

MINUTES

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on the 28th January 2012 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 Alternate
Stuart Simpson	Southern Area Delegate
Phil Durant	Western Area Delegate
Andrew Potts	Mid West Area Delegate
Peter Disney	South West Area Delegate / RNMAA Del
Mike Colling FSMAE	Northern Ireland Area Delegate Alt
Paul Luby	RAFMAA Area Delegate
Peter Spurway	PAS Controller
Chris Moynihan	SFAS Controller/BMFA Vice-Chairman
In Attendance	
Linda Harding	Minute Taker / Office Manager
Chris Bromley FSMAE	Technical Secretary
Visitors	
Tony Butterworth	Southern Area Chairman

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 24th September 2011.
- 4 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 24th September 2011 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 5 Election of members to fill ASRC vacancies.

- 6 To appoint a representative to the Awards Committee for 2012.
- 7 To ratify the following existing members of the Achievement Scheme Review Committee:
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mick Eames | John Harris |
| Bob Mahoney | Andy Symons |
| Peter Spurway (PAS Controller) | Chris Moynihan (SF AS Controller) |
- 8 To receive a proposal for Area Chief Examiners from the following Areas:
- i Southern Area – Matthew Lodge (144947) ACE (Helicopter). (Deferred from September 2011 Area Council Meeting).
 - ii Western Area – Steve Kirby (35375) ACE (FW).
- 9 To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.
- a) Power
 - b) Silent Flight
- 10 ACE Travelling expenses, who meets the cost? (ASRC)
- 11 Proposal from the Technical Secretary on behalf of ASRC that the Test Schedule and Standards Booklet covering the 'C' Certificate (Jet) (Appended as separate documents) be accepted in principle.
- 12 Admin arrangements for Devon Sub-Area including any Achievement Scheme issue.
- 13 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
- 14 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.)
- 15 To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.
- 16 To confirm dates of Areas Council Meetings 2012.
- 17 Any Other Business.

VOTING STRENGTH OF THE MEETING WAS 14 AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING. EAST ANGLIA DELEGATE JOINED THE MEETING AT 11.20AM MAKING THE VOTING FIGURES 15.

MINUTES

A1102/1/12 (1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from the following:

Aidan Lafferty Northern Ireland Area Delegate

John Bridgett Midland Area Delegate

A1103/1/12 (2) Request for Permission to be absent.

There were no requests.

A1104/1/12 (3) Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 24th September 2011

Page 1

- **List of those present** – Add “Alternate” after South East Area Delegate

Northern Area proposed that the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 24th September 2011 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Seconded by SFAS Controller

Vote: For: 12

Ags: 0

Abs: 2

Carried by a majority vote.

A1105/1/11 (4) Matters/Actions arising from the meeting on 24th September 2011 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

ACTION / NOTES

Page 4

- **Matters/Actions Arising, action ASRC to discuss ACE's ability to re-assess Club Examiners** – This is effectively in place because it is covered under the re-test procedure laid down in the Member's Handbook and Achievement Scheme Booklets.

- **Matters/Actions Arising, action ASRC/Office, to include full date and issue number on Achievement documents and ideally all BMFA documents** – Currently the Achievement Scheme Guidance Booklets are issued annually showing the month and year of issue. ASRC said they would endeavour to make sure updated documents carry the date in full.

ASRC

Page 6

- **Top of page PAS Controller report, concerns that undue prominence is being given to children attaining their 'A' Certificate** – Although the consensus at the September meeting was that there is no undue concern with children attaining their 'A Certificate, issues have been raised outside of the meeting with regard to legal responsibility of 'minors' in the club environment.

It was pointed out that there is a whole section in the Member's Handbook which provides guidance for clubs with regard to responsibilities for supervising juniors. Clubs should also take into account that an 'A' or 'B' is an indication of the ability of the junior, not their responsibility.

