



# *British Model Flying Association* **CLUB BULLETIN**

**18th January 2002**

**Issue No: 128**

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SECRETARY PLEASE NOTE**

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**PLEASE NOTE THAT AN UPDATED COPY OF THE "EVENTS AND CONTEST CALENDAR" IS AVAILABLE FROM CHACKSFIELD HOUSE ON RECEIPT OF A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**

There will be an Areas Council Meeting on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2002 at 11.00am which is to be held at: Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrew's Road, Leicester LE2 8RE. Tel: 0116 2440028 Fax: 0116 2440645.

## **A G E N D A**

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Request for Permission to be Absent.
3. Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Areas Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2001.
4. Matters/Actions Arising from the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2001 Meeting which are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

5. To further discuss Area Funding.
6. To ratify the following members of the Achievement Scheme Review Committee:
 

Terry Rounce – Chairman	Dick Whitehead
Mike Sun	Des Farthing FSMAE
Chris Bromley FSMAE	Bob Mahoney
Roger Bedford	Peter Spurway
7. To receive a proposal from the Tech. Sec. on behalf of the ASRC that the attached draft of the Achievement Scheme, General guidance booklet (Issue 3) be accepted.
8. To receive a proposal from the South West Area that Jeff Barrington, Membership No: 083911 Helicopter Club Examiner be made up to Area Chief Examiner (Helicopter) for the SW Area.
9. To receive a proposal from the South West Area that Phil George, Membership No: 052747 Helicopter Club Examiners be made up to Area Chief Examiner (Helicopter) for the SW Area.
10. To receive a proposal from the Northern Area that Stuart Keeble, BMFA No: 013788, be appointed Area Chief Examiner (Helicopter) for the Northern Area.
11. To receive a proposal from the East Anglian Area that Neil Gill, BMFA No. 62977, be appointed Area Chief Examiner (Fixed Wing) for the East Anglian Area.
12. To receive a proposal from the Mid West Area that Martin Briggs, BMFA No 64478, be appointed Area Chief Examiner (Helicopter) for the Mid West Area.
13. To receive a proposal from the Northern Area that the “B” Certificate of Paul Crawshaw, BMFA No 88862, be withdrawn for a period of six months from the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2001, after which he will be required to successfully pass the “B” test before it is re-instated.
14. To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.
  - a) Power
  - b) Silent Flight
15. To receive any reports from committees or co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.
  - a) Achievement Scheme Review Committee
  - b) BMAC
  - c) Education
16. Preliminary discussions about County Boundary changes.
17. To receive reports from Area Committees.
18. To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.
19. Any Other Business.
20. To confirm date of next Areas Council meeting.

## **Report on the Full Council Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2001.**

### **Hon. Treasurer's Report.**

**Personnel** – The Hon. Treas. confirmed that Brenda Chen had now left the employment of the BMFA and Sian Sergeant (previously the Accounts Assistant) had agreed to become the Supervisor with the aim of taking over as Accounts Manager in the near future. Kim Newcombe has moved from the downstairs office to become the new Accounts Assistant.

**Year End Accounts** - The Hon. Treas. explained the changes to the Accounts that the Auditor thought we should make, ie our Turnover should include all sources of income and expenses like Saleable Goods, the Nationals etc. and not just Membership income.

The value of the Dart Paper in our books had been reduced by £9,000. This sum had been funded from the Saleable Goods Reserve built up from profits in previous years. This was a satisfactory conclusion in accounting terms, but the problem of holding excess stock required resolution.

**Dart Paper stocks** – a discussion was then held about the stock of Dart Paper and the following suggestions were made:

- The Hon. Treas. would like to see some of the paper sold off to other Countries if possible to offset the probable cost of storing the remainder of the paper.
  - Sale of the paper could be advertised in National Press, Internet etc.
  - Different models could be developed using the same paper.
  - Seriously look into the possibility of selling some of the paper.
- Approach paper suppliers with a view to possible sales.

**The Chairman proposed that we seek to try to sell half of the stock of Dart paper at present held by the Society in order to support the upkeep and storage of the remainder of the paper to be kept for our own use.**

Agreed Unanimously.

