



MINUTES OF MEETING

Those Present.

N. Ball	Frome MFC
P. Blackman	Frome MFC
K. Burt	Bristol & West MAC
E. Drew	Bristol & West MAC
A. C. Goodacre	BRCMAC
J. S. Paton	BRCMAC
J. Harris	BRCMAC
P. Durant	Warminster & District RCFC
J. Mayes	South Bristol MAC
C. Booth	Hullavington MAC
K. Hatter	Hullavington MAC
S. Kirby	Beufort MFC

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the delegates to the first Area Committee meeting of 2007 and invited each delegate to introduce themselves to the committee.

2. Apologies for Absence

None

3. Minutes of Meeting 11 September 2006 and matters arising

The minutes were accepted as correct with no amendment. There were no matters arising.

4. Report – Full Council Meeting 16 2006 and matters arising

Additional agenda item added. The Area Delegate had nothing to report.

4a. Report – Area Council Meeting 30 September 2006

Agenda item previously numbered Item 4.

The Area Delegate read out the following:

“Vice-Chairman made a formal proposal that Areas hold a discussion at Area level to ascertain whether the Scheme Controller should or should not have the authority to decide whether a candidate (Area Chief Examiner – Ed.) is enrolled for the probationary period and come back to the next meeting in February with the result of the deliberation.”

This is in response to the current procedure where an Area can appoint a proposed Chief Examiner for a probationary period prior to full appointment by Area Council. Some concerns have been raised where probationary Chief Examiners may appoint Club Examiners but subsequently not be appointed by Area Council.

Some debate followed including in depth discussion regarding the suitability of candidates based on their past rate of test passes. Some delegates took the view that the pass rate was irrelevant as the numbers did not guarantee the quality of passes. It was also noted that although the Scheme Controller writes a report to accompany the candidates application the report is intended as guidance and not as a 'rubber stamp' on applications. Comment was made that our own Area had relied heavily on the input of the Scheme Controller in the past and it would be difficult not to do so unless we had some knowledge regarding the suitability of the candidate from another Area.

The Area Treasurer submitted that the main three considerations were;

- i. Should the Area should decide the suitability of the candidate irrespective of any input form outside the Area.
- ii. Should the Area work in partnership with the Scheme Controller to decide the suitability of an ACE candidate – this may include agreeing a minimum number of test passes.
- iii. Should the Scheme Controller be empowered to accept or reject any candidate proposed by the Area.

Some debate followed regarding minimum levels of test passes. The Area Secretary commented that at the moment there did not seem to be any consistency in applications and that setting a minimum number of test passes would be the only reliable way to establish consistency. The Baufort delegate raised the point that we were considering the application of volunteers and perhaps any stricter rules might discourage applicants. The Area Secretary replied that although the applicants were volunteers it was still important to have the right volunteers. The Baufort candidate agreed.

The Area Delegate again read the full item from the Area Council minutes, 30 September 2006, to remind the candidates of the issues. As the original proposal was for Areas to discuss the current procedures it was decided by general consensus to monitor future development.

The Area Delegate brought to the committees attention item A926/09/06 (14) "To Review Area Constitution". The Committee decided that the item may warrant some consideration at a later date.

5. Report – Full Council Meeting 06 January 2007

Nothing of note to report.

6. Agenda – Area Council Meeting 03 February 2007

The agenda was read – nothing for discussion.

7. Any Other Business

The BRCMAC candidate informed the committee that John Stennard was considering filling the post of Area Education Coordinator. The Chairman requested that the Secretary should send John some information regarding the duties of the post.

The Baufort club delegate asked if the Area should contact the Advertising Standards Agency and make an official complaint about the Toyota 'Yaris' advert in which a model aircraft is shown crashing. The delegate felt that the advert did not show model flying in a favourable light. Although the candidates generally agreed with the Baufort delegate it was felt that any action should be left to the BMFA central office.

The BRCMAC requested permission to hold an 'Area Examiners Workshop' on Sunday 25 March. The delegates fully agreed to the meeting and that a maximum budget of £100 should be allocated to the event. The Frome MFC delegate notified the committee that they intended to hold a meeting in July of 2007 and the Baufort delegate said that he would approach his club with a view to holding a 'C' test training day later in the year.

The date for the next Area Committee meeting was set for Monday 30 April 2007.

**Contact – Nial Ball, Secretary, BMFA Western Area, 4 Lilac Grove, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 3NL.
Telephone 01373 823216 or 07966 373563. E-mail – secretary@bmfawestern.org.uk**