

MINUTES

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 16th May 2015 at 11am at
College Court, Knighton Road, Leicester LE2 3TQ

Provisional until confirmed at the next Full Council Meeting.

PRESENT

Chris Moynihan	Chairman
Ian Pallister	Vice-Chairman
Robin Sleight MBE	Honorary Secretary
Keith Lomax FSMAE	Honorary Treasurer
Jo Halman FSMAE	Competition Secretary
David Varallo	Technical Secretary
Simon Vaitkevicius	Records Officer
Peter Halman FSMAE	FAI Delegate
Nigel Barker	PRO
Peter Jenkins	East Anglia Area Delegate
Martin Dilly FSMAE	London Area Delegate & RAeC Delegate
Marian Ainsworth	Midland Area Delegate
Tom Jones	North East Area Delegate
David Lloyd-Jones	North West Area Delegate
Duncan McClure	South Midland Area Delegate
Stuart Willis	South East Area Delegate
Stuart Simpson	Southern Area Delegate
Phil Durant	Western Area Delegate
Andrew Potts	Mid West Area Delegate
Peter Disney	South West Area Delegate & RNMAA Delegate
Maurice Doyle	Northern Ireland Area Delegate
Neil Tricker	RAFMAA Area Delegate
Mike Woodhouse FSMAE	Free Flight TC Representative
Robin Gowler FSMAE	Scale TC Representative
Clive Needham	SFTC Representative
Mike Colling FSMAE	Indoor TC Representative

In Attendance

Linda Harding

Dave Phipps
Andy Symons
Manny Williamson

Guests

Jim Wright
Mark Benns
Ian Beardsley (p/t)

Office Manager /
Minutes Secretary
CEO
Club Support Officer
Development Officer

Feasibility Study Team
Feasibility Study Team
Barclays Bank, Business
Manager

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence.
- 2 Request for permission to be absent.
- 3 To verify the voting strength of the meeting.
- 4 Adoption of the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10th January 2015.
- 5 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 10th January 2015 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.
- 7 To receive a joint report from the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer to include the following:
 - a Update on the 'National Centre' Feasibility Study, presented by Manny Williamson.
 - b Proposal from the Chairman that Council endorses the actions agreed upon unanimously by the BMFA Executive Committee on 11th April to make all relevant planning and change of use searches while concurrently contacting the selling agents of Laws Lawn Farm in East Northamptonshire in order to open negotiations on making an offer to purchase (subject to contract) the said property.
- 8 To receive a report from the Vice-Chairman to include the following proposals:
 - a To introduce a new award – the SMAE Medal – to sit between the Certificate of Merit and Fellowship of the Society.
 - b To amend the Awards Procedure booklet, (as detailed in the draft document, appended), to clarify and correct omissions to the BMFA Awards Procedures. The proposal includes the adoption of a revised Nomination Form and clearer guidance on the drafting of citations. If the proposal is accepted there will be consequential changes required to the Council Handbook Appendices N and O. These are presented in a separate proposal.
 - c To amend Appendix N and Appendix O to the Council Handbook to reflect the changes agreed to the Awards Procedure booklet, as detailed in the appended documents.
- 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 2016.
 - c To discuss and agree the processes for the November elections.
 - d To determine the eligibility of the Honorary Treasurer (having served for 10 or more years in that position) to stand for re-election in accordance with rule 1.8. of the Council Handbook, Issue 7 – January 2014.
 - e To receive a ballot of Area Council Delegates to confirm the Area Council Representative to the Awards Committee. Nominations were received from the following:

Nigel Barker, BMFA PRO/Vice-Chair Areas Council and Neil Cooper, Northern Area Delegate. (CVs appended).
 - f Proposal from the Honorary Secretary that the Blackstone Model Flyers application for affiliation to the BMFA is accepted.
- 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 Proposal from the Competition Secretary:

That the methodology of reporting BMFA competition results be changed from the current requirement to submit results to the Records Officer to the new requirement of uploading the results to the "Contest Results" page of the BMFA website with the resulting amendment to rule 2.3.15 "Reporting of Results" of the BMFA General Rule book (Appended – page 2 of the proposal).
- 12 To receive a report from the Records Officer.
- 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 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 Council (GASCo)
 - c Air Prox
 - d Sport + Recreation Alliance (formerly 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 Education Working Group
 - c Flight Challenge
 - d University Challenge
 - e Computer Sub-Committee
 - f Safety Review Committee
 - g Achievement Scheme Review Committee
 - h BMFA News Publishers
 - i BMFA Archivist
 - j Club Support Officer

18 Any Other Business.

Please note: Items for Any Other Business should be sent or handed to the Office Manager in writing before the meeting commences. This will be strictly enforced.

Any questions to be asked under AOB that require detailed answers should be previously advised to the Office Manager to allow preparation of replies.

19 Date of next meeting.

The Minutes begin overleaf.

MINUTES

The Chairman reminded Delegates that they were here today as Directors of the SMAE/BMFA and the prime purpose as a Director of the business is to consider the long term interests of the SMAE/BMFA.

The Chairman paid tribute to Graham Lynn, MBE, FSMAE who died a few weeks ago and called for a one minute silence as a mark of respect.

967/05/15 (1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Neil Cooper Northern Area, Vernon Hunt CLTC Representative.

968/05/15 (2) Request for permission to be absent.

There were none.

969/01/15 (3) To verify the voting strength of the meeting.

There were 26 members eligible to vote.

970/05/15 (4) Adoption of the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 10th January 2015.

For the purpose of clarity this Agenda Item was deferred to later in the meeting and one Delegate had already left, therefore the voting count was 25.

RAFMAA Area proposed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2015 be accepted as a true record.

Seconded by Mid West Area

Vote: For: 21
Ags: 0
Abs: 4

Carried by a majority vote.

971/5/15 (5) Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 10th January 2015 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

ACTION/NOTES

Page 10

- **Third paragraph, ratification of Internationals Teams for this year's World and European Championships** – The Competition Secretary notified the meeting of some errors in the list she presented at the January Council Meeting:

F3N (Freestyle Helicopter)

Connor Sloan, listed as Reserve Pilot is correctly the Junior Team Member.

