



British Model Flying Association
CLUB BULLETIN

14th September 2007

Issue no173

**WHY NOT CHECK OUT THE INFORMATION ON
www.bmfa.org**

**IMPORTANT !!!
SECRETARY PLEASE NOTE**

**THIS IS THE ONLY COPY OF THE CLUB BULLETIN SENT TO YOUR CLUB.
WOULD YOU PLEASE ARRANGE FOR ITS CONTENTS TO BE DISTRIBUTED,
AS APPROPRIATE TO YOUR CLUB MEMBERS**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT AN UPDATED COPY OF THE "EVENTS AND CONTEST
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 6th October 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 9th June 2007.
- 4 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 9th June 2007 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

- 5 To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.
 - a) Power
 - b) Silent Flight
- 6 To receive reports from committees or co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.
 - a) Achievement Scheme Review Committee
 - b) Flight Challenge
 - c) Education
- 7 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.)
- 8 To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.
- 9 To confirm dates of Areas Council meetings 2008.
- 10 Any Other Business.
 Note: Items for Any Other Business must be handed to the Chairman of the Meeting **IN WRITING** before the meeting commences. This will be strictly enforced.



*******IMPORTANT NOTICE*******

THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THERE MIGHT BE SOME DISRUPTION WITH EMAIL COMMUNICATION AND MEMBERSHIP PROCESSING WEEK COMMENCING 24TH SEPTEMBER, DUE TO COMPUTER/DATABASE UPGRADE.

PLEASE BEAR WITH US AND THANK YOU IN ANTICIPATION.

LINDA HARDING, OFFICE MANAGER

<p><u>CONGRATULATIONS !!!</u></p> <p>WORLD/EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2007</p> <p><u>CONTROL LINE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS</u></p> <p>F2A (SPEED) TEAM GOLD F2A (SPEED) PETER HALMAN FSMAE INDIVIDUAL SILVER</p> <p>*****</p> <p><u>INDOOR EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS</u></p> <p>F1D TEAM SILVER F1D BOB BAILEY INDIVIDUAL SILVER</p>

Report of the Full Council Meeting on 5th May 2007

Co-option of Vice-Chairman

Chairman revealed that Les Eagle, Chairman of R/C Power Tech Committee and Chris Moynihan, R/C SF Tech Committee Representative had both expressed an interest in being co-opted.

Both candidates were each allowed three minutes to give a presentation before a ballot took place.

The result of the ballot was as follows:

Les Eagle 6 votes

Chris Moynihan 19 votes

Chris Moynihan was therefore co-opted as Vice-Chairman until the AGM on November 24th 2007.

Temporary appointment of Silent Flight Achievement Scheme Controller

The following proposal was carried unanimously

That Peter Spurway is appointed Silent Flight Achievement Scheme Controller on a temporary basis.

Honorary Treasurer Report

Hon Treasurer reported that the Accounts Manager had prepared the draft Accounts, subject to the audit. They show a surplus provisionally of £21,313. A significant part of that of approximately £7000 is relevant to changes in the way the VAT is calculated, which was brought to Council's attention in January.

Reduced membership fees were confirmed from July 1st 2007 as :

Seniors	£21	Juniors	£12
Family Partner	£15	Family Junior	£9

Hon Treasurer submitted the following proposals:

A proposal was carried unanimously to increase the Flight Challenge budget in financial year 2007/2008 from £2000 to £7000.

A proposal was carried by majority vote for Capital Expenditure of £608 to purchase a lightweight pylon system to be used for pylon racing contests, team selection and team training.

A proposal was carried unanimously for Capital Expenditure of £1119 for purchase of a portable, standalone, rechargeable wireless PA system to be used for Silent Flight contests.

A proposal was carried unanimously for Capital Expenditure of £3000 for LCD display equipment to be used for Control Line Team Race.

There was a discussion to consider possibilities of fundraising for World/Euro Teams. Chairman asked all Tech Committee Representatives to consult with their members and find out whether they would be interested in progressing the idea of organising a fundraising event and communicate whatever results they get to the CEO as soon as possible.

CEO Report

He had received twenty-five responses to the straw poll in relation to Top Gun event for 2007. Twenty-two were in favour of the decision to suspend Top Gun for 2007.

The reason for the recommendation to suspend Top Gun for 2007 was that we actually made a loss of £2,300 in 2006. There were indications from the caterers and the trade at last year's event that they had not had a particularly good time and as such the anticipated revenue from them for 2007 event was going to be even further reduced.

It seemed the sensible thing to suspend it pending some further consideration. Whether it can be considered as part of the consideration with the Tech Committees incorporating it into another event, may be a possibility. Also if we look to run an event in 2008 it is actually the centenary of British flight so there could be some tie-in with that.

