

MINUTES

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 9th January 2016 at 11am at
College Court, Knighton Road, Leicester LE3 3TQ

Provisional until confirmed at the next Full Council Meeting.

PRESENT

Chris Moynihan	Chairman
Ian Pallister	Vice-Chairman
Robin Sleight MBE	Honorary Secretary
Keith Lomax FSMAE	Honorary Treasurer
Jo Halman FSMAE	Competition Secretary
David Varallo	Technical Secretary
Simon Vaitkevicius	Records Officer
Peter 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
Stuart Simpson	Southern Area Delegate
Duncan McClure	South Midland Area Delegate
Stuart Willis	South East Area Delegate
Phil Durant	Western Area Delegate
Andrew Potts	Mid-West Area Delegate
Peter Disney	South West Area Delegate & RNMAA Delegate
Neil Tricker	RAFMAA Area Delegate
Maurice Doyle	Northern Ireland Area Delegate
Mike Woodhouse FSMAE	Free Flight TC Representative
Clive Needham	R/C SFTC Representative
Allan Weighell FSMAE	Indoor TC Representative Alt
Robin Gowler FSMAE	Scale TC

In Attendance

Linda Harding

Dave Phipps

Visitors

Dave Milkins

Office Manager /
Minutes Secretary
CEO

Model Balloons UK

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence.
- 2 Request for permission to be absent.
- 3 To formally receive the following delegates:
 - a The RNMAA Delegate
- 4 To formally receive the Area Delegates to Council.~
- 5 To co-opt Technical Committee Representatives to Council.~
- 6 To verify the voting strength of the meeting.
- 7 To:~
 - a Note names of the Technical Committee Chairmen.
 - b Ratify Alternate FAI Delegate.
 - c Ratify the BMFA Delegates to other organisations.
 - d Ratify Council appointed sub-committees.
 - e Ratify Council appointed posts.
- 8 ASRC:
 - a If necessary, the election of members to fill ASRC vacancies. (Ref: ASRC ToR item (c))
 - b If necessary, the co-option of the ASRC Delegate to Council (if a Council Member is not already a member of the ASRC). (Ref: ASRC ToR item (a))
 - c Election of the Power or Silent Flight Controller. (Ref: ASRC ToR item (h) (ii))
- 9 Adoption of the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 12th September 2015.
- 10 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 12th September 2015 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 11 To receive a financial report from the Honorary Treasurer.
- 12 International Teams for this year's World and European Championships:
 - a Ratification of Teams (Appended).
 - b Ratification of Team Managers and Assistant Team Managers (where permitted) (Appended).
 - c Receipt of declarations that it does intend to send a team from any Technical Committee that has not yet finalised a proposed team.
- 13 Confirmation of the status of SAA and LMA insurance (Ref General Rule 2.1.6 Entry to Competitions.)
- 14 To receive a joint report from the Chairman and CEO, to include:
 - a) Chairman's Report to include, the co-option to fill the vacancy of PRO on the Executive.
- 15 To receive a report from the Vice-Chairman.

- 16 To receive a report from the Honorary Secretary, to include the following proposals:
- a That the text of the first sentence of Paragraph c and sections h (i) of Appendix P to the Council Handbook – the text dealing with the appointment and election of Achievement Scheme Controllers, be amended as per the appended full proposal.
 - b That, in accordance with the provisions and procedures of the Council Handbook, Appendix L, Model Balloons UK is accepted as a specialist body of the BMFA.
- 17 To receive a report from the Technical Secretary to include the following:
Proposals a) – i) Amendments to the General Rule Book (Appended in full).
- 18 To receive a report from the Competition Secretary to include:
- a Receipt and ratification of any late contests for this year's FAI Calendar.
 - b Receipt of this year's BMFA contest fees (Appended)
- 19 To receive a report from the Records Officer, to include the following:
To receive the following proposals:
- i. To reallocate an unused, adopted BMFA trophy to a new class which is competed for on an annual basis.
 - ii. To modify the wording of the record rules book to clarify the need to submit the 7-day claim when submitting a record claim.
- To receive the following Record Claims:
- iii. C Newis/D Hanks (175296/66716) – CL Mini Goodyear Junior – 30/08/15
 - iv. P Watt (108095) – Novice Penny Plane Rubber PWD – 13/09/15
- 20 To receive a report from the Public Relations Officer.
- 21 To receive a report from the FAI Delegate.
- 22 To receive the following proposals:
- i. **From the Silent Flight Technical Committee** that the Great Britain Slope Racing Association be permitted to host and organise the 2018 FAI World Championship for F3F (Slope Soaring Model Aircraft).
 - ii. **From London Area** that all present Directors of the Society, members of the Technical Committees and Area Officers be granted a free invitation to attend the Free Flight and R/C BMFA National Championships, as is afforded to Fellows and Honorary Members.
- 23 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)

Cont'd/...

24 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

25 Any Other Business.

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

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

26 Date of next meeting.

The Minutes begin below.

MINUTES

1007/01/16 (1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Peter Halman FSMAE FAI Delegate and from the Club Support Officer.

It was noted that the Competition Secretary was disappointed with the non-attendance of the CLTC Representative and that no apologies for absence had been sent to the office.

1008/01/16 (2) Request for permission to be absent.

Permission had been granted to Mike Colling FSMAE Indoor TC Representative/BMFA Education Working Group Co-ordinator.

1009/01/16 (3) To formally receive the following delegates:

Peter Disney, RNMAA

1010/01/16 (4) To formally receive the Area Delegates to Council.

EAST ANGLIA	Peter Jenkins
LONDON	Martin Dilly FSMAE
MIDLAND	Marian Ainsworth
NORTHERN	Peter Willis
NORTH EAST	Tom Jones
NORTH WEST	David Lloyd-Jones
SOUTH MIDLAND	Duncan McClure
SOUTH EAST	Stuart Willis
SOUTHERN	Stuart Simpson
WESTERN	Phil Durant
MID WEST	Andrew Potts
SOUTH WEST	Peter Disney
NORTHERN IRELAND	Maurice Doyle
RAFMAA	Neil Tricker

1011/01/16 (5) To co-opt Technical Committee Representatives to Council.