F3D (Pylon Racing)

Geb Jones & Dave Cline, listed as Reserve Pilots are correctly Team Callers.

Christopher & Bruce Illingworth, listed as Team Callers are correctly Reserve Pilots.

Cont'd/...

Matters
Arising
cont'd/...

F3J (Duration Soaring)

Kevin Beale & Mark Devall, listed as Team Towmen are correctly Reserve Pilots.

Andre Borowski & Kevin Dart, omitted from the list, were submitted as Team Towmen.

The Competition Secretary had now ratified these team members in their correct roles.

Page 13

- Second paragraph, action Chairman to write to those persons from the Control Line fraternity responsible for disruptive behaviour at the 2014 annual dinner presentations – The Chairman advised that a letter had not yet gone out but a suitably worded letter of advice will be going out at the appropriate time.

CHAIRMAN

Page 16

- Final paragraph, re-assignment of the Sparkletts Trophy – This is still work in progress.

INDOOR TC

Page 18

- Halfway down the page, item b) Proposal from North East Area that if any visits to clubs or flying sites are arranged by head office staff on behalf of the BMFA, whether by invitation or otherwise, then the Area Committee concerned should be informed as soon as arrangements are made, wherever appropriate - North East asked that the words “wherever appropriate”, which were added to the original proposal, which was proposed and carried at the January Meeting, be deleted.

The Chairman advised that a proposal from the Area would be required for that change.

**** Post Meeting Note ****

Council Handbook – page 12, paragraph 3.2 Formal Proposals – “(i) Proposals that seek to reverse or nullify policies that have themselves been discussed and voted on by Council within the previous two years will not be automatically placed on a Council Agenda. This does not mean that failed proposals cannot be submitted again within two years but that Council will consider and vote first of all whether the proposal should be allowed on the agenda under the two year rule.

(j) Because of the two year rule, Council members putting forward proposals which meet severe opposition in debate, especially on technicalities of wording, might be well advised to consider withdrawing the proposal for re-drafting. If a vote is forced and lost, a similar proposal might not be allowed back for two years.”

Cont'd/...

The Club Support Officer commented that he will report on visits at the next Full Council Meeting and see if that works.

Matters
Arising
cont'd/...

East Anglia raised a point of order that a full debate on this proposal took place at the last meeting and we should not be wasting time discussing it again.

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- **Third paragraph, post meeting note re Sport England** - The Club Support Officer advised that he had been in touch with Sport England over the past 2 weeks reminding them that as the Governing Body for Model Flying we should be assigned with a Relationship Officer from Sport England, which we don't as yet have.

**CLUB
SUPPORT
OFFICER**

This concluded matters arising.

The FAI Delegate left the meeting – Voting count now 24.

972/05/15 (6) To receive a financial report from the Honorary Treasurer to include:

- a) The Progress towards the Year End Accounts:

The Honorary Treasurer reported that progress is more advanced than is normal at this stage in the year and thanks for this must go to Sian Sargeant, Accounts Manager.

The Auditor will be making his annual visit next week and as part of our audit we provide a 'Supplementary Booklet' which is, subject to audit, complete as of three days ago.

The 'Summary Account Booklet' as it stands at the moment shows a net surplus of £20,801.00.

A significant fact which made a difference to the surplus figure is the reimbursement from our insurers of the equivalent VAT content in relation to the Aldershot Club legal costs, as this was which we were unable to be reclaimed from HMC&E.

Subject to audit the Society is in good shape financially and in terms of progress towards the accounts, which will be presented in detail at the September Council Meeting.

He circulated a draft document detailing the status of the Central Team Travel Fund (CTTF) for 2014/15 and gave a brief outline of the information contained therein.

The Honorary Treasurer attended the funeral of Graham Lynn, MBE, FSMAE and will be representing the BMFA with a PR stand at Old Warden this weekend, together with his wife and Kath Watson, FSMAE.

973/05/15 (7) To receive a joint report from the Chairman and the Chief Executive to include the following:

- a) Update on the 'National Centre' Feasibility Study, presented by Manny Williamson.

For the purpose of clarity this Agenda Item was brought forward and discussed after Item 3) 'To verify the voting strength of this meeting'. Voting count at the beginning of discussion was 26, Maurice Doyle Northern Ireland Delegate left the meeting prior to voting on the proposal.

The Chairman introduced Mark Benns who is a Chartered Architect and Jim Wright, both members of the Feasibility Study Team and whom have been of enormous help to Manny Williamson in the process so far.

The Chairman then asked Manny Williamson to present the update on the 'National Centre' Feasibility Study aided by a PowerPoint presentation.

'National Flying Centre' Questions raised (APPENDIX A)

A copy of the financial analysis was provided to Delegates during the meeting. The Chairman apologised that, as promised in his letter which accompanied the update on the 'National Centre' Feasibility Study sent to Directors prior to this meeting, it was not possible to provide a copy of the financial analysis prior to the meeting as it required more work than anticipated.

The Chairman pointed out that the proposition today is to accept and endorse the actions taken so far by the Executive to enter into negotiations for the possible acquisition of a flying site, not as some might think for the purchase of a flying site.

The Honorary Treasurer took the meeting through the financial aspects.

Post Meeting Note:

The Honorary Treasurer will present an updated report on the financial aspects at the forthcoming EGM on Saturday 4th July 2015.

The Chairman proposed that, subject to the 'gating criteria' being met in full, he would be calling a Council Meeting in July to decide on whether we progress the purchase of Laws Lawn Farm.

Maurice Doyle Northern Ireland Delegate left the meeting – Voting count now 25.

The Chairman reiterated that what was required of Directors now was to vote on the following proposal and reminded them that the proposal was not to consider the purchase of a flying site but to endorse the decisions of the Executive taken so far in the process.

Cont'd/...

b) *'National Centre'*
Cont'd/... Some of the Delegates suggested a change to the wording of the proposal however this was not something the Chairman was prepared to consider and the proposal stood as follows:

Proposal from the Chairman that Council endorses the actions agreed upon unanimously by the BMFA Executive Committee on 11th April to make all relevant planning and change of use searches while concurrently contacting the selling agents of Laws Lawn Farm in East Northamptonshire in order to open negotiations on making an offer to purchase (subject to contract) the said property.