Page 11

- Halfway down, banner advertising offer to Areas –

There had been no take-up from Areas to date however the offer is still open for Areas to make use of the facility to advertise on the BMFA classified ads website using the banner advertising. It is ideal for advertising events. Classified Ads generate approximately 30,000 – 40,000 views per day.

ALL AREAS

Page 12

- Top of page, action ASRC/RAFMAA to look at

producing numbers Examiners we have working for commercial organisations or training schools- It was discussed at ASRC meeting who felt it was too big a job to take on because it would take an enormous amount of time to collate the information.

RAFMAA will be introducing some new procedures to control and monitor their Examiner's activities with regard to Examinations taken and pass and failures to be logged.

It will be very interesting to note the outcome and whether it is something that could work for our Clubs.

This concluded matters arising.

A1106/1/12 (5) Election/Ratification of members to fill ASRC vacancies.

Four nominations had been received and there are three places available. Copies of the CV's and a voting form were provided to Area Council Members for consideration and votes were cast and collated to provide results.

It was questioned why copies of the CV's had not been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman agreed it would be useful for the nominations to be circulated with the Agenda and will arrange for this to be done for 2013.

OFFICE MGR

The result of the ballot for elected ASRC members is as follows:

Position on the ASRC for 2 years –

OFFICE MGR

Richard Whitehead
Duncan McClure

Terry Rounce

The Chairman will write to the unsuccessful applicant Martin Bedding with the result and to thank him for taking the time to apply for the position.

CHAIRMAN

A1107/1/12 (6) To appoint a representative to the Awards Committee for 2012.

North West Area proposed that Terry Rounce is appointed as the Awards Committee representative for Areas Council for 2012.

Seconded by Northern Area
Carried unanimously

**AWARDS CTTEE
OFFICE MGR**

A1108/1/12 (7) To ratify the following existing members of the Achievement Scheme Review Committee.

Mick Eames	John Harris
Bob Mahoney	Andy Symons
Peter Spurway (PAS Controller)	
Chris Moynihan (SF AS Controller)	

RNMAA proposed the ratification of the above named as existing members of the Achievement Scheme Review Committee.

Seconded by North East Area

Vote: For: 14
 Ags: 0
 Abs: 1

Carried by a majority vote.

A1109/1/12 (8) To receive a proposal for Area Chief Examiners.

i) Southern Area – Matthew Lodge (144947) ACE (Helicopter) – deferred from September 2011 Area Council Meeting.

Comments were taken on board at the September 2011 Council Meeting. A decision was taken at that meeting to defer this application to allow time for the PAS Controller and the candidate to arrange a visit to the Area so that the PAS Controller could assess the standard of testing by the candidate.

The Chairman allowed Tony Butterworth (on behalf of Southern Area) and the PAS Controller the opportunity to make their comments and provide any additional information in relation to this application for consideration of Areas Council in making a decision today.

**Southern Area proposed that Matthew Lodge,
Membership number 144947 to be appointed as Area
Chief Examiner (Helicopter) for Southern Area.**

Seconded by North West Area

Vote: For: 10

Ags: 1

Abs: 4

Carried by a majority vote.

**SOUTHERN AREA
/ PAS CONT'RLLR**

ii) Western Area - Steve Kirby (35375) ACE (Fixed Wing).

Proposed by Western Area

Seconded by Northern Area

Carried unanimously

**WESTERN AREA /
PAS CONT'RLLR**

**A1110/1/12 (9) To receive reports from the Achievement
Scheme Controllers.**

******* a) Power**

WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX A)

The PAS Controller referred to the first paragraph in his report. He would like confirmation from Areas Council that if he took the appropriate action in accordance with the procedure in the Member's Handbook and did not confirm ratification of an ACE because the Area had not complied with the correct procedure, whether they would agree with this action.

