

MINUTES

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 10th September 2016 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
	Robin Sleight MBE	Honorary Secretary
	Jo Halman FSMAE	Competition Secretary
	Simon Vaitkevicius	Records Officer
	Peter Halman FSMAE	FAI Delegate
	Peter Jenkins	East Anglia Area Delegate
Omitted in error	<u>David Varallo</u>	<u>Technical Secretary</u>
	Martin Dilly FSMAE	London Area Delegate & RAeC Delegate
	Steve Mason	Midland 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
	Ian Nelson BEM	RAFMAA Delegate
	Mike Woodhouse FSMAE	Free Flight TC Representative
	Vernon Hunt	Control Line TC Representative
	Clive Needham	SFTC Representative
	Mike Colling FSMAE	Indoor TC Representative

In Attendance

Linda Harding

Dave Phipps
Manny Williamson
Sian Sargeant

Office Manager /
Minutes Secretary
CEO
Development Officer
Accounts 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 14th May 2016.
- 5 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 14th May 2016 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 2016.
 - 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.
- 10 To receive a report from the Technical Secretary to include the following proposal:
 - a That General Rule 2.3.11 Number of Competitors be altered, see full proposal appended.
- 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.
- 12 To receive a report from the Records Officer to include the following proposals:
 - i) The following Record Claim, previously submitted to Council in 2015 but withdrawn by the Records Officer at that time for further review;
David Finch (040864) – Control Line Weatherman Speed Class 7 – 24/05/15 at RAF Barkston Heath – 122.62 mph

Cont'd/...

Agenda cont'd/...

- ii) To adopt a new named trophy for Control Line Oliver Tiger at the Nationals in memory of Peter Freebrey FSMAE who passed away in late 2015. This would replace the Jack Marsh trophy which would be gifted to the Control Line Technical Committee to look after and award to the winner of a non-Nationals competition for Control Line Combat. It is also requested that the historical winners of the Jack Marsh trophy are transferred to the Peter Freebrey trophy.
 - iii) That the BMFA adopt five trophies for Silent Flight classes that have no current trophy allocation. These trophies have been donated and refurbished by BARCS, having been allocated from unused classes that BARCS no longer run. The trophies have been presented to the BMFA Executive in January 2016 and with the initial approval of the suitability of the trophies by the Records Officer, BARCS funded their refurbishment ready for adoption by BMFA Council.
- 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 discuss venues.
 - b To accept co-ordinators.
 - c 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 the following proposals:
- i) From East Anglia Area that:
 - a) The BMFA should make available to all affiliated clubs a complete and comprehensive guide to the Non-Domestic Rating (NDR) system and how it applies to flying sites and related assets. This should include a briefing of the system, preparation for valuation and rates bills, immediate actions, appeal procedures, and long term options.
 - b) Work with the Valuation Office Agency and Local Government to establish a consistent and fair approach to NDR across the whole country, and to which individual clubs can reference in their individual cases.
 - ii) From East Anglia Area that:
 - a) Request that more publicity is given to clubs regarding the BMFA's indemnity insurance cover, especially with respect to the duties and liabilities of club committee members.
 - b) Request that the full policy wording for the BMFA's insurance is made available on the BMFA's website for both individual members and affiliated clubs.

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Agenda cont'd/...

19 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)

20 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 University Challenge
- d Computer Sub-Committee
- e Safety Review Committee
- f Achievement Scheme Review Committee
- g BMFA News Publishers
- h BMFA Archivist
- i Club Support Officer

21 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.

22 Date of next meeting.

The Minutes begin below.

MINUTES

No ballots are 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 Silent Flight Technical Committee will stand for 2 years and which member for 1 year. Delegates were provided with ballot papers prior to the start of the meeting. They were collected back in and counted during lunch recess and the result is as follows:

Alan Flockhart, Clive Needham and Mike Proctor FSMAE - Two years
Stephen Wilkie – One year.

1053/09/16 (1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from the following:

Robin Gowler FSMAE, Scale Technical Committee Representative
Tim Haigh, Northern Area Delegate
Tom Jones, North East Area Delegate.

1054/09/16 (2) Request for permission to be absent.

There were none.

1055/09/16 (3) To verify the voting strength of the meeting.

There were 23 members eligible to vote.

1056/09/16 (4) Adoption of the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 14th May 2016.

To include the following correction:

Page 5 – Delete Neil Tricker, RAFMAA Delegate from the list of ‘Apologies for Absence’ and list under ‘Permission to be absent’.

East Anglia Area proposed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2016 be accepted as a true record.

Seconded by the Honorary Secretary

Vote: For: 17 Ags: 0 Abs: 6

Carried by a majority vote.

1057/09/16 (5) Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 14th May 2016 not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

ACTION/NOTES

Page 5/6

- Matters Arising, discussion re NDR (Non Domestic Rates) –

East Anglia Area initially raised an issue at the 2015 May Full Council Meeting. During discussions at the 2016 January Full Council Meeting East Anglia Area were asked to provide an estimate and a broad outline of expenses to appoint legal representation on behalf of a club in their Area to assist with an appeal against NDR, for the Executive to consider.

East Anglia Area Delegate advised that the Club in question had contacted him to say the matter had been resolved. There is however a proposal on the agenda from the East Anglia Area requesting that the BMFA take action to provide more assistance to clubs vis a vis NDR.

Page 6/7

- Heading Page 11, PRO Vacancy – The Chairman advised that no nominations for the post of PRO had been received. The feeling of the Executive, following discussion at their meeting yesterday, is that thanks to the combined efforts of the CEO, Development Officer and Club Support Officer, the post is adequately covered for the time being and does not require a co-option.

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Pages 7-9

- **Various proposals from the Honorary Treasurer relating to Areas funding – 1038/05/16 (6) b) i)** - The Honorary Treasurer reported that this proposal put forward at the May Full Council Meeting (*To implement some form of cap on those Areas with a substantial bank balance so that we don't continue to subsidise their large sums of money*) was held in abeyance for consideration at Areas Council Meeting who met on 23rd July 2016, but unfortunately it was defeated.

- The Honorary Treasurer apologised to Areas for not providing the relevant budget forms in time for this years' budgeting process, in compliance with a resolution passed at the last Full Council Meeting in May. However he will endeavour to provide Areas with both the budget and account forms in time for when Areas have their AGM's, but this means it will not be effective until the next financial year.

This concluded matters arising.

****Voting now stands at 24 with the arrival of the CLTC Representative at 11.20 am****

HON TREAS

1058/09/16 (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 2016.**

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 booklets, copies of which had been previously circulated.

Council approved the Annual Report and Accounts subject to some minor drafting amendments which will be addressed and a revised document submitted to the Auditor.

HON TREAS/
ACCTS MGR

The Honorary Treasurer commended the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016 to be approved for submission to the AGM on the 19th November 2016.

Proposed by the Honorary Treasurer
Secoded by South West Area
Carried unanimously

HON TREAS
ACCTS MGR

Cont'd/... Council showed their appreciation of the Accounts Manager with a round of applause.

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

No issues or recommendations were raised by the Auditor.

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

&

d) The recommendation of the membership fees for 2017

The Honorary Treasurer guided the meeting through the proposed Budget for the Financial Year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 including the recommendation that there is no increase in membership fees for 2017.

Surplus after tax is £10,755.

The Honorary Treasurer commended the draft budget for presentation to the AGM with the recommendation to the AGM that there should be no increase in membership fees for 2017.

