

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

MINUTES

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10th May 2008 at Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrew's Road, Leicester LE2 8RE.

Provisional until confirmed at the next Council Meeting.

PRESENT

Robin Gowler FSMAE	Chairman
Chris Moynihan	Vice-Chairman
Graham Lynn MBE	Honorary Secretary
Jo Halman FSMAE	Competition Secretary
Chris Bromley FSMAE	Technical Secretary
John French	Records Officer
Jim Andrews	FAI Delegate
Nigel Barker	PRO
Peter Leavesley	East Anglia Area Delegate
Peter Spurway	London Area Delegate Alternate
George Maynard	Midland Area Delegate
Gordon Warburton FSMAE	Northern Area Delegate
Tom Jones	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
Mike Chignell	South West Area Delegate
Howard Menary FSMAE	Northern Ireland Area Delegate
Paul Bellingham	RAFMAA Area Delegate
Dave Pacey	R/C Power Tech Comm Rep Alternate
Clive Needham	R/C Silent Flight Tech Comm Representative
Mike Goldby	Scale Tech Comm Representative
Mike Colling FSMAE	Indoor Tech Comm Representative
Peter Disney	RNMAA Representative

In Attendance

Linda Harding	Office Manager / Minute taker
Dave Phipps	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

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 12th January 2008.
- 5 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 12th January 2008 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 To receive reduced membership fees from July.
- 7 To receive a joint report from the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer.
- 8 To receive a report from the Vice-Chairman to include the following proposal:
To amend the composition of the Awards Committee.
- 9 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 2009.
 - c To discuss and agree the processes for the November elections.
- 10 To receive a report from the Technical Secretary.
- 11 To receive a report from the Competition Secretary to include:
 - a Receipt and ratification of any contests for next year's FAI Calendar.
 - b To receive a proposal from the Competition Secretary as follows:

General Rules (Contest Rules, Sections 1 & 2)

2.3.8 – Change the second paragraph as follows:

Protests made to Council after the contest may only be made direct to the BMFA Competition Secretary who, after considering the details of the protest, may bring such protests to the attention of ~~either the BMFA Full Council or the Technical Council – as appropriate.~~

2.3.8 – Add a new third paragraph as follows:

Protests or appeals arising from a decision made by a Technical Committee may only be made directly to the Competition Secretary who will then convene a Panel comprising three Technical Committee Chairmen and not including the Chairman of the Technical Committee concerned. This Panel, plus the Competition Secretary, will study the appeal and examine the reasons for the Technical Committee's decision. The Panel should base its findings on the rules in force at the time and whether the rules had been correctly applied or not.

If the protest or appeal is not upheld, then the appellant(s) must be informed of the reasons for the decision. This proposed procedure does not preclude an appellant(s) taking a failed protest or appeal to the BMFA Technical Council.

- 12 To receive a report from the Records Officer to include the following:
Request from the Indoor Technical Committee to bring to the notice of the Council their wish to clarify and update the assignment of Trophy 96 The Humbrol Place (Appended).
- 13 To receive a report from the Public Relations Officer.
- 14 To receive a report from the FAI Delegate to include:
 - a The receipt of the report of the recent CIAM Meeting.
- 15 To receive a proposal from
 - a) R/C Power Technical Committee that: *This Council adopts the JMA/GTBA Code of Practice for the operation of turbine powered models. (Appended).*
 - b) North West Area that: *The Fellows, Honorary Members, and Chairman of the Society be recognised, by listing them on a dedicated page on the BMFA Web site. The dates of their appointment (and term of office where appropriate) should also be displayed.*
- 16 To receive updated briefings and reports from the Technical Committees & the Power Nationals Co-ordinator for all the BMFA National Championships.
- 17 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 Council (GASCo)
 - c Air Prox
 - d Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR)
 - e General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC)
- 18 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
 - j Flying Site Adviser's Report
- 19 Any Other Business.
- 20 Date of next meeting.

MINUTES

521/05/08 (1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from the following:

Mike Francies - FFTC

Les Eagle - R/CPTC

Peter Halman FSMAE - CLTC

Martin Dilly FSMAE - London Area & RAeC

The Chairman asked the meeting to record a message of condolence to the RCPT delegate, Les Eagle, in respect of his recent bereavement.

The meeting were delighted to see the attendance of the Honorary Secretary following his recent illness.

522/05/08 (2) Request for permission to be absent.

Keith Lomax, Honorary Treasurer requested permission to be absent which was duly granted.

523/05/08 (3) To verify the voting strength of the meeting.

There were 27 members eligible to vote at this meeting.

524/05/8 (4) Correction and adoption of the Minutes

ACTION / NOTES

Page 8

- **Technical Committee Representatives to Council, first line** - replace Mike Woodhouse FSMAE with Mike Francies.

Page 15

- **Second paragraph, fourth line** - replace recuperating with recouping.

Page 18

APPENDIX A - Teams and Team Managers omitted.

Page 23

- **Sixth paragraph, second line** - replace beneficiary's with beneficiaries.

Page 28

- **Sixth paragraph, second line** – The spelling of Peter Buskel was queried. The Records Officer would check it.

**RECORDS
OFFICER**

Page 34

- **Fourth paragraph from the bottom, penultimate line** - insert "forward" after "put".

Northern Area proposed that the Minutes of the meeting

held on 12th January 2008 is accepted as a true record.

Seconded by FAI Delegate

Vote: For: 24

Ags: 0

Abs: 3

Carried by a majority vote.

525/05/08 (5) Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 12th January 2008 that is not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

Page 8

- **Penultimate paragraph, confirmation of R/CPTC Delegate to Council** - R/CPTC advised that the R/CPTC Council Delegate was accepted by the Committee at their last meeting.

Page 11

- **First paragraph, Company law ruling regarding appointment of Alternate Delegates** - The Honorary Secretary advised that he had contacted Companies House who were very happy with the arrangement that we have in place. That is if a Director is to be absent he can nominate an Alternate but the responsibility for that Alternate still remains with the Director. This is applicable to Board meetings i.e. Full Council meeting.

It is this Council that determines how the meeting shall be held, not Company Law.

It is important therefore if anyone does nominate an Alternate they should be briefed on how they should vote at the meeting.

The Chairman concluded that we will continue as we always have done that any Director can send a Alternate to the meeting, but it is the Director's responsibility to appoint that Alternate and to ensure that that person acts in the manner in which he wishes him to.

- **Third paragraph, Child Protection Policy document update** - The CEO advised that the amended document is awaiting endorsement from the CPSU (Child Protection in Sport Unit).

Page 13

- **Final paragraph, consideration of which Technical Committee to assign SAM 35** - The Executive Committee unfortunately omitted to discuss this at their last Meeting. It was agreed they would get together during lunch recess to discuss it.

The Technical Secretary asked that it be recorded in the minutes that the idea one Specialist Body that covered three different disciplines could have a vote on each of the three Technical Committees, could have three votes on three Committees, suggested by London Area at the last meeting, is

~~a non-starter.~~

Following a brief discussion during lunch recess the recommendation of the Executive is as follows:

That SAM 35 have an official voting seat on the Free Flight Technical Committee. They will also have a standing invitation in a non-voting capacity to other Technical Committees that have Vintage involvement i.e. Control Line and R/C Power.

On behalf of the CLTC, whose delegate was absent, the Competition Secretary said that the CLTC already extended this courtesy to SAM 35.

The Chairman proposed that SAM 35 have an official voting seat on the Free Flight Technical Committee.