**Update on Current Budget** – with the increasing Membership we should have a satisfactory result this year.

### **Budget for the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2002 –**

With the proviso that there may be increases to Insurance, especially personal accident, which would have to be dealt with at the time, the Hon. Treasurer wished to make the following proposal:

**The Hon. Treasurer proposed that no increase to Membership Fees be made for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2002.**

Agreed unanimously.

### **Associated Body Fees for 2002.**

**The Hon. Treasurer proposed that the 2002 fees for Associated Bodies remain at £35.**

### **Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman reported that she had sent a message of condolence to Dave Brown, President of the AMA, after the terrorist attack on America last week.

Due to personal problems the Chairman had not been able to attend as many functions as usual. However she had been able to go to the University Challenge Competition run by David Turner. This had been very successful. She had also hosted the VIP reception at the National Championships and

wished to thank those who had helped. The Chairman had also attended the RAFMAA Championships and carried out her judging duties.

As she had reported to Council by letter in July, Graham Lynn MBE was appointed to the position of Chief Executive on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2001 and she invited Council to join with her in wishing Graham every success in the new post and she was very confident that he would do a splendid job.

Finally the Chairman thanked everyone for their help and support over her years as Chairman of the Society.

### **Chief Executive's Report.**

**Staff** – As previously mentioned Kim Newcombe has moved upstairs into the Accounts Department; we have a new member of staff Sarah Starkey to replace Helen Jackson who has left our employ. Lisa McDade is returning after the birth of her second child, she will re-commence on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**Refurbishment** – The Council Meeting Room now looks more like a boardroom with its new suite of tables. The Porch has been refurbished; a new carpet put in the ante-room, thanks to Terry Watson, and the bathroom is now a shower room. The new telephone system is working well.

**Science Museum** – The Chief Exec. and Ron Moulton FSMAE had attended yet another meeting and once more they were waiting for action. The museum had been asked to write a letter at Director level which we can publish in the BMFA News to tell our members what the Science Museum would like to do. This was promised at the meeting, 6 weeks ago - we are still waiting.

**World Record** – The Association has received a very nice letter from Nick Shaw to thank us for all the help and support he received in completing his World Record attempt.

**PPG 17** – (Policy Planning Guidance for Sport and Recreation) from which all references to aviation had been removed. The Chief Exec. had written a letter to the CCPR on behalf of the Society. The CCPR had agreed to put it before the Minister of Sport and suggested that the Society also wrote to the Minister to show their dismay. The Urban sub-committee of the DETR are carrying out an enquiry on how the PPG17 has been handled by that department – which means we now have an MP's committee reviewing what the Civil Servants have done.

The RAeC had sent a letter of support to endorse what the other Associations had said.

**Flying Site Consultant** – The Chief. Exec. felt that with the continuing and increasing difficulties with flying site problems it was time to think about retaining the services of a full time Consultant. Roger Bellingham still split his time between our flying site problems and his planning business. When Clubs required his help they usually needed it immediately and could not wait three or four days.

Obviously the financial aspect of this means we must find the funding to pay for full time support. The Chief Exec. felt that initially we did not want to increase the Membership Fees to fund this change. He felt we had other ways of funding, say, the first three years whilst we studied the viability of the increase of support.

He recommended to Council that they seriously consider increasing the Flying Site Consultants position to a full time one.

South Midlands Delegate supported the choice of Roger Bellingham for this position. Western Area Delegate asked what additional cost this would be likely to incur and the Chief Exec. estimated it would be in the region of £30,000 over three years. Further he recommended that for the first three years we funded that cost other than through Membership Subscription.

**Mid Western Area Delegate proposed that Council approve the appointment of a full time Flying Site Consultant.**

Agreed by majority.

Western Area asked about the training of a successor if Roger Bellingham agreed to take up the post. This would be discussed with Roger.

An article in the BMFA News concerning all the work done by Roger Bellingham would inform Clubs who had yet to seek help from him of the potential support help that is available.

**The Chairman proposed that the BMFA subsidise the finance to appoint a Full Time Flying Site Consultant for the next three years, from a fund other than Membership Fees.**

Carried Unanimously.

Asked if he had any recommendations for this funding the Hon. Treas. said he felt we should use the VAT reserve because we hoped that fund would be used to develop and improve our sport. The threats to flying fields is such that he felt this was an essential service to protect the whole sport of model flying.

**The Hon. Treasurer proposed that the VAT reserve be used for this funding for the next three years.**

Carried by majority.