Fees for 2017 as follows:

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

Seconded by SFTC
Carried unanimously

e) The ratification of the fees (currently £40) for Associate Bodies for 2017. – No change to the current fee.

The Honorary Treasurer continued with his report.

Shows he attended so far this year manning the BMFA stand include 'Wings and Wheels' and several shows throughout the year hosted at Old Warden.

He also managed the BMFA stand at the Rotorfest event organised by Andy Symons, Club Support Officer. It was a first person view (FPV) multi rotor event in conjunction with the 'Queens Cup' competition which was awarded this year by the Royal Aero Club to the FPVRA (First Person View Racing Association).

It was an excellent event in every respect, with the added bonus of very good weather conditions. The Honorary Treasurer highly recommended if anyone gets the chance, to watch FPV drone racing in action, it is very exciting and good fun to watch.

With effect from the start of the next financial year, we will be implementing a policy that we cease payment by cheque except in exceptional circumstances. This form of payment is very outdated and not as convenient and cost effective as electronic banking. A letter will be prepared and sent out with any cheque payments advising that we will no longer be paying by cheque and asking people to provide their bank details.

HON TREAS

Hon
Treas
Rep
Cont'd/...

The Honorary Treasurer made a plea to delegates to remember when submitting expense claims, that in order to reclaim some of the VAT, we need to provide receipts. The number of claims that are submitted without receipts is increasing.

ALL

Update on the progress of the BMFA 'National Centre' project, presented by Manny Williamson.

The Chairman introduced Manny Williamson, Development Officer and head of the BMFA 'National Centre' Project Team, also comprising of Mark Benns and Jim Wright.

Manny proceeded to provide an update on the 'National Centre' project, with the aid of a powerpoint presentation.

Manny expressed his gratitude to Jim Wright with whom he has worked alongside throughout the whole project and who has worked tirelessly for the cause. Manny also extended his thanks to Mark Benns, who although was appointed in a professional capacity, has also expended a great deal of his time voluntarily.

Council showed its appreciation of Manny's presentation with a round of applause.

Mike Woodhouse FSMAE, raised an issue with regard to the allocation of Insurance sponsorship monies in relation to the 'National Centre' fund in the 2017/2018 Budget.

The Chairman convened a small meeting during lunch recess to clarify the matter.

The meeting reconvened after lunch and the Honorary Treasurer briefed Council on some minor changes to the 2017/2018 Budget as a result of the issue raised by Mike Woodhouse FSMAE before lunch.

The Honorary Treasurer commended the amended draft budget for the financial year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 for presentation to the AGM, with the recommendation to the AGM that there is no increase in fees for 2017.

Seconded by Mike Woodhouse FSMAE

Vote: For: 22 Ags: 0 Abs: 2

Carried by a majority vote.

HON TREAS
ACCTS MGR

A REVISED COPY OF THE DRAFT BUDGET WILL BE SENT AS A SEPARATE DOCUMENT WITH THE PROVISIONAL MINUTES OF THIS MEETING.

OFFICE MGR

Mike Woodhouse FSMAE thanked everyone concerned for taking his constructive comments and recommendations on board. He commented finally that it should also be noted that for clarity, there is a need to implement a separate budget going forward, for the 'National Centre' project, now known as "Buckminster Lodge".

HON TREAS
ACCTS MGR

The Chairman thanked Mike Woodhouse FSMAE for bringing the matter to the attention of the meeting.

1059/09/16 (7) To receive a joint report from the Chairman and the Chief Executive.

Chairman

The Chairman reminded those delegates who had not submitted their Director's Annual Report that the deadline for receipt is Monday 12th September.

With the Power Nationals not taking place in its usual format this year at RAF Barkston Heath, it left quite a big void. The Chairman reported that it has nevertheless still been a busy Summer. He attended the University Payload Challenge in June, which again was excellent in every aspect.

He attended, together with Manny Williamson, two meetings at the National Centre to discuss various ongoing matters relating to the National Centre.

He was involved in the process of email communication with the CEO, Vice-Chairman and our President, in an effort to secure RAF Barkston Heath for the 2016 Power Nationals, which as we know and much to our dismay, resulted unfortunately in the cancellation of the event in its usual format at RAF Barkston Heath.

He had regular meetings with the CEO. He is happy to report that our guest of honour and speaker at the annual prizegiving this year is Patrick Naegeli, Chairman of the Royal Aero Club.

The Chairman recorded his personal thanks to Manny Williamson in particular and his support team for all of their endeavours which has finally culminated in the realisation of a 'National Centre'.

Chief Executive Officer

The CEO reported that since the last meeting he had the pleasure to attend the Royal Aero Club Awards Ceremony where Paul Eisner received his Gold Medal; Peter Willis, Andy Sephton, Jim Wright received their Certificate of Merit, presented by the Duke of York.

The CEO had assisted with the organisation and also attended the Free Flight Nationals, which went very well.

He officiated at the AGM of the British First Person View Racing Association in April, however attendance was very low.

He attended the University Payload Challenge specifically to speak with the airfield management in terms of the possibility of using Elvington airfield for the Power Nationals. What began as being fairly positive discussions, unfortunately soon lost momentum as it came to light there were various issues which meant it was not suitable to hold such a large scale event as the Nationals there.

He travelled to the EASA (European Aviation Safety Agency) in June to attend a Stakeholders meeting on unmanned aircraft. He also attended the following day a meeting with the head of General Aviation and Remotely Piloted Aircraft.

Cont'd/...

CEO
Rep
Cont'd/..

The CEO attended shows at RAF Cosford and more recently RAF Digby. He accompanied Neil Tricker (RAFMAA Delegate at the time) at the 'Digby Day' where we took the simulator and held an Aerojet workshop. It was an excellent day and proved very popular with the children. The Aerojets were personalised with the RAF Digby insignia, the surplus of which were donated to the museum.

There is a change of command at RAF Cranwell and the indications are initially that it is quite a positive change. The Grantham Club benefited from some use of the airfield over what would have been the Power Nationals weekend. A meeting will be scheduled with the new Commandant in the near future.

The CEO commented that he had an enjoyable Summer in the absence of the Power Nationals and for the first time in twelve years he was present to celebrate his son's birthday, which was greatly appreciated. His daughter also liked the fact that she didn't have to spend her birthday scrubbing the runway with a scrubbing brush as she did on her sixteenth birthday.

The CEO recorded his thanks to the Competition Secretary for stepping in and assisting with organising the various British National Championships which of course were fragmented and held on various dates and at various venues around the country.

There have been several meetings to discuss our IT requirements which Stuart Willis will report on later in the meeting. Potentially we may have an IT project in the next couple of years.

A recent electrical installation inspection at Chacksfield House highlighted several deficiencies, some which need addressing more urgently than others, for which there will be a maintenance cost associated.

The CEO had attended several 'National Centre' meetings and has been involved quite closely with Manny and his team.

The CEO is attending a meeting scheduled in a couple of weeks with the Aviation Skills Partnership. They work with Industry in terms of training people for the Aviation Industry and see a potential in our National Centre in terms of education at the basic level in aviation skills with the potential for some funding from them.

Discussions are ongoing with Mike Colling FSMAE in relation to the future of Sky-Hi products to discuss a way forward to bring Sky-Hi back under the direct control of the BMFA. Thanks were recorded and a round of applause given to Mike and his wife for many years of service and for very little reward.

Contd/...

There were no contested elections this year and no nomination for the post of PRO.

CEO
Rep
Cont'd/...

We have appointed a new Honorary Solicitor, Nick Marshall. The CEO recorded his thanks to Diana King, OBE who has completed her term as Honorary Legal Adviser.