Seconded by Honorary Secretary
Carried Unanimously

**SAM 35
FFTC
OFFICE MGR**

A question was raised whether Specialist Bodies are entitled to expenses for attending Technical Committee meetings.

The Technical Secretary explained the current situation is that if they go as a voting member from a Specialist Body they do not get expenses, however if they are invited they do get expenses. He feels this is a somewhat unbalanced situation and raised the following proposal:

That this Council institute the payment of travelling expenses to Specialist Body Representatives at Technical Committees, effective immediately.

Seconded by Competition Secretary
Carried unanimously

**HON TREAS
ACCTS MGR
ALL TECH
COMMS**

Page 14

- **Fourth paragraph, online payments** - The CEO advised that we would be moving ahead with PAYPAL payments. We are launching a saleable goods on-line shop in a few weeks time and PAYPAL will be introduced as the payment method.

The PRO questioned whether there would be any security risks. The CEO explained that all on-line payments would be dealt with solely by PAYPAL and responsibility for security issues would rest with them.

Page 15

- **Fifth paragraph, Honours Boards** - The CEO advised that he has contacted the person who produced the honours boards and arranged for him to come to the office in a couple of weeks time to discuss our requirements for the new boards.

Page 30

- **Third paragraph, contact Caravan Club to check out use of caravan sites for model flying** - Mid West Area advised that he had made contact with the Caravan Club. Unfortunately they are not amenable to the use of their sites for model flying. They are very protective of them.

- **Third paragraph from the bottom, CIAM Agenda** - The FAI Delegate said he was very pleased with the response from the Technical Committees in respect of the CIAM Agenda.

Page 32

- **Fifth paragraph, action on North East Area to produce mock-up certificates for juniors** - North East Area had provided copies of draft certificates, which he was tasked to do at the meeting in January when they submitted the proposal.

The proposal was that all junior competitors would receive a certificate for endeavour regardless of whether they attained a placing or not.

It was debated whether the wording at the foot of the certificate ("The above named competitor competed in this open class on an equal footing against Senior members") was necessary.

The Vice Chairman proposed that "on an equal footing" is deleted from the wording and also that whenever the event is purely a junior event the whole of the wording is eliminated.

OFFICE MGR
COMP SEC
RECORDS
OFFICER

Seconded by FAI Delegate

Vote: For: 26
Ags: 1
Abs: 0

Carried by a majority vote.

The office will produce the certificates in-house.

OFFICE MGR
TECH COMMS

Administration procedures will be set up by the office but they will need the co-operation of the Technical Committees to provide the information for the recipients of the awards.

Page 33

- **Third paragraph from the bottom, action Tech Sec and Hon Sec to arrange meeting with GTBA/JMA reference joint Code of Practice** - The Technical Secretary advised that unfortunately the Honorary Secretary has been unwell recently and they were unable to arrange a meeting.

This concluded matters arising.

526/05/08 (6) To receive a financial report from the Honorary Treasurer to include

a) Progress towards the year end Accounts.

WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX B)

The Honorary Treasurer was not present and the CEO spoke

in his absence.

The Auditor is due to visit the office next week to review the Accounts. We are declaring a surplus of just over £18,000 for the year.

We have carried a sum of money forward as a contingency because we are anticipating an increase in insurance premiums. The insurers have indicated that the level of indemnity is going to be raised from £5million to £10million because one of the sports did have a claim that exceeded the £5million.

Most of the budgets for last year's accounts were under-spent. This is something we will be addressing for next year. All budget holders will need to submit realistic budgets which reflect more closely their predicted expenditure.

The Honorary Treasurer is suggesting that the mileage allowances are increased to reflect the recent increase in fuel costs, by two pence per mile added to each of the rates, with immediate effect.

The maximum, which is cars over 2,000 cc and either towing or high mileage, will remain at 40 pence as anything over this would be taxable.

b) To receive reduced membership fees from July.

The Honorary Secretary proposed the following fees from July for the remainder of the year.

Seniors: £22.00	Juniors: £13.00	ACCOUNTS MGR OFFICE MGR
Family - Seniors: £22.00	Partners: £16.00	
	Juniors: £10.00	

Seconded by Competition Secretary
Carried unanimously

WRITTEN REPORT - TOP GUN UPDATE (APPENDIX C)

The CEO advised that he received a call from the Honorary Treasurer informing that a sponsor has stepped forward with an offer of £1500.

The Chairman expressed his concerns with the lack of progress in the organisation of Top Gun event this year. The Technical Secretary, in his capacity as Nationals Co-ordinator and on behalf of the Nationals Showline made an offer to run Top Gun on the Showline, under very specific conditions.

The conditions would be that the judges will be watching the flying on the normal Showline. Mid-afternoon on the Saturday they will decide the class winners of no more than six finalists who will then have a one-flight fly-off for the Top Gun Trophy late in the afternoon on the Sunday.

It should only take slightly over half an hour out of the normal

running of the Showline and it allows an opportunity to run a Top Gun event, more or less in the spirit which it would have been run this year if it was going ahead as a separate entity at Leicester airport.

Scale expressed concerns that this could cause issues with encroaching on other lines. The Technical Secretary categorically gave his assurance that he would not let unlimited flying take place. The pilots would be disqualified if they ignored the rules.

Various views were aired and the following proposal was generated.

Northern Area proposed that we accept the offer from the Nationals Co-ordinator to run the Top Gun event this year in conjunction with the Showline under specific conditions, with a view to incorporating it into an event at Leicester Airport next year and consider the possibility of extending it to include 3D Helicopters.

Seconded by Records Officer

Vote: For: 17
Ags: 6
Abs: 4

Carried by a majority vote.

The Technical Secretary commented that it requires a disproportionate effort from everyone involved for the return that we get from Top Gun. It requires almost the same effort as putting on the Nationals. This should be a factor to consider when thinking about holding it as a stand alone event next year.

527/05/08 (7) To receive a joint report from the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer.

CEO

Membership is going very well this year. It stood at 32,702 at the end of last week. We are still up on last year but the gap has narrowed a little. The CEO thanked the girls in the office for their hard work in processing it all so efficiently this year.

He mentioned the Bingo Lotto game at the last meeting at which time it was due to go through a pilot phase on one of the Freeview channels. That was concluded a little earlier than was hoped due to the organisers having slight difficulty with the distribution of the tickets.

The plan is now that it will be re-launched later in the year with a much bigger launch and possibly on a different channel and when they have solved some of the ticket distribution problems.

It is hoped some of the larger supermarkets will be on board to

sell tickets.

There is also an opportunity for Clubs, if they want to raise some revenue for themselves and sell tickets. They could take a cut out of the proceeds themselves and return the balance to Bingo Lotto. Further information on this scheme will be available in a few weeks.

Although it only ran for a short period it raised just over £100,000 for CCPR, of which we will get an equal share with all those who signed up for it.

Organisation for the various National events is going very well. Free Flight Nationals will be taking place in a few weeks time. A meeting is being held at Barkston Heath on Monday when all parties concerned will be involved. We will also be introduced to the new Commanding Officer at Cranwell. He is a long-term BMFA member.

The liaison Officer at Cranwell who has been very helpful to us over the last five years, is due to stand down in October.

Samples of the August Nationals poster and sticker were handed round, which were designed in-house by Gemma Sargeant.

Since the last meeting a delegation from the Model Aircraft Association of Australia paid us a visit. It is always very interesting to find out how organisations run in different parts of the world. We have also had an exchange of correspondence with the New Zealand Association, initially prompted by our Chairman's visit, which has been quite interesting.