**To receive nominations for Awards and the recommendations from the Awards Committee.**

As the Chairman's imminent retirement from Council made this possible the Hon. Sec. wished to make the following proposal:

**The Hon. Sec. proposed that Kath Watson FSMAE be appointed a Vice President of the Society.**

Seconded by the Vice Chairman.

Carried unanimously.

The Chairman thanked Council for their kind consideration and was honoured and proud to accept the appointment. Honoured that they should think her a suitable candidate and proud to be put amongst those many distinguished people both past and present in particular Sir Bernard Chacksfield with whom she had a very special regard for and an excellent working relationship.

**Awards.**

**Fellowship – Nick Neve, FAI Delegate, was recommended to the AGM for Fellowship Award.**

**Honorary Membership – awarded to Eric Clark – BMFA News Editor.**

**Arthur Mullett – awarded to Stafford Screen FSMAE.**

**Ray Malmstrom – was awarded to John Godden.**

**Certificates of Merit – were awarded to: Reg Strudley.  
Chris Bromley FSMAE.  
Ron Hellen.**

**FAI Aeromodelling Gold Medal – Derek Heaton was put forward for this award.**

**RAeC Gold Medal – Peter McDermott was put forward for this award.**

**RAeC Silver Medal – Kath Watson FSMAE was put forward for this award.**

**RAeC Price of Wales Cup – the British F2A Team, Peter Halman, Gordon Isles and Ken Morrissey were put forward for this award.**

It was noted that last year John Cooper was awarded a Certificate of Merit but could not attend the AGM to receive it, however it was reported in the BMFA News that he had received it. It has been agreed that John Cooper will be presented with the award at this years AGM Presentation.

#### **AGM.**

**To receive a proposal from the Western Area that as part of the AGM there should be an Open Forum for Member Clubs of the BMFA to ask questions of the Executive Council or other Officers on any subject and the Questions and Answers be minuted and published in the next Club Bulletin.**

The Chairman pointed out that this proposal was inappropriate and out of order. The business of an AGM was closely controlled and could not contain such things as an Open Forum. Therefore Council cannot vote on this Proposal unless it is amended.

However the opportunity to ask questions of the Council of Management already exists as part of the Annual Report , Accounts and Budget presentations. Any questions can be asked at this stage of any member of Council. The opportunity is always given and these questions and answers are minuted as part of the AGM minutes.

It was pointed out that the AGM is a General Company Meeting and not on a par with say, a Parish Meeting.

Open Forums have been tried before and after the AGM and have not been successful.

Western Area asked permission to withdraw their Proposal and this was agreed by Council.

#### **PRO's Report.**

The PRO had produced the final list of shows for 2001. Over the year the total number of people helping with shows had exceeded 200, and he thanked every one of them. 45 shows had been attended this year and in view of the number that had to be cancelled because of the Foot and Mouth epidemic he felt this was a very good effort.

#### **Events for the inclusion in the 2002 FAI International Calendar:**

**Event: 3<sup>rd</sup> Canterbury Cup Space Models World Cup event at Stalisfield, Nr Canterbury**

**Date: 2-4<sup>th</sup> August 2002**

**Classes: S6B – Streamer Duration: World Cup**

**S8E/P – Rocket Glider: World Cup**

**S9B – Gyrocopter Duration: World Cup**

**S4A – Boost Glider: Open International**

**Event: Open International Interglide 2002 at Maidstone, Kent UK**

**Date: 27/28<sup>th</sup> July 2002**

**Specialist Body: BARCS**

#### **Competition Fees.**

Free Flight had decided to keep the fees the same in view of the lack of events in 2001 due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak:

**£5 for the first entry**

**£3 for the second and subsequent entries**

**£45 for Season Tickets**

**Juniors Free**

**FAI Fees – to remain the same at £5.**

**R/C C/L and Scale Nationals Co-ordinator – Chris Bromley was appointed.**

Report on the August Nationals - The Tech. Sec, (as Nats Co-ord) gave the following report on the R/C C/L and Scale Nationals:

On the surface everything went very well although there were a lot of problems behind the scenes which we overcame very well, thanks to the team headed by Roger Bedford who worked miracles when we had the water problem.

The Nats. Co-ord. specifically thanked the Clerk to the Council for all the work undertaken behind the scenes prior to the Nationals.

