of the Outreach work has taken place in isolation and thanks must be given to all who have contributed and supported us.

- a Education Working Group As the Education Working Group had effectively been replaced by the establishment of the Outreach Director and Areas Outreach co-ordinators it was agreed to remove this item from the standard Agenda.
- b Payload Challenge

The Payload Challenge will take place on Wednesday and Thursday 11th and 12th June with the arrival's day being Tuesday 10th June. This competition is only open to universities, schools and colleges in the UK and Europe. Promotional flyers will be emailed to the Home Education networks, Air Cadets and to BMFA Areas to encourage as wide an entry from the UK as possible.

The Chairman gave notice that he would probably not be available to present the Payload trophies on 12th due to a long-standing family commitment.

16.41pm The Sporting Director left the meeting

OFFICE MGR

2580/01/25 (20) To receive a proposal from the South East Area.

The Proposal was withdrawn by the Area prior to the meeting to be re-drafted.

2581/01/25 (21) To receive any reports from the following personnel

- a AS Controller
***** **Written Report (APPENDIX I)**

- b BMFA Archivist
***** **Written Report (APPENDIX J)**

- c BMFA News Publisher – no report

- d PR Consultant
***** **Written Report (APPENDIX K)**

2582/01/25 (22) Any Other Business

From the Club Support Officer –

The Club Support Officer has floated the idea of introducing a new record concept, similar to Guinness World Records but administered internally by the BMFA to stimulate and recognize activities and attempts by clubs and individuals that are, perhaps, a little more light-hearted than the contest and other individual records currently listed in our Records Book. The concept is outlined in the attached paper. This is not yet a formal Proposal, but the initial views of the Board were sought as Any Other Business.

BMFA Club and Member Records

Background

There have been previous discussions with the CEO, Paul Tallett, Chris Bradbury and myself about encouraging members to attempt Guinness World records as a way of generating interest, PR opportunities and perhaps some inter club competition and rivalry. However, we didn't really progress beyond informal discussions, apart from Chris's record for most Emojis with drones in 30 seconds. While we should still pursue encouraging members to create and attempt to beat current Guinness World Records, we could also look at introducing a BMFA version that could complement the current BMFA Contest records that could then encourage onward progression to Guinness World Records with BMFA assistance.

I was recently invited to attend the 'Big Up the Indoor fly-in' that took place a couple of weeks ago. A few days before the event I was contacted by Dan Hampson the organiser asking about the possibility of setting a world record for the most number of flying wings flown consecutively indoors.

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AOB

I explained that there wasn't a FAI or BMFA record specifically for that and that there wasn't enough time to create something or register with Guinness for an attempt. I did suggest that an attempt could be made on an informal basis just for the fun of it. I also suggested that there should be some 'rules' applied to the attempt. The following is what was devised.

Aircraft: Flying Wing, min 500mm span, max 1000mm span.

Task: Most flying wings flown consecutively indoors for a duration of 30 seconds.

Verification: Myself as an independent witness.

Method: All aircraft were launched (22) the 30 second timer was started, the number of aircraft that didn't complete the 30 seconds were counted (5). Record of 17 was set.

I would propose that if the concept is accepted that the above is accepted as a record for the set task to get the ball rolling.

The Concept

To introduce new classes of records that clubs and members can attempt to break similar to those available from Guinness World Records.

- A simple verification process.
 - Video evidence
 - Independent witness
 - Area Official
 - BMFA Official
 - Other Appropriate person

A process for clubs/members to create new records only limited by their imagination and the bounds of regulation, safety and practicality that other clubs/members can attempt to break

- Online form to submit record creation ideas
- Online form to register an attempt on existing records
- Online form to submit record evidence for verification.

The forms, information and new records list could be entirely web based on <https://contests.bmfa.uk>

If the concept gathers traction amongst clubs and members it may help to foster interest on the more competition-based records and in competitive flying in general.

The CSO's brief included links to some Guinness Records that give an idea of possibilities.

Due consideration was given to the concept and the Board agreed that the CSO should progress it further. It was suggested that Areas Council could also be enlisted to assist with moving it forward.

CSO

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AOB

Outreach Director - For information only.

The Outreach Director discovered that a neighbour is a professional video producer who works in tv. He also used to be a model flyer. He has a contract for making short tv programmes for an Irish channel and cover different topics.

The programme is called "Irish in the UK". There is an F2B competition taking place in Ireland later this year and he is interested in covering it and making a short programme. If anyone wants any further information and details how to obtain footage, they can contact the Outreach Director.

The next stage would be to seek advice from our PR Consultant. It's a work in progress.

2583/01/25 (23) Date of next meeting.

Thursday 8th May 2025 @ 7pm via zoom conferencing.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 5pm

Finance Director's Report - Board Meeting January 2025

Introduction

At the time of our last full Board meeting, I was contemplating another year as Vice Chairman and happy to not be involved in the nitty-gritty of Accounts and Budgets. How much has changed in just a few months!

Having been asked by the Chairman to work with the previous Finance Director to finalise the accounts, after his unexpected resignation last October I was asked to be co-opted into that role on an interim basis which necessitated standing down as Vice Chairman as our Articles do not allow the FD to hold another Board Role, to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest.

I then worked with our accountant to finalise the accounts to report to the AGM and then present for approval at the subsequent EGM. I also presented the budget that the previous FD had presented to this Board back in September.

Along with his resignation letter, Mike Woodhouse also write a briefing document highlighting some of the issues that he had identified with our financial systems and processes, which added more detail to what he had previously reported.

I am pleased that the AGM did approve the accounts and budget to at least give us a solid base from where we can work on addressing those issues.