Seconded by FAI Delegate

Vote: For: 21
Ags: 3
Abs: 1

Carried by a majority vote.

Jo Halman FSMAE, Peter Halman FSMAE, Clive Needham, Martin Dilly and Simon Vaitkevicius made a pledge of £1,000 each towards the 'National Centre' fund.

The Honorary Treasurer was tasked with looking at the possibility of providing a portal on the website to enable members to make donations.

**HONORARY
TREASURER**

The Honorary Treasurer was also asked to look in to the possibility of donations in the form of a returnable, interest free loan and gift aid eligibility.

**HONORARY
TREASURER**

Verbal report from the Chairman

The Chairman had attended the funerals of Eric Baddeley, Vice President FSMAE, Bob Mahoney and Graham Lynn, MBE, FSMAE. He had also arranged to be represented by the Vice-Chairman at the funeral of John Henderson, FSMAE.

He had attended a seminar organised by the Royal Aero Club on PR and Marketing, which took place at Blackbushe Airport. The PRO, Nigel Barker, Martin Dilly FSMAE and the CEO were also present.

He had attended a lunch with HRH the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace, which was organised by the Royal Aero Club. He had also attended the Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

He had attended the Electric Indoor Masters competition held at the Barnsley Metrodome and applauded the efforts of everyone involved for making it a very successful event. It is one not to miss.

We are in the very early stages of looking at possible alternative premises for the offices in Leicester and he will report on any progress at the Council Meeting in September.

Cont'd/... Most of his time has been involved with the 'National Centre' study.

Verbal report from the CEO.

Confirmation for use of RAF Barkston Heath for the Free Flight and Power Nationals events for 2015 was only received in the last few weeks.

The CEO thanked Ian Pallister who stepped in as RAF Liaison Officer at RAF Cranwell without whose intervention it seemed unlikely that either of the events would have taken place this year.

The CEO, accompanied by the Development Officer, had attended a meeting with Andrew Haines CEO of the Civil Aviation Authority. Concerns were raised in relation to the CAA's customer service and specific concern with regard to a leaflet on drones which the CAA published without reference to the BMFA or other model flying bodies.

Unfortunately very little has changed since that meeting and fairly recently the CAA published a press release which referred to the BMFA Achievement Scheme being used as an acceptable measure of competence for those seeking to pursue commercial operation of drones. Negotiations with the CAA are continuing.

There had been a meeting with the National Trust to review the 'national agreement' which originally dates back to the 1990's. Relations with the National Trust remain very positive and we are working with them to update the national agreement. Details will be published on the BMFA website as soon the agreement has been finalised.

The CEO attended a meeting of Europe Air Sports in Luxembourg with Graham Lynn, MBE, FSMAE shortly before he died. The CEO has for the time being taken over from Graham as the Aeromodelling Adviser to EASA.

He thanked Andy Symons for all the time and effort he has put in to setting up the new Classified Ads page on the website which was subjected to a malicious attack earlier in the year.

Doodsons our insurers are changing their name to Integro. Relations remain on a very positive basis and they are happy to discuss ongoing arrangements for as long as we would like.

Earlier this week the CEO attended the Royal Aero Club Awards where BMFA Members Clive Needham, David Harbour, Bill Draper and John Hamilton received awards.

A request was made that a breakdown of membership figures be provided for future Full Council meetings. The Chairman read out the current figures which were 32,304 as opposed to 31,892 this time last year.

**MEMB'SHIP
SEC**

The FAI Delegate left the meeting – Voting figures now 24.

974/05/15 (8) To receive a report from the Vice-Chairman.

The vice-Chairman had attended the funerals of Vice-President Eric Baddeley, on behalf of the RAFMAA Chairman who was unable to attend and of Graham Lynn, MBE, FSMAE.

He had attended the Electric Indoor Masters and Scale Indoor Nationals the latter at which he was a judge and also presented the prizes at the Scale Indoor Nationals on behalf of the BMFA Chairman.

In his role as Chairman of the Safety Review Committee he has written an article for the BMFA News based on 'confessions' which he hopes will become a regular column. He will be inviting contributions from members who have had experiences of 'learning the hard way' which could benefit others.

There is also an article on the Awards and Awards Procedure in the next BMFA News which will also invite nominations for this year's awards. The fillable pdf Awards Nomination form will be available from the BMFA website shortly. He asked Delegates to ask their members to consider any suitable candidates who might be worthy of an award.

The Vice-Chairman referred to the following three proposals he has put forward for consideration:

- a) **To introduce a new award – the SMAE Medal – to sit between the Certificate of Merit and Fellowship of the Society.**

Seconded by the Competition Secretary

Vote: For: 22
Ags: 1
Abs: 1

Carried by a majority vote.

VICE-CHAIR

- b) **To amend the Awards Procedure booklet to clarify and correct omissions to the BMFA Awards Procedures. The proposal includes the adoption of a revised Nomination Form and clearer guidance on the drafting of citations. If the proposal is accepted consequential changes will be required to the Council Handbook Appendices N and O.**

The amendments to be considered are as follows:

Awards Procedure Booklet –

1. BMFA Awards –

Items d, e, f, g, h, i – proposed wording to be added to each of these - "the recipient will also receive a framed certificate to retain in perpetuity".

Also item e. Arthur Mullett Trophy – wording to be added "The closing date for receipt by the Awards Committee Chairman is 31 October.

Cont'd/...

Vice-
Chair
Report
Cont'd/...

2. Royal Aero Club (RAeC) Awards –

Last line of second sentence, replace “Jan” with “January”;

3. Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) Awards-

Item c. The Andrei Tupolev Diploma, insert “World Record” after “outstanding”.

4. Procedures –

Item c. fifth line delete one of two full stops.

5. Advice on Citations –

First paragraph, fifth line replace “they” with “the nominee”, same line replace “have” with “has”.

