

MINUTES

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 12th September 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
Keith Lomax FSMAE	Honorary Treasurer
Jo Halman FSMAE	Competition Secretary
Simon Vaitkevicius	Records Officer
Peter Halman FSMAE	FAI Delegate
Phil Gutteridge	PRO Alternate
Peter Jenkins	East Anglia Area Delegate
Martin Dilly FSMAE	London Area Delegate & RAeC Delegate
Marian Ainsworth	Midland Area Delegate
Peter Willis	Northern 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
Tom Millar	Northern Ireland Area Delegate
Chris Strachan	Alternate
Vernon Hunt	Free Flight TC Representative
Robin Gowler FSMAE	Alternate
Clive Needham	Control Line TC Representative
Allan Weighell FSMAE	Scale TC Representative
	Silent Flight TC Representative
	Indoor TC Representative
	Alternate

In Attendance

Linda Harding

Dave Phipps
Andy Symons
Sian Sargeant

Guests

Nigel Tomlinson
Warren Sherman

Office Manager /
Minutes Secretary
CEO
Club Support Officer
Accounts Manager

FPVRA Representative
Chairman of Bury Metro MFC

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 16th May 2015.
- 5 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 16th May 2015 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 6 To receive a financial report from the Honorary Treasurer to include:
 - a The review and approval of the statutory accounts and supplementary information for the financial year ended 31st March 2015.
 - b Any issues or recommendations raised by the Auditor whilst reviewing the Accounts.
 - c The receipt and approval by Council of the draft budget for presentation to the AGM.
 - d The recommendation of the membership fees for next year.
 - e The ratification of the fees (currently £40) for Associate Bodies for next year.
- 7 To receive a joint report from the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer.
- 8 To receive a report from the Vice-Chairman.
- 9 To receive a report from the Honorary Secretary to include:
 - a Presentation of updates to the Affiliated Club list and adoption of any new clubs.
 - b Annual ratification of Honorary Members:
Dave Bishop, Ken McCormick, Eric Clark, Poppy Gowler, Maureen Nicholls, Dr Mike Sun, Peter Valentine, John French, Roger Bellingham, Dave Phipps, Leon Creese, Julio Isidro, Derek Hardman.
 - c To consider Specialist Body Status for BFPVRA. (Constitution appended).
- 10 To receive a report from the Technical Secretary.
- 11 To receive a report from the Competition Secretary to include the following:
 - a Receipt and ratification of any contests for next year's FAI Calendar.
 - b Ratification of fees for FAI Licences for next year. (Present fees: FAI stamp: Seniors £10, & Juniors £5; 5 year FAI stamp £30; Booklet: £5; replacement licences including the FAI stamp (ie lost or damaged in the current year): £5.
 - c To receive a proposal from the Competition Secretary that:
The British Miniature Pylon Racing Association be permitted to host and organise the 2017 FAI World Championship for F3D (Pylon Racing Model Aircraft in line with the two documents appended).

- 12 To receive a report from the Records Officer to include the following proposals:
 - a That we create new UK record classes for Multirotor models in the following classes:
 - 1) Duration
 - 2) Distance in a straight line
 - 3) Closed circuit speed (200m and 50m)
 - 4) Altitude
 - 5) Fastest cross channel crossing
 - b To create a new adopted Society award in memory of Graham Lynn who sadly passed away earlier this year. Graham served the Society for many years and his widow and colleagues wish to have an award to honour his memory.
 - c To receive the following Record Claims:
 - i) Peter Fox (161949) Weatherman Speed Class 0.
 - ii) David Finch (040864) Weatherman Speed Class VII.
 - iii) Roger Gedge (034600) Weatherman Speed Class VI.
 - iv) Anthony Hebb (035650) F1D.
- 13 To receive a report from the Public Relations Officer.
- 14 To receive a report from the FAI Delegate, to include:
 - a The agreement of the CIAM Education Sub-Committee Delegate.
- 15 Next year's Major Events:
 - a To accept co-ordinators.
 - b To ratify the Power Nationals Co-ordinator.
- 16 To receive a report from the Power Nationals Co-ordinator and the appropriate Technical Committees on the BMFA National Championships held since the last Council Meeting in May.
- 17 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Awards Committee.
- 18 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)

19 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

20 Any Other Business.

Please note: Items for Any Other Business should be handed, or sent, to the Chairman or the Office Manager in writing before the meeting commences.

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

21 Date of next meeting.

The Minutes begin below.

MINUTES

The Chairman informed Council that there were no ballots required this year for the election of members to Technical Committees however a ballot is required to determine which three of the four elected members to the Free Flight Technical Committee will stand for 2 years and which member for 1 year. Ballot papers were handed out and collected back prior to the start of the meeting. The Chairman announced the result after Agenda Item 3: To verify the voting strength of the meeting.

The result was as follows:

Ken Faux, Chris Strachan, Mike Woodhouse – two years
John Carter - one year

The Chairman also informed Council that the Minutes of the EGM on the 4th July 2015 will be circulated next week. In accordance with the Constitution, the Minutes of the EGM will be considered for approval at the AGM on 21st November 2015.

986/09/15 (1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from the following:

David Varallo Technical Secretary, Robin Sleight MBE Honorary Secretary, Nigel Barker PRO, Neil Tricker RAFMAA Delegate, Mike Colling FSMAE Indoor TC Rep, Maurice Doyle Northern Ireland Area Delegate, Mike Woodhouse FSMAE FFTC Rep.

987/09/15 (2) Request for permission to be absent.

There were none.

988/09/15 (3) To verify the voting strength of the meeting.

There were 25 members eligible to vote.

989/09/15 (4) Adoption of the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 16th May 2015.

To include the following correction:

Page 10, first paragraph, second line – Insert “RAFMAA” before “Chairman”.

London Area proposed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2015 be accepted as a true record.

Seconded by Scale TC

Vote: For: 20
Ags: 0
Abs: 5

Carried by a majority vote.

990/09/15 (5) Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 16th May 2015 not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

ACTION/NOTES

Page 8

- **Fourth paragraph, website facility for donations towards the ‘National Centre’ fund** – A notice has been prepared by the Competition Secretary for inclusion on the BMFA website which the webmaster will upload.

WEBMASTER

Page 10

- **Sixth paragraph, new award the SMAE Medal / Page 11 item c) Amendment to appendix N and O of the Council Handbook** – The Chairman of the Awards Committee advised that he has now completed the amendment to the Awards Procedure Booklet to incorporate the SMAE Medal and also the amendment to appendix N and O of the Council Handbook.

He has been working with the medal company on potential designs for the new SMAE medal. The medals will be produced in time for the first three to be presented at the Annual Dinner/Prize giving, subject to Council acceptance of the nominees later in the meeting.