It was a fantastic weekend, 54 Traders, the most ever and the Nats. Co-ordinator extended his thanks to everyone who was involved. The Showline was excellent and the commentary very good.

A Vote of Thanks was given to Chris Bromley for all his hard work.

The Chief Exec. said Radio Lincolnshire were very interested in the Nationals this year. He had recorded two live broadcasts with them and the reporter had been very enthusiastic at the flying, and declared "it was better than Waddington." (A full sized Airshow held during July).

#### **Records Officer Report -**

##### **British Record Ratification -**

**Name: Stuart Lodge BMFA No: 79141**  
**Class: Space S6B Streamer Duration**  
**Site: Yugoslavia Date: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2001**  
**Duration: 5 minutes 02 seconds.**

**Name: Stuart Lodge BMFA No: 79141**  
**Class: Space S3B Parachute Duration**  
**Site: Slovakia Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2001**  
**Duration: 12 minutes 14 seconds.**

**Name: Nicholas R Shaw BMFA No: 121277**  
**Class: No. 24 – R/C Slope Soaring Glider Duration**  
**Site: Ivinghoe Beacon, Date: 21<sup>st</sup> July 2001**  
**Duration: 915 minutes 22 seconds.**

**Name: David Buckley BMFA No: 34544**  
**Class: No. 59 – R/C Electric Rechargeable Cells Duration**  
**Site: Kay House Farm, Date: 28<sup>th</sup> July 2001**  
**Duration: 46 minutes 00 seconds.**

**Name: Malcolm Ross/Brian Turner BMFA Nos. 50551/74266**  
**Class: C/L Team Racing F2C Heat 100 Laps**  
**Site: RAF Barkston Heath Date: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2001**  
**Duration: 3 minutes 11.9 seconds.**

The Records Officer pointed out that the British Record obtained by Nicholas Shaw had been an attempt at the World Record. This had failed due to a fumbled changeover but still qualified as a British Record.

Nick Shaw and his team had since re-attempted the World Record and had obtained a new World record of thirty-six hours two minutes and nineteen seconds. This will be put before the Technical Council in October.

This new World Record is the longest R/C Model Flight ever recorded internationally which is a magnificent achievement by Nick Shaw.

Referring to the World Record obtained by Nick Shaw, he pointed out that the time of the attempt was controlled by the Metreological conditions. The time chosen conflicted with the Records Officer's illness, and the Hon. Sec's absence from the Country. In the circumstances various people got together and came up with a team to observe this attempt.

Mr Peter Spurway undertook to observe this attempt and did a magnificent job on behalf of the BMFA. He took over at very short notice (less than a day) and stood for 36 hours observing the flight taking place.

**The Records Officer proposed a Vote of Thanks to Peter Spurway of the Phoenix Club, who at very short notice, took on the task as Official Observer for the successful record breaking attempt by Nick Shaw for R/C Glider Duration.**

The Record Officer would also like to thank those people who supported him at the 1<sup>st</sup> attempt, who were Martin Dilly FSMAE, Dick Whitehead, Chris Moynihan, Roger Bellingham.

#### **FAI Delegates Report -**

**World Air Games** – the 2<sup>nd</sup> WAG were held in Spain, they were given poor media coverage and contained no aeromodelling events. Gold medals were won for the UK Gliding and Microlight events.

The FAI Conference to be held in Switzerland in October has a fairly radical proposal to change the formula on which member Countries contributions to the FAI are calculated. The FAI Delegate had been briefed to oppose this proposal as it would affect us detrimentally.

**Plenary Meeting – The dates of the 2002 Plenary Meeting would be 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> March.** As previously mentioned the Control Line Secretary will be attending this meeting.

#### **The 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SMAE**

This had been discussed at the Executive meeting the previous evening and it had been felt that following the acknowledgement of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Millennium it would perhaps too soon to mark this one, other than to produce Membership and National Stickers to note it.

The Chairman felt that the BMFA News Editor would mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Edition of the BMFA News with suitable copy.

Possibly we could find a sponsor to include something in the BMFA News for the membership.