Second paragraph, fourth line, replace “400” with “450”; sixth line replace “should” with “must”.

Seconded by RNMAA

Carried unanimously.

VICE CHAIR

- c) **To amend Appendix N and Appendix O of the Council Handbook to reflect the changes to the Awards Procedure booklet as detailed in the appended documents to the Agenda circulated prior to this meeting.**

Regarding Appendix N, the Vice-Chairman proposed to agree in principle at this stage to add a simple form of words to say that procedures for the honours and awards are detailed in the Honours and Awards booklet, which will avoid having to maintain both the Awards Procedure booklet and the Council Handbook.

Seconded by North West Area

Carried unanimously.

VICE CHAIR

The Vice-Chairman continued his report.

In order to speed up the process at the Prize-Giving ceremony full citations of awards will be provided which will be bound in a booklet and will be available on each table to read at leisure. The announcement for each award presentation will take the form of a précis version of the full citation.

The Technical Secretary left the meeting - Voting figures now 23.

975/05/15 (9) To receive a report from the Honorary Secretary to include:

- b) **To receive dates for Council Meetings in the year 2016. –**
This was received.

Cont'd/...

- c) **To discuss and agree the processes for the November elections.** – The same process will be used as in previous years.
- d) **To determine the eligibility of the Honorary Treasurer (having served for 10 or more years in that position) to stand for re-election in accordance with rule 1.8 of the Council Handbook, Issue 7 – January 2014.**

The result of a ballot of the Council Members revealed a convincing majority to allow the Honorary Treasurer to stand for re-election.

- e) **To receive a ballot of Area Council Delegates to confirm the Area Council Representative to the Awards Committee. Nominations were received from the following:**

Notification had been received that Neil Cooper has resigned as Northern Area Delegate and so his nomination was no longer valid.

Therefore Nigel Barker, BMFA PRO/Vice-Chair Areas Council was appointed as Areas Council Representative to the Awards Committee for 2015.

**HON SEC/
OFFICE MGR**

- f) **Proposal from the Honorary Secretary that the Blackstone Model Flyers application for affiliation to the BMFA is accepted.**

The Honorary Secretary briefly explained the background and current situation in relation to the proposal and asked for Council's vote to agree in principle to accept the above proposal. Council accepted unanimously.

Seconded by the PRO.

Vote: For: 22
Ags: 1
Abs: 0

Carried by a majority vote.

**MEMB'SHIP
SEC**

Verbal report from the Honorary Secretary.

He had attended the funeral of Graham Lynn, MBE, FSMAE.

He is assisting with arrangements for the Silent Flight Nationals.

He had the pleasure of attending the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on behalf of the BMFA.

As promised at Full Council in January, the Council Handbook and also the Guide to the Areas Constitution have been updated and published.

976/05/15 (10) To receive a report from the Technical Secretary

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

977/05/15 (11) To receive a report from the Competition Secretary to include the following:

- a) **Receipt and ratification of any late contests for this year's FAI Calendar.**
There are none.
- b) **Proposal from the Competition Secretary that the methodology of reporting BMA competition results be changed from the current requirement to submit results to the Records Officer to the new requirement of uploading the results to the "Contest Results" page of the BMFA website with the resulting amendment to rule 2.3.15 "Reporting of Results" of the BMFA General Rule book.**

Seconded by the PRO
Carried unanimously

COMP SEC

The Competition Secretary continued her report.

Since the last Council Meeting, the Competition Secretary had attended the successful – and fun– BMFA Electric Indoor Masters competition in Barnsley in February.

As the F3P Indoor Aerobatics Team Manager she also took the F3P team to Poland for the 2015 F3P World Championship.

She stated that she is strongly in support of the National Centre that was the prime topic at the Executive Meetings of April & yesterday.

Regarding the 2015 British Teams, she has now formally ratified two Callers and two Reserve Pilots for F3D (Pylon Racing); two Towmen for F3J (Duration Soaring) as noted under the Agenda Item 5 – Matters Arising. She had also ratified a late submission of Haley Styche as the single Spotter for F3K (Hand Launched Glider).

She reported that BMFA competition results can now be, and in many cases had been, uploaded to the Contest & Results page of the BMFA website. Up to the approval today of the proposal to amend the General Rule book, those results still had to be, and had been, forwarded to the Records Officer. Of course, that action was now no longer necessary and it was now mandatory for all Technical Committees appropriate Specialist Bodies to upload their BMFA contest results to the BMFA website and this should be done in a timely manner.

The Competition Secretary reported that the Power Nationals fillable pdf entry forms are work-in-progress and will be shortly ready for checking by the appropriate Technical Committees & RC Power Specialist Bodies.

Cont'd/...

The Scale Technical Committee Chairman was the “guinea pig” selected for the initial design check and he was pleased with the result. She reminded the meeting that Power Nationals entry forms will no longer be published in the BFMA News. Hard copy Power Nationals entry forms may still be obtained from the BMFA office on request as soon as they have been uploaded to the website.

978/05/15 (12) To receive a report from the Records Officer.

It is fairly quiet for him at the moment regarding records and he has only received one record claim since the last meeting but unfortunately it was received too late to be included on the agenda for this meeting.

He attended the Electric Indoor Masters and the Scale Indoor Nationals, both excellent competitions.

The Records Book is up-to-date and is available on the website.

He is hoping to arrange a meeting of the Trophy Working Group at the end of June, beginning of July. Already represented on the group are Free Flight, Control Line, Helicopter and Pylon and hopefully Silent Flight. If any other disciplines would like to be represented please contact the Records Officer.

979/05/15 (13) To receive a report from the Public Relations Officer.

He had attended the Electric Indoor Masters. He had also attended the Public Relations meeting organised by the Royal Aero Club at Blackbushe Airport, which was very interesting and he had taken some ideas from the meeting with which to work.

He had been very busy posting and checking various comments on a number of internet forums. He believes it is important to use the social media groups for communication purposes.

He is currently looking to assist the Free Flight Group with activities with which they need help and was looking forward to attending the Free Flight Nationals.

980/05/15 (14) To receive a report from the FAI Delegate.

