

MINUTES

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on the 29th January 2011 at 11am at Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrews Road, Leicester LE2 8RE.

Provisional until confirmed at the next Area Council Meeting.

PRESENT

Robin Sleight MBE	Meeting Chairman
Nigel Barker	PRO/Meeting Vice Chairman
Peter Leavesley	East Anglia Area Delegate
Terry Rounce	London Area Delegate Alternate
Andy Symons	Northern Area Delegate
Tom Jones	North East Area Delegate
David Lloyd Jones	North West Area Delegate
Duncan McClure	South Midland Area Delegate
Keith Miller FSMAE	South East Area Delegate
Stuart Simpson	Southern Area Delegate
Phil Durant	Western Area Delegate
Peter Disney	South West Area Delegate / RNMAA Del
Keith Barker	Northern Ireland Area Delegate Alt
Paul Luby	RAFMAA Area Delegate
Peter Spurway	PAS Controller
Chris Moynihan	SFAS Controller
George Maynard	Midland Area Delegate

In Attendance

Linda Harding	Minute Taker / Office Manager
Terry Eato	Club Support Officer
Chris Bromley FSMAE	Technical Secretary

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence.
- 2 Request for Permission to be Absent.
- 3 Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 25th September 2010.
- 4 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 25th September 2010 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 5 Election/Ratification of members to fill ASRC vacancies.
- 6 To appoint a representative to the Awards Committee for 2011.

- 7 To receive a proposal from the following Area to appoint a Chief Examiner:
Northern Area that Andy Symons, Membership Number 126421 is appointed Area Chief Examiner (Fixed Wing) for Northern Area.
- 8 To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.
 - a) Power
 - b) Silent Flight
- 9 To receive reports from committees or co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.
 - a) Achievement Scheme Review Committee
 - b) Flight Challenge
 - c) Education
- 10 To receive reports from Area Committees. (Please ensure your Area prepares a maximum of 1 x A4 page synopsis of your report for the meeting. Photocopying facilities are available at Chacksfield House if required.)
- 11 To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.
- 12 To confirm date of the next meeting. *24th September 2011*
- 13 Any Other Business.

VOTING STRENGTH OF THE MEETING IS 14.

MINUTES

A1076/1/11 (1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from the following:
Ian Robb Northern Ireland Area Delegate
Martin Dilly FSMAE London Area

A1077/1/11 (2) Request for Permission to be absent.

There were no requests.

A1078/1/11 (3) Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 25th September 2010

Page 11

- Fifth paragraph, first line – Delete “cannot”.

Northern Area proposed that the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 25th September 2010 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Seconded by South West Area

Vote: For: 9
Ags: 0
Abs: 5

Carried by a majority vote.

A1079/1/11 (4) Matters/Actions arising from the meeting on 25th September 2010 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

ACTION / NOTES

Page 6

- First paragraph, action ASRC to discuss whether they believe the boundaries of responsibility for ACE's to re-asses a Club Examiner should be changed –

Work in progress. Should be able to report back to September Area Council.

ASRC

Page 8

- First paragraph, action ASRC to incorporate suitable wording to proposal passed at the last meeting reference fly bar stabilisation of helicopter during 'A' & 'B' test – The words were written and are attached to these minutes.

(APPENDIX A)

Page 11

- First paragraph, action ASRC to incorporate a paragraph to proposal passed at the last meeting that there is no need to have two distinct "question and answer" sessions when examining for the 'A' and 'B' in succession – The words were written and are attached to these minutes.

(APPENDIX B)

Page 11

- Fifth paragraph, Representatives were asked to convey "Know your insurance" document to their clubs and suggest best way to get insurance message across to club members was to arrange a club visit by Development Officer – PRO enquired if Area Delegates had received any feedback from clubs in relation to information in the document.

Areas had nothing to report back.

This concluded matters arising.

A1080/1/11 (5) Election/Ratification of members to fill ASRC vacancies.

11 nominations had been received. Copies of the CV's and a voting form were provided to Area Council Members for consideration during lunch recess.

The Chairman asked Council for a decision regarding a nomination received after the deadline for Chris Bromley FSMAE.

Cont/...

ASRC Chairman commented that the ASRC is the most cohesive and productive committee that he has ever had the pleasure to serve on.

A1081/1/11 (6) To appoint a representative to the Awards Committee for 2011.

The PRO proposed that Terry Rounce is appointed as the Awards Committee representative for Areas Council for 2011.