Areas Council agreed with the sentiments of the PAS Controller. If an Area has not complied with the correct procedure for re-ratifying an ACE and after been given a further opportunity the information is still not forthcoming, the PAS Controller should take the appropriate action and remove the ACE status accordingly.

There was some discussion concerning the wording in the relevant section (Page 55, fourth paragraph) covering ACE re-ratification that the AS Controller may 'confirm' the re-ratification and it was unclear what 'confirm' actually meant in relation to this.

ASRC were asked to give this some thought at their next meeting and if necessary bring back a proposal to Areas Council for any revision of the wording they feel might be necessary.

ASRC

b) Silent Flight

The action placed on the SF AS Controller at the last meeting to write to clubs highlighting the need for an increased uptake of the Silent Flight Achievement Scheme was followed through. A letter was sent to all 800 plus clubs with their affiliation packs and there were only three responses.

One of the letters contained a suggestion that instead of cloth badges for the achievement scheme it would be a better option to provide enamel badges.

This idea met favourably with some of the Council members. One of the suggestions put forward was to use the stick on trophy centre idea for the various disciplines and achievement levels. The Office Manager was tasked with looking in to obtaining costs for producing enamel badges.

OFFICE MGR

ASRC will be taking on board the suggestion at the last ASRC meeting by the SF AS Controller that it might be time to revisit the Silent Flight scheme tests as the practicalities of taking the test can sometimes be prohibiting and could account for the very low numbers of Silent Flight tests being taken.

A1111/1/12 (10) ACE Travelling expenses, who meets the cost?

ASRC asked for this item to be included on the agenda for consideration by Areas Council.

Currently there is no laid down procedure or guide for Clubs/Areas to follow with regard to providing travelling costs for ACE's when taking tests.

ASRC to consider the wording in the Member's Handbook that explains that in the event of a club requesting an ACE visit in the first instance, the club would be expected to meet the cost of the travel of the ACE. The general feeling of this Committee is that any ACE who is expected to travel significantly beyond his local Area should not personally have to bear the travel costs and there should be some mechanism to do it.

The Chairman recommended that if an Area would like to suggest a specific proposal they should do so by the next meeting or alternatively the ASRC can put a specific proposal forward.

AREAS / ASRC

A1112/1/12 (11) Proposal from the Technical Secretary on behalf of ASRC that the Test Schedule and Standards Booklet covering the 'C' Certificate (Jet) be accepted in principle.

Seconded by Northern Area.

Duncan McClure provided some background information regarding the above proposal.

ASRC/TECH SEC

Vote: Carried unanimously.

The ASRC plan to run a series of Examiner workshops throughout the 2012 season with the aim to iron out any issues that might arise and also to obtain a body of Examiners trained for implementation of the 'C' Certificate (Jet).

Areas Council have today accepted the concept in principle based on the documentation presented, it is not the final article.

A1113/1/12 (12) Admin arrangements for Devon Sub-Area including any Achievement Scheme issue.

As overall administrator for the recently suspended Devon Sub-Area the Chairman had prepared and circulated copies of a document he had produced formally setting out the procedure for Devon Area clubs for claiming expenses when attending Area/Club events.

For the purposes of clarity the penultimate and final paragraphs will be amended slightly to make it clear when talking about the budget that 'Devon Sub-Area' is included.

CHAIRMAN

A query was raised with regard to where the responsibility lies with regard to ACE's and Club Examiners in the Devon Sub-Area.

The following proposal was put forward:

North West Area proposed that the PAS Controller acts as Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator for Devon Sub-Area whilst Devon Sub-Area is under suspension.

PAS CONTR'LLR

Seconded by East Anglia Area
Carried unanimously

A1114/1/12 (13) To receive reports from Committees or Co-ordinators related to the business of the meeting.

- a) **ASRC** – Nothing to report.
- b) **Flight Challenge**
Covered in Development Officer Report.

In addition the Education Co-ordinator advised that in order to gain feedback with regard to whether it is worthwhile continuing with the Flight Challenge he did a survey of three local schools to find out what their expectations of a Flight Challenge would be.