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

The FAI Delegate had already left the meeting and on his behalf, the Competition Secretary recommended that Council Members take the time to read the report from the CIAM UAV Working Group. It is quite an important and informative document.

981/05/15 (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-ordinating

As reported earlier in the meeting the late confirmation of use of Barkston Heath for the Power Nationals was causing some concern to the extent that if we had not received confirmation by the end of that week he would have been faced with taking a decision not to run the Power Nationals this year.

The event as it stands will be taking place but will not be in quite the form that it has been over recent years. The hangar is not available this year so there will be no indoor flying, indoor bar or dart building workshop.

A visit to RAF Barkston Heath is scheduled for next week. More news will follow as co-ordinating progresses.

Control Line

The Competition Secretary, as CL Nationals Co-ordinator, spoke on behalf of Control Line Technical Committee and commented that until the site visit to Barkston Heath to find out the availability for the various Control Line flight lines had taken place, the CLTC would not be able to make a decision as to which competitions could be held.

Free Flight

Everything was in place and it was hoped that there would be good weather conditions.

Silent Flight

The Silent Flight Nationals have to be transferred to Wetlands this year. It has to be decided whether some of the contests would need to be rearranged. A message will be circulated shortly.

Scale

Arrangements will go ahead as usual for the Scale Nationals.

Since the last meeting the Indoor Scale Nationals had been held at the new venue in Wolverhampton, which was highly successful.

This year's Scale Indoor Nationals was the last one to be organised by Andy Sephton. Thanks were recorded to Andy for four very successful National Championships.

Indoor

The Indoor Duration Nationals will be taking place at Brabazon Hangar. Date to be confirmed. It is highly likely that it will be mid-week, sometime in September.

982/05/15 (16) To receive any reports from the following Delegates

- a) **Royal Aero Club Delegate (RAeC)**

WRITTEN REPORT January 2015 (APPENDIX D)
WRITTEN REPORT April 2015 (APPENDIX E)

RAeC Trust Bursary – No applications had been received yet and the Delegate suggested that any young people aspiring to a team place should look at the criteria, which includes upgrading equipment and aircraft.

- b) **General Aviation Safety Council (GASCo)**
Nothing to report.

- c) **Air Prox** – The CEO reported on two recent mid-air collisions involving model aircraft and full-size aircraft. The incidents have been referred to the Air Accident Investigation Branch for further investigation.

- d) **Sport + Recreation Alliance (formerly CCPR)**
Nothing to report.

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

983/05/15 (17) To receive any reports from the following Committees.

- a) **CAA Team**
Reported earlier in the meeting.

- b) **Education Working Group**
Mike Colling had attended the ASE event at Reading University in January and reported that it went very well. Next year's event will be taking place on the same day as the January Full Council meeting and so again he will be absent for that meeting. He is seeking volunteers to help at the event which will take place at Birmingham University.

He also attended the CIAM Education Meeting in Lausanne. And was pleased that the Finnish Aeroclub are now using the Dart in one of their Education Programmes. They have taken 1,500 models so far.

The Chairman of the CIAM Education Committee runs an event with a school in Germany where he uses the Gymminie Cricket as the first model in a project that the school does on indoor free-flight flying. The final task for the students is to attend their indoor nationals and put up at least a five minute flight with an indoor free-flight model.

- c) **University Challenge**
All is progressing well and the event takes place on the first weekend in June.

Cont'd/...

*C'ttee
Reports
Cont'd/...*

e) Computer Sub-Committee
This was covered earlier in the meeting.

f) Safety Review Committee
Bob Smith member of ESAG has withdrawn from future involvement in the group. The Vice-Chairman will be canvassing in the near future for a suitable candidate to help on the Committee.

Thanks were recorded to Bob Smith for his work on ESAG over the past few years.

g) Achievement Scheme Review Committee

WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX F)

The AS Controller commented that the new appointment process for ACEs is working well and there has actually been one rejection.

h) BMFA News Publishers

There was a slight budget overspend of between £3,000 and £4,000 which the publishers will be focusing on this year.

Advertising as a whole has been declining and is something of which we need to be aware when budgeting for the next financial year.

i) BMFA Archivist

Apologies were conveyed by the Honorary Treasurer on behalf of the Archivist for not providing a written report. There is nothing significant to report and everything is progressing as normal.

j) Club Support Officer

WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX G)

Delegates were asked to contact the Club Support Officer/Webmaster if they were experiencing issues with accessing the Areas Web page.

984/05/15 (18) Any Other Business

An AOB item from East Anglia Area regarding non-domestic rates was circulated.

The Club Support Officer had spent considerable time looking in to the issue of non-domestic rates (NDR) but it was still work in progress. He was planning a survey of all clubs to establish if they have been assessed for NDR. Any clubs requiring assistance should get in touch with him.

985/05/15 (19) Date of next meeting.

A special meeting will be convened to discuss the purchase of Laws Lawn Farm and a provisional date set for **Saturday 4th July 2015** at College Court Conference Centre, Knighton Road, Leicester.

The meeting to start at 1.30pm, lunch will be provided at 12.30pm and Delegates were asked to bring identification for staff to check-in for lunch.

If circumstances change and we are not in a position to progress the purchase of Laws Lawn Farm then the meeting will be postponed.

The scheduled meeting for **Saturday 12th September 2015** will take place as normal.

A notification summarising today's discussion on the 'National Centre' will be published on the website within the next few days. A video of the presentation by Manny Williamson will also be published in due course.

Chairman closed the meeting at 6.05pm.