Next Steps

The key priorities that we need to address now are:

1. **Restructure the Chart of Accounts (CofA)** – this is the structure under which our accounts are reported, and in turn this defined the detailed accounts that need to be used within the accounting system for recording all transactions. The existing CofA was implemented at least thirty years ago and has changes “tacked on” as required. It is also massively overcomplicated for a company of our size. I will be meeting Gemma Garrett, the Accounts Manager, next week to set the ball rolling.
2. **Replace Accounting System** - We have been using Sage Accounts for a similar length of time, if not longer. Sage is more than capable of doing what we need, once the new CofA has been implemented. However, it is costing us around £7,000 per year. Various equally capable alternatives are available for around a quarter of this amount. Gemma Garrett has experience with Xero so we will be implementing this.
3. **Accruals of membership income** – as our membership year does not align with the financial year, we have been splitting any subscription income received before the end of the financial year such that part is accounted for in each of the current and following years. This is a complex arrangement and the accidental omission of one day's membership income from this calculation was the cause of a £70k accounting error two years ago, which Mike reported to you when he identified it. In the past we also did a similar spilt for some larger items of expenditure such as the insurance premiums.

This practice does not make any sense because in the event that we ever ceased trading, we would not return part of the subscription back to members. Also, the advent of a proportion of the members renewing on a “rolling” basis further complicates any calculations. As such we intend to discontinue this process. This will mean a one-off apparently large surplus which is not real and will most likely mean that next year we need to present two sets of accounts showing what it would have been under the previous arrangement for comparison with prior years. We will, of course both work with the Accountant to ensure that this is done correctly, and also keep you informed.

4. **Integration of National Centre Accounts** – Now that Buckminster hosts both the National Flying Centre and the Head Office, it is no longer either practical or sensible to report the Centre separately from core business. This will be incorporated into the new Chart of Accounts.

Budget for 2025/26

The budget that Mike presented to the Board last September, and which I then presented to the AGM and EGM was based on a straight 3% uplift to the current year's budget. Following the EGM's approval of the budget, and in support of the proposal for a reinstatement of the Areas funding amount, I requested from Mike the spreadsheet that he had used for the previous budget as I did not have this available.

The detail behind Mike's total figures differed from the total figure reported to the EGM, and I suspect that the majority of the difference relates the separate figures for the National Centre. I have not had time to investigate this further.

The attached budget lays out:

- The figures from the last set of approved accounts (2023/24);
- The budget received from Mike relating to the current year (2024/25);
- A 3% uplift from these figures for next financial year (2025/26); and
- A review that changes these figures to realistic values for this year.

The key changes relating to the last column are:

- To report BMFA News income and expenditure separately rather than the previous "net" figure, and to include the subscription income for the hard copy;
- The actual figure for insurance following Dave's successful negotiations last year;
- A more up to date figure for postage;
- A reduced figure for membership cards (same value in income and expenditure) as the new card is cheaper;
- An increase in figures for salaries and related costs as the budget figure, even with uplift, was less than 2023/24 – although staff changes (such as Gemma replacing Sian on a part time basis) will have also reduced the total;
- Addition of the rent for Merus Court as this had not previously been budgeted;
- The increase for Areas Funding as per the proposal;
- A new budget of £5,000 for Outreach Activities – again not previously budgeted. I would like the Board's explicit agreement for this figure as well.
- An increase in the Subscriptions to other bodies – primarily driven by a substantial increase in the Royal Aero Club subscription (covered below);
- Changing some figures to be closer to either previous round numbers, or actual expenditure.

Royal Aero Club

It was agreed by the Executive last month that I would continue with this responsibility, partly because I have recently been appointed as the RAeC Treasurer as well.

There have been some changes in the RAeC Council, driven by the resignations of the previous Chairman (David Monks) and Treasurer (Matthew Bolshaw) who was also Chairman of the Medals and Awards Committee. These three roles have now been filled by Martin Soulsby (British Skydiving), myself, and Mike Pearson respectively.

The Light Aircraft Association have now left the RAeC, which is loss of around £8,000 income. This is coupled with an inflationary 3% increase in the FAI subscription and unfavourable exchange rates (FAI is paid in Swiss Francs) mean an overall increase of 16% in subscriptions from other Associations.

AGM, EGM, Annual Dinner and Awards Committee

I attended the AGM, EGM and Annual dinner, and was happy to again carry out the role of Master Of Ceremonies.

One “learning point” from last year is that I need to be more proactive, and earlier, in reminding clubs and technical committees of the need to submit nominations, as the reminder letters and extended deadline reduced the time available to invite recipients to the Annual Dinner.

BMFA Stand at Model Shows

As many of you will have heard, changing priorities at Shuttleworth mean that there will not be any model shows in the format that we have had before, at least for this year and likely in future years. Coupled with last years loss of Wings and Wheels means that the only show that I plan to attend this year is the Popham Model Show, which following discussions with pilots, attendees and traders, the organisers have now moved to the second weekend in May, meaning that it no longer clashes with the LMA Much Marcle show in September and should hopefully allow it to grow as a new show on the annual calendar.

BMFA News

As agreed at the last Executive meeting, I have now relinquished my role as BMFA News Publisher, which will be taken up by the Honorary Secretary with support from the Outreach Director.

Safety Review Committee

This responsibility has now moved jointly to the Chairmen of Areas and Technical Council.

Keith Lomax FSMAE
Interim Finance Director
January 2025

Chairman's Report to the Board – January 2025

I was sorry to miss the last Executive meeting due to a clash with a family holiday and thank the Hon Sec for chairing the meeting. I was pleased to see from the CEO's report to the meeting that the new insurance-related rewards scheme for members is operational. We do need to make sure this is widely publicised as a no-cost benefit. It's disappointing that the discounts available on typical household expenses seem to be lower than those that were offered by the Vectis Card. However, I was pleased to hear that the latter remains an option for those who wish to pay the nominal supplement. David's observation that unwillingness to embrace rolling membership is hampering our ability to roll out junior/new member initiatives is also well made. I have followed this up with a 'Chairman's View' piece in the next BMFA News to prompt a more open-minded appreciation of the issues. The news piece also touches on the broader 'members' age' question and highlights the opportunities and value of donations and bequests whilst informing members of Peter Miller's recent generosity.

EMFU. I was not able (even remotely) to attend the last EMFU General Assembly but the CEO's report provides a succinct summary. The value of the Union continues to grow and it's good to see the DMFV looking to come on board. The [EMFU Website](#) is becoming a valuable resource worth visiting from time to time to learn from our overseas colleagues. Under the Resources tab I spotted a professional-looking series of videos by the FFAM (in French but you get the gist!) where pilots and engineers enthusiastically explain how our sport brought them into their aeronautical careers. I think it highlights the different perception of model flying in other cultures and suggests that we may be lagging behind somewhat in exploiting our membership base for PR purposes.

