

# Discussion Document on the BMFA Area System.

Following comments made at the BMFA AGM this year about reducing the number of members attending BMFA Full Council Meetings, I started to think about how this could be achieved without reducing the service to the membership.

All the nine elected officers who make up the Executive Council must attend Full Council along with the Royal Aero Club representative.

The six Technical Committees, that cover all aspects of model air sport contests need to be represented at Full Council.

The Areas' delegates (14) and the RNMAA delegate are the remaining Full Council attendees.

## Area History.

Areas have been part of the SMAE (BMFA) for a long time. Areas were there to organise local contests in a time when only free flight models were being flown. Area centralised contests are part of this legacy. Area meetings provide a place where affiliated model aircraft clubs can discuss all aspects of model aviation and via the council delegate bring proposals to Council. Latterly the Areas have run and promoted the RC Achievement Schemes and promoted the BMFA at events in the Area. There are at present 13 geographical areas, each with a presence at Full Council.

## Sports Council.

Some time ago the UK Sports Council was split up and renamed 'Sport England', 'Sport Wales', 'Sport Northern Ireland' and 'Sport Scotland'. Each are organised in different ways.

Sport England – It is split up in to 49 County Sports Partnerships. However the borders and names may not follow geographical borders and names. Sports England recognises the BMFA at country and county level but does not recognise BMFA Areas as they cover more than one county.

Sport Wales – Operates through 22 Welsh Local Authorities. There is no recognition of the BMFA on their web site, however via the Sport England web site I found that Wales recognised the BMFA as the model flying controlling body in Wales

Sport Northern Ireland- Seem to work as a single body for the whole country. Model flying is recognised through the Northern Ireland Association of Aeromodellers. This association is in effect the Northern Ireland Area of the BMFA.

Sport Scotland- Has six regional sporting partnerships-Highlands & Islands, Grampian, Tayside & Fife, Central, East and West. There is no recognition of model flying on their web site, however via the Sport England web site I found that Scotland recognised the BMFA as the model flying controlling body in Scotland.

## Proposed change to the Area system.

In **England** all affiliated clubs would form themselves in to County Associations. For example the 7 clubs in Cornwall, would form the 'Cornwall Association of Model Flying Clubs' to coincide with the Sport England 'County Sports Partnerships'.

Each County Association would then be able to interact with the Sport England 'County Sports Partnerships' with regard to recognition, provision of facilities and possible funding. Each County Association would nominate a delegate to represent the clubs in the county at BMFA Region meetings.

The BMFA Region would carry out the duties of the old BMFA Areas.  
It is proposed to have five regions to cover England, namely, West, South, East, North and Midlands (see Map), each sending a delegate to Full Council meetings.

In **Wales** due to the small number of clubs covering a large area and the fact that Sport Wales operate direct with a large number (22) local authorities the format would have to change to two Area Associations, one North and one South, coming together to form one Region sending a single delegate to Full Council meetings.

**Northern Ireland** Area requires no change except to become a region and still send a single delegate to Full Council meetings.

As for **Scotland**, it is in the hands of the SAA and so is not part of this document.  
However Scottish clubs affiliated to the BMFA through the North East Area will be able to affiliate via the North Region.

The Isle of Man and the Channel Islands can affiliate via the North and South Region respectively.

It is suggested that RAFMAA Area and RNMAA form a 'Services Region' and send only one delegate to Council.

This proposal would reduce by 7 the number of members present at Full Council to 24.

#### **Advantages of a reorganisation**

Fewer people attending BMFA Council meetings.

A better way of communicating with Sport Partnerships.

More involvement at club level.

#### **Disadvantages of a reorganisation**

Some Areas who would merge into the new Regions may get upset at losing their identity.

Change to the constitution may be required.

Some reorganisation will be required to make provision for the RC Achievement Scheme and free flight centralised contests.

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