The CEO and Development Officer had visited Germany and had a meeting with our counterparts, which was also very interesting. Their organisation currently has 60,000 members. Their basic level of insurance is only 1.5million Euros. They also offer a higher level of indemnity for an additional payment. Also if you are the equivalent of a country member there is an additional fee on your membership to cover an administration charge.

We have received a very generous supply of the RAF commemorative books celebrating 90 years of the RAF, in which the BMFA have a submission. The CEO invited everyone to take some books with them after the meeting.

He attended the Indoor Nationals which was very interesting and very well organised.

We have had some emergency lighting fitted and security cameras on the outside of the building. Hopefully the cameras will prevent further problems with graffiti.

If not however we have been informed that because we have

made an effort to prevent it we will get some help from the local Council.

The CEO drew attention to the hits on the BMFA website for 2007. The homepage had over 3million page views for the year; Classified Ads section had over 21million page views for the year.

We are constantly battling with keeping it as classified ads for members. We get lots of people wanting to put trade adverts on and it has been suggested to us that we may be missing out and should perhaps have a separate trade section and generate some revenue from it, which we will be looking into.

The Technical Secretary advised that we are also looking into banner adverts. The Records Officer registered his concerns that there might be a clash of interest with the banner ads and the BMFA News ads.

Various concerns were raised with regard to banner ads. The Chairman advised that it is only a thought at the moment and we will be investigating it in more detail.

Chairman

He has had regular meetings with the CEO at the office. During his stay in New Zealand he met with our counterparts. Their total membership is 2,500.

The Executive were invited to visit the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight at RAF Coningsby, which was excellent. They were also given a guided tour of the new Typhoon by our RAFMAA delegate Paul Bellingham. This was followed by lunch at the Petwood Hotel in Woodhall Spa, which the Dambusters used as their Officer's Mess when they were based there. They also made time to hold an Executive Meeting so it was a very eventful day.

He attended the Scale Indoor Nationals and the LMA event at Rougham where the BMFA had a stand manned by the PRO.

He will be attending the meeting at Barkston Heath with the CEO and is looking forward to meeting the new Station Commander who is a keen aeromodeller and a BMFA member.

528/05/08 (8) To receive a report from the Vice-Chairman

He was not called upon whilst on standby for the Chairman during his recent vacation.

He has been involved with putting the final arrangements together for the new venue for the Silent Flight Nationals.

This will take place at Lodge Farm the same weekend as the

R/C, Control Line, Scale Nationals and is located very close to Barkston Heath.

He was charged at the last meeting with chairing a study group to look at the BMFA Electoral processes, which will be brought up under the Honorary Secretary report.

The Vice Chairman put forward a proposal to amend the composition of the Awards Committee.

**AWARDS CTTE
OFFICE MGR**

The document was accepted with some minor amendments and the final document is appended to the Minutes.
(APPENDIX D)

Seconded by Scale Technical Committee
Carried unanimously

The document will be implemented from 1st January 2009. This means that the Committee as it is currently constituted will meet for a final time this year. The Vice-Chairman took this opportunity to thank them all for their input over the years.

529/05/08 (9) 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. Any anomalies should be reported to the office.

**b) To receive dates for Council Meetings in the year 2009.
LIST OF DATES 2009 (APPENDIX E)**

c) To discuss and agree the processes for the November elections.

The Honorary Secretary unfortunately was unable to attend the discussion meeting of the working party set up at the last meeting due to ill health. He handed over to the Vice-Chairman who had prepared a document for consideration of the findings of the working party, copies of which were made available.

The Vice-Chairman briefed the meeting on how the working party came to the conclusions as recommended in the document.

One of the main points raised during a very full and frank debate was the reason for the apathy of our members is that they are totally unaware of what many of the bodies within the BMFA do such as Areas, Tech, Full Council and the various Committees.

The Vice-Chairman accepted that the point was well made and advised that the working group did take this into consideration during their deliberations.

They concluded that the action required would be to have a

series of articles describing exactly the role and purpose of the Councils, Technical Committees etc. These would appear in BMFA News as a series of explanatory articles prior to the electoral process, describing the role and purpose of the various bodies for which people are being considered as elected posts.

The Technical Secretary suggested we continue with the one-man one-vote system for another year before we look at introducing an alternative voting method, as outlined in the second bullet point of the recommendations in the working party document.

In addition though we could include a pre-paid vote for everyone, not just country members. That may go some way to solving the problem. If it does not we would need to consider another way.

The Honorary Secretary concurred with this concept. As We cannot change the system for this year he believes it would be worth spending the money on it to try it to see whether there would be an increase in the number of people voting.

He also commented that we are never going to come up with the perfect system however it is his belief that whatever system we introduce would be better than the block vote.

The following proposals were put forward.

Proposed by the Vice-Chairman.
Recommendation 1 of the Working Party document that:
In a situation where there are four candidates all of whom
will get on to the Technical Committee but one will only
get a one-year term, that shall be decided by Council
Members on the morning of the AGM.

Seconded by Silent Flight Technical Committee

Vote: For: 26

Ags: 1

Abs: 0

CEO

Carried by a majority vote.

The Vice-Chairman proposed that for this year we run with
the same system as last year but in addition to the
biographies for candidates in the BMFA News we also
include a pre-paid insert as the ballot form.

Seconded by Technical Secretary

Carried unanimously

CEO

The Vice-Chairman added a rider to the above proposal that in order that we do not lose the value of the working party's contribution, if on review of the balloting figures at the next election we are still as concerned then as we are now we review this paper in the light of that outcome.

HON SEC

530/05/08 (10) To receive a report from the Technical Secretary.

The Technical Secretary advised that the Rule Books are all issued. He is aware that there are changes to Space however he was not able to obtain the relevant information from them therefore the Rule Book has gone out without the changes.

R/C Power Rule Book was late because there were late changes to various disciplines including Fun Fly, Helicopter and Pylon.

The Technical Secretary had provided copies of the addendum sheet that is due to go out with the next BMFA News issue. These incorporate changes over the last eighteen months.

Various issues were raised with regard to the recommendation that identification of 2.4GHz will be by a single black ribbon. The Technical Secretary advised that the recommendation came from the UKRCC three years ago when we knew 2.4 was being introduced but had not even seen a set. This is the first feedback we have had.

The Honorary Secretary advised that as Chairman of UKRCC he would raise it at the next meeting in June. **HON SEC**

The Technical Secretary referred to Page 4 Column two of the addendum sheet which covers 'Grey Imports' and urged everyone to read it very carefully.

531/05/10 (11) To receive a report from the Competition Secretary to include:

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

The Competition Secretary urged Technical Committees to think about hosting an Open International or a World Cup event for 2009. The deadline to get the information to her for submission to the FAI is the Technical Council Meeting on 17th October.

b) To receive a proposal from the Competition Secretary

The proposal referred to amendments to the General Rules (Contest Rules, Sections 1 & 2) - Rule 2.3.8 Protests.

The Competition Secretary highlighted an error in the second part of the proposal, first line "Protests.....". Insert the wording "on competition related matters" after Technical Committee.

North East Area pointed out an error also in the second part of the proposal, second paragraph last line - "Technical Council" should be replaced with "Full Council". The Competition Secretary thanked him for pointing out this typographical error.