Patrick Naegeli, Chairman of the Royal Aero Club is our Guest of Honour at the Annual Prizegiving and Dinner this year.

The CEO had attended a number of meetings to consider the European regulations on the UK, with the CAA and a Cross Government Working Group that he sits on.

A positive outcome from recent discussions with the CAA and the Department for Transport (DfT) is that they would like a single point of contact to represent all model flyers within the UK. The BMFA, combined with associations such as the SAA, LMA, FPVUK, would represent just over 40,000 model flyers.

The suggestion is that we create some form of official UK Alliance. The basis for this would be to combine the groups that already get together for the annual review meeting with the CAA to form a more formal union, which would be the point of contact for the CAA and DfT. This could be quite useful into the future with the regulations that are on the horizon.

In a similar vein the CEO reported that he had been approached by the Austrian Association, to form a European Union of Model Associations. Currently on board are the UK, Germany, Switzerland and Austria but the plan is to have a meeting at Freidrichshafen in Germany in November inviting all the European Associations to join us. Again this could be useful into the future.

The CEO informed Council that most of his time at the moment is devoted to ongoing negotiations in relation to recent news of European Regulations that could have a threat to model flying.

Explained in full in the appended document.

These are prototype rules and this is just the beginning of the process. There will be several opportunities along the way to provide an input. We are fortunate that the CAA remain positive and supportive.

EASA PROTOTYPE RULES FOR UNMANNED AIRCRAFT – (APPENDIX A)

The CEO reported that he attended a meeting at EASA in June as Technical Officer to Europe Airsport. The first day was a Stakeholders meeting for unmanned aircraft and it was mainly Industry represented. We managed to get some good input in on behalf of the UK and European model flyers more widely. We were also accompanied by the CAA who were quite supportive of our input.

The second day was a specific audience with Yves Morier who is the Head of General Aviation and RPAS Department at EASA, along with Suzanne Schödel who is the Secretary General of the FAI. We provided a presentation on model flying to explain what it is all about. Sadly it seems not much of it was taken on board.

There are a number of aeromodellers within EASA who are fully on side with us and are proving to be quite useful to us.

Cont'd/...

1060/09/16 (8) To receive a report from the Vice-Chairman.

He attended the Royal Aero Club Awards Ceremony in May. Also in May he attended the Free Flight Nationals as a Judge, RAF Liaison Officer and presented prizes on behalf of the Chairman.

In his capacity as Liaison Officer he managed to arrange the co-existence of the Scale Nationals at the RAFMAA Championships at RAF Honington. He is very grateful to RAFMAA for allowing this. The Vice-Chairman judged static at the Scale Nationals and competed in Scale Flying only.

He chaired the Awards Committee Meeting at Chacksfield House in lieu of the meeting that would normally take place over the Power Nationals weekend. He will report in more detail at item 17.

He held a Safety Review Meeting yesterday with the Development Officer at which they reviewed the insurance claims and reported accidents so far this year. He will report in more detail at item 20.

1061/09/16 (9) To receive a report from the Honorary Secretary to include items below:

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

- 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, Manny Williamson, Roy Wright.

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

The Honorary Secretary continued with his report:

Since the last meeting his workload had been fairly quiet. Unfortunately due to ill health he was unable to Chair the Area Council Meeting in July. He thanked Simon Vaitkevicius, BMFA Records Officer, for stepping in at short notice to Chair the meeting.

The prime focus of the Area Council Meeting was to discuss the future practices of the ASRC. Probably as a result of a lack of Area Council Meetings some of the working practices of the ASRC have been overlooked.

The Honorary Secretary attended the Heavy Lift Challenge in June as a judge on behalf of the Royal Aeronautical Society and presented for Technical Innovation. There were some very interesting and hi-tech constructions from the Germans and Chinese contingent. Hopefully the overseas entries will continue to raise the game.

1062/09/16 (10) To receive a report from the Technical Secretary.

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

The Technical Secretary wished to reiterate his thanks to the Competition Secretary for the extra work she put in, in order to achieve an agreed set of rules for the BFPVRA to enable the Queen's Cup competition to go ahead.

The Technical Secretary introduced the following proposal:

That General Rule 2.3.11 Number of Competitors be altered as follows:

The whole paragraph be deleted and replaced with:-

"A competition must have at least two entries for the competition to take place and give a valid result."

Seconded by the Records Officer

The Competition Secretary suggested the following amendment to the proposal as follows:

"A BMFA competition is valid only if there are at least two competitors who, entered, flew and recorded an official score."

Seconded by the Technical Secretary

Delegates for North West Area, East Anglia Area and Free Flight Technical Committee expressed their views against the introduction of this new rule.

The Chairman called for a vote on the amendment which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman called for a vote on the substantive proposal which now reads:

"A BMFA competition is valid only if there are at least two competitors who, entered, flew and recorded an official score."

Vote: For: 19 Ags: 4 Abs: 1
Carried by a majority vote.

**TECH SEC
COMP SEC**

1063/09/15 (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 reported that she is slightly concerned as she had not received any notices of contests for the FAI Calendar for 2017. The Free Flight TC Representative advised that they would be submitting entries within the next few days.

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.

The Competition Secretary continues to spend an excessive amount of her time having to check & chase people for actions, data or reports.

She reported that all the 2016 Nationals entry forms (NEFs) with the exception of Indoor Scale were created as fillable pdfs and available on the BMFA website. The Indoor Scale NEF was scheduled for early in the year and mis-communication meant that a Scale-designed entry form had been published in the BMFA News rather than being submitted to the Competition Secretary to be designed in the BMFA corporate style and as a fillable pdf. She reiterated that NEFs are no longer published in the BMFA News and that data must be sent in a timely manner to the Competition Secretary so that fillable pdfs may be produced in the corporate style and then uploaded to the BMFA website.

The Competition Secretary had worked closely with Andy Symons on the website development regarding the various National championships and competitions in general.

With the unavailability of RAF Barkston Heath for the “Power Nationals” this year, the Radio Control (RC), Control Line (CL) and Scale disciplines held separate National Championships, “SepNats”. In all **sixteen** “SepNats” were held:

- 3 x RC: Aerobatics, Helicopter & Pylon Racing at three different venues on two different dates.
- 10 x CL: Speed, Nostalgic Speed, Aerobatics, Team Race, Vintage Team Race, Combat (3), Carrier Deck, Mini Goodyear Team Race.
- 3 x Scale: Indoor, Free Flight & RC/CL.

Post-Meeting Note: the RC Indoor Scale Nationals will be held in October.

Additionally, the Free Flight and the Silent Flight National Championships were held successfully. The FF “Nats” were held on the late May bank holiday week-end at Barkston Heath and the SF “Nats” were held at three locations on five different dates. The Indoor Duration National Championships will be held later in September.

In order for the scheduled RC “First Person View” racing competition for the RAeC Queen’s Cup to actually go ahead, the Competition Secretary had to compile an emergency set of rules from various BMFA/BFPVRA draft documents.

The British teams in the 2016 FAI World & European Championships had quite a successful year:

- F1D Indoor Duration - Team Bronze
- F2A CL Speed: Individual Gold & Silver
- F3N Freestyle Helicopter: Team Gold and individual Junior Gold for the first time on team.
- F4H RC Stand-off Scale: Team Bronze

The F3N Junior Team gold was won by Aaron Cole in his very first time on the British Team.

Unfortunately in F2N there had been a major problem with the prizegiving which contravened the FAI rules. For those FAI Championships that do not have dedicated, separate Junior Championships a team is permitted to send a 4th member as long as he is a Junior.