FREE FLIGHT	Mike Woodhouse FSMAE
CONTROL LINE	Vernon Hunt
R/C SILENT FLIGHT	Clive Needham
SCALE	Robin Gowler FSMAE
INDOOR	Mike Colling FSMAE

Proposed by Honorary Treasurer
Seconded by RAFMAA
Carried unanimously

1012/01/16 (6) To verify the voting strength of the meeting.

There were 25 members eligible to vote.

1013/01/16 (7) To note names of the Technical Committee Chairmen, ratify Alternate FAI Delegate, the BMFA Delegates to other organisations, Council appointed sub-committees, Council appointed posts.

a) Tech Committee Chairmen

FREE FLIGHT	Mike Woodhouse FSMAE
CONTROL LINE	Peter Halman FSMAE
R/C SILENT FLIGHT	Jon Edison
SCALE	Ian Pallister
INDOOR	Mike Colling FSMAE

b) Ratify Alternate FAI Delegate

Jo Halman FSMAE

Proposed by Vice Chairman
Seconded by Indoor TC
Carried unanimously

Cont'd/...

c) Ratify the BMFA Delegates to other organisations

Royal Aero Club (RAeC)	Martin Dilly FSMAE
GASCO	Robin Gowler FSMAE
Airprox	Development Officer
Sport & Recreation Alliance (formerly CCPR)	Diana King
General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC)	Club Support Officer

Proposed by East Anglia Area
Seconded by RNMAA
Carried unanimously

d) Ratify Council appointed sub-committees

BMFA Safety Review Sub Committee

Vice Chairman
Technical Secretary
Development Officer
Club Support Officer
ESAG (Electrical Safety Advisory Group)
Specialist from each Technical Committee as required

Awards Committee To be confirmed.

Education Working Group Mike Colling FSMAE
Area Co-ordinators

BMFA News Publishers Kath Watson FSMAE
Keith Lomax FSMAE

Areas Council Members as detailed in the Areas Council
Terms of Reference

Technical Council Members as detailed in the Technical
Council Terms of Reference

The Executive The nine elected Executive Officers
Chief Executive

Proposed by Western Area
Seconded by Mid-West Area
Vote: For: 24 Ags: 0 Abs: 1
Carried by a majority vote.

Cont'd/...

e) Ratify Council appointed posts

<u>CAA</u>	CEO, Development Officer
<u>UKRCC</u>	Development Officer
<u>Computer Committee</u>	Dave Phipps – Chief Executive Andy Symons – Club Support Officer Linda Harding – Office Manager
<u>PAS & SFAS Controller</u>	Duncan McClure
<u>Archivist</u>	Kath Watson FSMAE

Proposed by East Anglia Area

Seconded by SFTC

Vote: For: 24 Ags: 0 Abs: 1

Carried by a majority vote.

1014/01/16 (8) ASRC

a) If necessary, the election of members to fill ASRC vacancies.

The four members elected as a result of a ballot to fill the vacancies on ASRC are as follows:

Brian Cooper, Peter Jenkins, Terry Rounce, Peter Willis

The unsuccessful candidates were Andy Ellison and Richard Whitehead

b) If necessary, the co-option of the ASRC Delegate to Council (if a Council Member is not already a member of the ASRC).

It is not necessary to co-opt a Delegate to Council.

ASRC composition for 2016 is as follows:

Existing for 2016 Mick Eames
 John Harris
 Phil Gutteridge

Appointed for two years Brian Cooper
 Peter Jenkins
 Terry Rounce
 Peter Willis

c) Duncan McClure was appointed Power AS Controller for two years and continuing in the post of SF AS Controller until January 2017.

Proposed by North West Area

Seconded by London Area

Vote: For: 24 Ags: 0 Abs: 1

Carried by a majority vote

1015/01/16 (9) Adoption of the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 12th September 2015.

South East Area proposed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2015 be accepted as a true record.

Seconded by South Midland Area

Vote: For: 21 Ags: 0 Abs: 4

Carried by a majority vote.

1016/01/16 (10) Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 12th September 2015 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

ACTION/NOTES

Page 5

- **Matters Arising, first paragraph 'National Centre Fund'** – London Area asked whether we had received any donations. The Chairman advised that unfortunately the response to the notice on the BMFA website had been very poor.

Page 11

- **Third paragraph, action Comp Sec /BFPVRA to amend BFPVRA Specialist Body Constitution** – The Competition Secretary advised that this is work in progress.

Page 14

- **Fourth paragraph, action Records Officer to submit a proposal to January Council to create new UK record classes for multirotor models** – The Records Officer advised that this was work in progress.

AGENDA ITEM, MAY 2016 FULL COUNCIL MEETING –

Records Officer to submit a proposal to create new UK record classes for multirotor models.

**OFFICE MGR
/RECORDS
OFFICER**

Page 17

- **Third paragraph, potential ban on CL Team Race fliers at the 2016 Power Nationals** – London Area asked whether any action had been taken. The Competition Secretary, in her role as CLTC Secretary, advised that the CLTC had discussed the matter at their meeting in October 2015 and that there is an action outstanding on the CLTC Chairman to write to the CEO.

CLTC CHAIR

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-**First paragraph, plea to RAeC Awards Committee when considering nomination for Paul Eisner to be awarded RAeC Gold Medal** - The Vice-Chairman, in his role as Chairman of the BMFA Awards Committee, reported that there had been an exchange of communication with Ken Morrissey FSMAE who took exception to how this item was reported in the Minutes of the September 2015 meeting, but he had heard nothing since his reply to Ken.

Page 22

- AOB item, Non Domestic Rates - East Anglia asked how the Club Support Officer was progressing with the issue raised in their Area regarding NDBR (Non domestic business rates), as he had heard nothing further from him.

The CEO referred to the report submitted by the Club Support Officer. We are trying to establish the scale of the situation and to that end the Club Support Officer has conducted a survey. The outcome was that out of the 317 clubs that had responded, 14 had been assessed for NDBR and only six are paying anything.

We are reluctant to issue guidance to our clubs if ultimately by following the guidance it makes the position for clubs worse.

The Club Support Officer is in discussion with members of the GAAC (General Aviation Awareness Council) who are assisting with the search to find someone with the required expertise to help us but at present they are struggling to find anyone. The search however is ongoing. Hopefully we will get some feedback from the next GAAC meeting, scheduled for next month.

On a positive note the Clubs that have come to us for advice in the past have followed the advice we gave them and obtained the particular rate relief. We feel the best way forward is to deal with each case on an individual basis.

