

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 5th May 2007 at Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrew's Road, Leicester LE2 8RE.

Provisional until confirmed at the next Council Meeting.

PRESENT

Robin Gowler FSMAE	Chairman
Graham Lynn MBE	Honorary Secretary
Keith Lomax	Honorary Treasurer
Jo Halman FSMAE	Competition Secretary
Chris Bromley FSMAE	Technical Secretary
John French	Records Officer
Jim Andrews	FAI Delegate
Stuart Marsden	PRO
Martin Dilly FMSAE	London Area Delegate
George Maynard	Midland Area Delegate
Gordon Warburton FSMAE	Northern Area Delegate
Allan Weighell FSMAE	North East Area Delegate
David Lloyd-Jones	North West Area Delegate
Peter Christy	South Midland Area Delegate
Keith Miller FSMAE	South East Area Delegate
Stuart Simpson	Southern Area Delegate
Phil Durant	Western Area Delegate
Robin Jones FSMAE	Mid West Area Delegate
Howard Menary FSMAE	Northern Ireland Area Delegate
Dave Clarkson	Free Flight Tech Comm Representative
Chris Barker	Control Line Tech Comm Representative
Steve Ogden	R/C Power Tech Comm Representative
Chris Moynihan	R/C Silent Flight Tech Comm Representative
Mike Goldby	Scale Tech Comm Representative
Mike Colling FSMAE	Indoor Tech Comm Representative

In Attendance

Eric Clark	BMFA News Editor
Linda Harding	Office Manager / Minute taker
Dave Phipps	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Visitor

Les Eagle	R/CP Tech Comm Chairman
Manny Williamson	Development Officer

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence.
- 2 Request for permission to be absent.
- 3 To verify the voting strength of the meeting.
- 4 Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 6th January 2007.
- 5 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 6th January 2007 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 6 To receive a financial report from the Honorary Treasurer to include:
 - a The progress towards the year end Accounts.
 - b Confirmation of reduced membership fees from July.
 - c To receive a proposal from the Honorary Treasurer that the budget for the Flight Challenge in financial year 2007/08 is increased from £2,000 to £7,000.
 - d To receive a proposal from the Honorary Treasurer that the Capital Expenditure of £608 is authorised for purchase of a lightweight pylon system to be used for pylon racing contests, team selection and team training.
 - e To receive a proposal from the Honorary Treasurer that the Capital Expenditure of £1119 is authorised for purchase of a portable, standalone, rechargeable wireless PA system to be used for silent flight contests.
- 7 To receive a joint report from the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer.
- 8 To receive a report from the Honorary Secretary to include:
 - a To receive the Affiliated Club List.
 - b To receive dates for Council Meetings in the year 2008.
 - c To discuss and agree the processes for the November elections.
- 9 To receive a report from the Technical Secretary to include the following:

To seek clarification of who can ratify record claims (Ref query at Tech Council).
- 10 To receive a report from the Competition Secretary to include:
 - a Receipt and ratification of any contests for next year's FAI Calendar.
- 11 To receive a report from the Records Officer to include the following British Record Claim:
 - a

Name	D P Laycock – BMFA No 086469	
Class	Indoor Open/35cm	
Site	Sports Hall Elms School, Colwall	Date 2 nd February 2007
Duration	Watch 1 – 4 mins 39.81 secs	
	Watch 2 – 4 mins 40 secs	
- 12 To receive a report from the Public Relations Officer.

- 13 To receive a report from the FAI Delegate to include:
 - a The receipt of the report of the recent CIAM Meeting.

- 14 To receive the following proposals:
 - a 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.
 - b To receive a proposal from Mid West Area that access to the on line forum be restricted to paid up BMFA members only.
 - c 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 Web site within five working days of being agreed by the appropriate Council.
 - d 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.

- 15 To receive updated briefings and reports from the Technical Committees & the Power Nationals Co-ordinator for all the BMFA National Championships.

- 16 To receive any reports from the following Delegates (reports should be brief, preferably in writing and in advance).
 - a Royal Aero Club (RAeC)
 - b General Aviation Safety Committee (GASCo)
 - c Air Prox
 - d Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR)
 - e General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC)

- 17 To receive any reports from the following Committees (reports should be brief, preferably in writing and in advance):
 - a CAA Team
 - b UK Radio Control Council (UKRCC)
 - c Education Working Group
 - d Flight Challenge
 - e University Challenge
 - f Computer Sub-Committee
 - g Safety Review Committee
 - h Achievement Scheme Review Committee
 - i BMFA News Publishers
 - a To receive a proposal from the Honorary Treasurer that it is requested for Council to agree to a policy for 'non-revenue' advertising in BMFA News.
 - j Flying Site Adviser's Report

- 18 Any Other Business.

- 19 Date of next meeting.

MINUTES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chairman said a few words about the late Vice Chairman Roger Bedford FSMAE, who passed away on March 29th 2007.

The Chairman asked for a one minute silence in memory of the Vice Chairman and also to give thought to his wife Karen.

Southern Area Delegate passed on the appreciation on behalf of the Vice Chairman's wife Karen and the Southern Area to those who attended the funeral, some of whom travelled a very long way.