I note David's suggestion that he would only consider extending his tenure as EMFU President with the support of the BMFA Board. I personally think he's doing an excellent job and has my full support should he choose to continue. It's important that GBR retains a strong influence in Europe and David has the respect of the other delegates. However, I'm also cognisant of the weight of his other responsibilities and respect his desire to consolidate his commitments.

AGM and Awards Dinner. I thank the Board for their support in getting the Annual Accounts and Budget over the line. It was far from ideal having to hold an EGM after the AGM but encouraging to see the level of engagement from clubs at the second meeting. Take-up for AGM itself was less so and attendance at the Awards Dinner particularly disappointing. It may be premature to draw a conclusion from separating the AGM and Awards ceremony as there were other contributory factors including late notification of some of the trophy winners. We will need to reassess the financial impact as that was the primary driver for separating the events. I personally think that the formality of the Awards ceremony is appreciated by those who attend but it has to be affordable.

Peter Miller Bequest. The Hon Sec and I attended Peter Miller's funeral in Bury St Edmunds on 27th November which was a simple but moving affair attended by several of his club members and a few former neighbours. I also had the opportunity to discuss the will with a representative of his solicitors who was present. They are keen to complete clearance of Peter's house as soon as practicable and I asked them to liaise with Dave or Manny so that we can assess his model collection and associated paraphernalia to identify anything of particular significance and advise on the most appropriate method of disposal. I understand that visit has yet to take place.

Website. I am keen to get the new website up and running as soon as possible and met with the CSO and CEO earlier this week to take stock of where we are. There are still a handful of Tech Committees and Specialist Bodies who have not provided content to promote their disciplines but most have now responded and the 'Read More...' material for the home page is now in place. The dual aims of the new site are promotion of model flying to recruit new members for which it has been given a clean interface, and the provision of information and guidance for existing members and clubs for whom the primary need is clear and simple navigation. Andy is now consolidating the material as a priority and I intend to give a demonstration to the Board at our January meeting and seek their approval to go live as soon as the CEO and I consider the website functionality to be sufficiently robust.

Ian Pallister FSMAE
BMFA Chairman

CEO Report – January 2025

I'll start with a few general points:

Scottish Aeromodellers

It did seem that the SAA were struggling to continue for 2025, but they have managed to find some volunteers, including a new Chairman – Ian Cartledge, so their arrangement with us will continue unchanged for 2025.

Large Model Association

The LMA held their EGM on the 28th November, which voted overwhelmingly to formally apply to the BMFA as an Associate Body (subject to an acceptance that some of the current T&C's do not entirely fit). For membership administration purposes, they are currently set up as an affiliated club with 764 members. This included a greater than expected number of members new to the BMFA. They had 3 members who have left because they refused to join the BMFA.

Membership Insurance

Following our decision to move our business from Tysers to AON, we have been extremely busy putting everything in place.

We met with our new underwriters from Sportscover and have established a good relationship with them. They will be visiting Buckminster in 2025 to have a look at what we do (and give it a try).

We have updated membership documentation and put in place all of our established covers. I decided to stick with Aviva for the Personal Accident and Travel Insurance cover. Tysers had quoted over £36K for these two policies but AON secured continuation of both covers for less than £20K as well as a three-year long-term agreement and a low claims rebate (10%) subject to loss ratios.

The new free Rewards Scheme for members provided by AON is now functional and can be accessed as follows:

URL: <https://bmfa.discountsandrecognition.com/>

Registration method for members: with their email + code SMAE1922. There will be a button added to JustGo to take members directly to it.

I have meeting scheduled for every Thursday until June with Dawn Luby and Karen Tonge at AON. Their level of support and efficiency in getting things done has been outstanding so far.

I am also optimistic that AON and/or Sportscover will be forthcoming with some sponsorship for the Scale Word Championships and they will be arranging a specific meeting to discuss this further.

Merus Court

The arrangement with the BGA and BHPA at Merus Court has continued to work well. We held a combined Christmas gathering with the BGA and BHPA staff on the afternoon of 20th December.

BMFA Members Handbook

I am working on updates to the Members Handbook for 2025 to incorporate some changes to our insurance, but also some requests from the CAA as well as some changes arising from our Article 16 Authorisation.

If anyone has any further update requests, please let me know.

Junior/New member initiative & rolling memberships

I have not progressed the proposed new member initiatives as they were dependent on a wider availability of rolling memberships which we've been unable to agree.

The BDF memberships have continued to grow slowly but we hope that with the inclusion of commercial cover under our new insurance arrangements for operations in the Open Category that it will create some opportunities for growth. It seems to have been positively received by BDF members so far.

In terms of specific Board Agenda items:

a. National Centre Update

The Café has continued to provide a popular and valuable addition to the National Centre since it opened for business in March. So far, on sales of £36K, it has generated a useful profit of £9K.

The centre has received strong bookings for 2025.

The two auctions which took place in November generated sales of over £84K with commission to the National Centre of over £17K.

Another auction was considered for January but has been postponed removing pressure on Manny and Lisa over the festive period. The auction software license has been extended and auctions have been scheduled for Saturday 8th March and Saturday 22nd March.

b. CAA Team report

We received our renewed Article 16 Authorisation for 2025 in mid-December.

The CAA have launched their Consultation on Fees (applicable from April 2025 – see <https://www.caa.co.uk/publication/download/23362>) with a proposed increase in fees of 5.9% which would take the Operator Registration fee from £11.33 to £12 from 1st April.

c. Computer Sub-Committee report.

Our project to issue CAA Flyer I.D.s was deployed but we have been in dispute with the CAA due to some mutual confusion. We issued Flyer IDs to anyone meeting our current competency requirements, but apparently, we should not have issued Flyer IDs to anyone without an RCC. This is despite the CAA agreeing the text for our declaration which stated that IDs would be issued to members meeting our existing competency requirements with historic achievements.