The issue within the East Anglia Area is slightly different and needs further investigation. We have provided advice to the Club in question and will continue in the search to try and find someone with the relevant expertise to help them in their cause.

This concluded matters arising.

1017/01/16 (11) To receive a financial report from the Honorary Treasurer.

There is very little to report at this time of the year. The budget was accepted at the AGM in November and there is nothing else to report at this time.

1018/01/16 (12) International Teams for this year's World and European Championships.

a) Ratification of Teams.

The comprehensive list of all Championships, Teams, Team Managers and Assistant Team Managers was listed in the Agenda. There were several amendments/additions as listed below.

Cont'd/...

Teams
cont'd/...

Spacemodelling – The competitor classes for Messrs Jacomb and Seabrook should be transposed as follows: Trevor Seabrook 1,3,4,6,8 and John Jacomb 3,6,9.

Scale – F4H Team was omitted from the list. The Competition Secretary apologised for this oversight.

The F4H Team comprises: Mick Reeves, Richard Crapp, Dave Toyer.

F1D Team – The third team member was confirmed as Tony Hebb.

It was pointed out that Silent Flight had not provided any club names for their team members. SFTC representative advised that he had brought it to the attention of the SFTC Secretary who advised him that the information was not necessary.

The Competition Secretary asked the SFTC representative to report back to the SFTC Secretary that the information is relevant and is required otherwise it would not be on the Team data gathering form.

The Competition Secretary commented that she had thoroughly checked all proposals for Teams and Team Managers and commended the list of Teams as appended in the Agenda for ratification en bloc, to include the above corrections and additions.

The Competition Secretary commended the ratification of Teams, with the inclusion of Tony Hebb, third member of the F1D Team and the F4H Team comprising Mick Reeves, Richard Crapp and Dave Toyer.

Seconded by London Area
Carried unanimously.

- b) Ratification of Team Managers and Assistant Team Managers (where permitted) as appended in the Agenda.**

The Competition Secretary commended the ratification of Team Managers and Assistant Team Managers (where permitted).

Seconded by RAFMAA
Carried unanimously

Note: The Competition Secretary will ratify the Team Manager for F4H as soon as she receives the information from the Scale TC.

**COMP SEC
/SCALE TC**

- c) Receipt of declarations that it does intend to send a team from any Technical Committee that has not yet finalised a proposed team.**

Not applicable at this time.

1019/01/16 (13) Confirmation of the status of SAA and LMA insurance.

The CEO reported that both the SAA and LMA have switched insurance provider and as of January 2016 are with Integro. He is therefore happy that their insurance is directly equivalent to our insurance in relation to individual members.

1020/01/16 (14) To receive a joint report from the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer.

a) Co-option to fill the vacancy of PRO on the Executive Committee.

There are two interested parties for the position of PRO; Duncan McClure, South Midland Area Delegate and Marian Ainsworth, Midland Area Delegate.

Both had prepared statements which they presented, in turn, to the meeting and Delegates were given the opportunity to ask questions in relation to their respective presentations.

The Chairman announced the result of a ballot of Council Members to decide who would be co-opted as PRO, as follows:

Duncan McClure was duly elected and co-opted on to the Executive as PRO, for one year, effective immediately.

**EXECUTIVE
C'TTEE**

The Chairman thanked both parties for their interest and for their presentations.

POST MEETING NOTE. Regrettably, Duncan McClure subsequently stood down as PRO because of a change in his personal circumstances.

Verbal report from the CEO

Insurance

We have secured a new three-year deal with our insurers and as part of that arrangement we will receive £100,000 in sponsorship over the three-year period. Also as part of the new arrangements, our clubs will benefit from an equipment insurance policy which is free of charge to affiliated clubs.

LMA & SAA insurance – Both Associations transferred their business to our insurers, Integro.

Airfields

Our use of airfields remains under pressure. We received confirmation yesterday that RAF Barkston Heath is only available to us for the Free Flight Nationals in May and not the Power Nationals over the August Bank Holiday.

Cont'd/...

CEO Rep
Cont'd/...

The search for an alternative venue is underway however if anyone has any information or advice that might be helpful in terms of sites, we would be very pleased to hear from them.

General

Since the last meeting the CEO had attended a Conference in Rotterdam on behalf of the Royal Aero Club (RAeC).

He also attended, together with the BMFA Chairman, a meeting of Royal Aero Club Chairmen and CEOs to discuss ways in which RAeC Airports could co-ordinate to liaise with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The suggestion came from Andrew Haines the current CEO of the CAA who would like to operate a more robust system of communication between Airports and the CAA, largely to safeguard the arrangements for when he moves on.

He helped on the BMFA stand at the Drone Show at the NEC at the start of December. It was the busiest exhibition stand he had ever attended on behalf of the BMFA and we recruited quite a significant number of new members.

As part of our stand at the NEC we also hosted a representative from the CAA, which was quite a positive PR move. In conjunction with the CAA we have launched 'Drone Aware Month' in April 2016. The CEO handed round 'Drone Aware Month' promotional leaflets.

There will be a range of activities during April including hopefully a high profile media launch with some notable celebrity or celebrities. We will also be looking for the assistance of our clubs so that we can direct people who are interested in learning more about the flying of drones and the BMFA and its regulations.

We have managed to secure sponsorship for the production of the promotional leaflets we produced in conjunction with the CAA, details of the current sponsors are printed on the back of the leaflet however we have sponsors coming forward all the time.

There were quite a few of the retailers and wholesalers at the Drone Show who said they would be happy to incorporate the leaflets in the packaging of their products.

The Club Support Officer makes mention in his report of a recent success to re-secure the use of the flying site for our Club in Gibraltar. They lost the use of their site in 2003 following 9/11. They fly on the airport which is under RAF control and each time there has been a change in command we have approached them to seek use but without success. There is now however a new Commanding Officer and she has agreed to allow the Club to resume flying activities.

At the end of this month the CEO will be attending a conference on the future of Free Flight.

Cont'd/...

CEO
Rep
cont'd/...

European regulations

There has been some information in the public domain recently about the EASA proposals for the regulation of 'drones'. We have submitted, through Europe Airsport, a response to the EASA Consultation Paper.