Seconded by Northern Ireland Area
Carried unanimously

**AWARDS CTTEE
OFFICE MGR**

A1082/1/11 (7) To receive a proposal from Northern Area that Andy Symons Membership No 126421 is appointed Area Chief Examiner (Fixed Wing) for Northern Area.

Seconded by South West Area
Carried unanimously

**NORTHERN
AREA/OFFICE/PAS
CONTROLLER**

A1083/1/11 (8) To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.

***** a) **Power**
WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX C)

First paragraph in the report explains a situation where an unapproved Examiner assisted in taking 'B' tests. He was advised that he could do the tests by the Area ASC.

PAS Controller requested clarification from Areas Council that the decision he took to negate the tests was the correct action to take.

PAS Controller had unanimous support from Areas Council in the action he took.

Final paragraph in the report suggests it might be prudent to include some additional wording in the Member's Handbook and Achievement Scheme Guidance notes on the use of buddy-leads.

Northern Area proposed the following wording
Seconded by London Area.

ASRC/TECH SEC

Buddy leads and other dual control training aids must not be used during any Achievement Scheme test.

Carried unanimously

The additional wording above will be incorporated in both the Achievement Scheme Guidance booklets and the Members Handbook.

ASRC/TECH SEC

A brief debate ensued with regard to obtaining certificates from commercial training schools. The general consensus was that the procedures put in place a few years ago allowing clubs the prerogative to re-test if they felt the club member was not up to standard was working effectively.

b) Silent Flight

He has very little to report on as there is not a great deal of activity in testing for Silent Flight, which seems to be the normal.

He asked this Council if there have been any comments from clubs with regard to the satisfaction of the Silent Flight scheme and if there is room for improvement.

The Technical Secretary commented that it might be worthwhile focusing on clubs to try and get them to institute a minimum requirement on the slopes. They are flying in a gradually increasingly busy ground environment and there seems to be very few requirements from slope pilots at club level.

SF Controller responded that in practical terms running slope tests is not as easy as you may think, for several reasons.

SF Controller felt this required further debate and asked permission of the Chairman to include an item on a future agenda.

AGENDA ITEM SEPTEMBER AREA COUNCIL MEETING – Review Silent Flight Achievement Scheme, Club involvement & safety.

OFFICE MGR

The SF Controller requested that in light of discussion today he felt that he should take steps to remind clubs with Silent Flight interest of their responsibilities. He requested from the Office Manager a list of clubs with Silent Flight interests.

OFFICE MGR

SF Controller extended his appreciation to the PAS Controller for taking on the additional role of SF controller until the position was filled.

A1084/1/11 (9) To receive reports from committees or coordinators related to the business of this meeting.

a) ASRC

Scale 'C' is almost ready to be presented to Areas Council. ASRC Chairman extended his gratitude to the Scale Technical Committee, in particular Ian Pallister for their input.

Work is in progress on updating the Standards Booklets.

ASRC would like the agreement of this Council to update the Standards Booklets annually. The meeting were in favour of this but it should be noted that any proposed changes for consideration at the September Area Council meeting should be circulated in plenty of time before the meeting and it would be beholden on everyone to check them properly and comment accordingly.

ALL

The following proposal came from the floor:

All achievement scheme standards booklets shall be re-issued on an annual basis on the 1st of January.

Proposed by Northern Area
Seconded by South Midland Area

ASRC

Carried unanimously.

A suggestion has been put to ASRC that Club Examiners attend a workshop once every two years and if they do not attend they should be re-tested. ASRC would like the opinion of Areas Council.

A discussion ensued and the following recommendation was put forward by the Chairman:

To keep cost to a minimum the Chairman suggested a supplemental letter is included in the club renewal packs with their examiner ratification form asking them to consider the ratification of their examiners very carefully and only ratify the examiners that have earned it. Suitable wording provided by ASRC.

ASRC

It was also suggested an article is published in BMFA News and the Club Bulletin for the September/November issue. ASRC to provide content.

ASRC

- b) Flight Challenge** – Full Council gave the mandate at the January Council meeting that Flight Challenge should go ahead for 2011. Everything is being done to make this happen.

- ***** **c) Education – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX D)**
In the report Areas are invited to give their opinions on the subject of how clubs can be encouraged to promote model building and flying in a manner instead of restricting the age of membership or even closing the door to new members as some clubs do.