We have agreed that for the future, all members will need to pass the RCC test every 5 years and those issued a Flyer ID in the absence of holding an RCC will have until December to obtain one. A large proportion of those affected have already obtained one.

d. Club Support Officer's report.

To follow.

General Aviation Alliance (GAA).

The GAA work has continued in dealing with airspace change proposals which are swamping us all.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend their AGM as they shifted the timing which made it clash with another existing diary commitment.

f. European Model Flying Union (EMFU).

I have continued to work with EASA on several matters and remain the principal point of liaison between the EMFU and EASA at the present time. We have agreed some useful additions to their FAQ's as well as some clarifications to the update of the EU regulations (which the UK regulations are based on). The key clarification is to separate out model flying within an Association more clearly, as neither an Open Category activity nor a Specific Category activity.

The 10th EMFU General Assembly took place in Dubendorf, Switzerland, on the 9th and 10th November and I managed to secure representatives (online) from EASA to address the meeting on both days. EASA provided over three hours of quality input to the GA with plenty of opportunity for discussion which the members greatly appreciated. Documentation and presentations (including my 'President's Report' and 'Challenges Ahead' presentations) for the GA are available here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1O7jfs2AvhLCTUhpWCa4TnCfyYX-K4t9u>

The 11th EMFU General Assembly will be hosted by our Spanish colleagues and one of the EASA team has already told me that he would like to attend in person (he is Spanish and has family near the proposed location).

We have lost our long-standing General Secretary after a disagreement with the Board. He had posted some comments on a forum in Germany which he had signed off as EMFU. The comments brought EMFU directly into the ongoing historic argument between the model flying associations in Germany. We asked that he make future posts in his own name (or that of his home association rather than the EMFU) which we considered reasonable, but he decided to stand down.

Following the EMFU GA, we received an approach from DMFV (Deutsche Modellflieger Verband), the largest model flying organisation in Europe and they are taking a vote this coming weekend on whether to apply for membership of the EMFU. I met with their representatives in December and it was a very positive meeting (albeit slightly difficult as their English wasn't very good and neither was my German) and they have now submitted a formal application for EMFU membership.

I was contemplating passing the EMFU baton on at the next GA, but the Board and Members have been overwhelmingly positive in their support for me to continue as I have continued to deliver results for them. The successor I had in mind has told me this week that he prefers his current role and likes our working relationship which he would like to continue. I am undecided but would only continue with support from the BMFA Board.

g. Airprox

There were a couple of Airprox reports filed by Tyldesley in relation to infringements of their airspace by aircraft from Barton. I was involved in two CAA meetings (one of which included Andy Ellison from Tyldesley) to discuss the issues.

h. Sport & Recreation Alliance

There is nothing of note to report at this stage and I was unable to attend their AGM in October due to other commitments.

i. General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC).

There are some ongoing ructions within the GAAC due to a clash of personalities. I was unable to attend their last in person meeting in London on the 17th December due to other commitments.

Dave Phipps. 20 January 2025

Report of the Honorary Secretary to the meeting of the Board on Saturday 25th January 2025.

This report covers a number of areas of work, relating primarily to my role as Honorary Secretary and the governance of the BMFA.

1. Governance Handbook

Thank you for the revisions that have been passed to me, these have been incorporated into the **2025 Governance Handbook**.

The revisions to the 2025 Governance Handbook have been circulated ready for adoption at the January meeting of the Board.

There are ongoing pieces of work which will be completed this for inclusion in the 2026 editions are the;

- integration of Appendix C Code of Conduct for Directors and Fellows and Appendix D BMFA Complaints Procedure into a single document;
- review of the Terms of Reference for the Finance Director; and
- review of the Terms of Reference for the Technical Council and RCPTC although this is a longer term piece of work led by the Technical Director.

- 2. The Articles of Association** have been revised to take account of the FAI Delegate and the Trophies Officer being directly appointed by the Board. The revised Articles have been forwarded together with the Annual Report to Companies House.

3. Review of Policies and Key Documents

The proposed schedule for the review of Policies is:

Policy	Review Date	Reviewer
BMFA Privacy Policy	2025	Paul Hoey/Dave Phipps/Hon Solicitor
Data Protection	Autumn 2025	Paul Hoey/Dave Phipps/Hon Solicitor
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy	2026	Paul Hoey
Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults	March 2025	Helen Jones
Staff Handbook		Dave Phipps
Contract of Employment		Dave Phipps/Hon Solicitor
Job descriptions		Dave Phipps
Azolve Policies	Reviewed by Azolve as part of their contract to supply the membership system.	

4. Strategic Risk Register

The feedback from Directors has been collated into the attached Appendix A to give a collective view of the gravity of risks we face, most notably:

- Finance and competition
- Change and operation
- Regulation

The next step is to formulate the annual plan, for which I will bring a proforma to the January Board meeting.

5. BMFA News

As a result of covering the role of BMFA News Publisher due to Keith Lomax's reprising his role as Finance Director I have, with the assistance of Helen Jones, proof read the soon to be published Edition No 184 – February 2025. It is a diverse edition with a number of articles showcasing the achievements of a young person and innovative club activities.

I am, as yet to get to grips with the role but no doubt all will become clear. Please do let me know if there are any BMFA related matters you would like me to be aware of.

6. 2024 Elections and AGM

These have both been held but the challenge remains of generating meaningful elections that bring forward candidates for posts. The second challenge is to ensure we meet the required timetable to prepare the annual report including the contributory officer reports in a timely fashion. I will be giving some thought to these challenges for the May Board.

In addition, we need to review this year's trial of a split AGM and Prizegiving Dinner and agree the conduct of these events in 2025.

7. The Prizegiving Dinner

I was shocked and honoured to be awarded, at the Chairman's discretion, the Kath Watson Rose Bowl for Administration.

8. 2026 F4 World Championships

With the championships starting to seem very close, the work rate is now ramping up. My particular responsibility is as Events Co-ordinator for all events outside of the direct delivery of the flying. For example, the opening and closing ceremonies as well as a range of events in between. An attached outline plan was presented at the planning group meeting on 17 December which I bring to the Board for information and comment.