453/05/07 (1) Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from the following:

Mike Chignell	- South West Area Delegate
Martin Paffett	- RAFMAA Area Delegate

454/05/07 (2) Permission to be absent.

A request had been received from Nigel Barker East Anglia Area Delegate, which the Chairman granted.

The Chairman at this point welcomed Les Eagle to the meeting.

455/05/07 (3) To verify the voting strength of the meeting.

There were 25 members eligible to vote at this meeting.

The Chairman introduced the following item:

3a) The co-option of a Vice Chairman.

Chairman advised that the Articles of Association allow this Council to co-opt a member to an Elected Officer position in the interim. The co-option would only be until the Annual General Meeting in November, at which point a Vice Chairman would be elected for the remaining term of one year.

Chairman advised that two people had expressed an interest in being co-opted and he asked for a proposition that this Council wishes to appoint a Vice Chairman.

Honorary Treasurer proposed that Council co-opt a Vice Chairman.

Seconded by North East Area.

Carried unanimously.

Chairman revealed the names of the two people as Les Eagle, Chairman of R/C Power Tech Committee and Chris Moynihan, R/C SF Tech Committee Representative.

Scale pointed out that he and presumably everyone else here today, were not aware of the fact that a co-option was being considered and said it would be fair to say that maybe some people that might be interested in putting their names forward have not done so.

Chairman said he thought everyone would be aware that with the loss of the Vice Chairman a co-option would follow. He asked if anybody else wished to be considered for the co-option but there were no other offers.

Both candidates were each allowed three minutes to give a presentation.

North East Area reminded the Chairman that he did offer to take on the role of Vice Chairman a couple of years ago when we were first informed of the late Vice Chairman's ill health. He felt however it would not now be necessary to put himself forward.

The result of a 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.

Western Area asked if the new incumbent would be continuing with the other posts that the late Vice Chairman was assigned to, such as Flight Challenge and R/C Silent Flight Achievement Scheme Controller.

Chairman advised that one of the roles incumbent of the Vice Chairman was Chairman of the Awards Committee. Some of the other posts the late Vice Chairman held were of his own personal choice.

Tech Sec advised that the ASRC had appointed Peter Spurway Power Achievement Scheme Controller on a temporary basis, as Silent Flight Achievement Scheme Controller.

456/05/07 (4) Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 6th January 2007.

ACTION / NOTES

Page 10

- **Penultimate paragraph, first line** - Add "Delegate" after RCPTC.

Page 11

- **Top of page, Technical Committee Chairmen listing** - Amend R/C Power, R/C Silent Flight and Scale respectively as follows: Les Eagle, Clive Needham, Gordon Warburton FSMAE.

- **Penultimate paragraph, Awards Committee listing** - Change RAeC Chairman to RAeC Delegate.

Page 18

- **Fifth paragraph, first line** - Change "he" to "the".

Page 21

- **Sixth paragraph, F3D team members** - Add F3D Team Members names.

Page 26

- **Sixth paragraph, CEO report** - Move paragraph to end of CEO report on page seven.

Page 33

- **448/01/07 (20) a) proposal from Control Line Technical Committee** - Add the following sentence after second paragraph. "The other Tech Committees felt that this could apply to them."

Page 34

- **Fifth paragraph from the bottom, third line** - Add after "safety net" "in case of the event".

FAI Delegate proposed that the minutes of the Meeting held on 6th January 2007 be accepted as a true record.

Seconded by Northern Area.

Vote: For: 24

Ags: 0

Abs: 1

Carried by a majority vote.

457/05/07 (5) Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 6th January 2007 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

Hon Secretary raised the point that as it was mentioned earlier in the meeting someone had been appointed on a temporary basis to the position of Silent Flight Achievement Scheme Controller. He pointed out that it is a Council appointed position and would require a formal proposal.

Technical Secretary, on behalf of ASRC proposed that Peter Spurway is appointed Silent Flight Achievement Scheme Controller on a temporary basis.

ALL

Seconded by Hon Secretary

Carried unanimously

Page 15

- **Fourth paragraph, website moderators** - London Area asked if an answer could be provided to the question raised as to who appointed the moderators and what their powers are.

Tech Secretary advised that they were appointed by the CEO and himself. Their powers are to moderate.

Page 17

- **Fifth bullet point, sub-committee power to vary amounts per team of allocation of surplus from the Power Nationals**
- South Midland, in his capacity as R/CPTC Secretary expressed disappointment that the sub-committee did not see fit to adjust the distribution to their satisfaction.

He raised another issue that he believes there is not enough money available to support the teams effectively and perhaps we should be looking at some method of fundraising to help support the teams.

Chairman asked that discussion is continued at the relevant point in the meeting relating to the agenda item.

Page 20

- **Fourth paragraph from the bottom, clarification of duration of Team Manager ratification** - London Area asked for clarification of whether Team Managers are appointed for a year or as stated in the aforementioned, for a Championship.

It was felt the statement produced in the minutes was correct that Team Managers are ratified for a Championship, which encompasses before, during and after the event, therefore there is no timescale.