Some Areas reported on the work they already do in this respect.

Reference the lack of assistance from local Areas to man the stand at the Association of Science Education event in Reading in January as commented in the first paragraph, London Area responded that they were unaware the event was taking place and that help was required. Had they been made aware they could have arranged from someone to assist.

London Area are very active in trying to promote model flying to schools however it can be very difficult actually getting in and generally is reliant upon one of the teachers being a modeller.

South Midland advised that there is another route in to schools, which is a National scheme called STEM Ambassadors.

He is currently involved in a flight challenge with a local school through that scheme. The school actually receive funding through the scheme.

North West advised that approximately three years ago they placed an advert in BMFA News asking if there were any model flyers who were teachers, who might be interested in running a scheme at schools. They received only 3 responses and from that only 1 actually ran a scheme.

More use could be made of the STEM Ambassadors scheme and a request was made for South Midland to pass on the information to Mike Colling.

SOUTH MIDLAND

Other than that all we can do is hope the Clubs do better in the future.

A1085/1/11 (10) To receive reports from Area Committees.

***** **Northern Ireland Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX E)**

***** **South Midland Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX F)**

Additional name to be added to the reported list of International competitors from the Area for F3K is Nick Chitty.

***** **Southern Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX G)**
***** **South West Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX H)**
***** **North East Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX I) –**
North East commented that it is not always possible to fulfil the requirement to attend both Council Meetings in January because of work and home commitments.

***** **East Anglia Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX J)**
RAFMAA Area – A slope event was held. A fly-in was held at RAF Marham and some local guests attended. Hopefully they will be staging Scampton Warbirds this year again.

***** **North West Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX K)**

London Area – Volunteers assisted at the Middle Wallop electric event in 2010 and looking forward to doing the same next year. It is a very well run event.

Volunteers also assisted at the London Alexander Palace Engineering Exhibition.

The Area continues to function with no problems at the moment.

***** **South East Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX L)**

***** **Northern Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX M)**

A1086/1/11 (11) To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.

PRO – Events he attended in the latter part of 2010 include the BMFA AGM and dinner/prize giving; The Flying Show at the NEC; Electric Indoor Masters.

Council meetings attended include the Executive and Full Council.

The PRO reminded delegates that the Full Council meeting in May will be held at the Premier Inn Hotel situated not far from the office. We will not have access to the usual photocopying facilities therefore delegates need to be mindful that reports must be either copied beforehand or a request to the Office Manager to print them.

ALL

Tech Sec – He is pleased to report that he has managed to keep up-to-date with important work such as the contest calendar and rule books. He hopes to be able to attend the meetings more regularly too.

He reminded delegates to let him have information for the contest calendar as a matter of urgency because he will be sending off the updates to the Editor in the next few days. He also produces regular updates for the website.

He praised North East Area for making the effort to list their events with the publication of their Area meeting minutes, which is very useful.

Honorary Secretary – He has attended the various meetings required of him as Honorary Secretary.

He has been given the job of updating the Council Handbook, which has not been updated since 1995. It is proving to be quite an arduous task but he hopes to have a draft ready for approval at May Full Council.

He also recommends that, as the proposal passed today for updating AS booklets annually, so should the Council Handbook.

Club Support Officer
WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX N)

It is still very early days as he has only been with the organisation for just over three months. It has been a lot of hard work, a lot to learn. Generally everyone in the office is very busy at this time of the year.

He is currently involved in reviewing club welfare issues in the form of an analysis of how many clubs have adopted a child protection and welfare policy. Interestingly percentage wise about 50% of clubs have junior members and about 80% of clubs adopt a policy.

A1087/1/11 (12) Any Other Business

A question was raised with regard to whether there is or is not a period of grace in terms of renewing insurance cover for members.

Clarification will be sought with the CEO and a note will appear in these minutes accordingly.

Post Meeting Note

Statement from the CEO as follows:

“The only ‘period of grace’ in operation is that extended to clubs (16 days) for them to return their affiliation forms and initial payment.

There is no ‘period of grace’ for individual members and their insurance cover ends on the 31st December each year.

I would recommend that the ‘Guide to the Area Constitution’ is amended to clarify this situation.”

A suggestion was also made that the Development Officer should provide clarification in BMFA News Chacksfield Chat column.

DEV OFF

A1088/1/11 (13) To confirm date of the next meeting.

This was confirmed as **Saturday 24th September 2011.**

The Chairman apologised in advance for non attendance at the September meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 14.48pm.