Page 13

- **Second paragraph, proposal from the Competition Secretary to introduce a new methodology for reporting BMFA competition results** – This is all in place and working well.

Page 16

- **Fourth paragraph, Air Prox, reported mid-air collisions** – The Club Support Officer advised that there was no official report out as yet. Model flying resumed on the site almost straight away.

This concluded Matters Arising.

991/09/15 (6) To receive a financial report from the Honorary Treasurer to include:

- a) **Review and approval of the statutory accounts and supplementary information for the year ended 31st March 2015.**

The Honorary Treasurer handed over to Sian Sargeant, the Accounts Manager who proceeded to guide the meeting through the Annual Report and Accounts and Supplementary Information in detail.

The Honorary Treasurer commended the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015 to be approved for submission to the AGM on 21st November 2015.

Proposed by the Honorary Treasurer
Seconded by RNMAA
Carried unanimously

HON TREAS
ACCTS MGR

Council showed its appreciation of the Accounts Manager with a round of applause.

- b) **Any issues or recommendations raised by the Auditor whilst reviewing the Accounts.**

The Honorary Treasurer expressed his gratitude to the Accounts Manager for producing an excellent set of accounts which was borne out by the fact that the Auditor had not raised any issues whatsoever. This is testament indeed for a company of this complexity and size.

- c) **The receipt and approval by Council of the draft budget for presentation to the AGM.**

The Honorary Treasurer guided the meeting through the proposed draft Budget for the Financial Year 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017. There were several items which necessitated an increase in the budget, including an increase in Insurance Premium Tax and postal charges for BMFA News.

- d) **The recommendation of the membership fees for 2016.**

The Honorary Treasurer recommended that the senior subscription and family partner subscription be increased by £1 to cover the increases, which will give a budgeted surplus of £8,266.

The Honorary Treasurer commended the draft budget for presentation to the AGM with the recommendation to the AGM that there should be a £1 increase in the Senior subscription and the Family Partner subscription for 2016, as follows:

Senior	£33
Junior	£17
Family Partner	£22
Family Junior	£13

Cont'd/...
Seconded by SFTC
Carried unanimously

- e) **The ratification of the fees (currently £40) for Associate Bodies for 2016.**

The Honorary Treasurer proposed that the fee for Associate Bodies remains the same at £40 for 2016.

Seconded by the Competition Secretary
Carried unanimously

The Honorary Treasurer posed a question to the Chairman in asking to which budget the costs for holding the EGM earlier in the year will be attributed. The Chairman replied that he is not willing to respond to that question without prior notice in writing.

Council expressed their appreciation of the Honorary Treasurer's work on producing the draft budget with a round of applause.

992/09/15 (7) To receive a joint report from the Chairman and the Chief Executive.

Chairman

He had been in attendance at the Power Nationals which he considered to be quite successful. It was a frustrating build up to the Power Nationals and on behalf of Council the Chairman thanked Dave Phipps, CEO (Power Nationals Co-ordinator) and his team for their extremely hard work and endeavours in making it possible.

He also thanked the Vice-Chairman Ian Pallister for stepping in as the BMFA's RAF Liaison Officer, as part of his role as OIC RAF Cranwell MFC. Without his input it is very possible that the Power Nationals would not have taken place.

The Chairman reported that he had hosted the VIP hospitality over the Power Nationals weekend. Although numbers were down it still made for a very interesting couple of days. The guests were astounded and very impressed by the scale, magnitude and scope of the organisation in how the site gets built and dismantled.

He had attended the Heavy Lift Challenge at Elvington where he assisted and presented the prizes. It was a superb event which was well supported.

The EGM had taken place which had a successful outcome and work continues on the National Centre project. The Minutes of the EGM will be circulated electronically next week and will be submitted to the AGM in November for approval.

He had several meetings with the CEO since the last Council meeting. Overall it has been a good summer and the Society has acquitted itself very well over the last few months.

Chief Executive Officer

The CEO had attended the EGM and since then the search continues to identify suitable land in the right location, which is proving very difficult.

One of the VIP guests at the Power Nationals was the Estate Manager for a large landowner who was very keen on supporting the National Centre project. The study team were invited to look at four potential sites and arrangements will be made to visit the sites in the near future. The land would not be for sale but could be made available to lease, which is not something that we had previously considered but leasing cannot be ruled out.

The Development Officer's time has been taken up with preparation for the Showline at the Power Nationals and more recently organisation of the University Heavy Lift Challenge, due to be launched in the next few days. Attention will then return to the National Centre project.

The website developers are currently working on the integration of a donation system into the website however in the interim, a manual facility would be made available until the electronic system is in place.

The CEO had attended the Free Flight Nationals and part of most weekends over the summer had been spent delivering or collecting trailers and equipment to various shows and club events. Both simulator trailers have been out on several weekends and it is good that they get regular use.

We received a visit to the office from Jonathan Shorer, President of the New Zealand Model Aircraft Association. The CEO commented that it is always interesting to compare how other nations organise and regulate model flying. Prior to moving to New Zealand Jonathan was a member of the Club of which the CEO is a member.

The ongoing legal case between the Aldershot Club and Mrs Sellars had now come to a stop. The Club Support Officer will report in more detail later in the meeting.

Since the last Council Meeting, the CEO had attended several meetings with the insurance brokers. He reported that premiums remained on level terms for renewal, however there will be an increase in Insurance Premium Tax from 6% to 9.5%. As part of the discussions it was confirmed that whilst we remain with Integro, sponsorship will continue.

A meeting has been arranged with our underwriters to discuss a longer term deal to secure premiums for the next 2-3 years.

The optional Equipment Cover Scheme for individual members will be phased out as there have been several claims where fraud has been suspected, rendering the scheme non-viable.

The Club Equipment scheme will continue and the CEO is working with the insurers to see if there is any way it can be provided as a free benefit to affiliated clubs.

Cont'd/...

CEO
Cont'd/...

The CEO attended a meeting of Europe Air Sports earlier in the week to discuss European Aviation Safety Agency draft proposals on the regulation of 'drones'. EASA have come up with a set of proposals and the CEO is currently working with EASA and several other European Member States to formulate a response.

The CEO is due to attend the FAI Conference in Rotterdam as one of the UK Delegation, which is being financed by the Royal Aero Club so there is no cost to BMFA.

The CEO asked for Council's agreement to make the following changes to Council Appointments to External Bodies:

The delegate to the General Aviation Awareness Council to be changed from Development Officer to Club Support Officer and the delegate to the Sport and Recreation Alliance be changed from Graham Lynn MBE FSMAE (deceased) to Diana King OBE.

