



British Model Flying Association **CLUB BULLETIN**

12th January 2007

Issue No 168

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SECRETARY PLEASE NOTE**

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CALENDAR" IS AVAILABLE FROM CHACKSFIELD HOUSE ON RECEIPT OF A
STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**

TO ALL AREA COUNCIL MEMBERS

There will be a Meeting of the Area Council on Saturday 3rd February 2007 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. Email: admin@bmfa.org

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 Area Council Meeting held on 30th September 2006.
- 4 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 30th September 2006 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

- 5 To appoint a representative to the Awards Committee for 2007.
- 6 To ratify the following members of the Achievement Scheme Review Committee:
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Terry Rounce – Chairman | Dick Whitehead |
| Mick Eames | Bob Mahoney |
| Chris Bromley FSMAE | Martin Godden |
| Peter Spurway | John Harris |
- 7 To receive a proposal from Southern Area that Dave Burstow, Membership Number 084395 be appointed Area Chief Examiner (Fixed Wing) for Southern Area.
- 8 To receive a proposal from Mid West Area that Selwyn Read, Membership Number 039629 be appointed Area Chief Examiner (Fixed Wing) for Mid West Area.
- 9 To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.
- Power
 - Silent Flight
- 10 To receive a proposal from Midland Area that a review of the BMFA Leicester Website be urgently instigated to put in place a system of foolproof means of identification of persons using this site for trade purposes.
- 11 To receive update from Midland Area regarding conducting Area meetings by email.
- 12 To discuss deliberations of Area Committees regarding appointment of Area Chief Examiners.
- 13 To receive reports from committees or co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.
- Achievement Scheme Review Committee
 - Flight Challenge
 - Education
- 14 To receive reports from Area Committees. (Please ensure your Area prepares a maximum of 1 x A4 page synopsis of your report for the meeting. Photocopying facilities are available at Chacksfield House if required.)
- 15 To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.
- 16 Review of Area Council working practices.
- 17 To confirm dates of Areas Council Meetings 2007.
- 9th June 2007 29th September 2007**
- 18 Any Other Business.

Report of the Full Council Meeting held on 16th September 2006

Financial Report

Hon Treasurer informed Council that due to changes being introduced by Customs and Excise, fuel receipts would now be required when claiming mileage expenses. He advised Delegates to ask for a VAT receipt every time they fuel up their car. It is not imperative that the receipt correlates with the claim as long as they are able to provide the most recent receipt as close to the date of the claim as possible.

Year End Accounts to 31st March 2006

Accounts Manager gave a résumé of the Annual Report and Accounts and Supplementary Information, which had been previously circulated.

Accounts Manager pointed out that some changes had been made to the Supplementary Information document, which now provides more detailed information.

Hon Treasurer proposed that the Annual Accounts are accepted, which was seconded by Silent Flight and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was given to the Accounts Manager and her assistant for a superb set of accounts.

Receipt and approval of draft budget.

Hon Treasurer commended the draft budget for presentation to the AGM and recommendation to the AGM of an increase of £1 on Senior membership categories. This was seconded by Hon Secretary and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was recorded to the Hon Treasurer and Accounts Department.

Award Nominations

The following nominations were accepted:

SMAE FELLOWSHIPS

Full Council proposed the following members to be awarded a Fellowship to be put forward at the Society's AGM in November 2006, which was carried unanimously.

Keith Miller
Jo Halman

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT - Paul Clark, John James, Richard Atkins, John Young, Peter Grange.

HENRY J AWARD – Trevor Seabrook

ARTHUR MULLETT TROPHY – Andy Housden

RAY MALMSTROM – Progress Aeroworks

RAeC Bronze – Robin Jones

RAeC Silver – Peter Grange

RAeC Certificate of Merit – Jo Halman

Vice-Chairman also proposed that Daniel Billam is recommended for the RAeC Presidents Rolex Trophy for 2007 which was carried unanimously.

Associate Body Fee

Hon Treasurer recommended the Associate Body Fee remains at £40 for 2007, which was accepted.

Chief Executive report

Developments on the PR front, which he brought to the attention of Council at the last meeting, have come to fruition. Development Officer went to South Africa to assist in the filming of the pilot episode of the Great Egg Race. The BBC attended the R/C, C/L & Scale Nationals for the three days and the documentary should be screened in the New Year.

He reported that it had been an 'average' year in terms of the number of insurance claims but thankfully those received were relatively low value. The amount of money received by our insurers to settle outstanding claims was at its lowest level for several years.

Half of all claims received still involve damage to cars and we need to take every opportunity to re-state the message that cars should be parked a safe distance away.

He had attended numerous events including Free Flight Nationals, Sandown, Air Tattoo, Wroughton, Top Gun and R/C, C/L, Scale Nationals. He has also attended various road shows and club talks.