London Area raised a point that there may be the opportunity after the event for the Team Manager to do some initial work for the following team. It was pointed out that there is nothing to prevent that happening. It is within the remit of the relevant Tech Committee what they ask of their Team Manager.

- **Halfway down the page, proposal to ratify F3J team subject to appointment of Team Manager** - Silent Flight requested confirmation of the Team Manager appointment. A Team Manager has now been appointed and the details would come forward in the Comp Secretary's report.

Page 25

- **Penultimate paragraph, relating to Bylaws** - Tech Sec asked if we are progressing with the document to present to ODPM. CEO affirmed this.

Page 28

- **Third paragraph from the bottom, consideration for FFTC to take responsibility of SpaceCom** - London Area asked if FFTC had taken SpaceCom on board. Hon Secretary advised that he had written to FFTC and had also been in discussion with them. Hon Secretary had agreed with FFTC that they could submit a report, following the Free Flight/Space Nationals at the end of May.

Page 35

- **First paragraph, request for donation to Albanian Eagles airport group** - London Area asked if we had made a contribution. CEO apologised for the oversight as there was no action in the minutes, however there would be no problem arranging something.

CEO

Page 37

- **Ninth paragraph, North West offer of domain names for BMFA Website** - North East Area asked if we had taken up the offer of the domain names. CEO advised that no further action had been taken, however we had also obtained other domain names. He would be reporting further on the website in his report.

This concluded matters arising.

458/05/07 (6) To receive a financial report from the Honorary Treasurer.

a) Progress towards the year end Accounts.

Hon **Treasurer** reported that the Accounts Manager has 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.

b) To receive confirmation of reduced membership fees from July.

These were confirmed as :

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

ACCT'S MGR
OFFICE MGR

c) To receive a proposal from the Honorary Treasurer that the budget for the Flight Challenge in financial year 2007/2008 is increased from £2000 to £7000.

Hon Treasurer advised that he has put this recommendation forward to ensure the event can go ahead this year as planned in light of notification from the sponsors that they would be withdrawing sponsorship in future years and have also halved the funding for 2007.

North West asked if we are actively seeking sponsorship for future years. This was confirmed.

The above proposal was seconded by Northern Area
Carried unanimously.

ACC'TS MGR
DEVELOPMENT
OFFICER
HON TREAS

d) To receive a proposal from the Honorary Treasurer that the Capital Expenditure of £608 is authorised for purchase of a lightweight pylon system to be used for pylon racing contests, team selection and team training.

Hon Treasurer explained the background to the proposal.

North West raised the question whether this was a competitive price for the equipment. Hon Treasurer advised that the equipment had already been purchased.

Comp Sec expressed her views that we entrust Technical Committees to do a job and would like to think we can trust them to do it and not have to question them.

The above proposal was seconded by R/C Power Technical Committee.

Vote: For: 24
Ags: 0
Abs: 1

ACC'TS MGR
RCPTC
HON TREAS

Carried by a majority vote.

e) To receive a proposal from the Honorary Treasurer that the Capital Expenditure of £1119 is authorised for purchase of a portable, standalone, rechargeable wireless PA system to be used for silent flight contests.

Silent Flight explained the background to the proposal.

North West asked if it would be available for others to use. Silent Flight replied that this could be possible subject to availability and agreement that the hirer collects the equipment from wherever it is at the time.

South Midland Area raised a point with regard to what band the equipment works on in light of the knowledge that there are moves within OFCOM to auction off some of the UHF spectrum.

Silent Flight confirmed that the equipment is available with three frequencies which should not cause a problem.

The above proposal was seconded by London Area.

Carried unanimously.

ACC'TS MGR
SFTC
HON TREAS

Hon Treasurer introduced a further capital expenditure item. He has received a request from the Team Race fraternity within Control Line to produce an LCD display. This will count the laps and at the end of the heat give information on speeds and positions etc. It will be visible to the spectators.

Research has been done and a prototype has been produced, which Control Line have funded. The proposal for the funding is for materials cost only, labour is free of charge.

Hon Treasurer proposed that a capital expenditure of £3000 for LCD display equipment to be used for Control Line Team Race.

Northern Area commented that items of this nature should be included on the agenda so that they can be discussed at Area level prior to the meeting. Everybody is aware of the deadlines and there is sufficient lead time for this to happen.

The explanation given why this item could not be included on the agenda was that there had been a delay in obtaining a costing for comparison, to ensure the best deal was secured. If delayed these costs could rise. Also it would be beneficial if the equipment could be implemented at this years' National Championships in August.

PRO commented that it should be recorded in these minutes and stressed to all Committees that compliance with procedures laid down to submit proposals of this nature is essential.

The above proposal was seconded by FFTC.
Carried unanimously.

**ACCT'S MGR
FFTC
HON TREAS**

Hon Treasurer gave a summary on the outcome of a meeting which had taken place with relevant parties to discuss the split of the August Nationals' surplus into the various disciplines' team travel funds.

A decision was taken based on a cycle of four or six years, when it would be expected it would roughly average out in terms of the different countries in which the competitions will take place, that we would split by Tech Committee pro-rata to the number of team members travelling on BMFA ratified teams this year and for the next two years.