#### **BMFA News Publisher/International Team Budget Holder.**

**The Chairman said it had been agreed that she would continue to be the Joint Publisher to the BMFA News. It was also agreed that because of the change to the Accounts Staff she should carry on as the International Team Budget Holder until such time as the staff were familiar with this procedure.**

### **Website Open Forum -**

The Tech. Sec. had been monitoring this situation and he had noted that the forums had settled down considerably. There were now very few silly postings and the Forums now contained a large amount of good material.

The Webmaster has incorporated a new system where participants of the Forum have to register before a posting could be made. Therefore postings are now traceable and posting privileges can be withdrawn if necessary. Neither Council or the Tech. Sec. have had a hand in putting that in place.

The Webmaster has been responsible for putting this in place. However he is not a moderator of the Website and is only interested in removing swearing etc.

In conclusion the Open Forum has settled down very nicely and the Tech. Sec. did not feel that the proposal from Northern Area that the Open Forum by scrapped was now valid.

Mid West said that at the time the proposal was put forward the Open Forum held some very nasty contents and he was concerned that it may deteriorate to that level again. Could postings be restricted to members only? The Tech. Sec. this could be done if Council wanted it.

Western Area said that one of their Clubs had suggested that the Forum should be moderated and allowed to continue. The problem is who would do the moderating.

Northern Area said that despite the actions that had been taken, he still worried that misinformation was carried on the forum which could be mistakenly accepted by members.

It was agreed that responding to misinformation on the Forum would give the correct information. However this should be down to everyone not just one person who would be putting his own views forward.

The Chief Exec. felt it should state on the Forum that any grievances should be addressed to himself for action.

**Education Working Group** – Last week Mike Colling FSMAE, Allan Weighell FSMAE and Tom Maddison went to the Aberdeen Science Festival. They completed many Helicopter workshops and sold out of Darts. The enthusiasm for the Workshops was most impressive.

Next month Mike Colling FSMAE will be doing a Seminar with 60 Primary School Teachers. We have produced another 3.1/2 thousand Darts since May.

**Computer Sub-committee** – A new laser jet printer has been purchased for the Office, further computer upgrades have been carried out. We are looking at possibly changing the Membership Cards so that they can hold more information.

A Hewlett Packard Printer had been given to the BMFA by one of our members, Mr Belleini.

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### **Report of the Areas Council Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2001.**

**Scrapping of the Open Forum** = Northern Area asked if the members were happy with the way this matter had been dealt with at the Full Council meeting.

Southern Area said that he had been assured that now a person cannot go on to the Forum without registering this seems to have solved the problem.

The situation will be monitored and brought up again if necessary.

### **Area Funding,**

The Chairman asked each Area to report on their present position and their preference of the future method of budgeting.

**Southern Area** said they were technically bankrupt this year with no grant funding left and were existing by using their reserve money collected from running events some years ago. They have cut back all meeting expenses to the minimum and contact to Clubs is maintained only with free use of paper and photocopying obtained by their Officers.

Once this reserve is gone they would not be able to keep going and would have to amalgamate with other Areas to try to service their Clubs.

**South East Area** on the other hand said their Area had more money that they had ever had. When they had applied for a Budget in the past they had not asked for more than they needed but had always been cut back which resulted in a cash flow problem. This was only overcome by free interest rate loans from him personally to his Area to enable them to get through.

Once the new system of funding had been introduced this was reversed and the Area now has a healthy reserve.

**Mid West** said their Area had always been happy with a Budget funding basis – although they also felt there was room for individual activities to be assessed and evaluated.

Because of the way all our Areas run things differently we are never going to agree on each others Budget, therefore Mid West felt we should have some sort of an assessment panel – they suggest this should include the Hon. Treas. and the Development Officer. Whichever system is decided on, this panel could look at the overall situation and assess where the membership money should be spent - if one Area wants to put on an event beneficial to the Society, have budgeted for it properly and the panel believes it would be money well spent – they could agree it.

**Midland Area** felt that Area Funding did not get a fair proportion of the overall Budget and she felt that a demand to the Hon. Treasurer for a large increase should be sent from this Council.

**Northern Area** suggested the Area Funding should be used only to run the Area and everything else should be put to committee.

**East Anglia** are happy with the current system.

**South Midland** would like the funding to remain as it is. He felt we should all try to live within a simply framework otherwise it can't work.

The Meeting Chairman said it was time to decide whether we maintain the system as at present, or wish to use a different system.