The above corrections were accepted and incorporated into the proposal as follows:

General Rules (Contest Rules, Sections 1 & 2)

2.3.8 – Change the second paragraph as follows:

Protests made to Council after the contest may only be made direct to the BMFA Competition Secretary who, after considering the details of the protest, may bring such protests to the attention of ~~either the BMFA Full Council or the Technical Council~~ ~~as appropriate.~~

2.3.8 – Add a new third paragraph as follows:

Protests or appeals arising from a decision made by a Technical Committee on competition related matters may only be made directly to the Competition Secretary who will then convene a Panel comprising three Technical Committee Chairmen and not including the Chairman of the Technical Committee concerned. This Panel, plus the Competition Secretary, will study the appeal and examine the reasons for the Technical Committee's decision. The Panel should base its findings on the rules in force at the time and whether the rules had been correctly applied or not.

If the protest or appeal is not upheld, then the appellant(s) must be informed of the reasons for the decision. This proposed procedure does not preclude an appellant(s) taking a failed protest or appeal to the BMFA Full Council.

Seconded by North East Area

Vote: For: 26

Ags: 1

Abs: 0

Carried by a majority vote.

ALL TECH
COMMS
COMP SEC
TECH SEC

**COMPETITION SECRETARY WRITTEN REPORT -
(APPENDIX F)**

The Competition Secretary brought to the attention of the meeting the final paragraph in her report regarding a recommendation to reduce the effective date in General Rule 2.5.2 (e) from eight weeks to four weeks.

The rule currently states that the publication of a new competition rule or rule change in BMFA News is not effective until eight weeks after publication.

The Technical Secretary said he believes there is a lot of merit in the Competition Secretary's recommendation.

The Competition Secretary proposed that the effective date in General Rule 2.5.2 (e) is reduced from eight weeks to four weeks, effective from the date of this Council Meeting.

Seconded by Technical Secretary

Carried unanimously

TECH COMMS
TECH SEC

532/05/08 (12) To receive a report from the Records Officer to include the following:

A request from the Indoor Technical Committee to bring to the notice of the Council their wish to clarify and update the assignment of Trophy 96 The Humbrol Plate.

A number of changes were agreed and applied to the following proposal.

The Records Officer proposed the following rules for the assignment of Trophy 96 The Humbrol Plate:

- A. To qualify the flight must be made by a BMFA member.
- B. At least one and preferably two independent timekeepers must be used.
- C. Flights may be taken during BMFA sanctioned contests or Open Internationals/Continental and World Championships.
- D. Any class of indoor duration model may be used.

It is expected that the above rules will apply to any claim, with respect of a flight, made during the 2008 season. e.g. AGM 2007 to AGM 2008.

**INDOOR TC
RECORDS
OFFICER**

Seconded by North West Area
Carried unanimously

533/05/08 (13) To receive a report from the Public Relations Officer.

***** **WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX G)**

The Competition Secretary reported on a recent development with a Company called Flying Aces. They have a very good website that covers all air sports including aeromodelling and comprises small cameos on the various sports. They work very closely with the FAI.

The Spacemodelling interview from the last World Championship is already on there and it is very good. Martin Dilly FSMAE made some arrangements and interviews took place with Free Flight, Control Line and R/C. These will be edited and put on the Flying Aces website.

The Competition Secretary thanked the PRO for his support with this development. The PRO advised that the aim is to get all aspects of the sport involved.

The PRO advised that following a request from Pylon we are hoping to have static displays in the BMFA marquee at the Power Nationals from Pylon. Other disciplines are also welcome if they are interested. However it is necessary to have the support of the individual disciplines to assist and help answer questions.

At the last meeting the PRO reported discussions with RCMF, the online forum. The situation has changed slightly. They are

adopting a more commercial outlook to support themselves.
This means any relationship we were going to have with them
is being held in abeyance at the moment.

534/05/08 (14) To receive a report from the FAI Delegate.

***** **WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX H)**

The FAI Delegate highlighted a reference in his report that the FAI is creating a new database, effective from January next year. FAI Licence numbers will be recorded on that database. In the UK the various disciplines do not have unique numbers and a number of proposals have been put forward.

The Competition Secretary has been very involved and both her and the Technical Secretary put forward some very sensible suggestions, however nothing has been decided as yet.

The Technical Secretary advised that the Executive made a decision at their meeting that we would recall all FAI Licences towards the end of this year with a request that they be sent in with a passport photograph, for us to put in the licence. The licences would be re-issued to them with the photograph attached and embossed stamped, free of charge.

It will be necessary that the photograph is verified, the same as you do when you apply for a passport.

There is a big crackdown on fake, out of date or non-valid FAI licences. The more we can make ours less susceptible the better it will be for our members.

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

The FAI Delegate was unable to attend the CIAM Meeting in March and Nick Neve FSMAE FAI Delegate Alternate attended in his stead.

Copies of the FAI Delegate Alternate report had previously been circulated.

The FAI Delegate advised that an Erratum had also been circulated which highlighted several important errors in the original report.

Scale highlighted an issue which will probably require the assistance of the FAI Delegate and will be writing to him. They have a team going to Poland this year and when they checked hotel prices against the prices published in the bulletin by the Organisers, there was a vast difference.

535/05/08 (15) To receive the following proposals:

a) Proposal from R/C Power Technical Committee that this Council adopts the JMA/GTBA Code or Practice for the operation of turbine powered models.

In opening the debate the Chairman commented that Council had to bring this matter to a conclusion today.

The document had previously been published with the Agenda. A paper was also circulated today with proposed amendments to the original document.

Peter Christy, in his capacity as R/CPTC Secretary **Chairman** explained the reason for the amendments.

Several issues were raised with the document however the consensus was that we should adopt it in principle and any changes can evolve in due course.

The proposal was seconded by Honorary Secretary.

Vote: For: 25
Ags: 0
Abs: 2

Carried by a majority vote.

b) Proposal from North West Area that the Fellows, Honorary Members, and Chairman of the Society be recognised, by listing them on a dedicated page on the BMFA Web site. The dates of their appointment (and term of office where appropriate) should also be displayed.

Seconded by North East Area.

The Technical Secretary advised that the list of Fellows has been on the website for several weeks.

He gave an assurance that he would also do the same for any honours we think should be listed on the website, as soon as the information is available. He would also like to include the Arthur Mullet and Ray Malmstrom trophies.

The full listing of what will be included on the website is:

World Champions, Honorary Members, Past Chairman, recipients of the Arthur Mullet and Ray Malmstrom trophies.

In light of the above the Chairman invited the North West Area to withdraw the proposal.

536/05/08 (16) To receive updated briefings and reports from the Technical Committees and the Power Nationals Co-ordinator for all the BMFA National Championships.

CEO

Organisations are well under way for Free Flight Nationals and

Power Nationals.

Nationals Co-ordinator

We are looking to provide improved facilities for the Power Nationals. We learn every year and we build on that.

Indoor

Dates are now available for the Nationals to be flown at RAF Digby, 19/20/21 September 2008. Information is on the website.

Silent Flight

Hopefully the new venue will prove to be a success. Organisation is well under way.

Control Line

Everything is on target. There have been problems this year with getting CD's and Judges however it is in hand to resolve that.

Scale

This year was probably the best Scale Indoor Nationals in living memory. We made a healthy surplus instead of breaking even as in past years. Preparations for the R/C, C/L, Scale Nationals are well in hand.

R/CPower

They thanked the Technical Secretary for sorting out the frequencies for IMAC.

Fun Fly

As a result of the juggling of frequencies one of the Fun Fly frequencies has changed. There has been a rule change for Fun Fly this year and everyone seems quite happy with it.

The Competition Secretary advised that there is a new Pylon class at the Power Nationals this year which is the Quickie 500 E.