He reported at the last meeting that he hoped to have a specification for the new website within a month, however he has only just received it. Two prices have already been received for development of the new web site, but the work will be put out to wider tender very soon.

Some work has already taken place. As the existing software was unable to meet demands, it has been necessary to update software on the website for the Forum and Classified Ads sections.

CEO informed Council of a bequest from a deceased member, Arthur Bailey from the North West Area. He has bequeathed 2% of his Estate to the BMFA, which amounts to approximately £8000.

Chairman report

Chairman said that he had been involved in most of the events mentioned in the CEO report plus the Space Nationals and the Helicopter 3D Masters.

He also attended the F3C European Championships, which was very well organised and was a great success.

On a sad note he advised he had over the last few months attended the funerals of Harry Hundleby FSMAE, Reg Parham FSMAE and Arthur Searle.

It was pointed out, with regard to the F3C European Championships that there was no mention of FAI on the Helicopter website. Comp Sec advised that Aerobatic Helicopter Association (AHA) had apologised for this oversight. The FAI logo did however appear on all of the F3C Bulletins. Chairman said he would be writing to the Royal Aero Club with an apology.

Vice Chairman report

Vice-Chairman reported that he had attended numerous events in his Area and meetings at the office regarding Awards, Flight Challenge and R/C, C/L, Scale Nationals.

He endeavours to serve the BMFA diligently and with every effort and hopes to continue in the post following the election this year.

Comp Sec report

Comp Sec reported that all Nationals events this year had now been completed.

Comp Sec reported on the successes so far this year of our International Teams. There had been no medal successes in European Championships.

Comp Sec congratulated the following on their World Championship successes:

F1B Junior World Champion – Daniel Billam

F2A Individual Silver – Peter Halman

F2A Team Gold – Peter Halman, Gordon Isles, Ken Morrissey, Team Manager Jo Halman.

F4C Individual Bronze – Peter McDermott

F4C Team Silver – Peter McDermott, David Knott, Mick Reeves, Team Manager Gordon Warburton.

AHA successfully ran the FAI F3C European Championships in August. Comp Sec attended for the three days and was totally enthralled.

FAI Licence fees – There was a unanimous vote in favour of fees remaining at £10, £5 for Juniors, £5 for replacement book.

Chris Bromley FSMAE was appointed 2007 R/C, C/L, & Scale Nationals Co-ordinator.

There was a majority vote in favour of FAI Class F5D (Electric Pylon Racing) being transferred from Silent Flight Technical Committee and becoming the responsibility of the Power Technical Committee.

There was a unanimous vote in favour of a proposal that F3J UK no longer be recognised as a Specialist Body of the BMFA.

Robin Jones FSMAE Fun Fly CD at R/C, C/L, Scale Nationals asked for advice of Council on a new concept for the Fun Fly event. He has been looking into the possibility of running a Fun Fly event for helicopters but he believed it would be too restrictive for the requirement of a 'B' Certificate to be applied to the event. He asked if there would be any possibility of a dispensation.

Tech Sec advised that as Co-ordinator of the R/C, C/L, Scale Nationals he was bound by the rules laid down by Council. He commented that he thought it would be a good idea to hold the event but it would need to be very tightly run. Following debate Council agreed that Robin Jones should pursue the concept but with the proviso that there would be no dispensation and a 'B' certificate would be required.

Council gave their approval of the document "Guidelines for Model Flying Clubs and Model Flying Groups with Members who have a Disability or Special Need". The document would be made available on the website as soon as possible.

Council voted unanimously to accept the 'BMFA General Rules, Section 2'.

Reports from disciplines on the 2006 R/C, C/L, Scale & Silent Flight Nationals

Indoor - Indoor Nationals were held last weekend. Numbers were slightly down however they did have three fliers from Northern Ireland. The event was tinged with sadness because it was the very last Indoor Nationals to be held at Cardington. From December this year Cardington will no longer be available.

Silent Flight - Silent Flight has decided that the Wetlands venue is not acceptable as a National site. There are talks that Silent Flight might move away from the August Bank Holiday and they are looking into the possibility of using Spitalgate as the venue. They are also looking into the possibility of compressing the event into a three-day programme and dropping the 100S category.

Free Flight - Numbers who flew were down and it was very disappointing. A contributing factor was the very poor weather. Management of the event has improved vastly since appointing Roy Wright as co-ordinator. They also made a satisfactory surplus. They foresee 2007 event to be managed even better and are probably looking into putting some money back into it for providing a BBQ for the fliers.

R/C Power - There were no problems reported for the main events. There were a few hiccups on Showline, which will be addressed. Helicopter produced a new Junior champion. Mid West Area commented that it was not widely publicised that there would be no Airshow on the Bank Holiday Monday. Tech Sec said that it was advertised a two-day Airshow on all literature that was publicised. As the years go on public attendance on the Monday at the R/C, C/L, Scale Nationals is getting less and it seems better served to use the flight line for demonstrating IMAC, which is very good to watch.