The CEO also made reference to the fact that we had not previously formally ratified a delegate to Europe Air Sport (EAS) but it is something we need to note and correct. He is currently the delegate to EAS.

There were no contested elections this year and therefore no necessity for a ballot of the membership.

There is however a requirement for a co-option to the Executive as the PRO had not re-submitted his nomination for another term. Interested parties were invited to put themselves forward for co-option. The vacancy will be effective from the AGM in November.

The CEO announced that Helen Feaver, Membership Secretary had given birth to a baby boy, Dominic. Both mother and son are very well and the Membership Secretary will be back at work in time for membership renewals.

993/09/15 (8) To receive a report from the Vice-Chairman.

Most of his time since the Council Meeting in May has been taken up with negotiations and arrangements for the Free Flight and the Power Nationals in his new role as RAF Liaison Officer for the BMFA.

His thanks were recorded to Dave Phipps, Power Nationals Co-ordinator for his admirable patience and flexible response to the RAF's prevarication. It wasn't until minutes before the airfield was due to close that we managed to get access.

The Vice-Chairman had attended the EGM.

His duties as Chairman of Scale TC involved facilitating and organising a Scale Training Day at West London MAC. He also facilitated and produced the risk assessment for a Scale competition at Merryfield.

Cont'd/...

Vice-
Chair
Cont'd/...

He had attended the Free Flight Nationals. He had also been involved as a Judge for the Scale contest at the Power Nationals which meant he was unable to pay a visit to the FPV demonstration flying event which he would have liked to have seen.

Whilst at the Power Nationals he had chaired the meeting of the Awards Committee on which he will be reporting in more detail later in the meeting. He had also chaired the Safety Review Committee (SRC) two days ago at Chacksfield House.

In his role as SRC Chairman he had instigated a column called "Confessions" in the BMFA News. The aim is to produce a readable, entertaining story with a message. All contributions welcome. Most of them so far have been R/C orientated but he has a couple of Control Line ones waiting. Any Free Flight stories would be most welcome too.

994/09/15 (9) To receive a report from the Honorary Secretary to include items below:

In the absence of the Honorary Secretary, the Chairman introduced the following items:

a) Presentation of updates to the Affiliated Club list and adoption of any new clubs – Both lists were duly accepted.

South Midland Area advised that the Club Support Officer had provided him with a breakdown of data collected in from the Affiliated Club Survey on the website and he observed that there could be some erroneous data. A number of clubs believe they are in the South Midland Area but they are not included on his records. The main concern is that when asked the question about communication with the Area some of the clubs answered quite negatively, which is understandable as they would not have been receiving notifications from the South Midland Area because he did not have email addresses for them.

Post Meeting Note:

South Midland Area and the Office Manager have since spoken on the subject and will be looking in to it

b) Annual ratification of Honorary Members:

Dave Bishop, Ken McCormick, Eric Clark, Poppy Gowler, Maureen Nicholls, Dr Mike Sun, Peter Valentine, John French, Roger Bellingham, Dave Phipps, Leon Creese, Julio Isidro.

The Honorary Members as listed above were received and duly ratified.

c) To consider Specialist Body Status for BFPVRA (British First Person View Racing Association).

Cont'd/...

There were a couple of minor, and one major, drafting errors in the proposal reasons which the Competition Secretary pointed out:

Spec
Body
Prop
Cont'd/...

“..... irresponsible done” should read “irresponsible *drone*”

“..... providing some racing” should read “*demonstration racing*”

The final paragraph should read in its entirety “*Their acceptance as a Specialist Body is recommended and the BFPVRA would then be an RCP Specialist Body and will be administered under the procedure “Working Practices for Specialist Bodies without a Technical Committee.”*”

Nigel Tomlinson BFPVRA Representative provided an excellent presentation for which Council applauded.

One or two questions were raised, which Nigel and Warren Sherman, Chairman of Bury Metro MFC answered to the satisfaction of Council. The Competition Secretary would liaise with the BFPVRA regarding producing an amended Constitution.

The proposal to accept BFPVRA as a Specialist Body of the BMFA was agreed in principle subject to an amended constitution as indicated.

Seconded by South Midland Area
Carried unanimously

COMP SEC/
BFPVRA

HON SEC/
OFFICE

**HONORARY SECRETARY - WRITTEN REPORT
(APPENDIX A)**

The Honorary Secretary was absent however he had prepared a written report, as appended.

995/09/15 (10) To receive a report from the Technical Secretary.

The Technical Secretary was absent and there was no written report.

996/09/15 (11) To receive a report from the Competition Secretary to include the following:

- a) **Receipt and ratification of any late contests for next year’s FAI Calendar** – The Competition Secretary has so far only received two applications for inclusion on the FAI Contest Calendar for 2016. They are both for Free Flight; The Equinox Cup and Stonehenge Cup.

The deadline for submission to the FAI is 15th November therefore any further requests need to be with the Competition Secretary prior to 10th November. It is possible to put them on later if they are an Open International Competition however the bureaucracy involved in that procedure is quite cumbersome.

Cont'd/...

Comp Sec cont'd/...

- b) Ratification of fees for FAI Licences for next year. Present fees: FAI stamp: Seniors £10 & Juniors £5; 5 year FAI stamp £30; Booklet £5; replacement licences including the FAI stamp (i.e lost or damaged in the current year): £5** – The Competition Secretary recommended the fees remain the same as listed. She reminded everyone that 5 year FAI Licence for Juniors are not available because of the difficulty of establishing when they become a ‘Senior’ member (18+ years of age).

She also reminded the meeting that from January 2016 the only valid FAI Licence are those that appear on the FAI Licence Database and if a competitor’s details do not appear on that database then the FAI will invalidate any international results.

- c) To receive a proposal from the Competition Secretary that the British Miniature Pylon Racing Association be permitted to host and organise the 2017 FAI World Championship for F3D Pylon Racing.**

The Competition Secretary referred to the documentation in the agenda in support of the above proposal.

Seconded by the FAI Delegate
Carried unanimously.

The Competition Secretary reported that for the first time for some years the BMFA had sent an F1 Junior team to the F1 ABP Junior European Championships. Although this was a one-man team, Joseph Gibbs competed in F1A (Glider) and placed 26th out of 39 competitors in his first Championship.

There were GBR medal successes in only two categories at FAI Championships this year: Free Flight Power and F2A CL Speed.

F1C (FF Power) World Championships

Team Bronze: John Cuthbert, Ken Faux and Mick Lester

F2A (CL Speed) European Championships

Individual Gold: Paul Eisner, European Champion with a speed of 302.1 kph using a “Halman Special” engine.

Team Gold: Paul Eisner, Ken Morrissey and Peter Halman, all using “Halman Special” engines.