For the latest up-to-date information click on the following link on the BMFA website: <https://www.bmfa.org/News/News-Page/ArticleID/2332/EASA-Proposals-for-the-Regulation-of-Drones-the-BMFA-Perspective>

National Centre

Work is still in progress in the search to find a suitable site for our 'National Centre'. There is a site of particular interest within the identified central band but it would be on a slightly different basis to Laws Lawn Farm that we had looked at previously.

A landowner who owns a very significant amount of land approached us as a result of our previous study and work on Laws Lawn Farm. There are four sites of interest. However the landowner is not looking to sell but would consider long-term leasing. One of the sites which is of particular interest is a former equestrian centre. The figures in terms of lease costs are very affordable and not much more than we would be looking to pay for office accommodation in Leicester.

Verbal report from the Chairman

The Chairman was involved with much of what the CEO has reported on.

The Chairman thought the AGM/Dinner and Prize-giving in November 2015 went very well and commended everyone involved for their part in the event.

Work continues within the Executive with regard to allegations emanating from the EGM that Country Members are disenfranchised from voting.

The Club Support Officer is undertaking a review of how many renewing Country Members are also members of clubs, the outcome of which will have a bearing on the debate.

The Chairman had attended meetings with the CEO about matters as they evolved. He will also be attending, along with the CEO, the Free Flight conference at the end of the month.

1021/01/16 (15) To receive a report from the Vice-Chairman.

The Vice-Chairman was MC for the evening at the Annual Awards ceremony. He thanked the Competition Secretary and those office staff involved, for their help in preparing the award citations booklet. This was a new initiative which was well received and seemed to help with smooth running of the presentation process.

Cont'd/...

Vice-
Chairman
rep
cont'd/...

Examples of the new BMFA Medal were passed round. 2015 was the first year this award was presented.

In his role as Liaison Officer at Cranwell he was successful in negotiating a concession for four days flying over the Christmas period at RAF Barkston Heath for the RAFMAA and Grantham Clubs. Unfortunately weather conditions thwarted their activities for two of those days.

He had assisted the Development Officer in arranging for a group of flyers from various disciplines to provide some demonstration flying for the landowner of the potential site of interest for the 'National Centre'. Unfortunately the original date of 11th December 2015 for the demonstration flying was cancelled and he is waiting to hear from the Development Officer for a date to re-schedule.

DEV OFFICER

1022/01/16 (16) To receive a report from the Honorary Secretary.

- a) **Proposal from the Honorary Secretary that the text of the first sentence of Paragraph c and sections h (i) of Appendix P to the Council Handbook – the text dealing with the appointment and election of Achievement Scheme Controllers, be amended as per the full proposal appended to the Agenda.**

After due debate the Honorary Secretary withdrew the proposal as it was felt the proposal as currently worded is ambiguous. The Honorary Secretary, with the assistance of the Competition Secretary, will address the wording and re-present the proposal to the May Full Council meeting.

HON SEC/
COMP SEC

AGENDA ITEM – May Full Council Meeting - Proposal from the Honorary Secretary.

OFFICE MGR

- b) **Proposal to accept Model Balloons UK as a BMFA Specialist Body.**

Dave Milkins, Secretary of Model Balloons UK provided a detailed presentation in support of their application for Specialist Body status and invited questions following the presentation, which were satisfactorily addressed.

There was some debate as to whether the Constitution of the Model Balloons UK was suitable in its current form as it was deemed to be slightly ambiguous and contained duplications. However there were no fundamental changes required to the content. The Competition Secretary offered her services to assist with re-drafting the Constitution which could be re-submitted to Council if the application for Specialist Body status was successful.

DAVE MILKINS/
COMP SEC

Cont'd/...

Model
Balloons
Spec Body
Proposal
Cont'd/...

Proposal to accept Model Balloons UK as a BMFA Specialist Body subject to amendment of the Model Balloons UK Constitution.

Proposed by Honorary Secretary
Seconded by South Midland Area

**HON SEC/
OFFICE**

Vote: For: 24 Ags: 0 Abs: 1
Carried by a majority vote.

Model Balloons UK were congratulated.

The FFTC would like it noted that it does not wish to have the responsibility of Model Balloons UK allocated to that Committee.

Verbal report from the Honorary Secretary

He attended, alongside the CEO and Development Officer the annual meeting with the CAA. He thought the notice that the CEO has placed on the BMFA website in relation to the EASA consultation paper was commendable. It will hopefully help to alleviate any unnecessary concerns that have been discussed on the forums.

As previously mentioned in the Chairman's report, work continues with regard to the question of disenfranchised Country Members, raised at the EGM in July 2015.

Work continues within the Sub-committee set up to look in to Areas funding. The Honorary Secretary hopes to submit a proposal to the May Full Council Meeting with recommendations of how we could move forward vis-à-vis Areas Funding.

The Honorary Secretary is viewing the new site of interest as referred to in the CEO's report, with a possible view to use it in its current state for Silent Flight contests. The SFTC Secretary Mike Proctor FSMAE has visited the site and has raised doubts as to whether it is practical in its current state.

1023/01/16 (17) To receive a report from the Technical Secretary

WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX A)

The Technical Secretary reported that unfortunately he had suffered a major crash of the hard disk on his computer and subsequently lost a significant amount of BMFA work. This caused a delay in completing the Rule Books but they are about 90% completed. However he has lost all his work on the Members Handbook. He has appointed a private company to look at the problem and they are hopeful that they will be able to retrieve all the data from the hard disk.

He undertook a review of the General Rules and subsequently submitted nine proposals, appended in full with the Agenda. The Technical Secretary provided background information to each proposal.

Cont'd/...

Tec Sec
Rep
cont'd/...

There were several drafting changes recommended to some of the proposals to which the Chairman agreed.

Proposal 17c) General Rule Book 1.2.5 Radio Control Frequencies was withdrawn and deferred until 2016 May Full Council.

AGENDA ITEM MAY 2016 FULL COUNCIL - General Rule Change 1.2.5 Radio Control Frequencies (Tech Sec).

**TECH SEC/
OFFICE MGR**

Proposal 17g) General Rule Book 2.1.6 Entry to BMFA Contest was withdrawn for the time being, to be reviewed in conjunction with the ASRC.

TECH SEC

The Technical Secretary commended for ratification proposals 17a, 17b, 17d, 17e, 17f, 17h, 17i, Changes to the General Rule Book, including drafting errors.