At the prize-giving ceremony for the Juniors, the British Junior competitor, Aaron Cole, was not presented with a Junior FAI gold medal nor an FAI Diploma. This is clearly in contravention of ABR rule B.16.1. e). Aaron was presented only with an organiser medal and a photocopy of an FAI Diploma as well as an organiser trophy. The organisers and FAI Jury were in contravention of FAI/CIAM rules by not presenting the FAI medals & diplomas to the Junior competitors.

Further, the British team was placed first in the Team classification. When the Team presentations were made, the British team was only permitted to allow the three team members whose scores had counted for the team classification to ascend the podium and be presented with team FAI gold medals and FAI Diplomas. The other member of the team was simply handed his medal and FAI Diploma at the end-of-Championship banquet.

In Aeromodelling, the team is a cohesive unit and whilst, quite rightly, only three of the four results count towards the team classification, it is simply unthinkable that one active member of the team should be forbidden to ascend the podium with his team-mates. And this would be even more invidious if it were the (more likely) junior member of the team.

It is beyond belief that any organiser or FAI Jury, much less such experienced FAI Championship organisers as the Polish, and an FAI Jury comprising two CIAM Bureau members (one a CIAM Vice-President), could make such fundamental errors.

The RAeC sent a letter of complaint to the FAI. The reply promised that Aaron Cole's Junior gold medal & FAI diploma will be sent to the RAeC. The CIAM President also said that the "rules will be amended for clarity". The rules were perfectly clear as they were. The letter of complaint had also requested a letter of apology be sent to Aaron but this was not mentioned in the CIAM President's email reply.

There is an ongoing problem with Judges on the FAI Judges List that will be reported on when resolved.

1064/09/16 (12) To receive a report from the Records Officer to include the following proposals:

The Records Officer had attended a number of events including the Free Flight Nationals, Rotorfest and Payload Challenge, all of which were very good and very enjoyable.

The Trophy refurbishment programme is progressing well. He is pleased to report that about 70 trophies in various states of repair have been refurbished, including new boxes where necessary.

The Records Officer reported that he is currently in the process of collating results for the various National Championships and a letter has been sent out to current trophy holders recalling trophies back in to the office.

He has been working with the Royal Society of Arts with their Solar Power Challenges. They are very keen in setting records which he is encouraging and providing assistance where necessary.

The Records Officer commended the following Record Claim, previously submitted to Council in 2015 but withdrawn by the Records Officer at that time for further review:

David Finch (040864) – Control Line Weatherman Speed Class 7 – 24/05/15 at RAF Barkston Heath – 122.62 mph

Seconded by the Competition Secretary

Carried unanimously

**OFFICE /
RECORDS
OFFICER**

The Records Officer introduced the following two proposals to adopt trophies:

i) To adopt a new named trophy (Peter Freebrey Memorial Trophy) for Control Line Oliver Tiger at the Nationals in memory of Peter Freebrey FSMAE who passed away in late 2015. This would replace the Jack Marsh trophy ~~which would be gifted to the Control Line Technical Committee to look after and award to the winner of a non-Nationals competition for Control Line Combat. It is also requested that the historical winners of the Jack Marsh trophy are transferred to the Peter Freebrey trophy.~~

Replaced with:

“which would be gifted to the Control Line Technical Committee to look after and award to the winner of a non-Nationals competition for Control Line Combat. It is also requested that the historical winners of the Jack Marsh trophy are transferred to the Peter Freebrey trophy.”

Cont'd/...

Vernon Hunt, CLTC Representative explained briefly the background to this proposal.

Seconded by the Competition Secretary

Carried unanimously

As is customary, Mrs Freebrey will be invited to the dinner and prizegiving to present the trophy for the first year, to the 2016 winner.

**RECORDS
OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN

ii) That the BMFA adopt four trophies for Silent Flight classes that have no current trophy allocation. These trophies have been donated and refurbished by BARCS, having been allocated from classes that BARCS no longer run. The trophies were presented to the BMFA Executive in January 2016 and with the initial approval of the suitability of the trophies by the Records Officer, BARCS funded their refurbishment ready for adoption by BMFA Council.

Seconded by the Chairman

Carried unanimously

These trophies will be assigned to F5J League and Nationals Winner, and also F3K Nationals and League winner.

RECORDS
OFFICER

1065/09/16 (13) To receive a report from the Public Relations Officer.

The Chairman commented that as the post of PRO is currently redundant he asked for this agenda item to be deleted from future agendas.

COMP SEC /
OFFICE MGR

1066/09/16 (14) To receive a report from the FAI Delegate, to include:

a) The agreement of the CIAM Education Sub-Committee Delegate.

Council agreed with the nomination of Mike Colling FSMAE and that he is included on the list of CIAM Education experts.

FAI DEL /
OFFICE MGR

******* FAI Delegate - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX C)**

1067/09/16 (15) Next year's Major Events:

a) To discuss venues

- **Scale Free Flight Nationals** – Hopefully will be taking place at RAF Barkston Heath again in 2017.

- **RAFMAA Championships** – Hopefully July 2017 same venue, subject to confirmation.

b) To accept co-ordinators

- Free Flight Nationals – Mike Woodhouse FSMAE

- Silent Flight Nationals – Mike Proctor FSMAE (subject to confirmation)

c) To ratify the Power Nationals Co-ordinator –

The Chairman proposed that Dave Phipps CEO is appointed Power Nationals Co-ordinator for 2017.

Seconded by the Vice-Chairman

Carried unanimously.

The Chairman explained that we will be implementing the following course of action in relation to the 2017 Power Nationals:

If, by the Executive Meeting on January 7th 2017 we do not have a firm acceptance from RAF Barkston Heath to hold the 2017 Free Flight and Power Nationals, we will look at alternative arrangements. We will enrol the help of the various Technical Committees and Specialist Bodies to investigate suitable sites to hold their relevant Nationals competition, with the aim if possible to find a big enough venue to hold several competitions at one time. The Competition Secretary would play a major role in the co-ordination and management if this is the case.

1068/09/16 (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 – Dave Phipps, CEO and Power Nationals Co-ordinator for 2016 handed over to the Competition Secretary to provide a report, as she was mostly responsible for organising the individual competitions in light of the fact that the event as a whole was not held at RAF Barkston Heath this year. The Competition Secretary commented that the co-ordination of all the different competitions was challenging at times. She commended everybody involved in organising their relevant Nationals competitions as they did exceptionally well. The Competition Secretary produced fifteen fillable pdf entry forms dedicated to the specific competitions and venues for all of the competitions and again thanked everyone who worked in conjunction with her in checking the forms and providing comments and ideas.

***4pm and 4.10pm – Northern Ireland Area Delegate and the Technical Secretary Delegate left the meeting.
The voting figure is now 22.***

1069/09/16 (17) To receive a report from the Chairman of the Awards Committee.

Robin Sleight MBE was asked to leave the room for a short while whilst the Chairman of the Awards Committee gave a report.

The Awards Committee met on Wednesday 31 August at Chacksfield House. There were fourteen nominations for awards this year, one of which was added to correct an administrative error from 2008. Several nominations were non-specific, leaving the level to the discretion of the Awards Committee but all were of sufficient substance to warrant an award. There being no clear candidates for some of the Society's trophies, the Awards Committee agreed two additional submissions as permitted by its Terms of Reference. The only category not awarded this year was Honorary Membership.

There were two nominations for Fellowships this year of which one was withheld by the Awards Committee for re-consideration next year.