It needs a lot of careful thought and as such if we are not continuing with it for this year maybe it should be included on the agenda for September when there will be more time available for a full discussion.

CEO recommended that Top Gun is suspended for 2007.

R/C Power agreed the right decision is to suspend Top Gun for 2007. He commented however that as far as planning future events, he believed it would be more productive to hold the usual planning meeting rather than a discussion at Full Council. CEO said we are open to all suggestions.

CEO reported that the Child Protection policy has been updated and a new document has been produced. He had hoped to present it to the meeting today however it is still undergoing a full evaluation with the CPSU (Child Protection in Sport Unit) . He thanked the Tech Sec for his input to the document.

Our insurers are very pleased with the document. They are also very pleased with the progress that the organisation as a whole has made on the Child Protection front.

They were more than happy with some of the figures that we were able to quote them. Interestingly 76% of all the clubs have a Child Protection policy even though only 58% of them have got junior members.

Gemma Sargeant has been very busy on the graphic design front and has recently produced a new Education leaflet. CEO handed round the Education leaflet and also a portfolio of some of her designs.

He advised that one of the tasks he has been charged with is within the next year to have a capability within the office using Gemma's skills to be able to produce the graphic layout for BMFA News.

CEO reported that at the Executive meeting yesterday, they discussed at length the consideration of the various tenders we had received for the development of the website.

The Executive were unanimous in their decision that there was only one sensible option from the six tenders we had received. CEO provided copies of a summary of the tenders received.

Five of the six tenders received were to produce a brand new website, however on completion the website would be handed over to the BMFA who would then have to source people to maintain it in terms of adding content and information.

The sixth tender from the company who currently produce our website, was also to produce a brand new website but the maintenance element on that would also provide us with the posting and updating of information, which is how we currently operate.

What has been highlighted as a result of obtaining tenders is that, whatever the criticisms of the current webmaster, the deal we have had over the last few years has been exceptional value for money.

There was a discussion regarding an issue which is frequently raised regarding the length of time it takes to post items on the website.

Tech Sec responded by saying that most of the complaints we receive are from people who own their own websites and can post things the same day or instantly. We are not in a position to do this and never will be. For a commercial business website, which is what we have, the fact that you can send an item over and most of the time will be posted within a day or two, is completely exceptional.

It was pointed out that there is a facility for Tech Committees to post items which is instantaneous. Comp Sec commented that she uses the facility all the time. It is quick, easy and entirely in your own control.

A question was raised why other Tech Committees do not use the facility. The conclusion was that most of the Tech Committees have their own websites, however some felt that they should use the BMFA website first and foremost. In response it was pointed out that Tech Committees had set up their own sites a long time before the facility was made available on the BMFA website.

Tech Sec advised that one of the problems that we will be addressing is the links to Tech Committees, which currently is not easy to navigate.

Hon Treasurer suggested another solution if Tech Committees wanted to post competition results would be to post a news item. This is displayed on the home page and would have a direct link to the results.

Chairman said we must wait until the new website is up and running before we can comment further.

Honorary Secretary Report

Hon Secretary spoke on the issue of UAV's. He reminded everyone that we do not cover out of sight operations of models. They are UAV's. It is something he has stressed very strongly at EuroControl an Europe Airports and every time he meets with the civil UAV community.

He mentioned at the last meeting it is going apace now with well over one hundred very large companies all involved in civil UAV's. At Europe EuroControl they are now stating that you have to accept as pilots that UAV's are going to be flying in controlled airspace in the fullness of time. It is going to happen.

He is working very hard within Europe at the moment with regard to the small UAV's, under 150kgs, that they do not have any affect on model flying as we know it.

There is a Paris conference in June on UAV's, which is going to be mammoth. Hon Secretary advised that he has just finished an article for UAV International on Europe Airsport and model flying and they have asked him to attend the conference to do a presentation on how we actually control model flying. The Executive agreed at their meeting yesterday that he should attend the conference.

He stressed that we must protect our position, which we have had for a very long time. His aim at the conference, on behalf of all modellers is to convince them that they are not going to interfere with what we are doing.

Elections

Hon Secretary made a statement that he was very dismayed when within a day or so of the January Council meeting, at which the Directors discussed and voted on a confidential matter in relation to the 2006 elections, one of the statements that was read out in confidence to the Directors appeared on the website.

It is not acceptable and is he not prepared to work under those conditions. If this means he has to resign then he will do so.

A discussion was held to consider whether we continue as last year with the one-member one-vote for the 2007 elections.

A straw poll was taken and there was an overwhelming majority in favour of carrying on as last year with the one-member one-vote.

A couple of points were raised during discussion for consideration in the 2007 election procedure.