It was quite clear from the outcome that what they did not want to do was travel so as to keep costs to a minimum.

With that in mind he went away and devised a proposal for competitions, two for primary schools and two for secondary schools. All to be run in-house at a flying site of their own choosing and can be flown both indoors and outdoors whenever they wanted. All we would need would be to have a BMFA member in attendance to verify the flights.

A meeting with the Development Officer is scheduled for the near future to discuss moving forward with the above concept.

c) Education

The Association Science Education (ASE) meeting went very well. Thanks were extended to David Lloyd-Jones and Wayne Pendleton for helping out on the stand.

The next ASE meeting will be in early January 2013 at Reading University. Volunteers to run the stand will be cordially accepted.

LONDON AREA

He recently received a telephone call from lady who helps to run the adult and child learning development programme for Nottinghamshire County Council. It transpires that her father was an aeromodeller and she feels that aeromodelling would be an ideal activity for boys and dads to do together. She is proposing that we run a tutors workshop for building the 'Dart'.

It would appear that every County Council has a department for adult and children learning and this may indeed be a way of expanding the Education Programme that we have not previously considered and is worthwhile looking in to.

A1115/1/12 (14) To receive reports from Area Committees.

North West Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX B)

Help is required in finding someone to assist with the organisation and running of the 'Eddie Riding Show' based in the North West.

This is a long-standing event and it would be a great shame to have to lose it. Ideally they would like someone from the North West Area however if Delegates could take this back to their respective Areas hopefully there might be someone willing to help.

ALL AREAS

London Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX C)

Several members from the London Area helped man the stand at the Model Engineering Show at Alexandra Palace in January.

School activities are planned for March.

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

***** **Southern Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX E)**

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

***** **East Anglia Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX G)**

***** **Cornwall and Devon Sub-Areas (South West) – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX H)**

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

***** **North East Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX J)**

RAFMAA Area – RAFMAA are organising a lot of events this year. The Technical Secretary asked for the dates to be emailed to him as soon as possible so that he can get them on the contest calendar list of events.

RAFMAA

Western Area - Nothing to report.

Mid West Area – Their AGM took place in December and the same Committee members were voted back in. Their project for 2012 is to endeavour to get more clubs on board.

A1116/1/12 (15) To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.

PRO – The PRO suggested that the meeting efficiency would be improved if people had time to read the pre-circulated paperwork beforehand.

Tech Sec – The FAI Sporting Codes are late this year and have only just been published.

Both Free Flight and Scale Rules books have been published and he is working very hard on the rest of them.

He gave the usual plea for Areas and clubs to get any event information to him as soon as possible for publication.

ALL AREAS

It is just not possible for him to collate information from various Club/Area websites and Area Minutes, the information must be sent to him.

North East Area and North West Area include an appendix to their minutes listing all their events which is very useful.

Office Manager – The Office Manager praised the staff on their endeavours in getting the membership renewals processing up-to-date. It was an excellent team effort.

It was also announced that Gemma Sargeant Accounts Assistant/Graphic Design gave birth on Thursday 26th January to a beautiful baby girl, Sansa **Remarnie**. Mother and baby are doing very well.

Development Officer – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX K)

A1117/1/12 (16) To confirm the date of the next Area Council Meeting.

The date was confirmed as **Saturday 22nd September 2012.**

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

A1118/1/12 (17) Any Other Business

East Anglia Area

“It was noted that at the Full Council meeting of 7th January, 2012, during a discussion of funding for national team members, a suggestion was made that Areas might see fit to use some of their grants to add to the funds of team members from their particular Areas. When this point was reported to my Area committee at its most recent meeting, the Treasurer was of the opinion that Area funds could not be used for such purposes, although he was not completely sure. I have looked at the Area Constitution and guidance and can find no reference to any allocations of funds which are *not* permitted. (This does not, of course, mean that I have not overlooked the pertinent clauses). Does this mean that an Area’s funds may be used to assist with the funding of team members from within its Area? A definitive answer would be very useful, as might some guidance of expenditure from Area funds which should be avoided.”