Hon Treasurer took action from that meeting to liase with the various team managers and monitor those costs to determine that the decision was the correct one. They would meet again in three years time to verify this and look at how we take things forward from there.

Hon Treasurer advised that he had not yet fulfilled an action placed on him at the January Council meeting to discuss with Silent Flight their request to be considered for inclusion in the share-out. However, a meeting would take place before the split next year.

HON TREAS

South Midland Area commented that he had alluded to this earlier in the meeting. From RC/Power prospective they have lost an F3A pilot because he cannot afford to go to the event and he believes there is another team facing similar difficulties.

We need to be more active in fundraising to support the teams. Sandown, which was one of the major fundraising events for the AHA is no longer taking place and the future of Top Gun is also in doubt.

He believes there is perhaps an opportunity to put on an event which we could use as a fundraiser to help support the teams. It is getting more and more expensive to go to these events, not least the cost of excess baggage is going through the roof.

If we are not careful we will not be sending the best teams to represent Great Britain we will be sending pilots who can afford to go, which is not the best thing to do.

The meeting generally concurred with these sentiments.

Chairman commented that the idea requires more thought and suggested representatives of each of the Tech Committees might like to get together to form a sub-committee to look into it. CEO offered his assistance in co-ordinating this.

North West mentioned that he had already sent a letter to the CEO regarding an offer to run an event. CEO advised that the letter referred to Top Gun and it was an offer made by Steve Bishop who organises the Weston Park Model Show, to run the event for us. The offer North West refers to was a single line PS added to the bottom of an email on another subject. That was as detailed as the offer was.

He has since spoken with Steve Bishop to ask him for some further information of what he was actually proposing. It has been left in abeyance pending further discussion later in the year.

Vice-Chair commented there must be a sound reason why the various organisers of commercial shows have stopped doing it, because they are not making money or it has become too expensive to set up the infrastructure and insurance.

It might make sense if we are going down the route of organising a fundraising event, if some of the previous organisers of commercial shows could be contacted and ask for some of the breakdown figures which made them take the decision to withdraw from running the shows.

Chairman asked all Tech Comm 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.

**ALL TECH
COMMS**

Hon Treasurer advised the meeting that a proposal will be put forward in the near future for some significant expenditure in relation to the office computer network.

Hon Treasurer muted the idea of a proposal to look into the feasibility of a secure online payment system for membership and other services and asked for an agreement from Council in principle that if we were to start promoting this that we can make a surcharge for those transactions.

Chairman asked Hon Treasurer to put this forward as a proposal to the September Council meeting.

459/05/07 (7) To receive a joint report from the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer.

Chairman

Chairman reported that the major occurrence since the last meeting has been the demise of the late Vice-Chairman, which took up a considerable amount of his time.

He attended the Scale Indoor Nationals, which was a very highly successful event. He attended the Royal Aero Club Awards in support of Robin Jones FSMAE and Peter Grange, who achieved medals.

He has attended regular meetings with the CEO. Unfortunately he had to miss the last Executive meeting due to family commitments. This is the first time he has had to miss an official meeting since he has been in office.

He attended a Rocket event run by UKRA, which was quite interesting. He has attended one GASCo meeting and is pleased to report that there are no model connected problems with the general aviation fraternity in the country.

CEO

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

The reason for this recommendation was that for 2006 we actually made a loss of £2,300. 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 he had attended a meeting at RAF Barkston Heath to confirm arrangements for Free Flight Nationals. We have also secured the use of Spitalgate for Silent Flight Nationals.

He 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 in her role as CLTC Sec commented that she uses the facility frequently. 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. A link 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.

460/05/07 (8) To receive a report from the Honorary Secretary to include:

a) To receive the Affiliated Club List.

Copies of the Club List were made available. Hon Secretary asked if anybody had any changes to report back to the office.

b) To receive dates for Council Meetings in the year 2008.

LIST OF DATES 2008 (APPENDIX A)

There was a change to the Full Council meeting date in May 2008 from 3rd May to 10th May. There was also a request to include the Agenda Deadline and Club Bulletin/Agenda despatch dates for the January Council in 2008. An amended list is appended to these minutes.

Hon Secretary apologised for an oversight. At the January Council he should have re-confirmed the Honorary Members of the Society. He proceeded to read out the names as follows:

John Worth, Derek Hardman, Phil Smith, Dave Bishop, Graham Lynn MBE, Nikki Hadlow, Poppy Gowler, Terry Watson, Dr Mike Sun, Eric Clark, Reg Bench, Mike Goldby, Maureen Nicholls, Peter Valentine, Keith Miller FSMAE, John French.

Hon Secretary spoke on the issue of UAV's, which he has spoken about previously. He first raised it because it was brought to his attention that on our website there were details of a competition that the MOD are going to run in respect of UAV's in an army situation.

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 and Europe Airports and every time he meets with the civil UAV community.

We are aware they are around, they are not model aircraft as we know them. We do it for sport and recreational purposes within visual range.

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.

c) To discuss and agree the processes for the November 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 he is 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 liaise with BMFA News Editor on lead-in times and requirements.

CEO

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.