**London Area** said he agreed with a lot of the points raised and felt that if an Area finds itself eating into what little capital it has – we are not getting it right. If we discuss the issue we cannot agreed on who should get what – therefore there is lot to be said for having a separate independent committee to assess what is needed and who gets what – possibly something based between Capitation and

Budgeting, overlooked by a separate independent committee to remove the present confrontational situation.

**Northern Area** felt this would be a return to the old Budget way where some Areas put in a “wish list”, some didn’t bother to ask for anything and others put in for what they thought they needed to run their area. The amounts then got changed and everyone was disappointed.

**North West** said in his experience the basic amount an Area needed was enough to run their meetings and circulate to information to their Clubs. Everything else, running events or whatever, was variable according to the Area. But no Area should have to struggle to run their meetings and communicate with their Clubs. So he agreed with London Area that a compromise between Capitation and Budgeting may be the answer.

The Meeting Vice Chairman added that with an independent committee overseeing the Budgets/funding it could assess the right or wrong way to spend funds to the Society’s benefit. This was the way the Executive’s budgets were handled and it worked well.

**Southern Area** agreed that without the assistance of an independent committee the Areas will never agree on how the money should be spent.

**Northern Area** felt that of the two systems the per capita system was the fairest but perhaps there was not enough money in the pot. Per capita should allow sufficient funds to run Area meetings and communicate with clubs in all Areas however they chose to do it. Travelling expenses are expensive and it makes a difference if some officers do not claim them, however they should always be there to be paid.

Northern Area felt that the Society Budget should be looked at and changed to allow the Areas the funding to do the important work they should be doing.

**North East** felt that if the Society membership had increased by 10% in the last two years it was high time an increase to the Area Grant was looked at. His Area seldom produced Newsletters because with the excellent BMFA News they felt it was not necessary. They would sooner see the money spent on an Area Website where all the minutes etc could be accessed by their Clubs.

7 Areas have their own Website so far.

**Mid West** said the whole concept was wrong – we should not be given a budget by Council – this Areas meeting should decide what we needed to do, and spend, and those figures should be taken to Council as necessary expenditure.

**London Area** said that the 12.1/2 % given to Areas Funding this year was after several years of no increase at all, not even an inflationary one and was therefore no increase at all. The wedge of funding that came to the Areas was far too small and had been for far too long and it was time a sensible business approach was taken to it.

**RNMAA** observed that on his time serving on Area Committees he had noticed a severe shortage of members coming forward to sit on the Committee. He said we must not starve the Areas. They go out and give Club Talks and successfully bring Clubs on board, perhaps only five members at the time but who grow to become much larger clubs. There should be a pro-rata rate to provide for looking after additional Clubs and servicing them once the year has started, to encourage the Committee to promote themselves to the Clubs. The pro-rata rate per Club should be enough to promote these activities, and events should be dealt with separately.

**Western Area** confirmed that the pro-rata rate was per Club and not persons in that Club.

A hand count was taken for Areas basic feeling toward either a Budget or pro-rata funding: This resulted in the majority wishing to stay with the present system.

**Midland Area proposed that the Hon. Treasurer increased the Area Budget allocation by 25% for the year 2003.**

There was a general agreement that members were not happy with the above proposal and felt the meeting would be better advised to put together an expenditure form and find out the facts of the basic cost of running an Area.

Regarding the proposal from Midland Area, it was felt that some people had voted one way or the other for the wrong reasons and some had not voted at all. Midland Area asked that the Proposal be withdrawn and the meeting was happy to give their permission.

**Western Area** said that Area Budgets should be based on the true cost of running an Area and this should include things like paying for photocopying and paying expenses. He would like to see each Area put an actual budget to cover everything required to run their Area, this would include all expenses for meetings and Club circulation. Other Areas pointed out that this had been the aim of the Questionnaire.

**RAFMAA** had been interested in the discussion and offered suggestions that had helped when their funding had been under scrutiny. To reach a "level playing field" for all Areas some things would have to be standardised: travel expense rates should be standardised and a possible a minimal mileage rate laid down.

The Meeting Chairman summed up that the first thing to evaluate was what should comprise the expenditure for the basics of running an Area: Costs to be set against a meeting; costs to be set against Club communication. He asked the Area Chairs to send him ideas for an Expenditure Form which he would then produce and circulate to them for completion.