Robin Sleight is recommended to Council for Fellowship, subject to approval by the AGM, and also put forward for a RAeC Silver Medal.

**OFFICE MGR /
AGM**

Council endorsed the Awards Committee recommendation to the Society's AGM 2016 that Robin Sleight MBE be awarded a Fellowship of the SMAE. Robin was invited back into the room and congratulated on his recommendation for a Fellowship of the SMAE.

There were no external nominations for the Ray Malmstrom trophy for service to model flying outside the framework of the Association, nor for the Arthur Mullett trophy (service within the framework of the Association) but there was one for the Roger Bedford Memorial trophy (for education). One non-specific club citation was also considered appropriate for the Graham Lynn Rose Bowl (for commitment above and beyond the call of duty).

Council unanimously agreed the following recommendations submitted by the Awards Committee:

RAY MALMSTROM:

The Air Traffic Control Staff at RAF Barkston Heath (through Barry Kenney, the Senior Air Traffic Control Officer) for their accommodating support to model flying on the airfield and, particularly, the FF and August Nationals over many years.

ARTHUR MULLETT:

David Phipps for his exceptional work as CEO and particularly as Nationals coordinator.

ROGER BEDFORD MEMORIAL:

Oldham Model Aero Club for its commitment to the Oldham ATC youth group. Also recommended for a RAeC Certificate of Merit

Cont'd/...

GRAHAM LYNN BOWL:

Ian & Diane Hibbert (Grantham & District MAS)

Awards
cont'd/...

SMAE Medal:

Jim Bates (Heanor & District MAC)
William Gordon (Gateshead MFC)
Richard Spreadbury (JMA) + RAeC Certificate of Merit

BMFA Certificate of Merit:

Neil Dixon (Darlington & District MFC)
Phillip Fearn (Medway MFC)
Trevor Hewson (Christchurch & District MFC)
Alan White (Telford MAC)
Luke Wolferston-Bannister + RAeC Bronze Medal (Dubai World Drone Prix Champion)

RAeC Silver Medal:

Jo Halman FSMAE

Pilot of the Year:

Paul Eisner + Recommendation for Andrei Tupolev Medal

Henry J Trophy (Junior)

~~Aaron Cole (age 15 – F3N Heli Euro Champs – 9th + Team Gold) + recommended for RAeC President's Breitling Trophy~~

Replaced with:

"Aaron Cole (age 15 – 2016 F3N Heli Euro Champs Junior Gold & 9th overall in the Senior classification & Senior Team Gold) + recommended for RAeC President's Breitling Trophy."

1070/09/16 (18) to receive the following proposals:

- i) From East Anglia Area that:
- a) The BMFA should make available to all affiliated clubs a complete and comprehensive guide to the Non-Domestic Rating (NDR) system and how it applies to flying sites and related assets. This should include a briefing of the system, preparation for valuation and rates bills, immediate actions, appeal procedures, and long term options.
 - b) Work with the Valuation Office Agency and Local Government to establish a consistent and fair approach to NDR across the whole country, and to which individual clubs can reference in their individual cases.

Seconded by Free Flight TC

The East Anglia Area Delegate briefly explained the background to the above proposal.

Delegates were given the opportunity to comment and the general consensus was that we should not change anything just because of what seems to be an isolated case, as the system works fine for most.

The CEO referred to a letter he wrote in this particular case and provided Delegates with a copy, for information only.

Cont'd/...

Having considered Council's views and comments the East Anglia Area Delegate withdrew the proposal.

Proposal
Cont'd/...

- ii) From East Anglia Area:
- a) Request that more publicity is given to clubs regarding the BMFA's indemnity insurance cover, especially with respect to the duties and liabilities of club committee members.
 - b) Request that the full policy wording for the BMFA's insurance is made available on the BMFA's website for both individual members and affiliated clubs.

Seconded by Free Flight TC

The CEO advised Council of the unfavourable response he had received from our Insurers in relation to the above proposal.

The Chairman then called for a vote.

Vote: For: 2 Ags: 20 Abs: 0

Defeated by a majority vote.

1071/09/16 (19) To receive any reports from the following Delegates:

- a) **RAeC Delegate**
***** **WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX D)**
The RAeC Delegate highlighted a correction to his written report – Final paragraph, replace “2017” with “2018.”
- b) **General Aviation Safety Council (GASCo)** – No report.
- c) **Air Prox** – Nothing to report.
- d) **Sport and Recreation Alliance (formerly CCPR)** –
***** **WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX E)**
- e) **General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC)** – Nothing to report.

1072/09/16 (20) To receive any reports from the following Committees:

- a) **CAA Team** – The CEO reported that a meeting is scheduled for 29th September to discuss the EASA rules.
- b) **Education/University Challenge (Heavy Lift)** – The Education
& c) Co-ordinator, Mike Colling FSMAE reported that the 2016 University Challenge was another great success. As Education Chairman of CIAM he is interested in moving our University Challenge forward to an international event.
He still continues to produce the kits.

Cont'd/...

- d) Computer Sub-Committee** – Stuart Willis (member of the Computer Sub-Committee) reported that he recently attended a quarterly meeting with our IT Company, held at Chacksfield House.

Stuart reported that we are exploring options for the development of a new BMFA membership system as our long standing software provider (Microtrading) will no longer be supporting further development of our existing system. This could potentially require a project amounting to tens of thousands of pounds.

He will report on progress at the January Council Meeting.

The Honorary Treasurer pointed out, as these costs did not appear in the budget which was discussed earlier, that a cost of this nature and magnitude would be classed as an asset of the Society. Ultimately the costs would show in the budgets for the next 7-10 years.

- e) Safety Review Committee** – The Vice Chairman (Chairman of the Safety Review Committee) reported that the annual safety review was conducted on 9th September. Having communicated by email and invited written reports or attendance if appropriate from each Technical Committee and the Electrical Safety Advisory Group (ESAG), it was agreed that the review would be conducted by the Vice Chairman and the Development Officer.

Upon review of the claims received so far for 2016 (seven personal accident, fourteen public liability), the Vice Chairman and Development Officer concluded that no action was required at this time.

The Vice Chairman reported that he had received an update from ESAG in relation to an action placed on them at the last annual safety meeting to review the battery book, as it was deemed overly complex. ESAG will be working with the Technical Secretary, who is in the process of editing and rationalising the BMFA members' handbook, to undertake a review of the information on the use/care of batteries.

- f) Achievement Scheme Review Committee (ASRC)**

WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX F)

The AS Controller asked Delegates to encourage their clubs to attend the Achievement Scheme Conferences organised for 2017; Saturday 25th February at the Brighthouse Sports Club (HD6 4LX) and Saturday 18th March (venue to be determined but likely to be somewhere along the M4 corridor).

It was agreed at the Area Council Meeting held in July that an annual meeting of Areas Council would be called, mainly to consider and ratify any new proposals from the ASRC. Ideally the annual Area Council Meeting would be held in the November and any new material could then be published on the website by December 1st prior to implementation on January 1st each year.

ASRC
Rep
Cont'd/...

The AS Controller expressed concerns that he feels the website version of the members' handbook is out of date and requested that it be removed from the website as soon as possible.

**WEBSITE
MGR**

g) BMFA News Publishers – We will be looking at obtaining tenders for the production, printing and distribution aspect of the BMFA News magazine.

h) BMFA News Archivist – No report.

i) CLUB SUPPORT OFFICER

WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX G)

1073/09/16 (21) Any Other Business

There was none.

1074/09/16 (22) Date of next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 14th January 2017.