537/05/08 (17) To receive any reports from the following Delegates:

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

The Chairman added that the date of the RAeC Awards evening is July 2nd 2008. Tickets are available from the office.

The Competition Secretary expressed concerns with items 6 and 7 of the RAeC Delegate's. The Honorary Secretary said he would be keeping an eye on the situation through CCPR with regard to item 7.

The CEO pointed out in response to the second paragraph of item 1) of the report, we have been sending invitations to the Chairmen of all the RAeC Associations for many years.

b) GASCo

The Chairman will be attending a meeting next week. The

relevance of GASCo is being questioned and it remains to be seen how much longer they will continue.

c) Air Prox

The CEO advised that we do not usually get many problems with misses with full size aviation. However there was a report recently in the Birmingham area of a conflict that occurred 1500ft at eleven o'clock in the evening by what was believed to be a model with lights on.

There was some suggestion it may have been a UAV but it will be impossible to determine.

d) Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR)

The next meeting is on 4th June. It is very likely the item mentioned in RAeC Delegate report regarding the Borders and Immigration Agency proposals will be discussed.

e) General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC)

Nothing to report.

538/05/08 (18) To receive any reports from the following Committees.

a) CAA Team

The Honorary Secretary reported that he attended earlier this week a meeting at Euro Control on small UAS's, up to 150kg.

After a very long time they have at last realised in the UAS world that you do not start looking at model aircraft and see how you can develop UAS's, you look at the full size aeroplanes and look at where the regulations that EASA are producing for full size have got to be applied to the larger UAS's, probably from 80kg up to 150kg.

EASA have been asked whether at any time they are intending to reduce the level from 150kg down to 80kg. Their response to that is the level of where we operate from is not a matter for EASA it is a matter for the European Council. It is the European Council who dictated 150kg.

A good piece of news is that the amended CAA CAP722 has now been issued. It is now a guidance document for anybody flying a UAS within Europe under 150kg.

The regulators have accepted they will be spending a lot less time looking at model aircraft as a means of determining what they should be doing in UAS.

They have made a very significant step forward. He is relatively happy with the way that that step has been taken, on behalf of the aeromodelling community in Europe.

On a slightly different subject the Technical Secretary expressed concerns with the increasing problem with

aerotowing.

The tug pilots who are aerotowing, as a general rule, are completely ignoring the law. Most tugs are over 7kg and most tugs go over 400ft. The only way you can do it legally is at an event that has an exemption certificate from the CAA to allow a specific height. They will not issue them to club fly-ins and ordinary flying fields on a blanket basis.

In controlled airspace you are not allowed to fly that over 7kg tug at all unless you have the permission of your local ATC. Heights can be negotiated with them.

The people that are doing it think that the law does not apply to them because they are involved in gliding, but it does.

To address the issue we will be placing an article in the next BMFA News. We could also put a notice on the website.

A suggestion was made that we target the hot spots and write to the known clubs who use aerotow. The SFTC were tasked with looking into it.

SFTC

b) UK Radio Control Council (UKRCC)

The Technical Secretary reported on a situation regarding the use of 2.4GHz. There is some debate within Europe about the use of 2.4GHz for model control flying. This is under the auspices of the TCAM Committee of the European Commission that is meeting in Brussels on Wednesday. A representative of CISCO Systems has made a complaint about model flying use and it looks as if they are trying to get the band reserved for wireless networking, blue tooth et al.

There is an invitation around Europe for people to attend this meeting.

We will have a good representation at the meeting. The Technical Secretary will be attending as representative of UKRCC, the Development Officer is representing the BMFA, Honorary Secretary is representing Europe Airports.

It is not something that can be ignored and we have to go and fight our corner.

South Midland Area raised an issue with cheap Chinese 2.4GHz modules that have suddenly appeared on the market of which the manufacturers are claiming are CE approved. When you go to their website and look at the CE certificate it is totally irrelevant to model control use of 2.4GHz. As far as he can make out it is not certified to EN 328.

The Honorary Secretary advised that we would need a sample so that we can investigate it further. South Midland said he

**SOUTH
MIDLAND**

thought he had already sent details of the website link to the CEO but he would also send it to the Honorary Secretary. The Honorary Secretary said we can pass this information on to OFCOM and Trading Standards.

c) Education Working Group

A meeting was held in February. A website was launched as a result of discussion at the meeting - www.flyyourplane.com

We also had presented to us by Frank Buttery a DVD which is a powerpoint presentation on the history of flight which we can use to present to Schools and Youth Organisations etc.

Mike Colling FSMAE reported that he has been kept extremely busy manufacturing the education kits. The new Gymminnie Cricket competition is going very well. Details can be found on the BMFA website.

He has just delivered 2,000 Darts specially printed for Bombardier in Northern Ireland for their 100th Anniversary.

The Honorary Secretary suggested it might be worthwhile inviting a couple of their Senior Executives to the Power Nationals. Northern Ireland was asked to provide details of contacts.

**NORTHERN
IRELAND**

d) Flight Challenge

The CEO advised that the date for Flight Challenge has been set for 28th June. It will be held again at Duxford but in a different hangar to last year.

So far we have forty teams registered and sixteen individual entries.

This year's event is being funded from money carried forward from last year that was unspent.

The Development Officer has been quite active in seeking a sponsor. Rolls Royce have indicated that it might be a possibility for 2009.

e) University Challenge

This is taking place on 7/8 June at Elvington. So far we have a record entry.

The presentations on the Saturday have been moved to a venue within the Yorkshire Air Museum. Those attending will have full access to the museum for the day. A model flying display is also being organised for Sunday lunchtime during a break from the competition.

f) Computer Sub-Committee

We are expecting a draft copy of the new database on 29th

May.

g) Safety Review Committee

Nothing to report.

h) Achivement Scheme Review Committee

The Technical Secretary advised that a meeting was held in April. There were a number of proposals generated from the meeting.

We are concentrating at the moment on tidying up the Standards Booklets.

i) BMFA News Publishers

We have taken a decision that as from now the minimum that will be published is 48 pages. We will be using the next size up of 56 pages as and when necessary.

j) Flying Site Adviser's Report

A copy was emailed to Council Members prior to this meeting.

539/05/08 (19) Any Other Business.

There was no other business however the Chairman advised that both himself and the CEO had omitted in their reports to report on the Chairman's Conference that took place on March 8th.

Approximately 148 Club delegates attended, it was extremely successful and very worthwhile. Feedback from club delegates was very positive.

North West Area delegate said he would find it useful to have a breakdown of Club chairman from the North West Area.

540/05/08 (20) Date of next meeting.

This was confirmed as **Saturday 13 September 2008.**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 5.02pm.

Circulation: All Council Members

Copies:	All Area Chairmen	Power and S/F AS Controllers
	All Area Secretaries	Chief Executive
	All Technical Committee Chairmen	Development Officer
	All Technical Committee Secretaries	Office Manager
	Selected Fellows	Accounts Manager
	BMFA News Editor	Honorary Solicitor
	Flying Site Adviser	Selected Area Officer R.Allam

JANUARY 12TH 2008 FULL COUNCIL MINUTES
CORRECTIONS – TEAMS OMITTED

x From Free Flight Technical Committee to appoint a team for the F1E European Championships to be held in Kaltensundheim, Germany 13th – 20th September 2008.

S Philpott (64218)	Birmingham MAC
I Kaynes FSMAE (021003)	Croydon & DMAC
B Horsley (076164)	Grantham & DMAC
RESERVE:	
Doug Bartle (067661)	Morley & DMAC

xi From Free Flight Technical Committee to appoint Team Manager and Assistant Team Manager for the Free Flight European Championships to be held in Pazardzik, Bulgaria, 31st August-6th September 1008.