London Area commented that there is a lack of information on the various disciplines participating in the R/C, C/L, Scale Nationals and requires a more detailed programme of events. Tech Sec said that it is the responsibility of each flight line to make a commentary. He is however quite happy if somebody would like to offer to put a programme together. Chairman requested that this matter is discussed at the R/C, C/L, Scale Nationals debrief.

The following British Record Claims were ratified:

Name	Chris Barker / Mike North – BMFA No 51784 / 24195
Class	F2CN Heat Time Date 11 th June 2006
Site	RAF Barkston Heath
Duration	8 mins 22.9 secs

Name	Chris Barker / Mike North – BMFA No 51784 / 24195
Class	F2CN Final Time
Site	RAF Barkston Heath Date 11 th June 2006
Duration	8 mins 22.9 secs

Name	Richard Miles – BMFA No 70015
Class	F40 Control Line Open Speed
Site	RAF Barkston Heath Date 11 th June 2006
Speed	185.58MPH – 101.76%

There was a unanimous vote in favour of the following:
Trophy No 110 the David Brawn Trophy (Nordic Trophy) noted for F1A at the Spring FAI Gala, be relocated to Team Trials for F1A;
Trophy No 80 the Mick Duce Trophy noted for F1B Wakefield Easter Meeting be relocated to Team Trials for F1B;
Trophy No 107 the Pete Buskell Memorial Trophy noted for F1C FAI Spring Gala be relocated to Team Trials for F1C;
Importeknik Trophy for the 10 Cell F5B League Winner be re allocated to 7 Cell F5B League winner.

Council voted unanimously to accept as an adopted trophy the "Kath Watson Bowl".
Kath Watson FSMAE, Vice President has donated the "Kath Watson Bowl" specifically to be awarded by the Chairman on an annual basis for any member or member of staff for administration. Thanks were recorded to Kath for this kind gesture.

Mike Colling FSMAE was nominated as Information and Education Delegate to CIAM.

Reports from sub-committees

UKRCC - Tech Sec advised there has been a proliferation of microwave incidents across the country. It has been brought to the notice of importers and manufacturers. The response from OFCOM was that the equipment was not up to the job. Importers and manufacturers now have to go away and reassess the equipment.

BMFA News Publishers – A proposal was carried unanimously that Keith Lomax and John French should join the BMFA News Publishers sub-committee.

Flying Site Adviser - Chairman advised that the Executive had agreed to £5000 funding to the FSA to instigate a study on Moorland Birds. Silent Flight commented that cliff nesting should be considered when the report is being done. Silent Flight also mentioned that there have been an increasing number of problems reported from Farmers renting National Trust land. Hon Secretary asked Silent Flight to let him have the information.

Report of the Area Council Meeting held on 30th September 2006.

Matters Arising

Committee cover for unaffiliated groups - London Area Delegate asked if the Chairman had looked into this. Chairman advised that he had looked into it and there did not seem to be a problem because we actually cover groups and committees by the norm of what we do.

The way the insurance operates is the insurer is content to insure any activity where the National Body believes it is the right thing to promote the sport. What is loosely called 'Club' cover covers all groups that we have, such as Specialist Bodies, sub groups etc. for any advice that is being given.

London Area Delegate said he believed the question arose at the previous meeting because the Committee in question had some members who were not BMFA members.

Chairman advised that what could happen in these circumstances is that if there was an action taken at sometime against the Committee, the insurer would look at the constitution of that Committee. If it were say 50-50, they would look at 50 per cent and the other insurers would do the same, which is normal insurance practice.

There is a strong case for all people who are sitting on Committees to make sure that they have adequate insurance in place because they are giving advice and if that advice is wrong they can be challenged on it. The best way of insuring it is that any group that is trying to operate should actually make sure they are all members of the BMFA.

Tech Sec explained that there is an automatic procedure in place for anybody who does qualify for affiliation, which is 100 per cent BMFA and a minimum of five members. The procedure where anybody is outside that bracket is that the CEO has the option to offer the insurance or not.

Chairman advised that we have over many years provided a facility for Clubs, Areas and individuals to operate indoor events. It is perfectly acceptable for us to accept an individual if we know them and we can trust them to organise the event, to give the authority to one person to run the event.

'C' Certificate - East Anglia Delegate asked if the A4 Certificate, which candidates would be receiving is ready to send out. It was confirmed that it was still in the proof stage, a copy of which was circulated round the table. It should be ready to send out in the following week.

Chairman asked the meeting to consider, in light of the new postal costs, whether they wanted to keep the achievement certificates A4 size or reduce them to A5. There was an overwhelming majority consensus that we should keep them A4 size.