The Competition Secretary attended the 2015 F2 World Cup and the European Championships as FAI Jury President.

All the FAI Championships have now been completed.

Paul Eisner, GBR, won the Pazardzhik F2A World Cup with a speed of 303.2 kph. At the Dutch Grand Prix F2A World Cup Paul won with 303.3 kph and Peter Halman was second with 297.1 kph. Both were using “Halman Special” engines.

Cont'd/...

Comp
Sec
Cont'd/...

Nine FAI World Cup competitions were scheduled for 2015 in the UK:

two Free Flight – which will both take place in two weeks time;
two F3F (RC Slope Soaring) – with the Welsh Open EuroTour taking place this weekend;
one F3A (RC Aerobatics);
one F3K (RC Hand Launched Gliders);
one F3J (Thermal Duration);
one F5B (RC Electric Motor Glider);
one F5J (RC Electric Thermal Duration).

The Competition Secretary could not attend the Power Nationals as it clashed with the F2 European Championships.

There had been one protest in F5D at the Power Nationals. That protest was upheld but the penalised competitor is now formulating his own post-competition protest appeal against the outcome of the first protest.

The Competition Secretary has instituted an FAI Championships results page on the BMFA website and this will be populated for 2015 as Championship results are received from the Team Managers. Previous years' Championship results will be added as and when she has time to upload them. This way at least the BMFA has an archive for Championships results – something that the FAI has never managed to achieve with its website.

She reported that the Power and the Silent Flight National Championship fillable pdf entry forms and Camping forms were a great success and she hopes to apply fillable pdfs to all the other National Championships from next year. On behalf of the Chairman of the Awards Committee, she had also designed and generated a fillable pdf for Awards Nominations.

997/09/15 (12) To receive a report from the Records Officer.

It is a busy time of year for the Records Officer. He reported that the Power Nationals 1-2-3 results had all been collected in, checked and submitted for publication in the BMFA News.

The dreadful weather conditions on the Monday of the Power Nationals hampered the process of gathering in the results, and the Records Officer will be making changes to this process for next year.

Cont'd/... **The Records Officer introduced the following proposals:**

a) **That we create new UK record classes for Multirotor models:**

The Records Officer provided some background information in relation to the above proposal and following a meeting between himself and the Technical Secretary last week they would like to now recommend the introduction of seven new classes of record for Multirotor models:

Duration
Distance in a Straight Line
Altitude, Speed in a Straight Line
Distance in a Closed Circuit
Speed in a Closed Circuit
Distance Goal and Return

The Records Officer advised that the original proposal included a class for 'Fastest cross channel crossing' which has now been withdrawn.

As there were no specification rules yet the Records Officer decided to withdraw the proposal for now with the intention of submitting it to Full Council in January.

**RECORDS
OFFICER**

b) **To create a new adopted Society award, to be known as 'The Graham Lynn Award' in memory of Graham Lynn who sadly passed away earlier this year. Graham served the Society for many years and his widow and colleagues wish to have an award to honour his memory.**

The title of the award was amended to 'The Graham Lynn Rose Bowl' which was a request from Graham's widow, Doreen.

Scale TC proposed the above amendment.
Seconded by the Records Officer

Vote: For: 24
Ags: 0
Abs: 1

Carried by a majority vote.

The Chairman called for a vote on the substantive proposal:

Proposed by the Records Officer

To create a new adopted Society award, to be known as 'The Graham Lynn Rose Bowl, in memory of Graham Lynn who sadly passed away earlier this year. Graham served the Society for many years and his widow and colleagues wish to have an award to honour his memory.

Seconded by the Competition Secretary
Carried unanimously

Cont'd/... The Graham Lynn Rose Bowl will be awarded for service above and beyond the call of duty.

c) To receive the following British Record Claims:

Item ii) David Finch, Weatherman Speed Class VII – The Records Officer deferred this to the Technical Council Meeting on October 17th 2015.

Items i), iii) and iv) as below, were commended for ratification en bloc.

i) Peter Fox (161949) Weatherman Speed Class 0 – 21/06/15 at Berkeley Power Station – 81.01 mph

iii) Roger Gedge (034600) Weatherman Speed Class VI – 24/05/15 at Barkston Heath – 114.07 mph

iv) Anthony Hebb (035650) F1D – 01/04/15 at F1D European Championships, Romania – 23 mins 32 secs

Proposed by the Records Officer
Seconded by London Area
Carried unanimously

**RECORDS
OFFICER/
OFFICE**

The Records Officer reported that he is currently working with the relevant Technical Committees to consider the allocation of trophies to various classes that currently do not have trophies allocated.

Trophy engraving and arrangements for the BMFA Awards Ceremony in November is underway.

There was a request for inclusion in the Records Book to show the old record in brackets after the new record. The Records Officer said he would look into this to see if it would be possible.

998/09/15 (13) To receive a report from the Public Relations Officer.

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

999/09/15 (14) To receive a report from the FAI Delegate, to include:

a) To approve the appointment of Mike Colling to be included on the CIAM Technical Expert list for Education.

Council approved this recommendation.

**FAI DEL /
OFFICE MGR**

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

The question was asked whether the FAI Delegate had been able to progress with the FAI the change of terminology from “Aeromodelling” to “model flying”. The FAI Delegate advised that this was work in progress.

1000/09/15 (15) Next year's Major Events:

a) To accept co-ordinators

Free Flight	Mike Woodhouse FSMAE
Scale Indoor	John Minchell and Graham Banham
Control Line	Will be discussed at their meeting on 10 th October.
Silent Flight	Mike Proctor (TBC)
Indoor	Will be appointed at their first meeting of the new Committee.
EIM	Andy Symons

b) To ratify the Power Nationals Co-ordinator.

The Chairman proposed that we appoint the CEO as Power Nationals Co-ordinator for 2016.

The CEO accepted with the proviso that he reserves the right not to have CL Team Race attend next year.

1001/09/15 (16) To receive a report from the Power Nationals Co-ordinator and the appropriate Technical Committees on the BMFA National Championships held since the last Council Meeting in May.

Power Nats Co-ordinator

The CEO (Power Nationals Co-ordinator) gave a vote of thanks to the team of volunteers who worked with him. Particular thanks were given to Keith Lomax FSMAE (Treasurer), Christine Lomax (Camp Gate), Andy Symons (Safety), Linda Harding (Day Gate), Wayne Pendleton (Flightline Co-ordinator), Tom Jones (Plant & Equipment), Tony Butterworth FSMAE (Campsite), Mark Wigley and Andrew Davis (Roping Crew), Pete Hadlow (Trade Secretary). The CEO also thanked Robin Gowler FSMAE and his wife Poppy and Ashley Hoyland (GBRCAA) and his wife Kath who all volunteered and helped with the airfield set up and FOD plod.