Manager: Mike Woodhouse FSMAE(034262)	Vikings FF Group
Asst Manager: John Carter (050520)	Grantham & DMAC
CV's attached for Manager & Asst Manager	

xii From Free Flight Technical Committee to appoint a team for the Free Flight European Championships to be held in Pazardzik, Bulgaria, 31st August-6th September 1008.

F1A	Chris Edge (64198)	Country Member
	Andrew Crisp (030836)	Biggles FF Group
	Mike Cook (066798)	Maidstone FF Group
Reserve:	P Williams (052853)	Richmond & DMAC
F1B	Russell Peers (027418)	Grantham & DMAC
	Ray Jones (102918)	Country Member
	Peter Martin (045729)	Tynemouth MAC
Reserve:	Mike Woolner (057957)	East Grinstead MAC
F1C	Alan Jack (056873)	Tynemouth MAC
	Peter Watson (062347)	Gateshead MFC
	Stafford Screen FSMAE(064182)	Birmingham MAC
Reserve:	Ken Faux (052579)	Vikings FF Group

xiii From R/C Power Technical Committee that E Oliver (142849 Watford Wayfarers) be appointed as F3C Team Manager for the 2008 Season.(CV attached).

xiv From R/C Power Technical Committee that the following BMFA members be ratified as the 2008 FAI-F3C Team for the European Championships being held in Maubeuge, France, 5th – 12th July, 2008.

Steve Roberts (43791)	Watford Wayferers
Mark Christy (59602)	Watford Wayfarers
Dave Fisher (31112)	Flyin Fish MHC
Reserve:	
Daniel Crozier (134830)	St Albans

xv From R/C Power Technical Committee that the following person be ratified as the 2008 Team Manager for the FAI-F3A Team for the European Championships being held in Italy (venue tba) between 23rd August – 30th August 2008.

Alison Harrop (89395)	Hixon (CV attached)
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xvi From R/C Power Technical Committee that the following BMFA Members be ratified as the 2008 FAI-F3A Team for the European Championships being held in Italy (venue tba) between 23rd August – 30th August 2008.

<i>John Harrop (89390)</i>	<i>Hixon</i>
<i>Richard Christopher (36195)</i>	<i>Winchester Mac</i>
<i>Stephen Simm (82954)</i>	<i>Country Member</i>
<i>Reserves to be advised.</i>	

xvii From R/C Power Technical Committee that Mark Vandervelden (43072) Country Member be appointed as F5D Team Manager for the 2008 Season.(CV attached)

xix From Silent Flight Technical Committee that Alan Flockhart (124745 Ramsey MAC) be ratified as Team Manager for F5B World Championships 2008 in Odessa, Ukraine, 14th Sept – 21st Sept.

xx From Silent Flight Technical Committee that Colin Lucas (81895 F3J UK Assoc) be ratified as Team Manager for F3J World Champs 2008 in Adapazari, Turkey, 27th June – 6th July.

xxi From Silent Flight Technical Committee that the following BMFA members be ratified as the F3J Team for the World Champs 2008 in Adapazari, Turkey, 27th June – 6th July.

<i>Simon Jackson (35686)</i>	<i>Country Member</i>
<i>Brian Johnson (72977)</i>	<i>Boldon CAMAC</i>
<i>Adrian Lee (66474)</i>	<i>Thames Valley Silent Flyers</i>

xxii From Free Flight Technical Committee to appoint Manager and Assistant Team Manager for the Space Modelling World Championships to be held in Spain, 22nd – 28th August 2008.

<i>Manager Leonard Klejnow (160995)</i>	<i>Country Member</i>
<i>Asst Manager Geoff Seabrook (118328)</i>	<i>SERFS</i>
<i>(CV's attached.)</i>	

Linda Harding
Office Manager
27th March 2008

British Model Flying Association

Society of Model Aeronautical Engineers Ltd.

Honorary Treasurer's report to Council, 10th May 2008

Accounts 2007/08

As is becoming the pattern at this time of year, I am happy to report that preparation of the annual accounts is well on track, and awaiting the Auditor's review.

Income was up by almost £30,000 compared to budget (£13k on membership, £14k on investment income, £2k on RCMT, £1.5k on saleable goods, and other incomes up or down by small amounts).

Expenditure was under budget by over £50,000 – the most significant being

- underspend of £10k on salaries, due to not needing to take on additional staff to cover peaks in the workload, which had been budgeted as a contingency,
- £17k on insurance
- £10k on public relations
- Numerous other savings across most budgets.

We intend to accrue an amount to offset an almost certain increase in insurance next year.

As per normal, the final accounts will be presented at the next Full Council meeting.

Please join me in thanking the accounts team for their work so far and to come in completing these accounts.

Mileage Allowance

To recognise the recent increases in petrol costs, I am increasing the mileage allowances with effect from today (include any travel over recent days to reach this meeting) by two pence per mile, for all except the top category (over 2,000 cc and either towing or high mileage), which has to remain at 40 pence as anything over this would be taxable.

Keith Lomax
May 2008

British Model Flying Association

Society of Model Aeronautical Engineers Ltd.

Top Gun Update

Please discuss this under matters arising from the last meeting.

Since the principle of Top Gun 2008 was approved at the January Council meeting, much has been going on behind the scenes, but due to more hurdles than we could have foreseen we are still not in a position to announce the event publicly.

Our original planned date was the last week of September, but due to a clash with a show at Old Warden, and also our chosen venue being unavailable, myself and the CEO decided to set the date as 4th and 5th October.

A planning meeting was held at the end of March, at which point everything seemed to be slotting into place nicely. We had a team of people in place, Leicester Aero Club were (and are) being incredibly supportive and helpful, and we had a potential sponsor. At this stage we just needed to confirm a couple of points and planned to go public shortly afterwards.

Sponsorship

As you know, our rules state that we can't set an event budget that does not break even when any "on-the-day" income is excluded. We estimate the minimum event costs to be around £4,500, and pre-booked income from trade, camping and catering to be £2,500.

We had a potential sponsor identified, who had verbally agreed to support the event to the tune of £3,750. However, neither myself nor Dave were able to get this committed in either writing or email, and several requests for an electronic version of the sponsor's logo for publicity purposes were not replied to. It came as no surprise when the sponsor then stated that they were no longer interested, and cited the change in date by one week as being significant.

This left us with a significant shortfall in the budget. We approached several other prominent players in the model trade, and Dave also approached some of the manufacturers and importers, all to no avail so far.

We also pursued the option of event insurance, and whilst we can insure against rain, we could not get cover against it being too windy.

I have one line of enquiry still open with a model trader; the MD stated that he is very interested, but needs clearance from his board of directors, who are meeting this Wednesday (7th). I should have a response by the weekend, but it may not be sufficient to completely bridge the gap.

In parallel with this, we had identified a team to run the flightline (the same team that run the Showline at the August Power Nationals). I discussed various date options with their representative in mid March, and at that time he confirmed that the chosen weekend was acceptable. He has subsequently withdrawn this, so we will have to find a new team to do so.