Linda Harding, Office Manager
15th February 2011

CIRCULATION:

All Council Members

All Area Chairmen

All Area Secretaries

RNMAA Chairman

SAA Delegate

All Area AS Co-ordinators

PAS/SFAS Controllers

Flying Site Adviser

Club Support Officer

All Tech Committee Members

Fellows (as requested)

Club Bulletin

Office Manager

Accounts Manager

BMFA News Editor

Chief Executive

Development Officer

Remove

Gyros

It is acceptable to use an electro-mechanical or solid state gyro in any helicopter being used to take the test although electronic stabilisation is restricted to a single sensor acting in rotation around the yaw axis only.

This allows a range of gyros to be fitted, from simple yaw dampers to solid state heading lock units but only acting on the tail rotor.

Replace with

Gyros and Electronic Stabilisation

Where a fly bar is fitted, it is acceptable to use an electro-mechanical or solid state gyro in a helicopter being used to take the test although electronic stabilisation is restricted to a single sensor acting in rotation around the yaw axis only. This allows a range of gyros to be fitted, from simple yaw dampers to solid state heading lock units but only acting on the tail rotor.

If the helicopter does not have a fly bar fitted it is acceptable to use extra electronic stabilisation, however the extra electronic stabilisation must only be acting as a fly bar replacement system and must not take over control from the pilot or achieve automated flight.

*The use of any autopilot and/or artificial stability features which are (or may be) designed into such units beyond the definition above is not acceptable during the test and is not allowed. **Candidates should be prepared to explain the capabilities of the system they are using and show that it does not take over control from the pilot and that automated flight will not be achieved during the test.***

Remove

A pilot capable of flying to 'B' certificate standards and wishing to go straight to the 'B' test without taking the 'A' test may do so but candidates should on no account be forced along this path. A flyer, known within a club to be a good pilot, going through the 'A' before taking the 'B' can be an excellent example to the rest of the club members and this should be pointed out to any candidate wishing to go direct to the 'B'.

And replace with

“A candidate wishing to take the 'B' must already have passed the 'A'. A candidate is allowed to take both tests consecutively; this is entirely acceptable. In such a case, it is suggested that all pre-flight checks are completed, followed by the A test manoeuvres. If the examiner is happy with the standard, it is perfectly appropriate to continue with the B test manoeuvres. This would be followed by either A or B questions as required, after the post-flight checks. Refuelling or exchange of electric flight pack is permitted between tests, and also within the tests with the examiners permission.

R/C Power Achievement Scheme Controller

Report to Areas Council 29 January 2011

Three B FW tests took place where only one of the examiners was on the BMFA list of approved examiners. I wrote to the candidates to tell them that their tests were not completed in accordance with the directions in the Handbook, and would not therefore be allowed. The examiner concerned apologised for his actions but stated that he had contacted his ASC for advice.

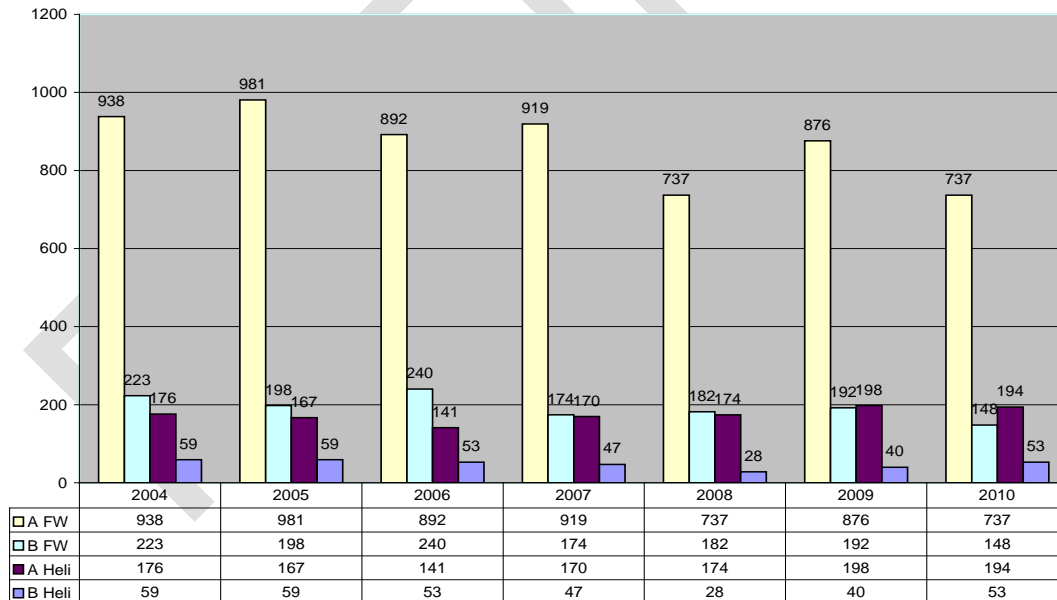
The ASC took the view that there were “exceptional circumstances” and advised the use of the none-BMFA examiner. I told the ASC this was not acceptable.