9. Nijmegen International Indoor Fly In

I took part in this event as part of the British group of 12. It was a great weekend of very high standard modelling and flying. In summary, the Czech competitors took home nearly all the prizes and worryingly several will be at our own Indoor Scale Championship in April!

10. I recently attended the Funerals of Peter Miller with Ian Pallister and John Wynn, Chairman and President of the Impington Village College MAC. Both have made a significant contribution to model flying and whilst they will be missed their legacy will live on.

11. East Anglia Area Committee

I have been succeeded by Ron Gray as Chair of the BMFA Area Committee. Ron will be known for instigating the Laser Engines and Best of British Fly-In at Buckminster and his enthusiasm means it is a good appointment.

12. Dates of Future Meetings 2025

Dates for Board meetings and the AGM in **2025** are:

- Saturday 25 January
- Saturday 10 May
- Saturday 13 September
- Saturday 1 November (AGM)

Dates for Executive meetings in **2025** are:


- Thursday 13 February
- Thursday 13 March
- Thursday 10 April
- Thursday 12 June
- Thursday 10 July
- Thursday 14 August
- Thursday 16 October
- Thursday 11 December

Paul Hoey
20.1.25


APPENDIX D 4/6

BMFA Strategic Risk Assessment - Director Assessments @ November 2012 (12 Returns)																						
A	B	C	D				E				F				G	H						
EXTERNAL INTERNAL	DESCRIPTION	CONSEQUENCE	PROBABILITY				IMPACT				RISK LEVEL				RISK MITIGATION PLAN	RISK OWNER						
1	Regulatory	1. Adverse legislation restricting model flying Restrictions on model flying and unwillingness of members to engage and maintain membership.	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	1. Maintaining the strong relationship with the CAA and other aviation regulatory bodies. 2. Positive messaging: Direct mailing, BMFA News and Website	1 & 2. CEO, Club Support Officer and BMFA News Editor
2	Financial and Competitor	1. Declining membership due to age profile and potential legislative impact 2. Members opt for FPV UK 3. Buckminster incurring significant loss	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	1. New finance system. 2. Quarterly Management Accounts to the Board 3. Reserves Policy	1. Finance Director 2. Finance Director and CEO 3. CEO & National Centre Manager
3	Operational	1. A serious model flying accident 2. Loss of flying sites	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	1. Members Handbook, BMFA News, & ASRC 2. Advice to clubs	1. & 2. CEO, Club Support Officer & Outreach Director
4	Reputational and Political	1. A serious safeguarding incident 2. Illegal flying by a member or non member causing a serious model flying accident.	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	1. BMFA Safeguarding Policy and model Policy to Clubs 1. Members Handbook, BMFA News, ASRC training schemes and proactive press liaison.	1. & 2. CEO, Club Support Officer, National Centre Manager & Outreach Director 2. CEO, Members Director, PR Consultant, BMFA Editor & Club Support
5	Change and Operational	1. Loss of key staff and volunteers 2. Reduced communications with clubs and members	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	1. Business Continuity Planning, talentspotting and well being. Communications policy to be developed with focus on communicating the BMFA's Strategy.	1. Executive Directors
6	Regulatory and Operational	1. IT failure causing loss of data including Azolve membership system 2. Data Breach	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	1. Resilient contracts with proven providers 2. Data Protection Policy	1. CEO and Club Support Officer 2. Honorary Secretary



Events Programme - Week Beginning Monday 6th July 2026


	Championship's Programme	Formal Events	Supporting Events	Notes
Monday 6 th July	Competitors arrive			
Tuesday 7 th July	Competitors arrive			
Wednesday 8 th July	Practice Day			
Thursday 9 th July	Practice Day			
Friday 10 th July	Practice Day	<p>Opening Ceremony:</p> <p>Teams to form up along track from Goldsmith Hangar to the menage and then parade to in front of the Marquee where there will be a dais and PA. Very short opening speeches by the BMFA Chair and a 'dignitary'. Teams invited to a welcome drink and canopes</p>	<p>BBMF Flypast Trade Fair opens Media Day</p>	<p>The courtyard behind the Flyers Café to be the evening social centre for duration of the championships. Can we have a bar?</p> <p>Application to BBMF and the Red Arrows for flypasts to be submitted by October 2025. Unfortunately, may not be able to get the time slot we would like.</p> <p>Media Day targeted at TV coverage to attract visitors, the aviation press and other media outlets.</p>
Saturday 11 th July	Championships	<p>Running reception for invited guests from aviation industries and organisations</p>	Trade Fair	
Sunday 12 th July	Championships			

Events Programme - Week beginning Monday 13th July


	Championship's Programme	Formal Events	Supporting Events	Notes
Monday 13 th July	Championships		Outreach Days* to run throughout the championships subject to capacity.	Outreach Days to focus on building a model and to showcase the future of aviation the role of UAVs.
Tuesday 14 th July	Championships			
Wednesday 15 th July	Championships	Nations Night with music		
Thursday 16 th July	Championships	Tournament of Champions		A Free Flight evening event for models built during the Championships. e.g. Centenary Rookies or VMC Buddy possibly with some sponsorship.
Friday 17 th July	Championships			
Saturday 18 th July	Championships	Medal presentation and a short closing ceremony	SMAE Fellows and other guests Day Drone Swarm	An invitation to Fellows to visit for the day and attend the closing ceremony Chris Bradbury to design a Drone display to end the championships
Sunday 12 th July	Competitors depart			The organising team to celebrate and collapse

*2026 School last day of term summer term

- Leicestershire 8 July Close before Championships
- Leicester City 11 July Close before Championships
- Lincolnshire 22 July
- Cambridgeshire 23 July
- Peterborough City 23 July