The CEO reported that the Nationals had gone surprisingly well considering the pressures and constraints we had to deal within the week leading up to the Nationals. Fortunately, some major problems were overcome with the assistance of some of the staff at Barkston Heath and Pete Hadlow, Trade Secretary, who at the very last minute had to re-draw the trade layout.

Unfortunately this year the late handover of the airfield on the Friday evening proved challenging because of the number of campers arriving early, despite our repeated advice not to arrive before 5pm. We filled every available holding area and were at bursting point. One suggestion from staff at Barkston Heath was that perhaps we should consider charging an additional fee for early arrivals which could be donated to a charity and which might act as a deterrent to arriving too early.

Cont'd/...

Nats
Co-ord
Cont'd/...

The First Aid team had to deal with 20 casualties, mainly minor issues, with the exception of the ambulance taking an elderly gentleman to hospital on the Saturday evening. Wayne Pendleton (Flightline Control), who is trained as a First Aider, stepped in and took over the supervision of the First Aid team until the ambulance returned.

The CEO made reference to the circumstances leading to the current restrictions on the use of Barkston Heath. He was therefore extremely disappointed that two Control Line Team Race officials did almost the exact same thing and forced their way on to the active airfield on the Friday afternoon to mark out their circles and then argued with the airfield staff when challenged. They were escorted back to the 'holding area'.

It is on this basis, and the fact that this is the third time within the last four years that Control Line Team Race fliers had caused unnecessary grief for the Power Nationals Co-ordinator, that he was considering a ban. It will take some serious persuading for him to accept Control Line Team Race back next year. The Competition Secretary commented that she fully supports a ban on Team Race.

There were some additions to the FOD plod team this year in the form of Robin and Poppy Gowler and also Ashley Hoyland and his wife Kath. The CEO took a call from Ashley before the Nationals expressing an interest in joining the team as he said he felt guilty arriving each year expecting everything to be ready to go and then departing on the Monday afternoon again leaving other people to do the clearing up. He actually arrived on the Thursday and helped with the Control Line mowing and was out with the FOD team on the Monday evening and again at 6am Tuesday morning.

There was an increase in costs this year because of some of the restrictions on the airfield and also the lack of use of the hangar for the bar. Although too early to report on the actual financial situation, it is likely that there will be a loss this year.

It was helpful that we had some co-operation from the airfield staff at Barkston who did the best they could within the orders they had been given. They were particularly helpful on the Friday afternoon.

Particular thanks go to the Vice Chairman (RAFLO) as without his intervention we would not have been there this year.

We played host to some notable VIP's; the Estate Manager mentioned earlier, Patrick Naegeli the Chairman of the Royal Aero Club, the CEO of the General Aviation Safety Council (GASCo) and various dignitaries from the Local Councils.

The Honorary Treasurer advised that it had been reported to him that one of the traders was flying a multi rotor way beyond the line of sight. He would be following it up to try and establish which of the traders was involved.

Cont'd/...

Nats
Co-ord
Cont'd/...

The CEO reported that he would be taking a hard line next year with trade bookings. Because of repeated problems with FOD on the trade area he will be considering imposing a deposit with the booking which would only be refunded if the pitch was free of FOD. At this point a picture was shown of a heap of FOD left at one of the trade plots.

The Chairman asked whether the CEO could confirm if he would be enforcing a ban on Control Line Team Race for 2016. The CEO commented that he did not want to make a hasty decision however his current inclination is to impose a ban. Again the view was supported by the Competition Secretary.

The CEO reiterated his gratitude and thanks to the excellent team of volunteers and helpers, which helped make the event a success, against all the odds.

Silent Flight

Despite having to relocate to Wetlands after the last couple of years at Cranwell, entries were not too badly affected and there was also a good spectator crowd.

Unfortunately due to the weather F3K cancelled their event and the Open E soaring event is being re-run tomorrow.

There is some uncertainty as to whether Wetlands will be a suitable venue to hold the Silent Flight Nationals next year as the farmer runs a bio power station and will be erecting solar panels.

1002/09/15 (17) To receive a report from the Chairman of the Awards Committee.

The Awards Committee met at Barkston Heath on the Sunday at the Power Nationals to consider this year's awards. Sixteen nominations were received of which two were duplicates. A further two nominations had been received after the meeting and had been discussed by email.

Only one nomination was rejected which was for the FAI Nile Gold Medal submitted by the Western Area. It was rejected on the grounds that the case was not sufficient to warrant an FAI medal.

There were no nominations for Fellowships this year. The Committee did consider upgrading one of the nominations however the ultimate decision was that it was inappropriate at this stage.

The Chairman of the Awards Committee read out and provided background information for the recommendations listed below and commended them to Council for consideration.

Cont'd/... Recipients of 'Pilot of the Year' and 'Henry J' awards will be announced after the deadline of 31st October 2015.

Awards
Cont'd/...

Whilst the Committee had recommendation to Paul Eisner for a RAeC Gold Medal, there was a possibility that this might be downgraded to Silver because it was a European Championship not a World Championship. The FAI Delegate commented that when Ken Morrissey FSMAE became European Champion he was awarded the RAeC Gold Medal therefore he feels it is only appropriate to award the same to Paul Eisner and not for it to be downgraded. He hoped the RAeC Awards Committee Chairman and RAeC Delegate would take this into consideration when the RAeC Awards Committee meet to discuss nominations put forward.

**RAeC
AWARDS
CTTEE CHAIR
/RAeC DEL**

The Vice-Chairman proposed that Council endorses the following recommendations:

BMFA Honorary Membership

Manny Williamson

Roy Wright

Certificate of Merit

Brian Brockway, Brian Gascoigne, Phil Taylor, John Holland, Dave Hanks

SMAE Medal

Peter Willis + RAeC Bronze Medal, John Jacomb + FAI Frank Ehling Diploma, Andy Sephton + RAeC Bronze Medal

John Andrews – Ray Malmstrom + RAeC Certificate of Merit.

Jim Wright – Arthur Mullett + RAeC Bronze Medal

John Stennard – Roger Bedford Memorial

Sgt Mike Matthias – Graham Lynn Rose Bowl

Paul Eisner – RAeC Gold Medal

Seconded by RNMAA

Vote: For: 24
Ags: 0
Abs: 1 (Peter Willis was still in the room)

Carried by a majority vote

1003/09/15 (18) To receive any reports from the following Delegates:

a) RAeC Delegate

WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX D)

In addition to his written report the RAeC Delegate added that for the second year running no nominations had been received from BMFA members for RAeC Trust Bursaries. Details can be found on the RAeC Trust website.