It seems that some are of the opinion that my decision was wrong. Perhaps this Council would confirm either one way or the other.

It came to my attention that an examiner was taking the A FW achievement scheme tests with the candidates using an RC set with a buddy lead attached. I was present with the area ASC when the examiner was interviewed. The examiner stated that use of the buddy-lead was on the grounds of ensuring the safety of his aircraft...should it become necessary to intervene. He readily accepted that this could not be allowed to continue.

Perhaps we need some additional wording in the Handbook or Test Standards now that the use of buddy-leads is far more widespread than when the booklet was published.

BMFA Achievement Scheme Power Tests



Peter Spurway
 Controller RCPAS
 Phone 01727 851223
 Email rcpas@bmfa.org

Education Working Group Report to BMFA Areas Council meeting 29th January 2011

For those who attended the Full Council Meeting at the beginning of this month and read the Education report you may remember that I was running the BMFA Education stand at the Association of Science Education's annual meeting held at the University of Reading. You may also remember that in my last report to this Council on 25th September last year I requested for volunteers to help man this stand. Unfortunately I had to man the stand on my own for the full three days making it hard to follow up some leads. My impression of the event was that it was far busier this year in the exhibition hall than last year. Next years ASE event will be at the University of Liverpool from the 4th to the 7th January.

There was a general consensus that with the advance of Academy schools there will be more freedom in the science and D & T curricula, this should help education projects such as ours.

From the early days of the BMFA Education programme it was always agreed that for it to succeed we must recruit the help of individual members and clubs and I am happy to report that for the tenth year the Horsham & District Radio Control Model Club are running Dart building workshops in the local primary school. I understand around 100 Darts will be built over 3 to 4 days. 11 to 15 members of the club are involved in this event. The students gain in having fun building and flying models; the school gains in presenting science and D & T related workshops; the club gains in helping and being part of the local community and the BMFA gains in good publicity, this is a win win situation.

I would like to ask the Area Council how can clubs be encouraged, in your areas, to promote model building and flying in a manner such as above, instead of restricting the age of membership or even closing the door to new members as some clubs do?

Mike Colling FSMAE
Education Working Group.

Northern Ireland Area Report to Areas' Council 29th January 2011

At our AGM this year we had a change of vice chairman and I am delighted to welcome Aiden Lafferty to the post. I would like to thank John Pearson for his support throughout the year.

I would like thank BMFA for accepting Robert Wallace as our new Area Chief Examiner.

On the 19th January 2011 we held our first Area meeting which I am glad to say was well attended.

The Area plans to attend four public displays, which exceeds last years events and this is encouraging to all those who took part last year.

Some of the displays we plan to attend are:

- Mount Stewart National Trust
- Portrush Air Show
- Newcastle Air Show
- Ballymena Vintage Car Club

These displays are always well attended both by club members and the public. There is keen interest in the model display but a lot depends on the weather.

A Club Talk hosted by the North West M.A.C is planned for Sat 19th February 2011 and the BMFA Development Officer Manny Williamson will give a presentation on the 'BMFA and You' (or what do you get for your £29.00).

On the competition side we have everything from free flight to Scale Jets and I am pleased to say that the numbers are growing each year.

We received very good feedback from the Chairman's Conference which was hosted by Robin Gowler (BMFA Chairman) and I would like to thank all who attended.

We have been approached by Queens University, Belfast to assist with technical issues that are involved in designing, building and flying a model aircraft. This could prove to be very interesting and provide good PR work for the Area.

Ian Robb
Area Delegate

South Midlands Report to Areas Council Meeting on 29th Jan 2011

Attendance at the past 5 Area meetings had an average voting strength of 14 or ~24% of the 57 clubs in our Area. However, the Clubs sending a delegate typically represent approximately 30-40% of the total BMFA members in the South Midlands Area.