- Additional pages in BMFA News to include information on all candidates plus photographs, including elected unopposed candidates.
- CEO to liase with BMFA News Editor on lead-in times and requirements.

A further issue was raised regarding notification of election results. Some believed they should be made public as soon as the candidates have been informed. It was also suggested the vote is counted the night before the AGM or on the day.

The matter was left in the hands of the Hon Secretary to decide how and when the information is announced.

Comp Sec Report

Comp Sec had ratified the following Team Managers in the interim following January Full Council:

Jim Andrews Team Manager - Free Flight

John James Team Manager - Control Line (was ratified as Assistant Team Manager)

Val James Assistant Team Manager - Control Line

Alison Harrop Team Manager - F3A

Graham Wickes Team Manager - F3J

Geoff Seabrook Team Manager – Spacemodelling

Change to F3A team member

Keith Jackson replaces Angus Balfour.

Free Flight F1C team

Third Team member Alan Jack, Peter Watson Reserve.

Tech Sec asked for confirmation whether Control Line were sending an F2B one-man team who had not been placed in the team trials.

Comp Sec confirmed that Control Line were sending a one-man team and the member came second in the team trials. She explained that people are having difficulty funding themselves. Two of the F2B flyers have had to withdraw because they cannot afford to take their models because of airline policies and she believes Free Flight are having similar problems.

Tech Sec expressed concerns that the situation is such that we are having to send one-man teams because of expenses and it is something we may need to think about very seriously in the future.

Various views were expressed regarding sending one-man teams.

Indoor pointed out that most of the problems seem to be because of the change in policy with airlines regarding excess baggage. Other sporting organisations must be experiencing a similar problem and if so they he believes we should be asking English Sport to speak to the airlines.

Hon Secretary advised that this problem has been known for about a year and a half and it was decided that the right people to deal with it on behalf of airsports are the FAI.

After a delay of just over a year where nothing positive seemed to have been done, Comp Sec wrote to the Secretary General of FAI asking what they had actually. Subsequently there have been discussions. There is a list of recognised sports but unfortunately we are not on that list.

We are still charging FAI with rectifying that because aviation sports are recognised. This is something where it is very much in the FAI's interest to get it sorted, if they want to keep international competition going.

British Record Claims

The following British Record Claim was ratified:

D P Laycock – BMFA No 86469

Class - Indoor Open/35cm

Site – Sports Hall Elms School

Date – 2nd February 2007

Duration – Watch 1 – 4 mins 39.81 secs

Watch 2 – 4 mins 40 secs

It was pointed out that the latest record information on the website is 2003 and why has it not been updated. Records Officer accepted that the comments made are valid. However the matter is being addressed and he hopes to have a satisfactory conclusion in the near future. Chairman tasked Records Officer to report to the Executive meeting in July.

PRO report

One point he wished to highlight is a project he is currently working on with CEO and Development Officer to bring model building and flying into our Schools in conjunction with a major third party.

The main prospect is to give everybody something. The principle behind this particular initiative is we will be looking at making model aircraft from packaging material from supermarkets that is suitable for recycling .

He approached this privately several years ago with Tesco and they were amenable to the idea.

Some meetings have already taken place. There may be other parties involved because of major centennial anniversary events. We are looking to launch it in September.

FAI Delegate report

FAI Delegate advised that he labours the point in his report that it is very expensive to send members abroad to compete. He is heavily committed and involved. Most countries including the UK have increased airport taxes and excess baggage costs and have therefore become virtually prohibitive.

He is currently in the process of trying to talk directly with the CEO at Czech airlines in Prague. He would support a comment made earlier by London Area that to a great extent it does depend on the person at the desk at the airport.

Control Line passed on information relating to a Control Line site, namely Goron Olsson. There is a section there that has quite a large list of peoples experience of travelling with model boxes and it is well worth reading.

There is something else he has learnt recently in his investigations that if the models go as excess baggage they are not guaranteed to be on the aeroplane that you fly on.

He also mentioned in his report as he regularly touches on the point of international records being set. He could point the finger at several people in the room who are more than capable of setting records in their relevant field and would like everyone to seriously think about it and have a go.

Proposal from South Midland Area (Deferred from May 2006 Full Council) that the BMFA should investigate hiring a professional PRO on a full or part-time basis to enable a more professional approach to fund raising and raising the image of the BMFA.

The above proposal was seconded by London Area

Carried unanimously.

South Midland pointed out that the proposal was generated and deferred before we had appointed a PRO. There is no criticism intended against the current PRO.

Ideally what they want is that there is a plan in place that we investigate possible alternatives in the event, which prompted the proposal, that we suddenly lost our previous PRO.