Cont'd/...

<http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries>

- b) **General Aviation Safety Council (GASCo)** – Nothing to report.
- c) **Air Prox** – Nothing to report.
- d) **Sport and Recreation Alliance (formerly CCPR)** – Nothing to report on this occasion. As the newly appointed delegate, Diana King will be reporting in future.
- e) **General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC)** – The Club Support Officer (as GAAC delegate) reported that he had only attended one meeting so far. He referred to the Government 'Keep Airfields Greenfields' Petition (an ongoing project of GAAC) which is on the BMFA website and urged everyone to spread the word and get people to fill it in and help with the cause.

1004/09/15 (19) To receive any reports from the following Committees:

- a) **CAA Team** – Nothing to report. The annual meeting of model flyers will be taking place in December 2015.

The Competition Secretary advised that Lufthansa Airlines have included ic model aero engines on their list of forbidden items for carriage.
- b) **Education** – No report.
- c) **University Challenge (Heavy Lift)** – Western Area queried the insurance requirements for students from abroad competing in the University Challenge. Western area was advised that they are classed as guests and would be covered by temporary membership.
- d) **Computer Sub-Committee** – As reported earlier in the meeting we are looking in to providing an online system for making donations to the National Centre Fund and also as part of that incorporating an e-commerce facility.
- e) **Safety Review Committee** – The Committee met at Chacksfield House on Thursday of this week. They reviewed this year's reported incidents. As of the date of the meeting there were four Personal Accident and thirteen Public Liability claims, which primarily are damage to person or models caused by a third party. Both these numbers are down on the previous year. However there were two fairly serious Personal Accident claims:

1) A member was setting up his electric helicopter on his dining table. Despite taking some precautions the model hit him in the face and he lost an eye as a result. The insurance paid out £17,500.

Cont'd/...

Safety
Cttee
Cont'd/...

2) A member who was carrying out noise testing on a large glider tug received serious injuries when the bolts on the propeller hub sheared. This resulted in the propeller being shed and hitting him. The investigation is ongoing.

As a result of discussion on safety measures for noise testing large aircraft the Club Support Officer will be conducting tests using safety netting to see whether we need to revise the current noise safety checks guidelines in the members' handbook. **(See post meeting note below).**

Post Meeting Note

Following a serious injury received when a propeller detached while an aircraft was at full power being tested for noise, recommendations have been issued to help mitigate this risk. These recommendations apply to the element of the test with the model pointing directly at the meter.

1) *Always check the security of the propeller before conducting any noise testing. Guidance on the integrity of multi-bolt attachment of large propellers will be issued following further investigation of the incident.*

2) *If possible, use a tripod mounted sound level meter (SLM) with a memory function that can store the maximum A weighted sound pressure reading.*

3) *If the SLM operator has to stand in front of the model, use a "catch" net (see picture below) placed at the midpoint between the aircraft and the SLM. We have conducted trials using cricket practice netting 2m by 2m constructed of 50mm (2") square mesh black polyethylene of 2mm gauge (cost £12.90 inc P&P) . (www.knowlenets.co.uk/leisure/cricket.htm) The trials showed no significant effect on the SLM measurements.*

Safety Review Committee report cont'd/.....

There was one near miss which could quite easily have been a fatality. The Records Officer was visiting a 100S meeting as a spectator walking between two pilots at the winch line when he felt something pass by his ear. The turn-around pulley broke free 150 metres away and the spike missed his head by a couple of inches. As a result of that the SFTC have looked at it and an action was placed on the SFTC and the Technical Secretary to prepare a form of words to go in the rule book, essentially reiterating the importance of regular checking of turn-around pulleys and making it the pilot's responsibility to ensure throughout the day that the turn-around pulley is fit for purpose.

Cont'd/...

Safety
Cttee
Cont'd/...

There would also be a 1000 point penalty applied to any competitor whose equipment was deemed not fit for purpose.

Two vacancies had arisen on the Electrical Safety Advisory Group (ESAG), a sub-committee of the Safety Review Committee (SRC). Following an advertisement placed in the BMFA News by the Vice-Chairman there was an immediate response and subsequently two new members would be joining Stephen Mettam the existing member of the ESAG: They are Gordon Tarling and Robert Coggan.

OFFICE MGR

g) Achievement Scheme Review Committee (ASRC)

WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX E)

The Achievement Scheme Controller asked Delegates to bring to the notice of their clubs the proposed introduction of the new proficiency certificates for Fixed Wing and rotorcraft aircraft as detailed in his report.

h) BMFA News Publishers – Nothing to report.

i) BMFA News Archivist

WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX F)

j) CLUB SUPPORT OFFICER

WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX G)

In addition to his report the Club Support Officer had provided copies of a report on the responses so far received in relation to the Affiliated Club Survey, which were mainly for the purpose of identifying the Non Domestic Rate situation. He briefly explained the result of the data contained in the report.

1005/09/15 (20) Any Other Business

- From East Anglia Area

On the subject of Non Domestic Rates, East Anglia felt that the BMFA should, in parallel with the Affiliated Club Survey, look at a test case. The South Norfolk Club (based in the East Anglia Area) operates two sites and both were assessed for Non Domestic Rates by the same Council with different outcomes. The club would be happy to be the test case.

The Club Support Officer provided an update on his investigations with regard to the Non Domestic Rates situation, which is still ongoing. As soon as he has sufficient information to move forward he will gladly take the time to sit down with the Treasurer of South Norfolk Club to discuss their case.

Cont'd/...

Both the East Anglia Area and South Norfolk Club accepted that this is work in progress and await further communication from the Club Support Officer in due course.

**CLUB
SUPPORT
OFFICER**

AOB
Cont'd/...

- From South Midland Area

Requested information regarding the review of the BMFA Articles of Association and Governance. The Area also wished to register its commitment to engage in this process, for which a few individuals had already put themselves forward. The Chairman asked the South Midland Area to email him the details of those individuals.

The Chairman commented that there are many factors to be considered for such a major review of the Association's Constitution. This is work in progress, although it does have a long term and cost implications.

**SOUTH
MIDLAND
AREA**

1006/09/15 (21) Date of next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 9th January 2016.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 5.06pm

Secretary's Report for September 2015 Council Meeting

I have sent apologies for my non attendance but unfortunately the altered date now clashes with a prior holiday booking to which I committed.

This has been a fairly quiet period with little activity. Some (legitimate) claims have been processed from the Devon Sub Area is still administered directly by me and I am pleased to report that activities in that sub area continue to proceed in a peaceful and satisfactory manner. The practice of paying claims centrally against pre-ordained criteria has certainly resulted in a much lower spend than the past practice of subvention of monies.