Seconded by the Competition Secretary
Vote: For: 23 Ags: 0 Abs: 2

Carried by a majority vote.

1024/01/16 (18) To receive a report from the Competition Secretary to include the following:

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

There are no late additions.

b) Receipt of this year's BMFA contest fees.

A list of the 2016 BMFA contest fees as provided by Technical Committees and RCP Specialist Bodies, was appended in full with the Agenda.

There were no additions or corrections put forward to that list at this meeting therefore the list will form the basis for all competitions throughout 2016.

Verbal report from the Competition Secretary

We have 12 UK hosted World Cups listed on the FAI Contest Calendar for 2016.

At the last Council Meeting, Council approved the UK hosting of the 2017 F3D (Pylon Racing) World Championships. She was very sorry to inform Council that this has had to be withdrawn. A caravan site is now being built on the adjacent land that makes the site unsuitable for F3D.

The 2016 F2 (Control Line) World Championships will be held in Perth Australia in early May. Because of the early date of the Championships, she has already, on behalf of Council, ratified all 15 F2 competitors and the Team and Assistant Team Managers.

1025/01/16 (19) To receive a report from the Records Officer.

The Records Officer submitted the following proposals:

- i) **To reallocate an unused, adopted BMFA trophy to a new class which is competed for on an annual basis, that trophy being the Windsock Challenge Shield and the new class being the Electric Indoor Masters.**

RECORDS
OFFICER /
OFFICE

Seconded by Competition Secretary
Carried unanimously

- ii) **Wording change to the Record Rules Book to clarify the need to submit the 7-day claim when submitting a record claim, replacing “it is possible that any” with “or the claim will not be ratified”.**

RECORDS
OFFICER /
OFFICE

Seconded by Competition Secretary
Carried unanimously

The Records Officer commended the following British Records Claims for ratification en bloc:

- a) C Newis / D Hanks (175296/066716) – CL Mini Goodyear Junior – 30/08/15 Barkston Heath – 5 mins, 00.02 secs
b) P Watt (108095) – Novice Penny Plane Rubber Powered – 13/09/15 Brabazon Hangar – 10 mins, 16 secs.
c) T Smith / P Jephcott (181081/066766) – Junior Mini Goodyear Final – 30/08/15 Barkston Heath – 11 mins, 4.83 secs

RECORDS
OFFICER /
OFFICE

Seconded by Competition Secretary
Carried unanimously

Verbal report from the Records Officer

The Records Officer recorded his thanks to all those involved with the smooth running of the presentations at the Annual Dinner/Prizegiving.

He has implemented a trophy refurbishment programme which will include repairs, re-plating, new boxes etc. The Mick Duce Trophy is being replaced this year.

He was pleased to report that he had received a number of enquiries regarding record attempts.

The Indoor, NE Area, & NI Area Delegates left the meeting – the voting strength was now 22.

1026/01/16 (20) To receive a report from the Public Relations Officer.

The position was vacant until the co-option of Duncan McClure at today's meeting therefore there is no report.

1027/01/17 (21) To receive a report from the FAI Delegate.

WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX B)

1028/01/16 (22) To receive the following proposals:

i) From the Silent Flight Technical Committee that the Great Britain Slope Racing Association be permitted to host and organise the 2018 FAI World Championship for F3F (Slope Soaring Model Aircraft).

Seconded by South West Area

It was pointed out that there was nobody present from GBSRA (Great Britain Slope Racing Association) to speak on behalf of the proposal. The Competition Secretary advised that she had informed the Secretary of GBSRA that it would not be necessary to make the journey as she thought that the SFTC would have full knowledge of the proposal.

There was some uncertainty as to whether it was necessary to submit an outlined budget. The Competition Secretary pointed out that this had not been required for the F3D Pylon Racing proposal that was approved without question at the September 2015 Council Meeting. The location for the Championship was actually known to some of the Delegates present and it was noted that it would probably require an analysis of access and public facilities.

The Chairman granted approval to vote on the proposal with the proviso that SFTC present an outlined budget summation to the May Full Council Meeting.

SFTC

Carried unanimously

ii) From London Area that all contemporaneous Directors of the Society, members of the Technical Committees and Area Officers be granted a free invitation to attend the Free Flight and the R/C, CL& Scale BMFA National Championships, as is afforded to Fellows and Honorary Members.

Seconded by Southern Area

The general consensus was not in favour of the above proposal and when presented with the costs to implement it, by the Honorary Treasurer London Area withdrew the proposal.

1029/01/16 (23) To receive any report from the following Delegates

a) Royal Aero Club Delegate (RAeC)

WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX C)

The RAeC Delegate drew attention to three of the items in his report.

The Queens Cup for 2016 is available for award at a suitable airport event, preferably with some public appeal and offers are invited.

Cont'd/...

Delegate
reps cont'd/

All Associations' FAI Delegates have been asked to send a brief summary of the year's activities in their Commissions to the RAeC Chairman, Patrick Naegeli, if they are unable to attend the RAeC FAI Committee Meeting in September. RAeC Bursaries are available for young people and there have previously been a few successful applicants from aeromodellers. The closing date for applications is 31st March.

b) General Aviation Safety Council (GASCo)

Nothing to report.

c) Air Prox

Nothing to report.

d) Sport + Recreation Alliance (SRA and formerly CCPR)

Post meeting note:

A meeting of the SRA was held on the 26th January 2016 attended by Diana King (SRA representative for the BMFA). Diana provided a report which is appended to these Minutes.

WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX D)

e) General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC)

Nothing to report.

1030/01/16 (24) To receive any reports from the following Committees.

a) CAA Team

Covered earlier in the meeting.

b) Education Working Group

WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX E)

Note that item c was included in the Agenda in error therefore the subsequent sub-paragraph numbers of this item have been amended.

c) University Challenge

This takes place 11th/12th June 2016 and planning is well under way.

d) Computer Sub-Committee

The CEO invited any Council Member with computer or IT expertise to join the Committee.

A re-vamp of the website is being looked into which will include some new skins that will hopefully provide a better response when accessing from different devices.

Cont'd/...

e) Safety Review Committee

A contributor to the 'Confessions' column in the BMFA News magazine has raised a question of orientation of 2.4GHz aeriels which has been passed on to ESAG (Electrical Safety Advisory Group), a member of the SRC.

The SRC Chairman requested that anyone with any interesting stories for his 'Confessions Column' in the BMFA News magazine from which other people can learn, to let him have them.