Ideas for the Expenditure List would be along the following lines:

- what functions were the basic duties of an Area Committee to run their Areas
- a detailed list of expenditures for running a meeting
- details of expenditure in completing and mailing a communication to Club
- a list of any other basic admin duty expenditure

Once the list was established it could then be sent to the Areas for completion. At the next meeting, in February, we could study the results and use this as a basis for applying for a justified increase in funding.

The list would be sent to the Chairman of each Area and copied to the Treasurer and Delegate. The final list to be completed and returned would be the one sent to the Chairman.

London Area said the duties of the Committee were clearly laid down in the Area Constitution.

Northern Area said we must be careful to pick out what the Constitution says we are *obliged* to do, to avoid an Areas' interpretation of the *way* something should be done.

The Chairman asked Northern Area Chairman to advise him of what he feels such a list should include which he could then send to Areas for their comments.

The Chairman said this meeting was an Areas talking shop not a formal meeting like the Full Council. He wanted members to feel free to give an honest opinion or appraisal and not feel they were drawn back by rules and regulations.

#### **Chief Examiner Appointments -**

**That Mr Steve Howe (BMFA No: 108272 – Examiner No: 1473) is now ratified to the position of Chief Examiner (Fixed Wing) having been approved by his Affiliated Club and the Southern Area Committee.**

**That Mr Tony Warrilow (BMFA No: 084383 – Examiner No: 1434) is now ratified to the position of Chief Examiner (Fixed Wing) having been approved by his affiliated Club and the Southern Area Committee.**

Northern Ireland was not happy with the wording used in these proposals – a person put forward as an Area Examiner is not put forward by a Club but by the Area only and does not need to be approved by his affiliated Club. The format of the Proposal Form necessitates the putting forward and seconding by Area Clubs but the wording in the proposal should not include this.

**Midland Area proposed that the above proposals a) & b) be amended to read – after Examiner No: “be ratified to the position of Chief Examiners (Fixed Wing) for the Southern Area.”**

#### **Number of Areas Council Meetings per year -**

The PRO could see no justification for cutting down the meetings per annum. It was a very important talking shop and gave everyone a chance to speak which did not always happen at other Council Meetings. The Areas Council was a very important format, with 14 council members present the view of the Areas are taken into consideration by both Full and Executive Councils. Every item brought up for discussion at an Areas Council gets thoroughly debated and this does not always happen at other meetings stretched for time.

Western Area added his endorsement to this view – you didn't need many items of the Agenda when the discussion was as thorough as this mornings Funding item.

RAFMAA pointed out that the gestation period of some of the items were spread over several meetings and with only two meetings a year it would be difficult to keep the subject within specified time or financial limits. He felt three were about right.

Northern Area said these meetings give us the opportunity to discuss things which affect our Area, to share our problems which help us to understand the national position and how things are going overall. He felt the three meetings a year were very valuable.

#### **Power Achievement Scheme Controller's Report -**

Northern Ireland brought up the subject of Flying Certificates given to students on the completion of their paid tuition course. One case in point concerns a student who did a concentrated flying course and at the end of the time was awarded an “A” Certificate. However when he went to his Club they were unhappy with his standard of flying and refused to allow him to fly solo. To some extent the BMFA are being blamed for allowing flying schools to issue Certificates.

Southern Area had investigated Schools in their Area and had found them well run and properly instructed and examined. Nevertheless some students had not been at a high enough standard for their Club to allow them to fly after the course. He felt that because the course was so intense, some students did not absorb the instruction in the same time they would have, had the instruction taken place over several weeks.

Southern Area said that this subject has been brought up and discussed on several occasions at the Achievement Scheme Review Committee.

Western Area said the onus to allow a person to fly solo was on the Club regardless of any certificates the student may have.

Northern Area said that to learn to fly you need time, perhaps we should look at a system, like full size flying where you have to do so many hours under instruction before you are allowed to go solo or to hold a Certificate.

The Northern Area Delegate had requested that one of the members in his Area retake his "B" Certificate and that if he didn't do this within the time scale laid down he would be advised that his "B" Certificate would be withdrawn by the Area Council.

**Northern Area proposed that Areas Council delegate its authority to the Northern Area to allow them to withdraw a "B" Certificate from the pilot of an aeroplane in a specific incident, as recommended in the report to the CAA.**

Carried unanimously.