Prior to our AGM we updated our club contacts email distribution list using BMFA supplied list yet approximately 5 emails addresses were found to be undeliverable and assumed to be incorrect or changed.

We intend to make individual contact with some of the larger clubs in the Area (e.g. St. Albans) who do not currently attend Area Meetings and try to persuade them to send a delegate. Our target is to have up to 20 clubs attending on a regular basis. Whilst we are fortunate to have a good attendance compared to some Areas I feel attendance can and should be increased.

In compiling this report I found a number of discrepancies in the list of Clubs in our Area provided by the BMFA office. We will be asking to get these corrected when the membership renewal season has passed.

South Midlands Area Committee Officers. Our Area Delegate of several years, Peter Christy, told us in 2009 of his intention to stand down at our AGM in December 2010. Our new Area Delegate is Duncan McClure from White Horse Club but unfortunately he is unable to attend the first 3 meetings this year. However, we have been able to send a substitute to these meetings.

Our Area Education Officer, Brian Cooper, was going to stand down but I am pleased to report we have persuaded him to continue for 2011 as he does an excellent job for schools and youth organizations.

The position of Area PRO remains vacant, as it has done in recent years. Finding more than one nominee or volunteer for each post is a common problem that results in existing Area Officers being re-elected unopposed. I am trying to think of ways to encourage more clubs to contribute to Area organization and activities and stand for posts. After all it is mostly only for 2 years if they do not wish to serve a second term.

- *Ask not what your Area can do for you, but what can you do for your Area (Sounds familiar doesn't it!)*

Team members in European and World Championships events in 2011 (from the South Midlands Area)

We are currently aware of 6 International competitors from our Area:

- F3K Hand Launch Glider 1st World Championships in Sweden in July 2011
 - Richard Swindells - Senior Team member, Ivinghoe Soaring Association (ISA)
 - Liam Hawes – Junior Team member, Ivinghoe Soaring Association (ISA)
- F2B Control Line Aerobatic European Championship in Poland in July 2011
 - Roy Cherry – Team member, Chiltern Flyers Control Line Model Club
- F3C Radio Control Helicopters World Championships in Italy in August 2011
 - Roger Mayo – Team member, Watford Wayfarers
- F3J Thermal Duration Gliders – European Championships, Slovenia in August 2011
 - Austin Guerrier – Team member – Ivinghoe Soaring Association
 - Peter Allen – Team member, (but might become Team Manager), Ivinghoe SA

There may be others but we are not always able to know if they are not identified as being a member of a club in the area. We will again consider applications from Team Members for a donation from Area funds.

For the fourth consecutive year, the South Midlands Area in conjunction with BARCS and the ISA, will host the **Interglide International Eurotour** event for F3J Thermal Duration Gliders at Marsh Gibbon near Bicester on 25-26th June 2011. The annual BARCS **Radioglide** event on 28-30th May is also at Marsh Gibbon.

Jim Wright

*Chairman – South Midlands Area
24th January 2011*

Southern Area

Last November the area held our Balsa Brain inter club quiz. It was postponed from last year due to lack of anyone prepared to take on the task. However one courageous soul undertook to do it all and it turned out to be a great success. It was held at the British Legion in Netley near Southampton, and they put on an excellent spread of sandwiches at the break. A raffle was held with the majority of prizes being donated by Flitehook which raised over a £100 which was given to the British Legion to donate the money to charities of their choice. Since the weather was awful and bitterly cold, it was a good effort on behalf of the sixty or so people who attended.

The area AGM was held the following week which followed the usual format, around 18 attending. We managed to fill all the committee positions except one, the Education Coordinator, a position which has been vacant unfortunately for nearly five years.

Our year gets going in 3 weeks time with our bi-annual visit to RNAS Yeovilton, where we again have been asked to put on a flying display and man the BMFA stand. It is a pity that some aero modelling trade stands as we know it don't attend rather than all the plastic kit stands for I am sure they would do well.

Area Delegate

Cornwall and Devon Sub-areas (South West) Report

A quiet period with little activity other than the AGMs to report. With help from Chacksfield House Potential problems in Devon were overcome and the meeting was able to take place as planned. The AGMs resulted in a new Chairman and Secretary in Devon and no change to the Elected Officers in Cornwall.