The Development Officer has been publishing various safety related reports in his 'Chacksfield Chat' column, which is ongoing.

f) Achievement Scheme Review Committee

WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX F)

The AS Controller drew attention to some important items in his report.

Very soon the first publication of the new Achievement Scheme Handbook will be issued. All the Achievement Scheme material will be taken out of the Members Handbook and will then be contained in a dedicated Achievement Scheme Handbook, including the Guidance documents.

Three new Achievement Scheme test are being introduced for 2016, specifically aimed at aircraft, both fixed wing and rotary, with stabilisation technologies. They will be called 'Basic Proficiency Certificates'. The third proficiency will be an FPV extension for either of those or the existing 'A' certificates.

The ASRC has also introduced mandatory questions relating to the legal considerations of operating model aircraft, to all Achievement Scheme tests as of 31st March 2016.

A letter is due to be sent out to all ACE's and ACI's informing them of the new achievements and the mandatory questions plus an article will also appear in the February issue of the BMFA News magazine.

The East Anglia Area reported that the Area held a meeting recently at which they discussed the new Achievement Scheme tests. The East Anglia Area fundamentally disagrees with the introduction of these tests. It felt that these tests would undermine the 'A' certificate. Of particular concern was that there would be no minimum weight limit. The AS Controller commented that the AS Co-ordinator for East Anglia Area has a seat on the ASRC and had not raised any concerns during discussion of the new tests at the ASRC meetings.

With regard to the mandatory questions the Technical Secretary pointed out that the Isle of Man are not covered by

our ANO which was noted by the AS Controller.

g) BMFA News Publishers

Various concerns have been raised with regard to the production of the BMFA News magazine over the last few issues. The CEO has been asked to look in to obtaining alternative tenders for printing and distribution of the magazine.

CEO

h) BMFA Archivist

No report.

i) Club Support Officer

WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX G)

1031/01/16 (25) Any Other Business

There was none.

1032/01/16 (26) Date of next meeting.

The next meeting was confirmed as **Saturday 14th May 2016**, at College Court Conference Centre, Knighton Road, Leicester, starting at 11am.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4.28pm.

DAVID VARALLO - TECHNICAL SECRETARY

Report to Executive committee and to Full Council

Having completed 90% of the rule updates for 2016 (Subject to the update presented to the current Full Council) I have had a major crash of the removable hard disk that the BMFA files are kept on. Unfortunately whilst I have automatic backup on both of my two desk top computers (one in my workshop) and my two lap tops via my home network, I had overlooked that the removable disk is not backed up when it is removed from the system!

I have now arranged for a professional company to recover whatever data they can. In the meantime I have managed to recover all of the 2015 rule books (mainly from 'sent' email backups) and am now working on updating them to 2016. I should like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the various members of the Technical Committees and Specialist Bodies that have given me assistance at this time.

The final release of the rule books is dependent in part on one of my General Rules changes as proposed to the current Full Council as if approved it requires the inclusion of the revised appeals procedure to be included in all rule books. .

If the hard disk data cannot be recovered the major setback will be the loss of my work on the Members Handbook. This was currently about a third to a half complete. However as the crash appears to be a software disk access problem rather than a hardware crash I am hopeful of a satisfactory outcome in due course.

David Varallo

FAI Delegate Report January 2016 Council Meeting.

The October Technical Council meeting reviewed a number of rule change proposals which were subsequently submitted to the FAI for consideration at the 2016 Plenary meeting. I would like to remind all technical committees that they must submit FAI rule changes to the BMFA office in time for them to be included in the agenda.

I am proposing that Jo Halman be appointed as the alternate FAI delegate for 2016. Jo will be invaluable at the 2016 Plenary as I will be very busy on the first day dealing with F2 Subcommittee work.

The 2016 Sporting code has been published and I have informed the secretaries of the Technical Committees and the R/C Specialist Bodies.

The 2016 Plenary meeting will have scheduled technical meetings for F1, F2 Control Line, F3 Soaring F5 Electric Flight F4 Scale and Space Modelling, plus the annual Education Meeting. I will advise the Technical Committee and R/C Specialist Body secretaries as soon as the agenda is published.

I attended the meeting of the CIAM Bureau which took place on the 3rd and 4th December 2014, the meeting was held in Dubai during the World Air games. The BMFA was represented in three of the model flying competitions, F3P Aero Musicals F3T Semi Scale Pylon Racing, and F3N Free Style Helicopter to music. Steve Shafer placed 11th out of 12 in F3P, the competition was won by the current World Champion Donatas Pauzuolis from Lithuania. Ben Jones placed 11th out of 16 in F3T, he missed a place in the semi final by just 3 points, the competition was won by Bruce D Chastel from Australia. Duncan Osborn placed TBA out of 9, the competition was won by TBA.

Peter Halman

FAI Delegate 7th January 2016

ROYAL AERO CLUB DELEGATE'S REPORT – Sept. 2015

I attended the RAeC Council meeting on Sept. 29th and the following points may be of BMFA interest.

1) Stewart Luck of the UK Youth Build a Plane Project made a presentation focusing on the importance of involving young people in aviation at an early age. He suggested contacting Beaver Scout groups (children around 7-8) and starting with simple paper darts flown in competition. In discussion it was mentioned that the ATC was now so risk-averse that most attempts to introduce model building and flying were now rebuffed.

2) In view of the current mass of legislation in the pipeline all airports were advised to get involved with any pan-European organisation covering their sport, e.g. the European Gliding Union in order to co-ordinate responses. I mentioned this in my last RAeC report but am unaware of any action on this. It may be useful to contact all other European model flying organizations to investigate setting up such a group.

3) A British delegate to Europe Air Sports is required; a suggested job description is available from the RAeC and an appointment is to be made by Dec. 18th.

4) Although HRH the Duke of York must initially be invited to be the guest at the RAeC Awards Evening in May 2016, suggestions for alternate guests are invited in the event that he is unable to be there..

5) The Queen's Cup for 2016 is available for award at a suitable airport event, preferably with some public appeal. Offers are invited.

6) EASA is looking at the rationalisation of drone or RPAS operations and the date has just passed for comments on their consultation document. Their current overview of RPAS categories is here:
https://www.easa.europa.eu/system/files/dfu/204696_EASA_concept_drone_brochure_web.pdf

7) There is serious concern at the likely result of TAG Farnborough's proposal to vastly extend controlled airspace in southern England.