Mature modellers - London Area Delegate said he believes we should seriously look into this and wondered how we could move it forward.

Development Officer commented that we focus on the young for a number of reasons however his view is that we should be promoting it to the more mature because they are the ones with time and money on their hands.

To a degree we are tackling the situation in that we are branching out with the places we take the BMFA stand to, such as some of the full size shows. Tech Sec said it is worth looking into in more depth.

Northern Ireland Delegate commented that it is possible in years to come that the children today, who buy the polystyrene type models, available in toyshops all over the country, might rekindle their enthusiasm in later years.

Development Officer agreed and commented that the Education Programme is not about just bringing in new members tomorrow it is about sowing the seed.

With regard to bringing older members in, he believes we all have a duty in doing that. He wrote an article recently in Chacksfield Chat called, 'phone a friend'. We all have friends who take a passing interest in what we do and the gist of what he wrote was to take a friend along. He did that recently and the friend is now building models of his own. It is up to every individual to introduce new members.

Area pages on the website - London Area Delegate asked if this had been done. Tech Sec said it is proving to be more complex to put it together, given the ideas he had put forward.

East Anglia Delegate asked why it is not possible to just provide an Area page the same as Technical Committees already have in place, where authentication is not a problem.

Tech Sec advised that ideally he would like to link the bulletin board with an Areas page and this is where the problem lies.

London Area Delegate asked why we could not have individual Area pages. Tech Sec said this facility has been available for three years in the same area of the website as the Technical Committee bulletin boards but there have been no requests for access from any Area. This had been mentioned several times at previous Full and Area Council meetings.

Chairman commented that it is not something we should be forcing Areas to do, if some of them want to do it then it is their choice.

Tech Sec explained that his aim is to have a set of Areas pages on the web site, which will hold information relevant to each Area. This information is gleaned from the Areas paperwork supplied to the office, such as Area Officers, when and where meetings take place etc. We would appoint a volunteer to input the information on to the web site.

In addition, he would like an individual bulletin board linked to each Areas page to that so that each individual Area could add their own news to it. It is this integration that is causing the problem.

It was established that about half of the Areas currently have their own website. Northern Ireland Delegate suggested this should be published in BMFA News, as it would be a reminder for members that there is a site they can visit. Tech Sec advised that the links to the Area websites are on the links pages and it is not particularly easy to find them. His aim is to bring the Area links forward to the main drop down menus.

Northern Area Delegate suggested having a link to a section on the forum. Tech Sec said this might be a possibility.

Chairman summarised what he believed was the consensus of the Areas as a result of this debate, that the inputting of the common information on Areas is a good idea and should be progressed as quickly as possible.

It is also a good idea to integrate and simplify the system as Tech Sec suggested, which is something that could follow on. There is some work that probably can be done to get it going and he would prefer this to happen rather than attend the next meeting to be told it is still ongoing.

Tech Sec said over the summer months there have been some significant problems with the technical operation of the website which has hindered this progression, but agreed it is now time to look forward to having these facilities in operation.

Procedure for appointment of Area Chief Examiners – There was a very lengthy debate. One of the points covered resulted in a request for Areas to hold a discussion at their next Area meeting to ascertain whether the Scheme Controller should or should not have the authority to decide whether a candidate is enrolled for the probationary period and come back to the next Area Council Meeting in February with the result of their deliberations.

Achievement Scheme Review Committee Report – There was a lengthy discussion concerning the requirement of counter signatures on Club Examiner pass forms. A straw poll was carried in favour of changing the form to delete the Club signature.

Review of Area Constitution - It was clarified that this agenda item concerns the terms of reference of Areas Council, not the Areas Constitution.

Chairman commented that his first impressions of Areas Council when he had attended as an observer have changed considerably after chairing the meetings over the past two years. He believes it is an excellent debating forum. There are issues that have to be addressed. What we need to be doing is letting people know more and more about the issues we are addressing, because they are issues that are important to aeromodellers. We are a committee who are serving the aeromodellers directly on the decisions that we make and how we operate.

The reason it is on the Agenda today is to try to find out from Areas how they see this Committee operating in five or ten year's time. In other words to look at what we are doing right, what we are doing wrong and how we are going to do things in the future. One of the things he did push forward was to move into becoming electronic as far as we could in terms of agendas and other paperwork. He complimented Council on the degree in which we have progressed. This is a committee that can show the lead.

We have not really done a review of how we operate, what we come to discuss and why we are doing it. We often get the issues such as we had today and perhaps it would have been better if we all came more prepared in knowing what we were going to debate. What we may need in future is that, where we have an item that looks as if it might lead to some debate, there should be some paperwork to go with it.

It was pointed out from the floor, however, that this is not possible in many cases because it is sometimes difficult to spot items that will lead to extensive discussion.