Closed at 5.06pm

Threat to model flying from European Regulation

EASA Prototype Rules for Unmanned Aircraft

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has recently launched its 'Prototype Rules' for the regulation of 'unmanned aircraft' throughout Europe. In their current form, the proposals represent a serious threat to model flying as we know it which I cannot understate. You can read the 'Prototype Rules' and the 'Explanatory Note' here:

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/easa-and-you/civil-drones-rpas>

The Prototype Rules are clearly written to deal with the rapidly developing area of 'drone' operation (at this time principally multi-rotor aircraft). Unfortunately, 'drones' and model aircraft share the same legal definition as 'unmanned aircraft' (UA) which means that the proposed regulations also capture model flying.

There have undoubtedly been some breaches of existing laws by pilots operating 'drones' in ignorance of the regulations (or with disregard for them) which have received sensationalised coverage by the media. I am doubtful that the proposed complex regulations will address this problem in any way.

There is also concern that 'drones' may be used for illegal or terrorist acts, but again I very much doubt that the proposed regulations will have any bearing on this. There are some fairly stringent regulations in place for shotguns, but it doesn't stop people occasionally using one to hold up a Post Office!

The rules are 'prototype' at this stage as currently EASA has no power to regulate any aircraft below 150Kg. Unfortunately, it seems a matter of formality that the European Parliament will grant them this power in the very near future.

For model flying, the proposed Prototype Rules are largely unnecessary, overly complex and disproportionate given the widely acknowledged safety record for model flying established over the last century throughout Europe.

EASA are struggling to get to grips with model flying as an activity. As written, the proposals seem to represent a fine example of the worst excesses of EU regulation, developed to deal with an area where it is simply not required and even EASA themselves acknowledge that there is no real problem. It's a sledgehammer to crack a non-existent nut!

The proposals do not fit many established forms of model aircraft types such as control line and free flight. EASA seems unable to grasp that model flying covers an enormous range of activities from indoor duration models weighing little more than a gram, up to complex turbine powered radio controlled aircraft and everything in between (including balloons and rockets). As such, whilst I would accept EASA's comment that it is 'difficult to produce a definition for model aircraft', I cannot accept that they are unable to define model flying as a specific area of operation.

EASA argue that excluding model aircraft from the prototype rules would allow operators to declare their 'drone' as a model aircraft and escape the requirements, therefore 'opening a safety gap'. I argue that this would only be an issue if the 'drone' was flown outside of the terms of 'model flying' which would be limited to sport & recreation in accordance with rules agreed with the national authority (CAA) and carried out within unaided visual line of sight. EASA state in justification that '*a significant number of incidents are caused by unmanned aircraft operated non-commercially*'. It is my view that the number of credible reports is overstated and perhaps not as 'significant' as suggested. There are no longer any UFO reports, only 'drones' (though one of these may actually have been a carrier bag!).

Model Flying for Association Members

EASA has placed model flying carried out within the framework of associations/clubs (like the BMFA/LMA/SAA) within their proposed 'Specific Category' and in Article 15 they provide some 'Transitional Provisions' covering the three years from implementation of the rules. After the 'transition' period, it is proposed that '*authorisations are issued by national authorities to associations or clubs taking into account their safety record*' and defining which regulations will or will not apply.

EASA's intent with Article 15 was to allow national authorities (like our own Civil Aviation Authority) some freedom to largely maintain the 'status quo' for model flyers, but only for the benefit of *'those operating within associations or clubs with proven satisfactory safety records'*. However, the 'Prototype Rules' lack clarity on how this would be achieved in practical terms and still leave the potential for large areas of the proposals to be applied disproportionately to model flying.

Model Flying for individuals outside of Association Membership

Model flyers operating as individuals outside of an association would fall within the 'Open Category' with their aircraft having to comply with 'Product Requirements' which could include requirements for functionality not found in model aircraft such as geo-fencing, height limiters, electronic identification and auto return home functions. It also places a minimum age restriction of 14 on all but the most basic category.

The 'Product Requirements' also limit electric powered aircraft to 48 volts and stipulate that the aircraft *'must not be explosive or contain elements likely to explode'* (presenting a bit of a problem for model rocketry and gas turbines!) and require labelling with the appropriate 'product class' (which depicts the image of a multi-rotor!).

The 'Product Requirements' may be fine for large 'drone' manufacturers, but many model aircraft are manufactured in low volumes by small enterprises and I think that there is a very real danger that unnecessary and irrelevant over-regulation will drive many of them out of business.

Registration for all!

The 'Prototype Rules' require the registration of all operators of 'unmanned aircraft' within their own country and requires them to display their registration marks on all of their aircraft. EASA states that *'registration will also require new resources and it is envisaged that these resources will come from a proportionate fee to be paid by the people who register as UA operators'*. Our hope is that membership of an established model flying organisation would satisfy the requirement to register, but this is far from certain.

EASA stated clearly in their Technical Opinion published last Christmas that the intention was to *'develop rules which will not affect model aircraft flying'* but they certainly seem to have failed in this regard.

The significant numbers (over 500,000 throughout Europe) in the model flying community would be best served were EASA to follow the lead set by the Federal Aviation Administration in the USA whose comparable rules *'do not apply to model aircraft'*.

Europe Air Sports has worked hard to defend the status of model flyers throughout Europe over the last 12 years and along with the Secretary General of the FAI, we met directly with EASA in June this year to 'present the case' for model flying. Sadly, EASA seem to have largely ignored what we told them, probably due to political pressure. Regardless, Europe Air Sports remains very active on the 'front line' in the fight to defend the interests of model flyers throughout Europe.

EASA has 'gone wrong' in the past with the application of disproportionate regulation to other recreational aviation activities (such as gliding and ballooning), which has taken years to undo. As written, I am concerned that the 'Prototype Rules' represent a case of history repeating itself.

What can we do?

Europe Air Sports has registered its concern to what has been proposed and is involved in ongoing discussions with EASA on a positive basis. Representatives of EAS & FAI will be meeting directly with EASA again in the very near future to explain why we think they have got it wrong.

In partnership with our colleagues throughout Europe, we are proposing to form a European Model Flying Union (representing at least 500,000 model flyers) to collectively challenge EASA's proposals.

In the meantime, should you wish to register your own comments or objections to the 'Prototype Rules', you can do so directly to EASA by emailing them at

UASPrototypeRule@easa.europa.eu

As stated at the outset, these are 'Prototype Rules' and are the start of the rulemaking process. As such, we will have further opportunities to provide input into the process as it proceeds. However, it does indicate EASA's current line of thinking.

A proposal has been submitted to the TRANSPORT Committee of the European Parliament to amend the EASA 'Basic Regulation' which would place model flying outside the scope of EASA regulation and leave it under the control of national authorities. The vote on this is expected to take place on 10/11 October and through Europe Air Sports we will be lobbying the relevant MEP's and monitoring developments closely.

As it stands, the BREXIT vote has no bearing on the implementation of EASA regulations within the UK. However, we are fortunate in the UK that the CAA remain broadly supportive of model flying and have confirmed that "*our desire is to have small unmanned aircraft regulations that are realistic, proportionate and above all, simple to understand and use*".

Dave Phipps
Aeromodelling Technical Officer to Europe Air Sports

Report by Technical Secretary

To: Full Council 10/09/2016

Competition Rules

All the rule books were successfully updated by the end of January and then it was noted that there were some errors in the Control Line Book. Some of the dimensions of the line diameters had become corrupted. It has not been possible to trace the source of this corruption. The errors were duly corrected corrected and the book re-issued by 15th April.