8) The 2015 World Air Games will be in Dubai in December; the UK has the fourth-largest team entered. It might be useful to have at least some mention of this and of those representing Britain in BMFA News

9) The FAI is to organize courses to train FAI jury members.

10) Breitling no longer sponsors FAI airports; it apparently did not regard the publicity it received as justifying the outlay. .

11) All associations' FAI delegates are asked to send a brief summary of the year's activities in their commissions to the RAeC chairman, Patrick Naegli.

Martin Dilly
RAeC Delegate

1.10.15

**Sport and Recreation Alliance Games and Sports Division Meeting
26 January 2016**

I attended this meeting as the representative for BGA, BMFA and RAeC. I was hoping to receive copies of the PowerPoint presentations, but the one from Sport England is not available. I attach the Notes of the meeting and also the email which sent them, which has a number of links in it.

1. New Chairman of S&RA

Andrew Moss introduced himself and gave a brief talk. He claims to be 'A life-long sports fan' but admits to having no knowledge or background in sports management or admin and his only significant connection with sport is with rugby, as chairman of Rhino Rugby, a rugby equipment and clothing supplier, and formerly at a senior level with Aviva, who were major sponsors of sport.

2. New Sports Strategy

The strategy has had involvement from several government departments as well as DCMS. The Cabinet Office, Number 10 and the Treasury are said to be very interested in its implementation.

It was said to be a big opportunity for new and emerging sports that appeal to significant numbers of potential participants.

I attach the powerpoint slides, which I have annotated with the notes I made during the meeting. The major outcomes described in the slides are critical; to qualify for support, a sport will have to be able to demonstrate that they can contribute to these outcomes. Non-major sports will not be able to deliver so much in this respect.

3. Sport England Strategy

Lisa O'Keefe, Insight Director, Sport England, gave a powerpoint presentation which is unfortunately not available to circulate. Sp Eng is holding a one month consultation as part of the process of determining their strategy for 2016 – 2021. The short time scale is because they are under pressure to deliver their plans in time for the funded sports to develop their own whole-sport plans for the next phase; and they could not start on it until the DCMS Strategy, the Triennial review and the comprehensive spending review had all taken place.

The consultation includes several consultation events (by invitation only – not everyone is invited). In addition there is an online consultation launched in the last week. The strategy will be published in April.

The new strategy is likely to include some of the existing priorities, but the new government strategy sets new challenges and there will be insufficient resources to manage new programmes as well as all the old ones. Whilst we do not receive any SP Eng funding direct to any of the air sport NGBs, gliding clubs do receive grants for specific projects, so it may be important that we respond to this consultation.

There will be significant focus on 'more people' – Sp Eng's KPIs include increasing participation, both actively in a sport and also as a volunteer; making sport participation more representative of society will be important. Lisa presented a model of the need to change behaviour and attitude – doing 'more of the same' will not bring a significant number of additional people into sport. There is a need to think more widely in order to attract people from new segments of the population.

We had some group discussions of the strategy and fed some comments to Lisa.

We need to look at the online consultation and agree how to respond. More information is at <http://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk/news/28-01-2016/sport-england-opens-strategy-consultation> and I attach a copy of the questions that appear in the consultation.

4. Mental Health Charter

S&RA are encouraging sports to sign up and to develop strategic and action plans to work towards it. MIND and S&RA can help to develop action plans for NGBs and funding may be available.

5. Youth Governance

S&RA are doing some research into involving younger people in governance and NGB Boards.

6. Dates

Sports Summit – 25 May at the Oval.

AGM will be on 14, 27 or 28 July.

Diana King
3 February 2016

Education Working Group Report BMFA Council 9th Jan 2016

As you know I have sent my request for permission to be absent as I am on the BMFA Education Stand at the Association of Science Education's annual meeting, this year held at Birmingham University. In past years this venue has been good as regarding interest in the BMFA Education Programme particularly the University and Schools Payload Challenges.

I have been informed that entries are doing well for this years University and Schools Payload Challenges. The Flying part of the Challenges will take place at Elvington Airfield, York on 11th/12th June 2016.

With the loss of the Flight Challenge I do feel that the BMFA Education Programme has lost some momentum in recent years. With the negative publicity of 'Drones' to the general public it may be time for the BMFA to encourage the clubs to adopt a school – offering to run building and flying workshops – this would put the club and model flying in general in a good light with the local public.

As we are at the beginning of a new year it may be of interest to look back over the last 12 months at the BMFA's Education Programme in terms of kits sold. I can only look at kits produced by Sky Hi Products but it should give an indication of the Education Programme's success.

Total production of Education kits produced by Sky Hi Products has reached 295,570 of which 147,720 are BMFA Darts. 13,045 kits were produced in 2015, this was a increase of 7168 on 2014.

It may be interesting to note that in 2015, 32.2% of all production was sold via the BMFA Office, 50.3% of production went directly to schools, 16.2% of production went directly to youth organisations and the remaining 1.3% to private individuals. Comparing this with 2014 figures the number of kits sold to schools has gone down by 14.1% whilst the kits sold to youth organisations remained about the same and kits sold to the BMFA Office went up by 12.7%. Sky Hi Products sent kits and materials to service 317 schools and universities in 2015 and sent kits and materials to six other countries including Finland and New Zealand. Make of this what you will.

Mike Colling
Education Working Group.