PRO commented that what is really required is a clear directive how we can actually bring more influence, more money, more sponsors into the BMFA. He does not believe the way to do is to appoint professional agencies. It requires somebody who can dedicate their time to the job. The issue is not who or where to go to it is actually having time to address those issues.

London Area commented that the difficulty is not just setting somebody on because someone would then have to brief the person on twenty different disciplines with different aims and objects and appeals. One of the things that has been very apparent for a long time is the lack of PR that the individual Tech Committees undertake.

If they do not do anything you cannot expect somebody who has the overall responsibility of putting everything together to even know where to begin.

Tech Sec pointed out that a lot of the CEO and Development Officer's time is spent on the telephone. He made the suggestion that if we wanted to free up some of their time we should consider setting up a call centre. It does not need to be one person it can be three or four and the calls could be automatically diverted to wherever that person is.

CEO pointed out that we are making moves in the office. Currently Gemma Sargeant has a number of roles within the organisation. Our plans are to employ someone part-time in the Accounts to free up Gemma, so that she can concentrate on graphic design and PR activities.

Hon Secretary commented that the Tech Sec's idea is an excellent suggestion and should be looked at. We need to look at offloading the day to day routine from the experts in the office and use our volunteer force a lot more to provide that information.

The general consensus was that something needs to be put in place. Chairman said we should look at Tech Sec's suggestion very seriously.

To receive a proposal from Mid West area that access to the on line forum be restricted to paid up BMFA members only.

It was pointed out that the majority of the problems caused on the website forum are caused by BMFA members and therefore the proposal would not be effective.

Mid West clarified that the intention of the proposal is that there is some form of secure access that only paid up members can access the site and must be identified.

There was a lengthy discussion and various points were raised. Some believe the forum is a useful facility and there are only a handful of perpetrators who abuse it, but this could be addressed if more restrictions were put in place. Views were also expressed that a Technical forum would be more appropriate.

Scale said he believes the whole root of the problem is that we provide a system that constantly shoots ourselves in the foot. There are no other large governing bodies providing a public forum for their members to criticise the governing body. He proposed that we remove the forum facility altogether.

At the Chairman's suggestion Mid West agreed to withdraw their proposal.

Scale proposed that the on-line forum facility be closed forthwith.

Seconded by North East Area.

Hon Secretary commented that it is the current form that is wrong and suggested an amendment to the above proposal to include "in its present form". This would give us the opportunity to reintroduce what we want to do in the way we want to do it.

Scale did not agree this would work because the perpetrators would use any available opportunity they have to shoot us down. There are plenty of other forums to address the technical questions. The big advantage by taking away the forum is that there will no longer be a focal point. If we leave a technical site open it will be abused.

Chairman called for a vote on the above proposal from Scale.

Vote: For: 13
Ags: 5
Abs: 6

Carried by a majority vote.

CEO and Tech Sec were charged with arranging closure of the forum immediately after the meeting is adjourned, with an accompanying statement.

To receive a proposal from North West Area that Full Council, Areas Council and Technical Council Provisional Minutes are made available on the main BMFA Website within five working days of being prepared, and that they are also replaced by Ratified minutes on the Website within five working days of being agreed by the appropriate Council.

Seconded by Hon Treasurer
A vote was taken following a short discussion.

Vote: For: 16
Ags: 2
Abs: 4

Carried by majority vote.

Northern Area and Mid West Area delegates had left the meeting at this point.

Comp Sec requested that the minutes are produced with the relevant watermark i.e. "provisional" and "ratified".

To receive a proposal from North West Area that Full Council, Areas Council and Technical Council Agendas are made available on the main BMFA Website within three working days of the posting of the agenda from the office.

Seconded by Hon Secretary

Vote: For: 21
Ags: 0
Abs: 1

Carried by a majority vote.

CCPR

Hon Secretary reported that Diana King now represents Royal Aero Club on CCPR. A document has been produced as a result of her efforts in obtaining from all the associations, aviation related concerns within their association. It is her belief that it is now time CCPR did something for aviation in lobbying etc.

UKRCC report

Hon Secretary reported that a meeting is scheduled for June. The major work that has been going on relates to 2.4GHz. We have learnt a great deal about Spectrum but we do not have the same details yet on the other companies of the way they are going to solve the problem, because we believe it is going to be done differently. However we are assured that they will work together.

Education Working Group

Mike Colling FSMAE had a proof copy of the 'Why not compete' booklet, which is currently being produced and was handed round. Comp Sec complained that there was no representation of Control Line on the front cover. He also reported on behalf of Indoor Tech Committee that Laurie Barr FSMAE has decided to resign from the Indoor Tech Committee at the age of 80.

Safety Review Committee

Chairman advised that the late Vice Chairman was Chairman of Safety Review Committee and as far as he is aware the committee had not met since the last Council meeting.
