

AREAS COUNCIL 5TH JUNE 2009DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORT.

It has been as busy as ever over the last few months, the day to day workload in the office still centres around providing advice and guidance to our members on a range of subjects.

The trend of “fallouts” within clubs is unfortunately continuing and it would appear that there is a tendency on the part of a few individuals to forget that model flying is for fun and relaxation, there would appear to be a small minority of members for whom causing problems and unrest is a source of pleasure such is life.

Insurance matters have also seen an increased workload and sadly 2010 is turning into a bad year from a claims point of view, whilst to date there have been no large claims (fingers crossed, touching wood, stroking a black cat and a number of other measures purported to cultivate good luck!) but there has been a marked increase in damage to vehicles, this will be the subject of a future article for BMFA News (again). Also it is apparent that despite continuous effort and publication of articles and information that the third party and civil liabilities insurance provided as part of the BMFA membership package is still very much misunderstood by the general membership. At some point I would be keen to do an insurance presentation as part of the Areas Council meeting as another way of disseminating accurate information.

The programme of club talks has slowed down a little although it was a busy winter with many late nights and lots of miles travelled, the feedback from these has been very positive and I would like to thank all clubs that have invited me to talk to their members and extended their hospitality to me.

The University and Schools Heavy Lift Challenge will be taking place at Elvington next weekend (12th/13th of June); entries are slightly down on last years. I feel that this competition needs to further evolve to make it more popular and accessible as well as to reduce the workload on the teams; unfortunately the academic year seems to be increasingly pressured for students in the target age groups. The organisation of this competition becomes increasingly frustrating as despite its worth as a competition and also as a meaningful contribution to the academic year it becomes increasingly difficult to engage teams (not forgetting an entertaining and fun weekend as well as substantial cash prizes!)

The 2010 Children’s Flight Challenge does not as yet have a firm date or venue as Duxford have unfortunately withdrawn their support for the event mainly due to a combination of logistical and budgetary constraints. At this time alternative venues are being explored but it is proving problematic to find a location that “ticks all the boxes”.

Robin Hood Airport had initially offered a large hangar but again it is proving difficult to negotiate an equitable position with all parties involved in the administration of the hangar, a return to Cosford is a possibility that is also being explored.

At present the hope is that the competition will take place in October but the final date will of course be reflected in the availability of a venue.

You will have noted in your latest BMFA News that we are searching for an additional person to join the team at Chacksfield House in the role of Club Support Officer, this role will ultimately encompass the work of the Flying Site Adviser as well as share some of the day to day club and member support, hopefully this sharing of the workload will eventually permit me to focus a little more on the development side of my role.

As you will have gathered from the above Roger Bellingham will be leaving us but the aim is to have a period of overlap in order that the new incumbent can benefit from Roger’s vast wealth of experience, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Roger all the very best for his retirement and to say that it has been a pleasure to work with him (there may be another Areas meeting before this actually happens but I thought I would get in early).

Manny Williamson
Development Officer