Members Director Report to the BMFA Board, January 2025

- I hosted the most recent Areas Council meeting on the 23rd of January and delayed this report to enable inclusion of some of the outcomes from this meeting.
- The Areas Council Forum continues to be an excellent mechanism for comment, feedback and communication on topical items outside of scheduled meetings, and Council members seem to have embraced it enthusiastically. As well as documenting discussions for future reference and or onward communication, it significantly helps reduce debate and discussion during meetings, which in turn considerably reduces the duration of meetings, something that is welcomed by all.
- In the next few weeks, I will be calling a meeting of the Safety review committee. I need to consult with the CEO to determine the most appropriate representatives from staff, the CAA and the AAIB. Following the meeting I intend to prepare a summary, with conclusions, and where appropriate recommendations, to help avoid reoccurrences of any identified trends. This to be in a format suitable for sharing with Areas and Clubs.
- The development of the criteria and process for how the 'Club of the Year' award will operate are all but complete, the intention being to go live as soon as possible for introduction this year. Areas Council have voted in support of this, and I mention it here so that the Board is aware and can progress any Board approval, if required. To this end it has been flagged as an item of AoB. The details of the award have been posted on the Board Forum along with a template on-line nomination form, so members can see how the scheme is intended to operate.
Importantly, the award is another mechanism to encourage engagement and involvement with clubs and members, and to reward clubs, who we recognise are key to bringing in new members.
- There have been a number of enquiries from members who have experienced difficulty in finding where to take the Registration Competency Certificate (RCC), and when they have completed the test, with uploading the certificate to their profile on the Go membership system. It would be useful for everyone to feedback to their clubs that there is a dedicated button to take the RCC on the home page of the Achievement Scheme website, and that at the end of the test, there is another button to click that provides guidance on uploading the certificate to the member's profile. This matter has been the subject of discussion on the AC Forum.
- I continue to be aware of inaccurate information regarding rolling membership being passed on to members. As a result, I think it would be beneficial for everyone to stress that rolling membership is an **additional option** and not a replacement for the 'conventional' annual membership **at every opportunity**. This has been mentioned at Areas Council and Delegates have been asked to help by feeding this back to their Clubs. It has also been stressed that rolling membership will continue as an option, as it is essential for membership vouchers. However, I'm sure further reinforcement of the above can only help.

APPENDIX E 2/2

- I have completed the latest revision of the relevant sections of the Governance Handbook that were assigned to me. Notably, this has included the changes previously agreed by the Board, to combine the roles of power and silent flight Achievement Scheme Controllers roles into a single Scheme Controller with responsibility for both disciplines.
- The next Areas Council meeting will be on the Tuesday 6th May 2025, ahead of the Board meetings scheduled for the 8th.

Duncan R McClure
Members Director, January 2025

PROVISIONAL

Technical Director report to the BMFA Board – January 2025

Rule book updates

The 2025 competition rule book updates are nearly complete and should go live on or just after 30th January 2025. Updates have been made to the competition rule books for FF, CL, RCPTC, Scale SF. No updates were needed for the General competition rule book or the record rules. No communication was received from Spaceflight and the rule book has been updated to reflect the year.

I have made some inroads into updating the formatting of the rule books mainly to the contents section and page numbering making the sections work with the automatic page numbering. Currently if you want to update most of the rule books you have to manually cross check the page numbers with the index and manually adjust the contents page which takes considerable time. I will continue updating the rule books to assist in simpler ways of updating and it is also my plan to introduce where appropriate cross referencing which will also assist in improving searching for specific rules on tablet and mobile devices when the document is viewed as a PDF. As with everything this takes some time and I plan to keep updating the rule book formatting throughout 2025 and will liaise with the individual technical committees when updates have been made.

Member communications

In December and early January I received a number of communications from model fliers regarding proposed rule changes. Whilst in the whole most communications were polite and well-reasoned, some were quite demanding, asking me to release information on rule book changes and oppose changes which I was not in a position to carry out. In all cases I asked the individuals to communicate with the technical committees to resolve the issues.

January 2025 Technical Council meeting

The January Technical Council meeting is due to take place on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at 7pm. I will provide a verbal update to the board on any updates.

RCPTC formation changes

The since reforming RCPTC, the rules formatting the committee require the whole committee to disband at the BMFA AGM and the newly elected committee reform in the new year. This arrangement was initially agreed to ensure the continued operation of the committee however as the committee becomes more established a request has been made by the RCPTC to move to a more normal committee election arrangement as per other TC's with the committee remaining in operation all year round with a portion of committee officers standing down one year and the other half standing down the following year. RCPTC are in favour of making the change and have agreed to work with me to agree the way forward. I will arrange a meeting in the next few weeks with the Hon Sec, Chairman and Vice Chairman to agree the way forward and work with RCPTC to make the necessary changes.

Trophies officer updates

As you are aware, Steve Philpott stepped down as Trophy Officer after the Annual Dinner and we currently have a vacancy for the position which we have been unable to fill. One solution which has been suggested is to split the role between the Archive team and the Office and the Sporting Director. The Archive team would take responsibility for the upkeep and tracking of the trophies. The office would undertake the role they carry out at the moment in contacting trophy recipients and issuing dinner tickets and undertaking general administration. The Sporting director will act as a point of contact and report any progress or issues. I am in the process of arranging a meeting to discuss the details of the proposed way of working with all involved which I plan to arrange in the next 4 weeks.

Technical Council Secretariat

Currently we have not appointed a new Technical Council Secretariat. Having trailed some AI options I plan to use the Zoom AI function to assist in compiling the minutes and actions for the first few meetings of this year and see how we get on. If you know of anyone who may be interested in the role please contact me directly.

Simon Vaitkevicius. Technical Director BMFA

PROVISIONAL

Sporting Director Report to January Board Meeting

Since September Board Meeting the emphasis of my work has been to determine the resources/ expenditure for the budget allocation for the 2025/6 financial year. (specifically relating to International Team support/ Competition season). As a result Budget for 2024/25 has been maintained as per previous year (2023/4).

The report is slightly incomplete pending the forthcoming Technical Council however I can report as follows:

I am currently processing the 'additional' Team Manager claims/ expenses with a deadline to authorise before the end of February 2025. This is liaising with accounts to ensure commitment stays within budget.

Following discussions with Technical Committees and SBs late last year regarding allocation of the 2025 SD's Budget. One or two points were suggested and met with general agreement.

- increasing Pilots allowance
- possible reduction in Assistant TM allowance
- possible reduction in contributions for European Championships

As a result of these meetings, I have decided to take a gentle approach by amending the Team support for 2025/6 allowances as follows:

- Raising the allowance for Pilots from £400 to £600

All other allowances remain unchanged (as per the TM Guidelines).