The calling of an EGM highlighted some procedural issues. Essentially the constitution sets out that, in a formal sense, "Members" of the Society are Clubs not individuals. This has been a long established definition created for good reason however with the current ease of joining the BMFA by "on-line" procedures the number of Country Members has increased. Diana King tells me that the members of the BGA are also the Clubs (not individual pilots) so there are parallels. If individuals became members, unintended consequences are likely to arise – for instance, would every AGM vote need to be a "Poll" vote. Communication with all BMFA individuals is not an issue and would not be improved by a constitutional change as all individuals get a copy of the BMFA News and (if they use it) the web provides time critical information..

A complete update of the Constitution document for Areas, adding in suggested terms of reference to try to ensure best practice across all Areas, was completed and issued and is available on the BMFA website.

It is unfortunate that issues established as regards Laws Lawn Farm prevented any moves to completion for that site but I believe that we must not lose the impetus established and continue the search especially in the environment of increasing prices for (and shortage of) suitable land.

One of the Traders at the Power Nationals commented that he felt the BMFA were not now welcomed by the MOD as evidenced by the minimal time available to set up and break down – a feature causing real issues for some Traders. He also commented that at some two day shows (not the Nationals) some of the participating pilots on the show line were (he felt) still under the influence of significant quantities of the previous night's alcohol and (in his view) would have failed a test and thus, when flying with BMFA insurance, it raised an issue of which we should be aware. He suggested that the BMFA could consider advising show organisers to make available (perhaps initially on a voluntary basis) breathalysers for show pilots who might be in any doubt as to their fitness to fly.

G R Sleight MBE. Honorary Secretary. 1 September 2015.

Public Relations Officer report to Full Council

Attended the Free Flight Nationals and the Power Nationals. There was a fair amount of interest in the NFC at the FF Nats, the overwhelming view supporting buying land before it becomes out of reach financially (and bemoaning the fact that we didn't do so decades ago). Fewer questions regards the NFC at the Power Nats. At both events there was great interest in access to Barkston Heath, both for future Nationals and the local club. I also got the impression that most people hadn't really understood that we could be one discarded carrier bag away from never getting access to the site again. Several requests for copies of the BMFA Handbook, perhaps we need to do a short run of copies of the web version, to tide us over until the next official version is released (to replace the current 2010 edition).

Attended two Executive meetings, the EGM, and the Awards Committee meeting.

This will be the last Full Council in my current term as PRO, and I would like to thank everyone for their assistance and support over the years.

Nigel Barker
12/9/2015

Report to Council from the FAI Delegate 12th September 2015

I attended the CIAM Plenary meeting in April and a full report was submitted to the May Council meeting. The period since the May Council meeting has been relatively quiet for the FAI delegate.

The 2015 World Air Games will be held in Dubai in December this year, there will be UK competitors in three of the four classes which will be flown, Duncan Osborn in F2N, Steve Shaffer in F3P and Ben Jones in F3T. Although selected Mike Willance was unable to accept his invitation to fly in F2D.

I can also report that the Minutes of the April Bureau and Plenary meetings have now been published and they are now available from the FAI CIAM website.

I am very pleased to say that there are potentially two World Championships coming to the UK, F3D in 2017 and F3F in 2018.

P Halman FSMAE
FAI Delegate
5th September 2015.

ROYAL AERO CLUB DELEGATE'S REPORT – July 2015

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

- 1) The 2016 Awards Evening will be on May 18th at the RAF Club; guest to be confirmed.
- 2) David Roberts attended a meeting in Riga concerning the regulation of unmanned aerial systems (UAS). The outcome is awaited but it is hoped that such aircraft flown for competition, sport and recreation, as opposed to for commercial use, will not be affected.
- 3) The proposed large extension to controlled airspace initiated by TAG at Farnborough may well have a drastic effect on all flying, including model flying. Discussions are continuing.
- 4) Rob Hughes, the new British FAI delegate (representing the RAeC, rather than a particular airport) considers that the FAI's resources are being spread too thinly and focusing on fewer projects will be more efficient. Supporting, rather than controlling, the various airport disciplines should be the priority.
- 5) The RAeC's FAI committee is being re-activated and will meet on Sept. 3rd; venue details to be confirmed. Every association's FAI delegate is urgently asked to attend or at least to send details of their concerns and needs to Rob Hughes..
- 6) There is a concern that Breitling, who currently sponsor several FAI world events, are re-considering this, and want more public appeal and media coverage than most FAI events currently offer.
- 7) The FAI General Conference will be at Rotterdam in September; Dave Phipps as RAeC general secretary, will be one of the British delegation.
- 8) Alan Cassidy of the BAeA is to be nominated for a post on CASI, the FAI's airport general commission.
- 9) The World Air Games will be held in Dubai in December; there was some discussion about a single uniform for all the British teams. The fact not all would be arriving at the same time if their events were held several days after the opening ceremony rather militated against the idea.

Martin Dilly
RAeC Delegate

15.7.15

**Achievement Scheme Review Committee
Report to Full Council Meeting
12th September 2015**

The ASRC last met at the end of May. Invited representatives from FPV and Multi-rotor interest groups also attended the meeting. The meeting discussed the recently introduced Multirotor 'A' & 'B' tests and considered feedback and experience from candidates, examiners and the special interest group representatives. Although the 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 appropriate.

During discussion it became evident that the time was right for the development of some form of new 'proficiency Certificate', one for FW aircraft, another for 'rotorcraft' (helicopters and multi-rotors) and with the option of an FPV extension for both. These certificates wouldn't necessarily change the underlying philosophy of the scheme, and are intended to operate **alongside** the existing certificates, which provide goals and challenges to encourage RC flyers to improve.

The introduction of these Proficiency Certificates effectively both acknowledges and supports the way the current 'A', 'B' and 'C' tests are often used by clubs and others to assess member's capabilities and grant privileges. The new certificates will be an important development for the scheme, the BMFA, and the hobby in general. They will provide practical guidance to clubs for the assessment of proficiency, in terms of the safe operation, of new categories of aircraft.

These certificates will be applicable to FW aircraft and rotorcraft equipped with stabilisation systems (3 axis gyros, Atti mode, GPS mode etc.) and of any mass i.e. they would not have a >1Kg restriction. This will capture a wide range of aircraft for which there is currently no provision within the achievement scheme.

The use of video is being investigated as a means of providing guidance (to both examiners and candidates) for these proficiencies, as this medium lends itself to the illustration new technologies and associated safety procedures, for example, Atti & GPS modes on Multi-rotors and 3 axis stabilisation systems in FW aircraft. For now, efforts will be concentrated on investigating the use of video materials for just the new 'Proficiency Certificates', but there is a recognition that over time, the use of this medium could be beneficial for many, but probably not all, of the other achievement scheme tests.