HON SEC

461/05/07 (9) To receive a report from the Technical Secretary to include the following:

To seek clarification of who can ratify record claims.

Tech Sec explained that a couple of record claims were submitted for ratification at Tech Council in October 2006, which had not been referred by this Council. He did not allow ratification of the claims, however on reflection it has never been clarified who should ratify record claims.

He asked for guidance from this Council on what can or cannot be done because the situation is unclear at the moment. Chairman said he believed record claims should be ratified by Full Council only.

Records Officer accepted that clarification is required. He commented that he would prefer the option of submitting record claims to both Full Council and Tech Council.

Records Officer also pointed out that if ratification was limited to Full Council only it may cause a problem when submitting a world record claim to the FAI because of the time constraints.

Records Officer proposed that both Full Council and Technical Council have the authority to ratify record claims.

Seconded by Comp Sec

Vote: For: 18

Ags: 3

Abs 2

Carried by a majority vote.

RECORDS
OFFICER
OFFICE MGR
FULL
COUNCIL&TECH
COUNCIL CHAIR

Hon Treasurer was out of the room at this point and R/C Power Tech Committee representative had left the meeting.

RECORDS
OFFICER

Vice-Chair pointed out that the circulation process of record claim documents requires clarification. At present it is unclear whether there is an action on Tech Committees to consult with the Records Officer prior to him submitting to Council.

Tech Sec advised that the Chairman has allowed him to bring forward the Computer Committee report, as follows:

He informed Council that the Computer Sub-Committee would be making a request at the September Council meeting for £10,000 funding to re-write the database.

He explained that the current database is now ten years old and the time has come to upgrade the system from Access 2 to SQL.

To enable us to install the SQL database we have been recommended to upgrade our office operating system to XP Pro and also to put in place Office 2003, which he is currently in the process of doing.

The hardware and Office software upgrade will be offset against the current budgets and each one is justifiable in its own right.

The cost for upgrading XP Pro is approximately £1400 and the cost of the software for Office 2003 is approximately £2000.

The original database ten years ago cost us approximately £12,000 and we have had about £8000 of upgrades over the years, so it stands us at the moment about £20,000. We know the price of database work and we know that the quotation for a re-write at £10,000 is an extremely good price.

Scale asked if there would be any advantage in getting the work done earlier and commit the money now instead of waiting until September.

Tech Sec advised that the quotation stands for six months, from two or three months ago, so there would be an advantage in doing this.

Scale proposed that we commit £10,000 towards the purchase of SQL database.

Seconded by Records Officer

Vote: For: 23

Ags: 0

Abs: 1

Carried by a majority vote.

COMPUTER
SUB-CTTEE
HON TREAS

Hon Treasurer was back in the room.

North West asked what the advantages of the new database would give us. Tech Sec advised that the engine that is running the database at the moment is very old. With requirements these days **software** requires XP minimum and a lot of the software requires XP Pro. It will mean the database engine is directly compatible with our operating systems, plus it will enable us to do more with the database than we can do at the moment.

Northern Area questioned why do we not install the latest **software** such as Vista. Tech Sec explained that XP is a proven, reliable system where Vista is not.

Control Line made the point that now is a good time to introduce the new database as it is less busy with membership. Tech Sec agreed it was a very good point and explained that if we ask Microtrading to start writing it now it should be in by the end of the Summer or early Autumn before the membership year starts.

462/05/07 (10) To receive a report from the Competition Secretary to include:

a) Receipt and ratification of any contests for next year's FAI Calendar.

Comp Sec confirmed that she had not received any notifications for the contest calendar 2008.

Comp Sec read out the names of the Team Managers, which were outstanding from the January Council meeting, that she has subsequently ratified in the interim.

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

Comp Sec advised that there is a change to the F3A team that was ratified in January.

Angus Balfour has withdrawn because of the difficulty in getting to Argentina. Both reserves were from the Balfour family so they have also declined their placing.

She received a recommendation from R/C Power Tech Committee that Keith Jackson be ratified, which she has actioned in the interim on behalf of Council.

For information, Peter Watson and Alan Jack were both ratified in January for F1C however we did not know at the time who would be the third team member. There has been a fly-off and it has been established that Alan Jack would be the third team member and Peter Watson will be the 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 airports are the FAI.

After a delay of just over a year where nothing positive seemed to have been done, Comp Sec **in her role as a member of CIAM Bureau** 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.

463/05/07 (11) To receive a report from the Records Officer to include the following British Record Claim:

- a) Name D P Laycock - BMFA No 086469
Class Indoor Open/35cm
Site Sports Hall Elms School, Colwall
Date 2nd February 2007
Duration Watch 1 - 4 mins 39.81 secs
Watch 2 - 4 mins 40 secs

Records Officer commended the above British Record Claim for ratification.

Seconded by Indoor TC.
Carried unanimously.

OFFICE MGR

Mid West advised that it had been pointed out to him recently in an email from Nick Neve FSMAE that the latest record information on the website is 2003. Nick's main concern being that if anybody wanted to check out a current record, where would they find out the information.

Mid West has been asked on behalf of Nick Neve to make a request to the Records Officer for this information to be updated as soon as possible.