Options

- There is a Top Gun reserve fund, comprising the net surpluses of the previous Top Gun and Showtime events. This currently stands at just over £2,000. I would like to ask Council's permission to use this fund to underwrite the event, and to hold it as planned. Otherwise, what is the purpose of holding such reserve funds? If the new sponsor identified above does come forward with some help, this will reduce the exposure.
- If Council do not support the above, there is the option to hold the Top Gun competition on the showline at the Nationals. I have a number of concerns with this approach, most notably that if Top Gun is not held as a separate event this year, it may be difficult to re-launch it as such ever again.
- The third, and least desirable, option would be to not hold a Top Gun event in any form in 2008. It is my view that if we take this approach then that would be the end of Top Gun.

I would therefore ask for Council's support to allow the Top Gun reserve to be used to underwrite holding a Top Gun model show on 4th and 5th October 2008.

If the above is not carried by majority vote, then please vote as to which of the other two options should be followed.

Keith Lomax
May 2008

PROPOSAL

A Proposal to amend the composition of the Awards Committee as follows:

- ❖ The Committee shall comprise:
 - Society Vice-Chairman (Chair of the Awards Committee).
 - Royal Aero Club delegate.
 - One representative from each of the Technical and Areas Councils.
 - Three representatives of Society Fellows.
- ❖ There shall be seven serving members of the committee; a quorum shall be five whenever the Committee chairman and RAeC delegate are present.
- ❖ Absentee members of the Awards Committee shall be able to vote on citations by post or written proxy.
- ❖ Representatives of Councils are nominated/appointed/selected by whatever means those councils deem appropriate.
- ❖ The three Fellows, having indicated their willingness to serve, are selected by all the Fellows and there shall be a postal vote of the Fellows if these positions are contested. The three Fellows on the committee will serve for a period of three years, with one of the three Fellow posts coming up for election each year.
- ❖ The Vice-Chairman and RAeC delegate will retain their positions on the Awards Committee for as long as they hold their official posts.
- ❖ All other Committee members will serve a term of three years, while they hold their other official posts. They may serve a second consecutive term, if selected or appointed, but must stand down thereafter and not be eligible to serve again for a further three years.
- ❖ Members of the Awards Committee may not submit a proposal while serving, unless a recommendation for an award is in the gift of the committee and no other proposal for that award is received.

REASONS

- Currently the Awards Committee and its membership, unchanged for many years, remains an obscure body to most of the Society, mainly because its membership and the method by which its members are appointed are unknown and not subject to a regular renewal process.
- Although the committee members are subject to reappointment by Council each year in January, this process does not engender any real accountability, transparency or prospect of a normal participative change process. Those eligible members wishing to take part may be discouraged from doing so for fear of appearing to challenge any of the sitting 'regulars'.
- A further consequence of the current system is that the committee may become entrenched in its perspectives for want of the presence of new committee members.
- Although the wisdom and historical overview of the current committee membership is highly prized, a newly structured committee will be able to operate effectively in its review of citations with the guidance written into the constitution and Handbook, and the more likely permanent presence of the Vice-Chair and RAeC members.
- A change to the period of office on the committee and its 'constituencies' will afford an opportunity to serve on the awards committee to all directors, fellows and members of the technical and area councils should they wish to do so.
- Fellows may at present put forward nominations for awards but are currently not given any process to select from the body of Fellows to represent them.

C. Moynihan, BMFA Vice Chairman
3rd December 2007

2009 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2008

Mon 15th December
 Fri 19th December

2009

Mon 5th January
 Fri 9th January
 Sat 10th January
 Fri 23rd January
 Sat 31st January
 Mon 2nd February
 Fri 6th February
 Fri 13th February
 TBA
 Sat 28th February
 Fri 13th March
 Tues 14th April
 Fri 17th April
 Sat 9th May
 Mon 11th May
 Fri 15th May
 Fri 22nd May
 23/24/25 May (TBC)
 Sat 6th June
 Fri 19th June
 Fri 17th July
 Mon 17th August
 Fri 21st August
 29/30/31 Aug (TBC)
 Fri 28th August
 Tues 1st September
 “ “ “
 Fri 4th September
 Sat 12th September
 Mon 14th September
 Fri 18th September
 Mon 21st September
 Deadline
 Fri 25th September
 “ “ “
 Sat 26th September
 Fri 9th October
 Sat 17th October
 Fri 23rd October
 Mon 26th October
 changes from
 “ “ “
 Fri 30th October
 Mon 9th November
 Fri 21st November
 Sat 21st November
 Mon 14th December
 Fri 18th December
 2010
 Sat 9th January 2010

2009 1st Full Council Meeting Agenda Deadline
 2009 1st Full Council Meeting Agenda despatch/Club Bulletin

1st Areas Agenda Deadline
 1st Areas Council Agenda despatch/Club Bulletin
 1st 2009 Full Council Meeting
 1st Full Council Meeting Minutes despatch
 1st Area Council Meeting
 1st Tech Council Agenda Deadline
 1st Tech Council Agenda despatch/Club Bulletin
 1st Area Council Meeting Minutes despatch
 Nationals Planning Meeting
 1st Tech Council Meeting
 1st Tech Council Meeting Minutes despatch
 2nd Full Council Agenda Deadline
 2nd Full Council Agenda despatch/Club Bulletin
 2nd Full Council Meeting
 2nd Area Council Agenda Deadline
 2nd Area Council Agenda despatch/Club Bulletin
 2nd Full Council Meeting Minutes despatch
 Free Flight Nats & Space Modelling Nats
 2nd Area Council Meeting
 2nd Area Council Meeting Minutes despatch
 **AGM 1 despatch
 3rd Full Council Agenda Deadline
 3rd Full Council Agenda despatch/Club Bulletin
 R/C Power, Scale, C/L Nats, Indoor Nats, S/F Nats
 End of Year for Director's Annual Reports
 ** Nomination Deadline
 3rd Area Council Agenda Deadline
 3rd Area Council Agenda despatch/Club Bulletin
 3rd Full Council Meeting
 Absolute Deadline for receipt of Director's Annual Report
 **AGM 2 despatch
 2nd Technical Council Agenda Deadline/CIAM Rule Change
 2nd Technical Council Agenda despatch/Club Bulletin
 3rd Full Council Meeting Minutes despatch
 3rd Area Council Meeting
 3rd Area Council Meeting Minutes despatch
 2nd Technical Council Meeting
 AGM 3 despatch
 Deadline for receipt by Technical Secretary of BMFA rule
 Technical Committees
 2nd Technical Council Meeting Minutes despatch
 Voting Deadline
 Proxy Deadline
 62nd Annual General Meeting
 2010 1st Full Council Meeting Agenda Deadline
 2010 1st Full Council Meeting Agenda despatch/Club Bulletin
 2010 1st Full Council Meeting

**Subject to change.

Competition Secretary - Report to Council 10th May 2008

I have ratified the F2C (CL Team Race) teams and the reserve team for the 2008 F2 (CL) World Championships.

After the team selection competitions for the F1D (Indoor Duration) had to be continued in the early part of this year I have now been able to ratify the F1D Team of Bob Bailey, Mark Benns & Derek Richards who qualified in the top three places of the F1D Team Selection competitions for the 2008 F1D World Championships to be held in Belgrade, Serbia between 17th & 22nd August.

Given the violent demonstrations in Belgrade earlier in the year, both the F1D Team Manager and I are keeping a watching brief on the political situation there. Although reasonably stable at the moment, if it deteriorates then we may have to pull the F1D team out of the World Championship and attempt to obtain a refund of the entry fees.

The only outstanding team to ratify for 2008 is that of F5B (Electric Soaring) who were permitted to hold their team trials in the year of the Championship in an effort to select the team that was on the best form closer to the actual Championship. When this was discussed at Technical Council it was pointed out that this would only work if the team was selected in enough time for the final entry form & monies to be paid to the organisers by the due date as organisers levy penalty charges on monies paid later than the due date. The deadline for the payment for a **ratified team** for the F5B World Championship is 31st May.