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Below is a transcript of the policy leaflet the BMFA produce in support of the Children Act (1989) as detailed in the Members Handbook (Millennium Issue) page 5. To receive further advice on how to implement these policies write to BMFA, Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrews Road, Leicester LE2 8RE.

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# ***British Model Flying Association***

## **GUIDE TO THE CHILDREN ACT 1989**

ISSUED FREE OF CHARGE ON REQUEST

ISSUED MARCH 1999

### **PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ABUSE**

Child abuse is a very emotive and difficult subject, especially if you think your child or a child you know is being harmed. This leaflet is written for everyone involved with children in the sport of model aircraft flying. You may be a parent wanting to ensure that your children are as safe as possible in their club; an instructor or a helper assisting children to learn to build and fly, or a junior team manager. This leaflet explains what child abuse is, how to recognise it and what to do if you have concerns. It offers advice to ensure those that are in contact with children ensure they do everything they can to protect them from abuse, but also protect themselves.

## **WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?**

Child abuse is a term used to describe ways in which children may be harmed, usually by adults and often by people they know and trust. It refers to damage to the physical or mental health and can take several forms.

**Physical Abuse**, such as physically hurting a child or giving a child drugs or alcohol.

**Neglect**, such as failing to keep a child warm and fed or leaving a child alone.

**Sexual Abuse**, such as sexual contact or showing pornography.

**Emotional Abuse**, such as bullying, constant criticism, or applying unrealistic pressure.

## **SIGNS OF ABUSE**

The signs that should alert you to a possibility of abuse may be:

Unexplained injuries.

Sexual explicitness.

Unexplained changes in behaviour.

Something a child has said.

Long term changes such as loss of weight or becoming unkempt.

However, as any parent will know, these signs do not necessarily mean the child is being abused. Similarly, there may not be any specific signs and you may just feel something is wrong.

## **WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS**

The first thing to remember is that **you are not in a position to determine if abuse has taken place** but that it is your responsibility to do something about it if you have concerns. However, taking action of this kind is never easy and it takes courage, but you may be protecting a young life by doing so.

Whilst it may be possible to talk to the parents or carers, be aware this could place the child at greater risk in certain circumstances. Therefore, it is strongly recommended you seek advice in the first instance from either the BMFA Chief Executive or the Development Officer. However, if you feel that you cannot do this, then seek advice from the NSPCC or Childline. You do not have to give your name but it would be helpful if you do and all such contacts will remain confidential. **Contact telephone numbers are at the end of this pamphlet.**

## **WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD TELLS YOU HE/SHE IS BEING ABUSED**

**Always:** Stay calm and reassure the child

Take the child seriously.

Be honest and explain that you will have to inform somebody else.

Make written notes of what the child said as soon as practically possible after the event; do not trust your memory.

Maintain confidentiality; only tell those that need to know.

**Never:** Rush into inappropriate action.

Make promises you cannot keep.

Take sole responsibility - consult with somebody else as advised above.

### **HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF AND MY CLUB FROM ACCUSATION ?**

**Club Policy:** Ensure your Club has a policy for the care of children. This can be as simple as “All junior members are to be supervised at all times by either the parent(s) or an adult member of the club by agreement with the parent(s). The level of supervision can vary depending on age, experience and maturity but must be commensurate with the well being of the child”.

Ensure as far as is possible those working with children are suitable.

Ensure the parents and club members know how to voice your concerns.

Ensure the children know how to voice their concerns.

**Volunteer Policy:** Avoid spending excessive amounts of time alone with children.

Avoid taking children alone on car journeys.

Avoid taking children alone to your home.

Do not engage in horseplay or sexually provocative games.

Do not permit inappropriate touching.

Do not permit the use of inappropriate language or sexual comments.

Do not ignore any allegations a child makes.

Do not do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves.

### **REMEMBER**

Your Club has a duty of care to all of your members, but especially children and young people. Protecting children from abuse is largely a matter of common sense and a little thought at the outset can prevent any misunderstanding and inappropriate accusations. Should you require further assistance then please contact the BMFA Chief Executive or the Development Officer.

### **HELPLINES**

**BMFA Chief Executive and Development Officer: 0116 244 0028.**

**NSPCC: 0800 800 500**

**Childline: 0800 1111**