APPENDIX A 1/2

Questions raised at Full Council 16th May 2015 regards the proposed National Flying Centre

- How hard would it be to realise the value of the land parcel.
- Are land prices going up or down.
- How long are the interest rates fixed for.
- What is the current income from the proposed site, and is it considered in the purchase.
- Scale are struggling to find sites, and it is getting more difficult by the day
- Can we trust an enduring airspace permission to last forever
- What is the nature of the dump/landfill site close by
- How can we jump from a feasibility study to a purchase
- Have we considered other sites
- Building pictured is not representative of the buildings we will actually put up, very misleading
- Why don't we take a few years to find the right place, rather than making a panic decision
- Wittering ATZ is a worry
- Maybe the site won't work as a flying field
- Have we got a business risk analysis
- Why didn't we consider buying a golf course
- What happens to subs after 2016
- Will there be enough room to build the scale of facilities required to make it sufficiently attractive to draw people in and make it successful
- If this is the right venue, people will visit for the right event regardless of location
- Is the proposed location near the centre of population of England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- What guarantee do we have that this venture will not cause an increase in annual subs
- How will we get the right people to run the centre successfully
- What changes in membership numbers do we expect this project to have
- Will the site be appropriate for the changing future of aeromodelling
- How will we be able to arrange north facing flight lines (so pilots don't have the sun in their eye)
- Will local trees cause turbulence
- Is it cheaper to buy lots of smaller buildings than a single large one
- Could we try crowd funding
- Should this project decision be taken by the Board, Areas or the membership
- Applause at the professional, comprehensive nature of the report
- What nature reserves are there in the general area of the proposed site, and what are the implications
- If no increase in subs is required, why aren't we already rolling in money
- Some info was shared on the BMFA website, why was other information kept secret
- Would smaller regional sites be better than a single large site
- What reassurances do we have that there won't be large subs increases in the future because of this project
- A national centre would be a fantastic facility, but let's not rush into making the wrong choice
- Is the projected income flow realistic
- Could we issue member bonds, at say £1k
- Will we ever find a perfect site
- Is the search area central relative to the UK population

- How much camping/caravan space will there be
- What will happen if we can't get permission to remove hedges/trees
- How much will the fencing cost
- What will we do to exclude unwelcome visitors (eg travellers)
- What sponsorship can we get in advance of a purchase
- Will any onsite building be big enough for indoor flight
- Will this give us a centre to run workshops
- Financial plan doesn't look viable
- If we lost Barkston, could we run the Nationals at the proposed sites
- Would we make more money if we ran the Nationals at our own site
- Is this entire project bigger than we can cope with

RATIFIED

Technical Secretary - Report to Exec and Full Council Meetings.
15th and 16th May 2015

Rule Books

All the Contest Rule Books have been updated as follows and are available for issue..

Sections 1 and 2 - Genral Regs and Rules

Updated in line with the approvals from the last Full council meeting.

Section 2a Record Rules

Errors corrected and formatting corrected to agree with the FAI World Record Rules

Section 3 Free Flight Rules.

Minor changes and corrections and some renumbering to tidy the overall presentation of the rules.

Section 4 Control Line Rules

Clarification of FAI rules together with Updates and changes to Speed, Team Racing and aerobatic rules. Also re-formatting to reduce the bulk of the document.

Section 5 R/C Power Rules

Major re-write of the aerobatic rules to properly incorporate the GBR/CAA rules into the BMFA Rules. Renumbering of the rules into a logical order.

Section 6 Scale Rules.

Updates and full integration of scale helicopters into the rules.

Section 7 R/C Silent Flight Rules.

Major changes to the rules plus a re-numbering of all the rules into a logical order

Section 8 Space Models

No changes this year.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the Technical committees and in particular their Rules Officers for their input into these changes and for conforming to the revised time table as now laid down in the General Rules. My particular thanks also go to both the Competition Secretary and to Ashley Hoyland of GBR/CAA for their input into the re-write of the R/C Power Aerobatic rules.

Work in Progress.

I am currently looking at the general rules with a view to updating rules or incorporating new rules to bring the book in line with current practise. Typically transmitter pounds, minimum achievement for competition entry and the effects of the demise of the R/C Power Technical Committee. Any proposed changes will be presented to the Council in due course.

When this is complete I shall return to the re-write of the Members Handbook which is proving to be quite a task. Full report on this at the next Council Meeting.

David Varallo
BMFA Technical Secretary.

FAI Delegate's Report on the 2015 CIAM Plenary Meeting

The 2015 Plenary meeting took place in the Hotel Movenpick in Lausanne on 24th and 25th April and it was attended by 36 voting delegates 5 of whom carried a proxy vote, plus a number of other non voting technical experts. The BMFA delegation consisted of me as Delegate, Clive Needham (F3 Soaring), Robert Ailles (F3 Aerobatics) and Mike Colling (Education). Graham Kennedy and Ian Keynes as F4 and F1 Sub Committee Chairmen. I would like to thank all of the members of the BMFA delegation for there hard work and support before during and after the meeting with special thanks to Mike Colling for helping to record the voting during the Plenary meeting.

The Plenary meeting convened at 09.15 on 24th, a minuets silence was observed in memory of those we had lost during the last year including our own Graham Lynn. The main business began in the afternoon following the Technical Meetings which had taken place during that morning.

The open forum this year consisted of a presentation from Bruno Delor on the progress of the UAV working group; this was followed by an open discussion on the use of FPV, multi rotor machines, autonomous and semi autoimmune aircraft. The working group has recommended that the term "Drone" should be used to identify this type of aircraft, a number of possible competitions were identified and some draft rules were included in the report. During the discussions Bob Brown the President of the AMA informed the meeting that the membership of the AMA is up around 18% in 2014 and the average age of members is down two years all due to new younger members who are flying muli rotor aircraft. (It should be noted that the AMA has an exclusive agreement with the US Government to control model flying organisations). The working group report is attached.

The CIAM Plenary again used an electronic voting system for the secret ballots for the CIAM awards, elections and for the awarding of Championships it again worked extremely well and saved a lot of time.

The bureau members are now elected for two year periods so there were no elections for any of the posts. There were no changes to the Sub Committee chairmen.

The CIAM scholarship for 2014 was awarded to Flixeder Bernhard (Austria). Again I regret that there were no nominations from the UK for the 2015 award.

There were six scheduled Technical Meetings, (F1 Free Flight, F3 Aerobatics, F3 Soaring, F3 Helicopter, F3 Pylon and Education) there were no interim meetings.

The BMFA delegation attended four of the Technical Meetings. F1 Free Flight, F3 Soaring, F3 Aerobatics and Education. Our delegation did an excellent job in presenting the UK proposals and views to the Technical Meetings and achieving most of our goals.