The RC & Scale and the CL Power Nationals Entry Forms were sent to the BMFA News Editor & the Technical Secretary on 26th April for publication in the News and on the website.

I shall attend the Free Flight and Space Modelling National Championships at the end of May.

I have also agreed to be the Official Observer for any F6D (Hand Thrown Gliders) World Air Games (WAG) selection events that may be held under the BMFA banner.

Finally, I believe it is now time for us to consider whether the *primary* publication method of the BMFA should continue to be the BMFA News. In this technological age where even those without a computer may access the internet via mobile phones, libraries, internet cafes and often workplaces, having a bi-monthly publication with its necessarily early copy deadlines is out-dated and impractical when there is a need to quickly promulgate information to the membership. I particularly have in mind, Technical Committees who sometimes have a need to publish a new rule or rule change after the BMFA rule books have been published and the BMFA General Rule 2.5.2 (e) requires that (i) publication should be in the BMFA News and (ii) is not effective until eight weeks after the publication of that paper. Indeed, occasionally Council finds it necessary to publish safety information and is also restricted in timely publication of that information while the primary publication method is that of the BMFA News.

A valuable interim step regarding competition rules would be to reduce the effective date in General Rule 2.5.2. (e) from eight weeks to four weeks and I intend to ask Council to institute this change, effective from the date of this Council Meeting.

Mrs Jo Halman FSMAE
Competition Secretary
7th May 2008

BMFA PRO Report 10th May 2008

After discussions with the CEO, it became clear that we were not represented at some shows, basically for lack of local volunteers. I therefore agreed to try to contact local members in the areas concerned, see if we could engage any willing new volunteers. It is early days, but so far so good.

Last weekend was the Rougham Show, at Bury St Edmunds. The show was well attended, and the BMFA stand very well received. I'd like to register my special thanks to Manny for help which was above and beyond the call of duty, and also to the office who produced the stock for the stand at short notice. The Chairman's assistance was very welcome, and nice to have two other local club members along to help.

We will be running a stand again this year at the Free Flight Nationals, then a stand at a new show for the BMFA, the Teeside Model Show.

Discussions are at an early stage, but we are hoping to have displays in the BMFA tent at the Nationals from one or two disciplines. The hope is to have a model or two on show, a description to give people an idea of what is involved, and assistance from competitors in the field to help answer questions.

I previously reported discussions with RCMF, an online forum. They have recently gone to a more commercial footing, and are rather too busy to continue discussions with us at present, so this is on the back burner for now.

Martin Dilley, Jo and Peter Halman and Pete Christy recently attended a session at TV Airsports in London, looking to promote model flying. <http://www.airsports.tv/> is their url. They were well received, time will tell how much publicity it generates. If you would like to get involved, and thus raise the profile for your particular aspect of the sport, let me know.

Nigel Barker

FAI Delegates Report to Council May 2008

This year, in my absence from the annual CIAM Meeting, the Alternate delegate, Nick Neve attended on behalf of the BMFA. He has submitted his report of the meeting. In addition to Nick, representatives from the Control Line, R/C Scale, F5 Electric, Education and Space attended their appropriate Technical Committee Meetings. Copies of their reports have been circulated and are available from the office.

Points of interest include the fact that Paul Beard was awarded the Antonov Diploma for work on spread spectrum radio, Sandy Pimenov stood down as President after 40 years in the post. The new President is Bob Skinner from South Africa. The FAI is creating a new data base and it will include the relevant details from all competition licences. In the UK the competition modellers carry over their BMFA number as their FAI license number, and this number is usually shown on their models. World wide each of these numbers will not be unique, our Competition Secretary has done a great deal of work on this matter in order to minimise the impact on our members. The new regulations will come into effect in January 2009.

Preparations for the 2009 World Air Games are continuing

J C Andrews FAI Delegate

Ratified

ROYAL AERO CLUB DELEGATE'S REPORT - April 2008

The RAeC AGM and a subsequent Council meeting were held on April 3rd. The following points may be of BMFA interest.

1) The outgoing chairman, Keith Negal, referred to the very heavy workload taken on by several Council members over the past two years, involving negotiation and legislative proposals at both national and European levels, and to the fact that the RAeC and other aviation groups are now pulling together very effectively. He also mentioned the competition successes in a wide range of airsports as evidenced by the high number of individual and team medals in 2007.

He reported that he had been invited to several associations' national events and in particular referred to the BMFA Power Nats, which he strongly recommended to Council members. I suggest that we send invitations to the chairmen of all the RAeC associations in future.

Keith was elected a vice-president of the RAeC, and will continue his work on EAS.

2) The new RAeC chairman is David Roberts of the BGA; he is also continuing on the board of Europe Air Sports where he is highly effective.

3) I am delighted to report that the BMFA's nominee for RAeC vice-chairman, Ben Ellis, was elected in a two-way contest. Ben is chairman of the British Aerobatic Association and also a member of Elmbridge MC, where he flies RC electric.

4) The much-improved RAeC newsletter now appears regularly, but depends on an input of stories and reports from the Associations.

5) The RAeC website revision has suffered a delay, as the person who had undertaken it has now moved to a permanent post with the FAI in Lausanne.

6) Among the legislation proposed by the European Aviation Safety Agency is a requirement for security at all airfields open to the public, these including even farm strips. There are clear implications here for model flying, which often shares facilities like these. This is naturally being strongly resisted by the RAeC.

7) The Borders and Immigration Agency (!) intend to bring in a requirement that entry to non-EU members will be points-based, and that five categories will exist. Cat. 5 will be those entering the UK to compete in a sports event and they will have to be sponsored by the organising association. It is proposed that organisations approved as sponsors will pay a fee of £2000, and that there will be a charge of £10 per individual + visa fee. It is intended that this should be taken through Parliament by the end of 2008. Ben Ellis is already in touch with the immigration authorities on this, a meeting with the Minister for Sport is being sought and the Sports Council and CCPR are being involved, with a particular view to the implications for the 2012 Olympics; in our own case it is an FAI requirement that contests must be open to all nations.

8) The FAI licence database was discussed; some associations were concerned at data protection problems. The general opinion was that those applying for an FAI licence would reasonably assume that the FAI would, as a result, hold their details, with the associations acting as the local collection authority on the FAI's behalf. The RAeC will, accordingly, accept the idea, but will want to know how the database will be secured.

9) The RAeC Trust's archiving of RAeC records and documents is progressing, with the minutes from 1901-56 having been conserved and re-bound; 8,000 historic photos have also been digitally copied. All the work is being done at Hendon by volunteers and it was suggested that the RAeC should invite these people to an event. I suggest that the August Nats might be a possibility; perhaps Fred Marsh could be contacted regarding this before invitations are sent out.

10) There is still no date nor guest known for the RAeC Awards Evening. There are now concerns that to delay further will mean that many awardees will be involved in the flying season; the general opinion is that we should abandon any idea of having HRH Prince Andrew, due to the inability of his office to come up with suitable dates in early Spring, and in future go for someone more accessible. I shall let the office know as soon as I have any definite date.

11) There are doubts as to the relevance of GASCO in the current climate of negotiation and legislation.

12) A proposal that the RAeC should promote a company called Emergency Abroad, providing medical, travel and legal help to members was rejected.

Martin Dilly
RAeC Delegate

4.4.08

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