The Team managers Guide is a comprehensive and ever evolving document that I am about to re-issue in February and send to each of the Technical Committees and Specialist Bodies following a few updates for 2025. Throughout the year I will continue to host a series of team managers briefings/ Q&A sessions for the TMs & ATMs to discuss their travels/ arrangements. We have received confirmation of the following Teams looking to take part in (CAT1) World/ European Championships in 2025:

We are awaiting other disciplines confirmation.

- F1D ECH – Indoor Duration – December 2025
- F1A,B,C,Q ECH – Free Flight – Salonta Romania July 2025
- F3K WCH 25 July –. Tarp, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany 2 Aug 2025
- Space 2025
- Pylon Racing WCH July 2025 Germany

The list is incomplete at this moment however I will circulate the complete list when compiled in due course to all Board members. Teams that have already been submitted to me were ratified at this week's Technical Council.

FAI World Cup Events (CAT2) have been submitted to CIAM for inclusion in the 2025 Calendar are as follow:

- Free Flight F1A,B,C,Q -RAF Sculthorpe GBR
- F3A World Cup – Buckminster GBR
- F3F North of England Open – Pickering GBR
- 2025 Interglide Ashford Kent GBR
- F3F Welsh Open Cardiff GBR

Many thanks again this year to Julie Fisher & Ian Kaynes who have assisted with this process.

Junior Team Members 2025 - I have been working closely with Helen Jones to ensure that any junior team members have appropriate support (manager etc) well before they are sanctioned to travel to World & European Championships. Any Team manager/s for Juniors have to be DBS checked via the BMFA ahead of being sanctioned. All is to support Juniors especially in terms of their safeguarding.

Currently we have Juniors involved in 2025 Space Modelling, awaiting Team manager responses.

Records Claims - I am processing a couple of record claims from 2024 and will advise shortly of their outcome.

At the recent Executive meeting my terms of reference will be picking up the director's responsibilities in terms of Trophies. I believe Simon V will be liaising with the office staff and myself to establish a workable system for 2025 onwards.

Competition based queries are always welcome and have been received from a number of the Tech. Committees which I believe are all now resolved/ answered.

I can also advise that at Technical Council this week all Technical Committees and Specialist Bodies advised that arrangements for their respective Nationals are in Place. All were urged to publish the dates as soon as possible to encourage good attendance.

I am pleased to be tasked with the Contest Directors position for the F4 Scale 2026 World Championships at Buckminster. Party to the working groups meetings the organisation and team are working extremely hard to ensure the Contest will be a spectacular event.

Mark Benns
BMFA Sporting Director

Outreach Director Report to the Board January 2025

November saw our first East Midlands Stem day at Willoughby School in Bourne. We worked with around twenty SEND students aged between fourteen and eighteen. A carousel of activities took place including building Aerojets, Hoop Gliders and rockets for the stomp rocket launcher. All the students enjoyed completing the challenges as did the staff. Four Flight simulators also provided great excitement for most and there were some very able trainee pilots. The feedback from this event after had been analysed by East Midlands Stem was excellent which was very encouraging.

The students took home a BMFA bag with the models they had made, BMFA promotional leaflets, pens and badges.

Willoughby School wish for more days and they have been invited to the National Centre to do a follow up session. Much thanks must go also to Andy Symons and Mervyn Jones who made the day such a success; along with Jo Winterbourne and Jaqui Elton from the Stem Hub.

Four more Outreach days are being planned for the spring so that the original funding can be utilised.

As a result of this Andy and I met with Gainsborough Stem Team who as part of the Aerodiscover project are planning on building a full size microlight with their schools. The funding and planning is not complete. However it is hoped that our expert aero modellers in the area will be able to offer some technical support with the building of some of the components etc.

Gainsborough want some Outreach Days as part of the project and a more detailed explanation of the activities and challenges is being provided.

Links have also been made with the Newark Air and Space Institute and they are keen to explore model flying and hopefully will build a model for the Payload Challenge in June.

The Payload Challenge will take place on Wednesday and Thursday 11th and 12th June with the arrivals day being Tuesday 10th June. This competition is only open to universities, schools and colleges in the UK and Europe. Promotional flyers will be emailed to the Home Education networks, Air Cadets and to BMFA Areas to encourage as wide an entry from the UK as possible.

It is worth noting that the FAI Education Committee are promoting that FAI category 1 and 2 events have a "Kid's Zone" for visitors to the competition. As we have the Scale World Championships next year this is certainly worth considering organising some sessions and advertising those across the locality.

The FAI is also launching the Team Paper Plane challenge for primary schools which will shortly be on the FAI website. The BMFA flight School will link to this too.

There are now eight BMFA Flight School Projects to be uploaded onto the website. The final checks are being completed and this should all be complete by the date of this meeting. A document detailing hints and tips for organising and structuring events will also be added as soon as possible.

The Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines are due for review in April and must be re ratified as soon as possible after completion.

In consultation with Mark Bennis the Sporting Director it has been agreed that all Junior Team Managers and their Assistant Team Managers must have a BMFA organised DBS check before the team can be ratified. Mark has ensured that all Technical Committees have been made aware of this requirement.

Looking to the future I am hoping to use the expertise of the Areas Outreach Coordinators to investigate the feasibility of applying for our own CAA Reach for the Skies funding to hold a Model Flying Extravaganza at the National Centre. With the aim of showcasing and introducing young people to model flying and to demonstrate the potential career pathways to careers in the aviation and aerospace industries.

Additionally in June the CL Technical Committee are holding a CL Festival of Flight and I am proposing that some local schools are invited to take part in flight related activities as well as possibly having some trial flights [under close supervision].

To conclude none of the Outreach work has taken place in isolation and thanks must be given to all who have contributed and supported us.