A report on the Education meeting by Mike Colling is attached.

A list of the results of all the voting appears as an Annex to this report. There were a number of notable decisions:

There are a number of revisions to the ABR to bring it in line with the new General Section.

New regulations about the licence numbers were passed, in future the model mat carry either the National FAI Licence number or the unique FAI ID number. From 2016 the model sticker must carry the unique FAI ID number. Hard copy licences will still be issued but the final verification of validity will only be via the FAI Licence data base.

There is a revised procedure for complaints and protests; more emphasis is placed on making a complaint first to resolve a problem before making a formal protest. The fee is increased to 50 Euro.

The excellent CIAM Bureau proposal to remove accommodation costs from the maximum entry fee structure referred back to the CIAM Bureau because a few delegates argued for much lower entry fees, this was despite being shown a spreadsheet which clearly identified how much it costs to organise a number of different championships.

The UAV working group proposed a number of new competitions for Drones.

The clarification to allow the continued use of the fuel enrichment jet in F2C was passed by the Plenary.

The 2016 F2 World Championships bulletin 0 was approved by the bureau.

Full details of the Sporting Code amendments may be seen when the Minutes of the Plenary are published in due course.

Peter Halman
CIAM Delegate
21st April 2014

ROYAL AERO CLUB DELEGATE'S REPORT – January 2015

I attended the RAeC Council meeting on Jan. 20th and the following points may be of BMFA interest.

- 1) All RAeC association chairmen have been invited to a lunch with the Duke of Edinburgh in February.
- 2) A seminar on PR and marketing of airports will be held on Feb. 14th at Blackbushe, hosted by Aerobility.
- 3) The 2014 RAeC Awards Evening made a £711 surplus.
- 4) This year's Awards Evening will take place on May 12th at the RAF Club. Certificates of Merit will be presented to David Harbour of Nene Valley Aeromodellers and to Bill Draper and John Hamilton.
- 5) The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) appears to be having a long-overdue improvement in its attitude regarding regulation of general aviation, thanks to several year's work by former RAeC chairman David Roberts and others.
- 6) Regulation that would have required all remote piloted systems to have sense-and-avoid equipment appears to have been averted.
- 7) There are signs of improvement within the FAI after some changes in its management, and the influence of FAME, a rather ill-founded marketing body in which the FAI had an interest, is declining. The 2015 World Air Games will be held in Dubai in early December.
- 8) The Air League may run a Youth in Aviation day, possibly in October, date to be confirmed. Given sufficient notice, this is something in which we should surely be involved.
- 9) RAeC associations are asked to nominate people for this year's Buckingham Palace garden parties, deadline March 31st.

Martin Dilly
RAeC Delegate

22-1-15

ROYAL AERO CLUB DELEGATE'S REPORT – April 2015

I attended the RAeC AGM and Council meeting on April 14th and the following points may be of BMFA interest.

1) The Chairman's AGM report highlighted several positive developments over the past year. One is that the FAI, after several changes of staff in recent years, is now getting on a more even keel. The importance of the airport commissions (CIAM in our case), rather than the NACs, is central to this. The RAeC members in several FAI posts have made a major contribution to these improvements.

The RAeC workshops held in recent years have been useful and have covered several areas of concern; this year's was aimed at PR and marketing and was organized at Blackbushe by Aerobility. One area in which Aerobility excelled was the involvement of local communities in aviation, which was seen as a useful angle for airports to explore, as is the targeting of women, who can participate on an equal footing to men. .

Building the RAeC profile is important and continued close involvement with the CAA and EASA is vital to counter unnecessary regulation, as is the development of government and parliamentary contacts. In particular the proposed extended restrictions on airspace use for a very wide distance around Southend and Farnborough would have a very serious effect on all airports.

Supporting Youth in Aviation is an area that needs more input from the RAeC associations. *(For yet another year there have been no BMFA applications for grants from the RAeC Trust bursary scheme, available for people between 14 and 24; the aeromodelling bursaries enable flyers to upgrade equipment or to gain further qualifications.)*

2) At the subsequent Council meeting it was confirmed that the guest at the Awards Evening on May 12th would be Andrew Haines, the recently-appointed chairman of the CAA. Tickets are £36.

3) Possible topics for future RAeC workshops were airspace use and aviation medicine.

4) A new UK delegate to Europe Air Sports is needed; as an example of some of the work done by EAS, and led by the RAeC's David Roberts, the following link is to an EAS paper aimed at avoiding regulation of remotely piloted aerial systems (RPAS) from impacting on model aircraft flown recreationally or competitively. This is just an indication of the importance of continuing BMFA involvement internationally via the RAeC.

5) There was discussion about the gender classification of a transgender competitor; the FAI position on this was uncertain, but the general opinion was to follow the IOC's position in this, from clarification would be sought from that organisation. There was some questioning of the need for separate womens' championships, e.g. in gliding, and it was pointed out that airport was almost alone in being one in which physical characteristics of a competitor play no part in the result

Martin Dilly
RAeC Delegate

15.4.15

**Achievement Scheme Review Committee
Report to Full Council Meeting
16th May 2015**

The ASRC met in March to review all of the Achievement Scheme materials for 2015. There was some debate, covering a range of topics and test elements, before these were agreed. However, the 2015 versions of all Achievement Scheme Materials have now been published on the BMFA website.

As usual, since the last report in January, there have been a small number of minor items of correspondence, which have required the attention of the Scheme Controller and or the ASRC. The most notable of these has included forum postings related to the non-re-ratification of two Area Chief Examiners.

As reported previously, the recently introduced Multirotor 'A' & 'B' tests have generally been well received, with significant uptake since their introduction. As with all new tests, the ASRC recognises that refinements and or revisions to the schedules may be required, and as a result of feedback and experience from candidates, examiners and special interest groups, an ASRC Meeting has been scheduled for the 30th of May. This meeting will consider the introduction of an FPV 'A' cert, as well as the potential production of additional ASRC materials for guidance to clubs etc. on the operation of enhanced stabilisation modes in Multi-rotors, as well as the use and impact of such systems (3 axis gyros), in fixed wing and conventional rotary aircraft.