Early in the year the British First Person View Racing Association (BFPVRA) joins the BMFA as a specialist body and were asked to race for the Queen's Cup trophy which the Royal Aero Club had awarded to the BMFA this year. This required a set of BMFA approved rules. A draft set was sent to myself and the Competition Secretary in February which were found to be totally unacceptable due to ambiguities and inconsistencies. A long process then followed of discussion and rewrites interspersed with long periods of total silence from the BFPVRA. Finally a set of rules was agreed a few days before the competition. Although this was in complete contravention of our General Rules (2.5.2) the competition was allowed to proceed due to the importance of the trophy and the newness of the event.. A special thank you is due here to the tremendous amount of time the Competition Secretary gave to achieving the end result despite the tardiness of the BFPVRA.

Even at this late stage the rules were not in BMFA format and I am currently re-writing them for inclusion as Section 5.8 of the R/C Power rule book.

As a result of the acceptance of Model Balloons UK as a Specialist Body I approached them for a set of Competition Rules. However all their competitions are very low key affairs and they have no wish at this stage to formalise them as BMFA competitions.

Record Rules

I have been working with the Records Officer to rationalise the Record Rules and Information. The intention is to make clear differentiation between the FAI records and BMFA records, to remove the information that is a straight copy of the FAI ABR, and to clarify the rules for the BMFA records. We are also looking at including Section 2b as an appendix to Section 2a and thus leaving just one document

Member's Handbook

Progress on this is still slow although an interim version with major updates should be available by November ready for the new year.

David Varallo
BMFA Technical Secretary

Report to Council from the FAI Delegate 10th September 2016

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.

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.

Unfortunately I had to withdraw the two planned World Championships bids from the United Kingdom due to funding and site related problems.

The authorities in Qatar have withdrawn their offer to hold the 2017 F3A World Championships; the CIAM Bureau is actively seeking an alternative organiser. A decision will be made before the end of September which country if any will hold the Championship.

I am happy to report that Mike Colling is again willing to be nominated for inclusion of the list of CIAM Education experts.

P Halman FSMAE
FAI Delegate
4th September 2016.

ROYAL AERO CLUB DELEGATE'S REPORT – July 2016

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

- 1) Roger Hopkinson of the LAA was congratulated on the recent award of an MBE, recognising the extensive work he is doing on behalf of general aviation.
- 2) In view of the disastrous Brexit result, and its effect on whether or not Scotland remains part of the UK, it may well be that the RAeC title could no longer be "The Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom". *(The United Kingdom may, of course, in the interests of accuracy, also need to think of a new name for itself in the future...)*
- 3) The Awards Evening in May was a success and made a small profit; the Duke of York spent rather more time with us than in recent years and stayed to present all the awards.
- 4) The accounts for 2015 were approved.
- 5) The RAeC Trust now has a presence on Facebook and Twitter which is apparently proving useful.
- 6) Since Brexit Britain already appears to be becoming marginalised during aviation negotiations internationally, and this is only likely to worsen as the country isolates itself from the EU.
- 7) The FAI is seeking to focus on making some airports more TV-marketable. However, Breitling has halved its FAI sponsorship, but now allows major events to seek other additional support in the areas of watches and jewellery, previously exclusive to Breitling. I suspect that this will not have much relevance to our own events...
- 8) The World Championships for paragliders and microlights will take place at Popham, Hants, from Aug. 20-29th.
- 9) The 2016 Queens Cup will be for FPV racing at Popham Airfield, Hants, from July 30th – 31st. On the same weekend there will also be a festival of RC rotary flight, the BMFA Rotor-Fest, with the opportunity for a multi-rotor freestyle contest as well as contests for RC helicopters.
- 10) At a slightly different level, on Sept. 4th, the Champs Elysées in the centre of Paris will be closed for traffic for an FPV racing event.
- 11) There was a presentation on the activities of the Air League's Leading Edge programme by Andy Perkins. This is aimed at providing flying and gliding scholarships for under-35s and encouraging them to take up a career in aviation.
- 12) 2017 is the centenary of the RAF. There may be opportunities here to explore to our mutual benefit.

Martin Dilly
Delegate

RAeC
15.7.16

Report on Sport and Recreation Alliance AGM and Members' pre-meeting 14 July 2016 in London

I attended this meeting on behalf of RAeC, BGA and BMFA. Unlike previous years I had no particular advance agenda, but the discussion in the members' pre-meeting focussed significantly on funding, so I did take part in that.

Emma Boggis (CEO of S&RA) reported on some of the S&RA activities in the last year, including the adoption of the Mental Health Charter, another report published on the social benefits of sport and another on the health benefits of sport and physical activity.

They have also been working on strengthening political relationships, particularly through the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Sport. They hope that Tracey Crouch will remain as Sports Minister, but other relationships, such as Education and Health, will probably have to be rebuilt.

Partnerships are being developed with other organisations such as the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and ACENVO.

The Board has been considering whether the S&RA could help to fund less well-resourced sports. Emma referred to the new strategies developed by government and by the Sports Councils and pointed out that there is mention of 'organisational neutrality' as related to funding, i.e. implying that there should be no eligibility test based on the type of sport or activity, provided the organisation can contribute to government or Sports Council objectives. Andrew Moss, the recently appointed Chairman commented that NGBs need to set out their objectives and the strategy to achieve them before looking for funding. I suggested that there could be value in bringing together NGBs that are currently unfunded, with workshops or other guidance, to help NGBs with coaching and advice on how their objectives may fit with the Sports Council criteria. This matching process is not always obvious to people who are unused to dealing with the application process or are looking for new areas of funding.

One factor that has been clearly expressed as being essential is that funded NGBs must have signed up to the Sports Council Governance Code. It is not clear whether the S&RA version would also qualify, but I suspect not.

Other funding streams should also be explored, e.g. health, social cohesion and education.

AGM

Chaired by HRH The Earl of Wessex. In his opening remarks he started by saying that he wanted to give attention to international events held in UK and achievements including in some of the less well known sports. He mentioned the British Junior Gliding Team (including the medal winners' names) and also Kath Rigg, who recently broke two world hang-gliding records. There have been other significant triumphs in UK air sports, such as the clean sweep of medals and top ten places for the British Microlight team at the World Air Games and also medal-winning model flying achievements, but he did not mention these. I don't know whether he is aware of the achievements he mentioned because the S&RA sends him the information, or whether the NGBs concerned have sent him the details direct.

The business of the AGM progressed smoothly as it always does – it is not a meeting which generates any surprises. The accounts show a loss of around £49,000 and there is a significant shortfall in the pension fund. S&RA Emeritus Awards were presented to Michael de Giorgio from rugby and Alan Sommerville, former CEO of gymnastics. The Arthur Bell Trophy was presented to Laurence Dallaglio in recognition of his work developing a programme of activity for disadvantaged young people, which helps them to integrate and find their place in society and to find suitable employment. The Community Sport and Recreation Awards were presented to clubs from swimming, football and dance.

After the meeting copies of the S&RA policy document 'Fit for the Future' were circulated. This document will also be available on the website.

Diana King
14 July 2016

**Achievement Scheme Review Committee
Report to Full Council Meeting
10th September 2016**

The ASRC has met twice so far this year in March and September. A further meeting is scheduled for the 12th November, to finalise all of the scheme documentation for implementation in 2017. Significantly, the ASRC are not proposing any changes to scheme materials for 2017. The focus for 2017 will be on communication and promotion of the scheme, and contact with grass-roots examiners and instructors, who are after all, the vital link in the delivery and hopefully success of the scheme.