Draft flying schedules for these proficiencies have been developed and the relevant specialist interest groups are helping prepare the necessary guidance documentation, for discussion at the next ASRC meeting.

A short 'letter to the editor' style article, prepared by members of the committee, has been published by a number of prominent RC magazines. The article has been used effectively as 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. The editors have indicated their willingness to publish similar articles in the future, as appropriate.

The committee has provided advice to the Development Officer and CEO for their discussions with the CAA regarding the status of achievement scheme tests in relation to commercial licencing of UAV (Multi-rotor) operators. The CAA had indicated their desire to follow whatever guidance the BMFA felt was appropriate. The ASRC agreed that the current Multi-rotor 'B' Certificate would provide suitable 'Acceptable Alternative Evidence' for the 'Initial Practical Flight Assessment Requirement' element **only**, for the grant of a BNU-S (Basic National UAS Certificate) by an NQE (National Qualified Entity). Importantly, it was agreed that the Multi-rotor 'B' certificate **would not** provide 'Acceptable Alternative Evidence' for **any** theoretical knowledge element, for example Air Law, Human Factors, Meteorology etc.

A draft of the new Achievement Scheme Handbook has been prepared for discussion at the next meeting of the committee, which is scheduled for 31st October. Introductory text referencing the achievement scheme has also been provided to the Tech. Sec. for inclusion in the revision of the main BMFA Handbook.

Initial discussions regarding the development of a new Helicopter training manual have been scheduled for the October meeting.

As usual, since the last report in May, there have been a small number of minor items of correspondence, which have required the attention of the Scheme Controller.

Duncan R McClure
RC Power Achievement Scheme Controller & ASRC representative to Council
1st September 2015

ARCHIVISTS REPORT TO THE FULL COULCIL MEETING 12thth September 2015

Archiving continues it's never ending way through time, with archives being produced as you progress through your meeting today.

As usually I get in for a few hours on Monday mornings to tackle the increasing volume of material. Sadly Eric has been very ill since the end of 2014 and has not been able to join me. However, he is making a slow recovery and hopes to be back in harness soon.

It is normal for us to try to sell extra copies of books or magazines at the shows, sadly the only ones where we have been doing this is at the Old Warden when I attend which was only once this year. I will try to do better next year.

Please anyone attending a show is asked to take a few of the 'For Sale' items, it's a shame to throw them away and it does bring members to the stand and chat. (We usually sell them for something like 25p each or 5 for £1)

If you are willing to take them ask Linda or Julie, thank you in anticipation of your participation.

I make no apology for again, taking this opportunity to thank all the BMFA staff for their help and guidance, it has been invaluable.

Kath Watson, FSMAE.
Vice President & Archivist
8th September 2015

Club Support Officers Report - September 2015

Since the last council meeting I have attended the Teesside, Elvington and Winterton shows with the stand and simulator trailer. I also assisted Manny with the Heavy Lift Challenge and attended the society EGM. In July I attended the inaugural FPV race meeting at Drinkwater Park near Stockport to support the Bury Metro club. This element of our sport is really gathering pace and is something that clubs can take part in very easily. The sites do not have to be very large and the noise impact is negligible.

I have also taken over from the Development Officer as our representative at the GAAC and attended my first meeting in July. One of the issues that was discussed was the reclassification of full size airfields as brownfield sites and how this can be challenged, this is making it easier for developers to close airfields which is affecting some model flying sites. Hopefully by now you are all aware of the online petition and I am sure you have all signed it!!! See <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/106779>

Unfortunately we have reached the end of the road with the Aldershot case, the insurers declined to fund an appeal and we are not in a position to commit the society to funding an unknown sum to fight the appeal. The phone call to the club to inform them was not one I wish to repeat too often. A very disappointing outcome that shows that our justice system doesn't always get it right.

I have conducted a number of site visits to conduct noise assessments and it is my belief that noise issues are going to be an increasing challenge for clubs going forward. Whether a club has sound limits or not and even where a particular model meets any sound level individuals really should be asking themselves "Can I do anything to make this model quieter?" I would also suggest that if a club receives a noise complaint that they go experience the sound at that location for themselves.

With regards to the sound testing procedure as laid down in the Code of Practice, unfortunately we have had a member receive quite a nasty injury while testing an aircraft when a large 3 bladed carbon propeller came off and impacted the gentleman. The 6 bolts sheared and the propeller came straight forward. The risk of this is extremely small, however I will be conducting some experiments to measure the effects of placing a "catch net" between the aircraft and sound level meter, if this has minimal effect on the measurements this will be a cheap and easy solution. I then hope to be able to issue some recommendations to mitigate this risk further.

I held the Club survey back until after the EGM so we could ask some questions based on the outcome, at the time of writing the club survey has received almost 250 responses which is pleasing, however I will be issuing more reminders so we can gather as full a picture as possible. So far 12 clubs have indicated they have been assessed for business rates with only 5 of them having to pay anything. Business rates should only be payable if a flying site has exclusive use, so far the survey indicates that the majority of sites are shared sites, mostly with agriculture however this should exempt them from business rates. Once I have more responses I will be able to filter the responses by area and let each area have a copy.

The 2016 Electric Indoor Masters will take place at the Metrodome Arena Barnsley over the weekend of 13th/14th February.

Nationals

Once again I was the safety officer at the August Power Nationals, on the whole everything went well, the late access to the airfield on Friday created problems and holding areas had to be put in to operation. Apart from a very small number of individuals everyone was understanding of the situation and they were cleared reasonably efficiently once we had access. We do however need a plan to dissuade people from turning up before 5pm, we couldn't have squeezed any more into the holding areas. Incidents of people crossing in to live areas was much reduced this year, Fun Fly had put a large number of notices around the rope of the "bulge" which added to ours stopped most incursions. The hangar flying was much more relaxed without the bar nearby which gave the opportunity for an extra flying area which was put to very good use by the indoor free fliers who were glad of the opportunity to fly without having to share the area. Many thanks to our Vice Chairman for being able to arrange this. For the first time that I recall we had a friendly wind direction in the evenings which meant the free flight jamboree was much easier to control and while there are still some individuals that seem to want to put themselves in the way this year was incident free. Flying in the camp site was still an issue and I suspect always will be with the number of readily available small aircraft that can be obtained. I was especially pleased to see the FPV racing integrate successfully in to the event and they should be congratulated for running such a vibrant flight line.

Website

The website is running smoothly, we are however looking at a "theme" change which will make the site more friendly on mobile devices. The classifieds section has been working very well, there is a small issue with the automatic emails but that should be sorted very soon.

Andy Symons