The revision of the 'Up & Away' training manual has now been completed. The new document has been given the working title of '**A Flying Start**', to supplement the more formal title of the **RC Flight Training Manual – Power/Electric (FW)**.

The new document has been extended to cover electric as well as i.c. powered fixed wing aircraft. It has a modular format with details of assumed/previous knowledge requirements at the start of each section and also includes an example training log sheet.

'A Flying Start' is now available as a free download from the BMFA web site, or hard copy can be purchased from the Leicester office if required. The new training manual has already stimulated some positive feedback from members.

A short 'letter to the editor' style article has been prepared and circulated to a number of model magazines, who have indicated their intention to publish. The article is effectively a mechanism to keep reader's informed of developments within the achievement scheme, notably the new Multi-rotor tests, the new flight training manual and examiner / instructor workshops.

Following discussion with the Tech. Sec., work has commenced on the preparation of the new Achievement Scheme Handbook, although this has been halted pending discussions on the production of additional ASRC material at the meeting scheduled for the 30th May.

The ASRC continues to encourage all Areas to include and organise Examiner / Instructor workshops in their annual programmes, and would like to ask all delegates to feed this back to their Areas.

In addition, the ASRC would like to stress that it is important for Area chief Examiners and Instructors to get involved in the process of organising and delivering workshops, as this provides an excellent mechanism for them to demonstrate engagement with the scheme.

The Webmaster is currently considering how best to compile and present a list of all workshops scheduled throughout the country.

Duncan R McClure
RC Power Achievement Scheme Controller & ASRC representative to Council
11th May 2015

Club Support Officers Report May 2015

It has been an extremely busy period since the last full council meeting. The Electric Indoor Masters were successfully held in February at the Metrodome Arena. We introduced a few changes this year that were very well received by pilots and spectators and we have managed a small surplus once again.

I have carried out a number of site visits since the last council meeting, I assisted the Cramlington and District Club (North East) who were being presented with a licence from the council that would have restricted them to sub 7kg models however we managed to persuade the council that the site is suitable for models up to 20kg. I also visited a South Midland area club to advise on planning and noise matters, they have been on site for 12 months, unfortunately I feel it will be very difficult to obtain a usable planning approval for the site, especially for IC powered aircraft however I will assist as much as possible if the club so wishes. I conducted a further site visit on behalf of the Crawley & District Club (South East) who have been offered some local authority land to use, the site does require extensive groundwork to make it suitable at an estimated cost running well in to the thousands, unfortunately, while the council were prepared to offer a 20 year licence they were also insisting on a 6 month notice to vacate clause which would have removed any security of tenure. In these circumstance it would have been difficult to advise anything other than to not proceed. Thankfully they do have another excellent site to use for the majority of the year. A further site visit was carried out at Leighton Buzzard at the request of the local authority who wanted advice on the suitability of a local recreation ground for model flying. The site was indeed suitable for small electric and silent flight aircraft and there is a group of model fliers operating there who are considering affiliating as a club. Area committees have been informed by email of all my club visits since the last council meeting although could I please ask areas to acknowledge these emails.

I have received interesting correspondence from the Bury Metro Club who have established a FPV quad copter racing circuit and they are having an inaugural race meeting on 25th July where I hope to attend and lend support.

The CEO and myself have had a meeting with a representative from the National Trust and there is ongoing work to update the agreement and NT have indicated they would be happy for powered flying in some locations if appropriate. This will be on a case by case basis.

On the subject of Non Domestic business rates for model flying clubs, I have been carrying out some research which is ongoing with the aim of producing some guidance for clubs. It is still I believe (although I have no data to back this up yet) the case that most clubs are not being assessed for NNBR although technically they are liable if they have exclusive use of a site so this could change. As non profit making sports clubs many local authorities can award up to 100% discretionary rate relief and if CASC status is obtained 80% rate relief is mandatory and discretionary relief may be available for the rest. There has been some changes to establishing CASC status recently however these should not affect clubs too much as they relate to costs to take part in activity (Club subs) which are generally low in relation to many other sports.

Small Business Rate Relief currently also applies however this could end in 2016. There are 2 areas that need to be addressed for clubs, ensuring the correct rateable value is applied and that as much relief is obtained as possible. The BGA negotiated directly with the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) on how to assess Gliding clubs after some excessive valuations and this may be something we need to do if evidence of this emerges. The BGA team have agreed to review some cases for us and they are currently looking at the valuation for South Norfolk MFC, with the clubs agreement. I am also corresponding with both Sport England and the Sport & Recreation Alliance on this matter.

I am planning of a survey of all clubs to establish if they have been assessed, what rateable values they have been given and what level of relief they have been able to obtain, there is of course no reason why this survey couldn't be expanded to include other topics too.

Website

Council will recall that I was planning a review of the main website and also the classifieds website which we planned to update and bring in to the main website by early 2016 as members would need to register on the website using a pin which we could print on membership documents. However I arrived home after the last council meeting to find the classifieds website had been quite comprehensively hacked. It soon became clear that the vulnerability of the old classifieds system would still be present after repairs so it was decided to scrap the old system and bring forward a replacement. A number of modules were looked at before settling for the current module which has now been up and running successfully since February 19th and is in my opinion much clearer, easier to use and has better features. PIN's have been printed on any new membership documents issued after 19th February and a process has been in place to issue them to those who had documents from before that date. We were without a classifieds system for about 6 weeks which did generate some comment, however feedback since the launch has been almost universally positive.

Area websites have now been created at the request of East Anglia, South Midland and Mid-Western and London Area have also requested a site. This facility is available to all other areas and Tech committees if they so wish.

The facility is now up and running and protocols are in place for all results to be uploaded directly by specialist bodies and technical committees to the website.

The club portal is working well with over 500 now clubs registered. There was an issue with registering club instructors but this has now been corrected.

An Areas Council discussion page has been created, the following areas still need to register for access, Northern, North East, Southern and Western.

Andy Symons
Club Support Officer & Webmaster