**Achievement Scheme Review Committee
Report to Full Council Meeting
9th January 2016**

Since the last report to council there have been two ASRC meetings, one in May and one in October. The outcome of these meetings has been a number of key developments within the scheme, which the ASRC would like all delegates to feed back to their Areas. The developments include:-

- For the clarity of Council, the ASRC wishes to record that it has had **no involvement** with Proposal Item 17(g) ('A' certification for competition entry) put forward by the Tech. Sec. The ASRC considers that some form of formal consultation and associated dialogue would have been appropriate, as the proposal has potentially far reaching implications for the scheme.
- In recent years there have been significant developments in technologies in RC flying that are likely to have a lasting impact on the sport. The ASRC recognises the need to embrace these new technologies, and cater for newcomers, and their clubs, who choose to fly the new generations of aircraft that these advances allow. As a result, the ASRC has developed **three new achievements**, which will specifically cater for aircraft that feature stabilisation technologies. The new tests will be known as **Basic Proficiency Certificates**, one for **Fixed Wing** aircraft and another for **Rotorcraft** (helicopters and multi-rotors). The third new achievement will be the option for existing certificate holders (FW or Rotorcraft) to gain an **FPV Extension**, where desired. As well as allowing the use of stabilisation systems, such as 3 axis gyros, Atti mode, GPS mode etc., the **Basic Proficiency Certificates** may also be taken with aircraft of any mass i.e. there will not be a requirement for the aircraft to be 1Kg or over. This means that the scheme will now cater for a wide range of aircraft for which there is currently no provision. The new certificates don't change the underlying philosophy of the scheme, which is to provide goals and challenges to encourage flyers to improve, but will operate **alongside** the existing certificates, to acknowledge and support the way the current 'A', 'B' and 'C' tests are often used by clubs, and others, to assess member's capabilities. The flying elements of the new **Basic Proficiency Certificates** will be the same as the current 'A' certificate, for the relevant disciplines. This has the advantage of familiarity for both examiners and candidates, and will hopefully assist clubs in any decision making process related to granting privileges. The simple analogy is like taking your driving test in an automatic as opposed to a manual car. Whether you take a **BPC** or a conventional 'A' cert depends entirely on what model you present for the test with; If you present with a model that is <1kg, you will take a **BPC**, (irrespective of whether it has stabilisation or not). If you present with a model with stabilisation, you will take a **BPC** (irrespective of mass).

If you present with a model without stabilisation and >1kg, you will take an 'A'. Consideration is being given to the development of video format guidance documents for these proficiencies, as it is an ideal medium to illustrate the new technologies and associated safety procedures, for example Atti & GPS modes on Multi-rotors and 3 axis stabilisation systems in FW aircraft. An outline development of the format for these videos has been produced. Whilst it is recognised that a video won't necessarily be able to illustrate good and bad manoeuvres in all circumstances, in time, consideration will also be given to the preparation of video guidance for many more of the achievement scheme tests.

- Given the raised profile that 'drones' have brought to model flying, the ASRC has considered it prudent to introduce **mandatory questions**, relating to the legal considerations of operating model aircraft, to **all** Achievement Scheme tests. The rationale is that it is better to self-regulate, rather than have regulations imposed. From 2016 onwards, all AS tests will require the candidate to correctly answer five (5) legally based questions (in addition to those currently required for the individual tests), chosen at random, by the examiner at the point of test, from a published list of twenty questions. The ASRC has already agreed the twenty questions, which are based on **CAP 658** and a number of **ANOs**.
- With the fixed wing **RC Flight Training Manual 'A Flying Start'** now established, work has started on the helicopter equivalent. Copies of the first draft have been circulated to members for detailed comment and feedback. The AHA has also been invited to make comment and their response is anticipated shortly. Feedback will also be sought from all helicopter qualified Area Chief Examiners and Instructors. The manual uses the same modular format (with details of assumed/previous knowledge requirements at the start of each section) as the fixed wing version.
- With the exception of the incorporation of some of the existing test schedules (which are now technical annexes) the new Achievement Scheme Handbook has been completed. The intention is for it to be published following final approval at the next ASRC meeting, scheduled for March 2016.
- 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 is scheduled for the next edition of the BMFA News. It is hoped that the article will provide a useful mechanism to communicate this important information to the membership.
- As is usual, since the last report, there have been a small number of minor items of correspondence, which have required the attention of the Scheme Controller and or the ASRC, often in assistance to the Leicester office.

Duncan R McClure
RC Achievement Scheme Controller & ASRC representative to Council
9th January 2016

Club Support Officers Report January 2016

Apologies for not being at the meeting today, it is my daughters 21st Birthday celebrations today.

I attended the AGM and also the Drone show which was a huge success from our point of view, apart from signing up a good number of new members we had the chance to speak to and educate 100's of individuals about the BMFA and lawful sporting and recreational model/drone flying.

Area committees have been informed of all my club visits since September.

I closed the affiliated club survey shortly before Christmas and will be filtering the results by area and sending those out to area committees in the next week, a number of clubs have also suggested they would be interested in hosting BMFA competitions so I will pass this information to the relevant specialist bodies and tech committees. The primary reason for conducting the survey was to gather information on how many clubs are affected by Non domestic business rates. I received 317 survey responses of which 14 indicated they have been assessed for NDBR, of those only 6 are paying anything the others have received 100% rate relief. As a "sports club" our clubs are potential liable for NDBR if they have exclusive use of their flying sites, by applying for CASC status (only 3 clubs have indicated they have done this) they will automatically receive 80% rate relief and the current advice remains that clubs should do this if they believe they will become liable for NDBR. It remains my belief that if we push for a national rating valuation model to be used for clubs this could potential pull many more clubs in to paying NDBR, however where a club believes they have been unfairly assessed we should look to having a rating expert look at the valuation. I raised this matter at the last GAAC meeting for the thoughts of those present and all suggested this was the best approach to the matter.

Preparation for the Electric Indoor Masters are just about completed, I have been able to attract some new sponsors for this year which is pleasing as we had lost a couple from previous years. The event will be taking place over the weekend of 13th and 14th February. I have been working with the Gibraltar Model Flying Association recently who were an affiliated club that operated on the run way at RAF Gibraltar (which is also the Gibraltar airport runway) they were temporarily suspended from flying after the 9/11 attacks and had never been given permission to return. However after a change of commanding officer at Gibraltar I made contact and a meeting was called which took place on Thursday and subject to finalising a risk assessment and some other procedures the GMFA should be back flying on the runway, thanks must go to the RAF Gibraltar commanding officer for supporting the proposal to have the club return to flying, also to Francis Martinez, club chairman and other GMFA members for looking after me while in Gibraltar, the club had splintered and the members were flying at various clubs in Spain, sometimes having to travel a couple of hours to the site. I also had the opportunity to get the GMFA up to speed with the achievement scheme which involved travelling to a club at Malaga to conduct some testing. Although being interrupted by armed police after a misunderstanding by the police was somewhat "interesting".

The website is running smoothly, we are aiming to update the skin after the "renewal rush" has slowed down, possibly Feb/March. The majority of clubs are now using the portal. The club website hosting initiative has also been very well received and a number of sites have already been created.

Andy Symons