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. General consensus was there should be a timescale in which this is done. Chairman tasked Records Officer to report to the Executive meeting in July.

RECORDS OFFICER

Suggestions were also put forward that the source of the information should be produced in a format, such as a database, which would be easier to maintain and update.

Chairman said this is something we need to decide at a later date. The main issue is to ensure the information is updated, which is being addressed.

Tech Sec said as soon as he receives the updated list he will update the Records Rule book and get it on the website.

TECH SEC

464/05/07 (12) To receive a report from the Public Relations Officer.

******* WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX B)**

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.

465/05/07 (12) To receive a report from the FAI Delegate to include:

******* WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX C)**

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.

a) Receipt of the report of the recent CIAM Meeting.

Copies of the FAI Delegate's report of the CIAM Meeting were made available to everyone.

FAI Delegate explained that the report comprised an annotated CIAM Agenda. Details of his instruction to vote, where received and the final voting results, appeared on the original copy in red. However he had overlooked the fact that the office does not have a colour photocopier therefore they now appear in the document in **Bold and underlined.**

466/05/07 (14) To receive the following proposals:

a) 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.

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. **CEO**

The above proposal was seconded by London Area
Carried unanimously.

b) 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

**CEO
TECH SEC**

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.

c) 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

**CEO
OFFICE MGR**

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".

OFFICE MGR

d) 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

**CEO
OFFICE MGR**

Carried by a majority vote.

46705/07 (15) To receive updated briefings and reports from the Technical Committees & the Power Nationals Co-ordinator for all the BMFA National Championships.

Power Nationals Co-ordinator reported that the event is taking place as usual and organisation is in hand.

Free Flight reported that one of the points raised at the meeting with CEO and Free Flight rep at Barkston was that security are concerned that cars left on the site shall bear a card inside giving the name and mobile phone number of the car's operator. They feel they should be produced properly on official BMFA paper. Comp Sec offered to produce them.

COMP SEC

Scale reported that the Scale Indoor Nationals was very successful, entries were up and they made a profit.

Indoor reported that Indoor Duration Nationals are taking place as we speak at Cardington.

468/05/07 (16) To receive any reports from the following Delegates:

a) Royal Aero Club - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX D)

Chairman reported that he attended the RAeC Awards evening on behalf of RAeC Delegate. It was a very good evening.

b) GASCo - Chairman reported that he attended one meeting. There were no model related problems to report.

c) Air Prox - Nothing to report.

d) Central Council for Physical Recreation (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.

e) General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC) - Nothing to report.

469/05/07 (17) To receive any reports from the following Committees:

a) CAA Team - Hon Secretary reported that there has been a small amendment to CAP 658, relating to the introduction of 2.4 GHz.

b) UK Radio Control Council (UKRCC) - 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.

c) 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.

***** **Flight Challenge - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX E)**

e) University Challenge - Chairman reported that University Challenge will be held at Elvington on 10th June.

f) Computer Sub-Committee - Reported earlier.

g) 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.

h) Achievement Scheme Review Committee (ASRC) - Nothing to report.

i) BMFA News Publishers - Hon Treasurer advised that as there was insufficient time today to discuss the proposal on the agenda to agree a policy for 'non-revenue' advertising in BMFA News, he would defer it to the September Council meeting.

j) Flying Site Adviser's report - A copy was emailed to Council Members prior to this meeting.

470/05/07 (18) Any other business.

There was no other business.

471/05/07 (19) Date of next meeting.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Saturday 15th September 2007** at 11am.

Chairman closed the meeting at 18.20pm.

Linda Harding
Office Manager
11th May 2007

Circulation: All Council Members
Copies to: All Area Chairmen
All Area Secretaries
All Technical Committee Chairmen
All Technical Committee Secretaries
SpaceCom Secretary
Selected Fellows
BMFA News Editor
Flying Site Adviser
Selected Area Officer R Allam
Power & SF AS Controller
Chief Executive
Development Officer
Office Manager
Accounts Manager
Honorary Solicitor