Chris Moynihan SF AS Controller and BMFA Vice-Chairman advised that at the January Full Council Meeting a study group was set up and he was deputised to chair the group.

The group will endeavour to examine possible means of achieving some degree of additional funding to competition flyers going to FAI International competitions, which is going to be a very difficult task.

From comments provided by Areas today it seems quite a number of Areas assist with funding team members.

The Area grant is worked out on specific criteria and what they do with it is entirely up to them. As long as the Area is being run efficiently and their responsibilities according to the Area Constitution are being addressed, the money is theirs to spend as they wish and this varies enormously across the board.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 14.48pm.

RATIFIED

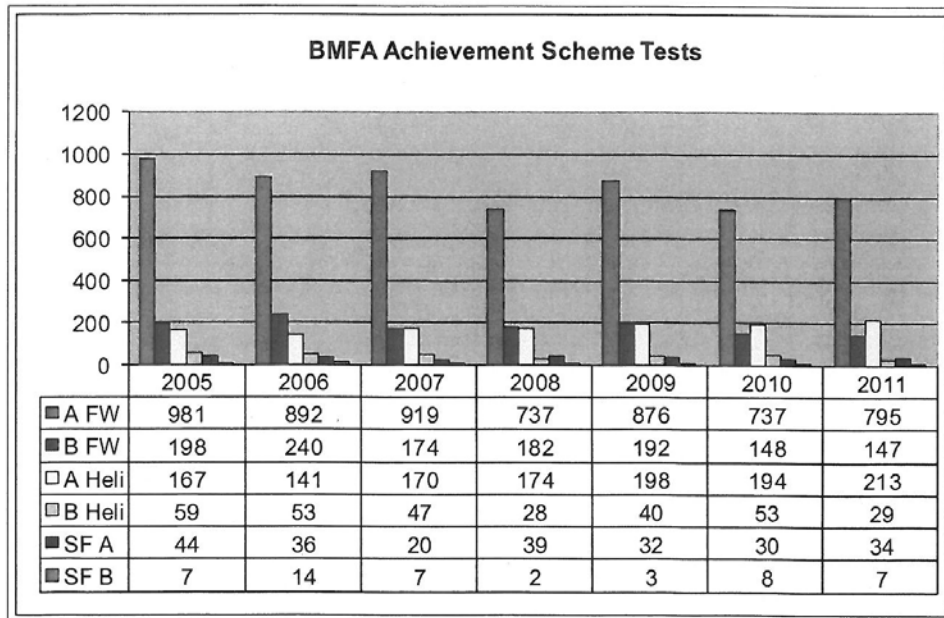
R/C Power Achievement Scheme Controller

Report to Areas Council 28 January 2012

There are still some areas that do not request ratification of their examiners for the following year, nor submit any reports. Is Council happy for me to continue to ratify them or is further action deemed necessary?

All ACE's will receive new copies of the examiner test forms for their relevant disciplines, and a letter outlining training for the Scale and Gas Turbine C tests. Chief Examiners will be required to let me have an email address to receive ASRC minutes. Paper copies of minutes are still available but will have to be specifically requested.

As requested last year, I am including the SF passes with the Power numbers. The individual figures for Slope, Electric, and Thermal have been combined as shown.



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

Report to Areas Council Meeting 28th January 2012

In 2011, I gave notice to the Area that I would not be undertaking the organising of the RAF Shawbury Scale event and the Eddie Riding Free Flight Trophy for scale aircraft at RAF Woodvale in 2012.

We have an offer from someone to take over the Shawbury event now, but still want someone to “do” the Eddie Riding Trophy.