Helen Jones
BMFA Outreach Director

Achievement Scheme Controller Report to Areas Council & BMFA Board
January 2025

- As I am sure the Board and Areas Council are aware, the recent effective removal of 'grandfather rights' by the CAA has caused some uncertainty and concern amongst those affected, and indeed amongst others not directly impacted by the change. I appreciate that the late notification by the CAA hasn't helped, and I understand and agree completely with the views and position of the CEO, but I do still believe that we would benefit from the establishment of a communications committee and associated policy.
- Associated with the above, there have been a number of enquiries from members who have experienced difficulty in finding where to take the Registration Competency Certificate (RCC), and also with uploading the certificate to their profile on the Go membership system. It would be useful for Delegates to feedback to their clubs that there is a dedicated button to take the RCC on the home page of the Achievement Scheme website, and also that at the end of the test, there is another button to click that provides guidance on uploading the certificate to the member's profile. This matter has been the subject of discussion on the AC Forum.
- I'm pleased to report that the previously mentioned re-vamp of all Achievement Scheme documentation is all but complete, thanks largely to the efforts of Chris Bradbury, who because of his graphic design skill set, has shouldered the brunt of the work on the re-design and 'refresh', which includes a greater volume of improved graphics. I'm sure I don't have to stress, that this was a serious undertaking, given that there are over 30 tests in the Scheme portfolio. Chris has been supported by the other members of the ASRC as much as they can, notably with checking the graphics and proof-reading revised text. Of note is that some of the indoor aerobic tests have seen significant changes, largely to bring them in line with the overall ethos of the scheme.
- I have completed my annual correspondence with Area committees regarding their re-ratification (or not) of Area Chief Examiners and Instructors. Most Areas have been efficient in this process and have maintained an acceptable number of ACEs to support the scheme. The exceptions to this are BMFA Cymru Wales and the London Area. The latter has only just responded despite repeated requests, the latest of which I sent to the whole of the committee. The London Area only has three ACEs. Unfortunately, BMFA Cymru Wales currently has no ACEs! I have offered my assistance to their committee to help in resolving this, but I am disappointed that this situation was allowed to deteriorate to this state without discussion, indeed I only became aware of the situation as a result of chasing the Area for their annual return. However, the Areas plans to hold a Zoom meeting shortly, which I will attend, to plan a way forward and hopefully remedy the situation in the not-too-distant future.

Duncan McClure
 Achievement Scheme Controller – Jan 25

Archivists Report for the 25 January 2025 Board Meeting

2024 has been a productive year for the BMFA archive. Donations have been arriving regularly and have included a number of gems that have enhanced the archive collections. The process developed by the team for handling incoming documents and artefacts continues to work well along with the expanding electronic record. The team sales activities have been productive and have input some £3000 to the National Centre during the year. The number of research enquiries increases and the team have been able to respond productively on most occasions.

Progress in cataloguing and preserving the archive collections continues but is limited to a degree by the lack of available manpower and storage space. Additional volunteers local to Buckminster would be welcome. There will be a time in the near future where the board will need to decide how to improve the archive facilities if the continued preservation of the BMFA heritage is considered to be of importance.

The archive team have undertaken their annual review and have prioritised a number of tasks for 2025 with the intention of completing coverage of all heritage items within the electronic records.

This report, as requested, is brief. Should more information be required, then Board members are welcome to contact me.

Doug Hunt
BMFA Archivist

07899938556

BMFA/BDF Marketing & PR Report January 2025

Happy New Year to all, here’s wishing everyone a great year ahead of flying. Hopefully you’ll recall in my last report, I mentioned my findings from public interaction at the Duxford air shows, along with general social feedback, regarding the public’s often disappointing experience when first trying to explore model flying through the affiliated club network. Following initial actions in the autumn and pondering things further over the Christmas break, I’d like to focus on my thoughts and actions that I hope to contribute during 2025 in the hope of starting to change that situation. Obviously, it goes without saying that all my normal daily BMFA support continues in earnest, even though they don’t form part of this report.

Since I’ve been working with the BMFA, I’ve kept my own set of statistics so I can see how patterns are emerging and evolving. Below are the past 5 years, which when seen with corresponding metrics, do give a clear indication of where the BMFA is winning and losing.

Year	Total Membership	% +/- From Previous Year	New Members	% Of Year Non-Renewing Members	% Of Year Significant Events
2019	31978	-6.03	2873	8.9	18.7 Last Nationals held at Barkston Heath - CAA operating changes come into force
2020	30625	-4.23	2878	9.4	17.7 COVID restrictions start
2021	30625	0	2880	9.4	12 Tailend of COVID restrictions - BDF launches
2022	29609	-3.31	2589	9.6	15 Households squeezed by rising fuel and food prices
2023	28504	-3.8	2360	8.3	12.9 Households continued to be squeezed, war in Russia and Palestine, awful year for weather
2024	27575	-3.26	2229	8.1	11.9 Another bad weather year, war, change of government, household spending further squeeze
British Cycling 2024 - A reduction of 8.7% in membership numbers					

Discussions have been ongoing between Dave, Andy, Chris, and myself about ways forwards in encouraging and supporting the affiliated club network, without duplicating the significant efforts from Areas or Outreach.

An email went out from Andy to all clubs asking a number of questions; from if they had space for new members, to if they plan on holding a public open day or similar activity in 2025 etc etc. The idea being if we know which clubs are able to handle new members and are ‘open for business’ it would allow us to know where best to send new public enquiries, as well as direct our support in the most effective way.

I’m currently awaiting the email’s results, which in turn will be discussed with the gents so we can formulate a suitable plan going forwards. Actions I have already taken are to evolve the BMFA’s social message, growing the focus on our member’s activities and club network, whilst still balancing our core message, membership benefits and sporting achievements. Review and update the Club Support PR Guide, which will be ready for clubs to utilise and follow once the wider plan is rolled out. Relaunch both the BMFA’s and BDF’s Instagram page in the hope of connecting with a slightly different demographic and widening our reach. As the figures shown above demonstrate, the membership decline in % of total membership is slowing, as is the % of non-renewing members. The goal is to support our club network (our biggest and best shop window) to add an extra 300 new members to the 2025’s figures, whilst also encouraging an extra 300 current members to stay in the sport for 2026. This simple yet effective combined step, if possible, would mean a huge change of direction for the BMFA, our sport and model trade...

Paul Tallett - Progression Marketing 15th January 2025