Ratified

2008 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APPENDIX A 1/1

Mon 10 th December	2008 1 st Full Council Meeting Agenda Deadline
Fri 14 th December	2008 1 st Full Council Meeting Agenda despatch/Club Bulletin
Sat 5 th January	1 st 2008 Full Council Meeting
Mon 7 th January	1 st Areas Agenda Deadline
Fri 11 th January	1 st Areas Council Agenda despatch/Club Bulletin
Fri 18 th January	1 st Full Council Meeting Minutes despatch
Sat 2 nd February	1 st Area Council Meeting
Mon 4 th February	1 st Tech Council Agenda Deadline
Fri 8 th February	1 st Tech Council Agenda despatch/Club Bulletin
Fri 15 th February	1 st Area Council Meeting Minutes despatch
TBA	Nationals Planning Meeting
Sat 1 st March	1 st Tech Council Meeting
Fri 14 th March	1 st Tech Council Meeting Minutes despatch
Monday 14 th April	2 nd Full Council Agenda Deadline
Friday 19 th April	2 nd Full Council Agenda despatch/Club Bulletin
Sat 10 th May	2 nd Full Council Meeting
Mon 12 th May	2 nd Area Council Agenda Deadline
Fri 16 th May	2 nd Area Council Agenda despatch/Club Bulletin
24/25/26 May(TBC)	2 nd Full Council Meeting Minutes despatch
Sat 7 th June	Free Flight Nats & Space Modelling Nats
Fri 20 th June	2 nd Area Council Meeting
Fri 18 th July	2 nd Area Council Meeting Minutes despatch
Mon 18 th August	**AGM 1 despatch
Fri 22 nd August	3 rd Full Council Agenda Deadline
23/24/25 Aug(TBC)	3 rd Full Council Agenda despatch/Club Bulletin
Friday 29 th August	R/C Power, Scale, C/L Nats, Indoor Nats, S/F Nats
Mon 1 st September	End of Year for Director's Annual Reports
Fri 5 th September	** Nomination Deadline
Sat 13 th September	3 rd Area Council Agenda Deadline
Mon 15 th September	3 rd Area Council Agenda despatch/Club Bulletin
Fri 19 th September	3 rd Full Council Meeting
Mon 22 nd September	Absolute Deadline for receipt of Director's Annual Report
Fri 26 th September	**AGM 2 despatch
Sat 27 th September	2 nd Technical Council Agenda Deadline/CIAM Rule Change Deadline
Fri 10 th October	2 nd Technical Council Agenda despatch/Club Bulletin
Sat 18 th October	3 rd Full Council Meeting Minutes despatch
Fri 24 th October	3 rd Area Council Meeting
Mon 27 th October	3 rd Area Council Meeting Minutes despatch
Friday 31 st October	2 nd Technical Council Meeting
Mon 10 th November	AGM 3 despatch
Fri 21 st November	Deadline for receipt by Technical Secretary of BMFA rule changes from Technical Committees
Sat 22 nd November	2 nd Technical Council Meeting Minutes despatch
Mon 15 th December	Voting Deadline
Fri 19 th December	Proxy Deadline
Sat 10 th January 2009	60 th Annual General Meeting
	2009 1 st Full Council Meeting Agenda Deadline
	2009 1 st Full Council Meeting Agenda despatch/Club Bulletin
	2009 1 st Full Council Meeting

**Subject to change.

EXEC MAY 2007 PRO REPORT

- Free Flight National material has as usual been prepared by Trevor Gray. He has been very efficient, getting forward information to all the publishing houses etc. I have contacted local newspapers and radio stations etc. to complete the job for this event. Last year we managed to get radio interviews and reports in local papers, with the event being a financial success, let us hope some better weather will see more people attend both spectators and competitors. I am hopeful with the inclusion of some "Space" events and publicity the event will grow.
- The structure to deal with urgent and instant items of news is now fully operational within the office structure at Leicester; to refresh your memories, we set this up after Daniel Billam's famous victory. Any news of this type, please contact the office as your first line of action, David and Gemma are keeping an overview in keeping our contact database up to date.
- Magazine advertising has had some diversity to reflect the growth in helicopter flying and Electric flight both indoors and out. Gemma Sargeant continues to develop the quality of our Artwork for the magazines specifically; there is also a move to advertise by poster within the model shop network, highlighting safety issues with ARTF and Park flying. More recently a couple of advertisements have been placed with "Fly Past"; we have tried this once before, it appears a large number of readers to this magazine are also model flyers. A small incentive has been offered to try and measure any response we may have.
- You will be pleased to know that my financial prudence has paid off, allowing us to forward budget £2500 towards a larger project 2007-2008.
- I am working with David and Mannie on a project to bring model building and flying into our schools. It is anticipated that we should approach a major player in September 2007, either on our own or with other agencies.
- I have one last item to report. As I have stated before, I do not have the time to dedicate to this position as I would like, and cannot see anymore time becoming available, while I am in my present position with Admiral Homespace.

FAI Delegates Report May 2007

I attended the Plenary Meeting of the FAI Aeromodelling Commission in Lausanne over the weekend of 23/24 March. This meeting votes on all proposed rule changes, awards and the officers of the Commission. The meeting also grants permission to the various countries that have put in bids to hold continental and World Championships. These countries are predominantly the "third world countries" such as Romania, Serbia, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Argentina. Hosting championships is a method of bringing "hard" currency into the country concerned. As the aeromodelling disciplines have become more and more diverse, so the number of competitions has greatly increased. Unfortunately so have the costs, particularly those related to travel. Most countries, including the U.K., have increased airport taxes and excess baggage costs, *models*, have become virtually prohibitive.

I have produced a detailed report of the proceedings at the Commission and the office have/will make a wide distribution of this document.

I have commented before about a World Air Games proposed by the FAI. Three cities have volunteered to host them, Moscow (Russia), Odense (Denmark) and Turin (Italy). I will keep you informed of the progress of this event.

International records continue to be set, and, in general, they are not above the competence level of U.K. modellers. So why not have a go? This is something the Areas could encourage and if in doubt a quick e mail to our Records Officer will elicit all the necessary information.

ROYAL AERO CLUB DELEGATE'S REPORT APRIL 2007

The RAeC AGM and a Council meeting were held on April 4th at the RAF Club.