Key developments to date include:-

- To support the theme of communication and promotion of the scheme, the ASRC are organising two Achievement Scheme Conferences – along the lines of the recent Chairman’s conferences - to ‘spread the word’ around the country and give examiners and instructors the opportunity to hear the whys and wherefores of the various developments at first hand, as well as the chance to be able to ask questions and provide feedback.
The dates for the first two of these conferences have been set for Saturday 25th February, at the Brighthouse Sports Club (HD6 4LX), and Saturday 18th March, at a venue to be determined, but likely to be somewhere along the M4 corridor. The venues have been chosen to give a reasonable national spread, but additional events and locations will be considered, if there proves to be sufficient additional demand.
The conferences will be all day events and full details of the events, including content, will be published shortly in the BMFA News and on the website. It is anticipated that content will cover such items as; guidance on running examiner/instructor workshops, new AS materials (the BPCs, FPV extension etc.), Screening of the 1st draft of the Multi-Rotor examiners guidance video, the Mandatory Questions and a Q&A Session.
- The Scheme Controller has prepared a one side of A4 guidance note for all Examiners, which details and provides useful background information on the recent developments within the Scheme. This has been published on the New Achievement Scheme website. In addition, the office is also including a copy of this letter with the documentation that is returned to examiners after every successful test. Furthermore, an article advertising the new Achievement Scheme Handbook and explaining the rationale and philosophy behind the new ‘Basic Proficiency Certificates’ and the mandatory ‘legal’ questions has been published in the BMFA News. This has also provided a useful mechanism by which to communicate this important information to the membership.
- The **Basic Proficiency Certificates** appear to have been well received by clubs, and a number of certificates have already been awarded.
- The Scheme Controller, Club Support Officer and Peter Willis (ASRC member) attended the Queen’s Cup FPV and ‘Rotor fest’ event at Popham airfield on the 30th & 31st July. At the meeting they took the opportunity to discuss the Multi-rotor ‘A’ & ‘B’ tests with interested parties, in order to feed back this information to the ASRC to guide the review of these tests for 2017. In addition, during the meeting, the opportunity was taken by Peter Willis to film video footage of Multi-Rotor aircraft completing some of the manoeuvres in the tests and also the behaviour of these aircraft in a variety of the stability modes that are available. This will form the basis of what is hoped will be the first in a series of video guidance materials for examiners.
- The introduction of mandatory questions to the scheme has, not unexpectedly, stimulated some correspondence. That received by the Controller and the Club Support Officer has generally been questioning in nature, but once an explanation has been given, virtually all correspondents have gone away happy. More importantly, the CAA has been very supportive of the initiative, their response to the published questions is:- *“We feel that the principle of including some questions specifically aimed at lawful operation is a sound one and, of course, we would always fully support any initiative that improves ‘community awareness’ as it is clearly a good thing to do”*.
This view is especially encouraging given the BMFA negotiations with the CAA regarding potential new regulations on model flying. On this subject, the CEO commented in his recent report to Council that *“It has become apparent that we are entering a critically important time for the future of model flying”*.
- Work on the new RC Helicopter flight training manual has temporarily been halted and we are still awaiting comments and feedback from the committee and AHA.

- The committee is assisting the Tech. Sec. in soliciting input to a Multi-Rotor section for the member's handbook. A bullet point draft has been circulated, for comment and 'fleshing out', to the experts that assisted the ASRC in the development of the M-R tests. Once completed this will be forwarded to the Tech. Sec. for consideration.
- The new Achievement Scheme Handbook has been published and the feedback received to date has been complimentary. A new, dedicated, Achievement Scheme website has also been launched. This is also proving popular, not least because it makes for easier access to all scheme documentation. All the downloadable documents are also compatible with tablets and mobile devices. The website also has an FAQ section and an interactive quiz on the mandatory questions, which to date has registered over 3700 attempts. The intention is to develop this feature in the future, to include additional quizzes appropriate to the various tests.

Duncan R McClure
ASRC Sec. and representative to Council
September 2016

Club Support Officers Report September 2016

Apologies for being absent from today's meeting, I am currently across in Northern Ireland conducting a noise assessment for a club to assist with their planning application. As I will need to be here for a few days, in conjunction with the area, we have arranged a mini conference open to all BMFA members to come along and meet their area representatives and myself and have any questions they have answered, it should be an interesting evening.

Since the last council meeting I have attended the Teesside, Elvington and Winterton shows with the stand and sim trailer as well as delivered and collected the stand and trailer to Weston Park. I also assisted the Development Officer at the University Payload Challenges once again, once again another excellent contest.

I co-ordinated the Rotor-Fest event which was created to host the RAeC Queens Cup race for 2016 which was awarded to the BMFA for FPV multi-rotor racing, this was held at Popham Airfield which proved to be an excellent venue and eminently suitable for rotor craft contests of all types and possibly some fixed wing contests as well as control line contests where a grass surface is suitable. The airfield management are looking to get more usage from the large amount of free space they have available so it could be worth considering for other events going forward. We did have an issue with getting approved rules in place and I would like to offer thanks to the Competition Secretary and Technical Secretary for their invaluable assistance with this, despite the issue with the rules we should not lose sight of what a fantastic contest the Queens Cup was, 54 competitors entered, some of the world's best "drone racers", the competition was fierce but the spirit was fantastic, one competitor even loaned another his drone so he could continue racing after sustaining some damage. We had a number of VIP's from some of the other members of the RAeC, all of whom were highly impressed, not only with the racing but also the technology and the organisation. The racing was organised by the BFPVRA and all the competitors and other visitors agreed that it was an excellent contest. We certainly put on a contest we can be proud of and worthy of the magnificent Queens Cup trophy. Perhaps some of the other racing disciplines should consider a bid for the 2017 Queens Cup? My thanks go to Mike Pearson of Popham Airfield, Keith & Christine Lomax, Wayne Pendleton, Chris Bradbury and Linda Harding, as well as the chaps from the BFPVRA. As a direct result of the Queens Cup contest we have gained an affiliated FPV racing club and I am corresponding with another after speaking to them at Popham.

The FPV racing course we have available for clubs to borrow is proving very popular and is in use most weekends and clubs that have fully embraced this aspect of our sport report a number of new members coming on board, often those members move on to other more established disciplines once they have been exposed to them.

I have recently had a meeting with officials from Bristol council regarding new bye-laws they are introducing, initially they were planning on designating only one area for model aircraft flying, however with their help and some feedback from local fliers we have identified two other areas that can be designated and the council are more than happy to look at other areas if requested to and of course if they are suitable.

I have carried out a number of site visits relating to safety and noise issues, on one occasion conducting a noise assessment jointly with a local EHO. Disappointingly despite our visit being pre-arranged and notified to members in advance one of the aircraft tested was 3dB(A) above the 82dB(A) as specified in the code and this particular clubs rules. There is some complacency out there with regards to noise with some individuals not taking the matter seriously enough. I have also conducted a number of club talks, which always seem to go very well and I have a number of talks planned for the coming months.

Hopefully within the next few weeks or so the website will be getting a bit of a face lift, a new "skin" which will make the site more responsive and easier to use on mobile devices and freshen things up a little as well as remove some of the "wasted" space. Our club website hosting service is still proving popular with the number increasing and our online presence is continually improving.

Arrangements are under way for the 2017 Electric Indoor Masters which will be taking place over the weekend of January 14th -15th at the Metrodome Arena, Barnsley.