When the Sub-areas were proposed last February it was accepted that the Constitutions would probably require amendment to reflect the way the new organisations developed and operated. During the 10 months since then only 2 items have arisen requiring attention: one to change the number of mandatory Elected Officer posts to reflect the “real world” and one to remove an ambiguity in the wording of a paragraph whilst retaining the original intent of giving the Sub-areas maximum flexibility to run their own affairs as they see fit. After the AGMs and liaison with the BMFA Exec in December, changes to the Constitution were drafted for the Full Council meeting in January, where the proposals were voted on and accepted.

Cornwall have held one Ordinary meeting in the New Year to get the ball rolling and establish an overall concept and scoring policy for an inter club round of competitions to run in over the Summer. Host Clubs are now writing detailed rules for presentation and approval at the next Ordinary Meeting in February. The first Devon meeting will be held in March.

Peter Disney

27 Jan 11

NORTH EASTERN AREA REPORT AREA'S COUNCIL 28.01.2011

The North Eastern Area have run the Geordie Nat's/Great North Fly-in for about 10 years, in one form or another, but sadly this year because of declining attendance numbers, we are considering not running the event.

The Area airfield, Albemarle has renewed the licence, and we now seem to have a good relationship with the camp personnel. We are also seeing a slight increase in the requests to book the airfield.

At our Area AGM I stepped down, this was after having a discussion with Mr R sleight, society secretary who had sent a letter to the North Eastern Area chairman reference my missing several council meetings, I explained that when I took the role of delegate I had intentions of attending the meetings, but due to work commitments, adverse weather and family holidays I was unable to make several meetings. Both I and the Area chairman thought I was fulfilling my obligations by putting apologies in and sending an alternate. However the Council handbook, states that if a delegate doesn't attend Meetings in a row he can be dismissed, I informed Robin that, although I intend to attend the meetings, I'm not prepared to put myself in personnel or financial jeopardy for a role that I do on a voluntary basis, and surely some representation is better than none. Robin said that the council hand book is due to be reviewed. Perhaps the dates of meetings should be looked at as we have 2 meetings in both January and September. Unfortunately due to the overwhelming response to the vacant position find myself back in the role.

Finally the Area meetings continue to be well supported

Thomas Jones
North eastern Area Delegate.

BMFA East Anglian Area – Delegate’s Report. January, 2011.

Regrettably, attendance at our Area meetings continues at a disappointingly low level, and as a result it is difficult to report on the well-being of our clubs in general.

This winter saw an early beginning to the cold weather with the unexpectedly heavy snowfall. Despite this it has been observed, locally at least, that outdoor flying did not suffer as much as might have been expected. In my own club it was notable that several novice fliers took the opportunity to expand their abilities in readiness for their achievement tests in less than favourable conditions. Several members managed to pass the ‘A’ Certificate achievement test by the end of 2010.

The South Norfolk MFC continued its indoor flying sessions, as did the Insiders group, headed by Richard Crossley. The Open Academy hosts similar meetings organised by the Norwich Aero Club. It is plain that these meetings are beginning to attract many seasoned outdoor fliers, now that there is such a large variety of small and very capable radio-control models available at reasonable prices.

Pete Leavesley,
28th January, 2011.

Report to Areas Council Meeting 29th January 2011

There is very little to report to this meeting that has not been covered in the report for 29th September 2010

We have been promised a magnificent additional prize for the Eddie Riding Memorial Trophy for Free Flight Scale from his son, Richard Riding, of £100 – this to be given to the North West Area each year for the foreseeable future. This adds to the equally magnificent prize of an original painting on canvas (a new one each year) donated by John David Jones (who's paintings adorn this meeting room) – his paintings sell for a figure in excess of £750. This is an event worth entering!

Our monthly Indoor events for R/C and Freeflight models at Rochdale have now started for the winter period, and have been extremely well supported so far. Remember, it is only £3 for a full six hours of slotted flying! Contact keithatrochdale@aol.com for details

The RAF Shawbury outdoor Fun Fly scale only R/C event will be held this year on the 24th July 2011. We would like to thank the RAF Shawbury model club for organising this on our behalf once again.

We are also adding a NEW fun fly event for the club modeller with the kind help of the Bickershaw MFC – this is to be held in June – details will be available in the modelling press when confirmed. This event is for all models, not just scale.

Our Area appears to run quite smoothly, both at the meetings and at the clubs despite the lack of numbers - we can only assume that this is because our clubs have no problems for us to try to assist them with.