While much of the business concerned negotiations affecting various aspects of manned flying, the following items may be of BMFA interest.

1) The officers were re-elected unopposed. Fred Marsh, who has chaired the RAeC Trust for nine years, announced that he will not be standing next year and a suitable and competent replacement is being sought from among the associations' members.

2) There are possible changes in legislation that may affect small companies and their memoranda of association; Jim Crocker will investigate the implications of this and advise.

3) Work on the new RAeC website is proceeding; eight companies are interested in its design and management.

4) RAeC chairman and BMFA member Keith Negal is preparing an article for BMFA News concerning a Chinese-originated inflatable RC drone using bamboo structure that he recently encountered in Albania.

5) Sir John Allison was elected a new vice-president of the RAeC.

6) There was discussion about the division of the associations' funding via RAeC to Europe Airsports and to the FAI. While most associations report that a large percentage of their members are recreational, rather than competitive flyers, they also reported that, apart from a tiny number of rabble-rousers, the grass roots of membership support the FAI and recognise the importance of its international competition programme in giving airsports a positive public image.

7) Europe Airsports continues to occupy a vast amount of time and effort from RAeC members in countering pending adverse legislation. Fortunately little of it directly affects model flying, but at the EAS General Conference it became apparent that considerably more EAS funding would be needed, - €171K for 2006 up to €250K for 2008. I made the point that the BMFA would be reluctant to fund much of this as little of the work of EAS affected our sport, and this was accepted.

8) In February I attended a presentation given at very short notice to the Royal Aero Club by Flying Aces, giving the background to their bid to hold the World Air Games in 2009 in the UK. They had not discussed this with the RAeC before putting their bid to the FAI, and I had a week in which to find UK people able to advise them on the model flying disciplines to be flown at WAGs, - F3K, F3P and F6A. I spoke to Mike Proctor of the Silent Flight TC and to Peter Christy of RC Power, who put me in touch with people who might be able to advise Flying Aces.

The bid has subsequently been withdrawn.

9) The RAeC may be involved in an event to mark the centenary in 2009 of the Bleriot flight. Would it be possible for us to loan one or more of the BMFA graphics stands on which to mount RAeC-generated graphics for this?

Martin Dilly
RAeC Delegate

5.4.07

BMFA/BAE Systems 2007 Children's Flight Challenge.The position so far.

After a number of years at differing venues, the 2006 competition held at the BMFA Top Gun event was a success, however there were some shortcomings with this venue of which cost of the basic infra-structure was perhaps the major factor.

Even before it was confirmed that Top Gun would not be taking place in 2007 a decision was made at the Flight Challenge de-brief and planning meeting to seek alternative venues.

Previous tentative enquiries had already shown that Duxford IWM was a possible venue and offered everything in terms of location, facilities and attractions that would make an ideal venue for the competition.

Protracted negotiations were undertaken with Duxford, ultimately leading to their full support for this event, the Education Manager, Peter Halford is full of enthusiasm for this competition which has been reflected in his representations to senior management at the IWM.

During this period it became apparent that BAE Systems may be unwilling to offer further financial support for the competition and indications were that funding would cease with immediate effect i.e. no support for the 2007 competition. Repeated correspondence with their sponsorship department bore some fruit in the form of a commitment to provide £5,000 of funding for this years competition with nothing thereafter.

Whilst this reduction in funding from the previous £10,000 per annum presents some issues it does at least allow the 2007 competition to proceed while alternative future funding is sought.

The 2007 Competition.

To reflect the reduction in funding, measures have been taken to cut costs for the launch and running of the competition.

The launch was a little later than previous years due to the negotiations outlined above, however I do not feel this to be a cause for concern.

Initial indications are that Duxford is a popular venue due to it's broad appeal for all members of visiting teams and groups.

Entries to date stand at 61 teams registered as entered in the team classes plus 18 entrants in the Elite class introduced last year. Whilst these figures are exceptionally good, the high drop out and "no show" rate should be borne in mind, however steps have been taken to mitigate this by involving Area Education Co-ordinators as well as a series of letters and courtesy calls from the office to teams that have entered.

Financially the aim is to run the 2007 event at a level that reflects the reduced sponsorship, there are several factors that will aid this aim such as the number of volunteers based in close proximity to the venue (however the aim is still to draw on experienced personnel from further afield where appropriate) as well as the level of infra-structure and support available at the venue.

The competition at Duxford has the potential to be a "showcase event" with possible benefits to future activities of this nature.

The future.

Presently the future of this event would appear to carry a degree of uncertainty. If the aim of the BMFA is to continue holding an event of this nature as a visible element of the Education Program, then a move to attract new sponsors and evolve the competition to reflect their, as well as our own aims and needs would seem to be the way forward.

Previously this competition has been driven by the enthusiasm and dedication of the late Vice Chairman, Roger was keen that an event of this nature form part of the BMFA activities and always made a strong case in favour of the competition.

This years event at Duxford presents an ideal opportunity to invite potential sponsors as VIP guests. Any ideas or contacts regarding possible sponsors would be welcome.

Manny Williamson
Development Officer

Ratified

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Ratified

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Ratified

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Ratified