North West Area Delegate and Chairman

South East Area Report to Areas Council Meeting on 29.1.11

At the end of 2010 we were anticipating difficulties when renewing our annual licence with the Conservators of Ashdown Forest due to an extensive fire on the Forest back in the Summer, caused by a Lipo battery catching fire on an R/C glider.

Much to our surprise, the licence was not only renewed without question in respect of our Area free flight meetings for 2011, but also a new date was approved for a silent flight cross country in August, which had been turned down last year due to the presence of ground nesting birds.

At our Area AGM, efforts to recruit replacements for our retiring Council Delegate and Education Co-ordinator proved fruitless, so an advert was requested in BMFA News and this duly appeared in the latest issue published a few days ago. Only one reply for the Council Delegate post has been received since then. This was received by telephone and things looked quite promising until the applicant was asked where he lived. The reply was "in Suffolk" and it was almost embarrassing having to explain that Suffolk was not in the South East Area but in East Anglia. We are still awaiting further applications but are not holding our breath!

Arrangements are well in hand for our annual Crawley Indoor meeting on February 6th and this year we will not have to share the Leisure Centre sports hall with another organisation due to a double booking like we had to in 2010. Also, the Crookham Gala at Middle Wallop originally scheduled for the same day, has now been moved to the following Sunday which will no doubt be beneficial to them and to us from the support point of view.

Keith Miller, Council Delegate Alternate

Northern Area report to Areas Council 29-1-2011

A number of the officers of our area assisted at the Electric Indoor Masters, once again the event was a great success and we should look at getting things in place for this years event as soon as possible.

The Dishforth RC fly-ins are still proving very popular and we have been able to make a substantial donation to the Help for Heroes appeal from the small charge levied to pilots.

Our indoor season is in full swing and the indoor meetings are once again very popular, we are also looking at an extra venue in a different part of the area.

We will be returning to Pudsey civic hall this year for the re-birth of the Pudsey Swapmeet.

The LMA show at Rufforth will not be going ahead this year however they are having a show at Elvington instead and there is a new show on the calendar at Winterton near Scunthorpe, we aim to have the BMFA stand at both these shows.

Unfortunately due to ill health our Education co-ordinator is not really in a position to carry on with the role so we are actively looking for a replacement.

Andy Symons
Northern Area Delegate.

AREAS COUNCIL MEETING 29/01/2011

Club Support Officer Report

Joined the organisation initially as a volunteer at the August Power Nationals held on RAF Barkston Heath.

Duties included helping to set up on the Friday as well as manning the VIP area and showing around invited visitors on the Saturday and Sunday. Whilst I had not technically joined the organisation I found the opportunity to accompany VIPs very rewarding and effective way of "selling" our hobby. Attendance at this event was a good idea as it introduced me to the team ready for me to start at the beginning of October 2010.

My main areas of responsibility are Flying Site support which includes advice on areas like planning permission, dealing with local councils and land owners as well as advising on noise issues. Another key responsibility is club support in the area of legal advice. This includes advice on constitutions, flying site rules and sadly instances where club members fall out! In addition I support clubs with advice on welfare issues so that clubs can introduce an appropriate Child and Vulnerable Adult protection policy.

As an introduction to our Education Programme I have been involved in a Dart/Aerojet build evening at a local school. I was very impressed with the level of interest and enjoyment shown by the young people building the models. I was quite surprised to learn that many of the children involved had never actually built anything like this before.

I attended the AGM and used the opportunity to do some networking with the many volunteers and members. I was soon realising that with all BMFA events lots of preparation and planning are invested, that seem to produce professional and well run events.

My first promotional exhibition exposure was The Flying Show held at the NEC. This 2 day event, which included a netted off area for indoor flying was very successful and provided us with the opportunity to chat to fellow aviators. I also wrote a short article for BMFA News covering the show and our activities there.

I attended the two day Electric Indoor Masters even held just outside of Bradford.

My main duties included helping to set up, selling raffle tickets and collecting information and pictures for a BMFA News article which was then published in issue 104.

The event is a real show piece for model flying, being professionally run and very entertaining.

Club talks are an area that I am currently working on and have sat in on some delivered by the Development Officer Manny Williamson . My first actual club talk will be done early in February at a club in the Potteries area.

In addition to my main duties I am also expected to advise clubs and membership technical and insurance issues.

Terry Eato
Club Support Officer