This event has been around for at least 20 years, and must not be allowed to expire – do **YOU** know someone who can help (I am willing to give my help to the volunteer)?

Our monthly Indoor events for R/C and Freeflight models at Rochdale have now established themselves once again for the winter period, and have been extremely well supported so far – 41 entries on a superb outdoor flying day – can't be bad!

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, but the date has not yet been decided. We would like to thank the RAF Shawbury model club for organising this on our behalf once again.

Bickershaw MFC, who organised a fun fly event for the club modeller in 2011 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.

There is going to be a “Festival of Speed” organised by Bury Metro club this year, where they hope to have facilities for new records too be attempted (and perhaps broken!) by various straight line disciplines. Keep an eye out for details in the press!

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

LONDON AREA REPORT TO AREAS COUNCIL

2011 saw the L. A. involved with pupils from schools around London, holding dart building and flying competitions which all involved seemed to enjoy.

Our Safety Officer Bob Mahoney goes into the London Universities and advises students on model building, some involved in the Heavy Lift Challenge.

We were disappointed that no Flight Challenge took place, it will be a great loss if it cannot be saved. We continue to sponsor L.A. members that enter International Comps if requested to do so.

The Middle Wallop electric meet organised by Bob Mahoney and his merry men was a roaring success, the weather was very good and the flying impressive. I was invited down to present the prizes which I was more than happy to do. Martin Dilly has been active in the Free Flight Zone as usual, he must be getting pretty good at it by now!

The Area meetings could be better attended but, if most of the clubs are happy to let us get on with it we must be doing something right. London Area people assisted Manny at the Alexandra Palace Eng exhibition recently, the stand and the indoor flying go down very well, the organisers always seem happy to see us. We now look fwd to doing it all over again this year.

Terry Rounce. London Area Chairman/Secretary/ Education Co-ordinator.

**BMFA South Midland Area
Report to Areas Council Meeting on 28th Jan 2012**

Attendance at Area meetings over the last year has seen an average voting strength of ~17 which equates to representation of approximately a quarter of the 57 clubs within our Area. However, the Clubs represented by delegates attending the meetings account for more than 40% of the total BMFA members within the South Midlands Area.

We intend to make individual contact with some of the larger clubs in the Area (e.g. North Berks) 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, the committee feel that attendance can and should be increased.

South Midlands Area Committee Officers. Our Area Chairman, Jim Wright, of the Ivinghoe Soaring Association (ISA) is performing a feasibility study for a National Model Museum (with possible associated flying site) on behalf of the BMFA Executive.

Our Area Delegate, Duncan McClure from the White Horse Model Club, has attended the First Full Council meeting and has been invited to sit on the Team Funding review committee. Duncan is also a member of the ASRC and has been responsible for the drafting of the new Gas Turbine 'C' certificate.

This year we have two co-opt members of the committee, Barry Ensten as Secretary and Andy Todd as Treasurer. These co-options were a result of Barry being unavailable at the time of our AGM and Chris not wishing to complete his term in office until the end of the financial year, hence Andy Todd will take over from Chris Tomkins from 1st April 2012.

Our Area Education Officer, Brian Cooper, has also agreed to continue for 2011, which is good news 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.

We are aware that a number of South Midland Area club members are to represent the UK in European and World Championships events in 2012 :-

- F3K Hand Launch Glider
 - Richard Swindells - Senior Team member, Ivinghoe Soaring Association
 - Nick Chitty - Senior Team member, WHMC
 - Liam Hawes - Junior Team member
- F2B Control Line Aerobatic
 - Roy Cherry - Team member, Chiltern Flyers Model Club
- F3J Thermal Duration Gliders European Championships
 - Austin Guerrier - Team member, Ivinghoe Soaring Association
 - Peter Allen - Team member, Ivinghoe Soaring Association

There may be others, but we are not always able to know. As in the past, the Area is happy to consider applications from Team Members for a donation from Area funds.

The South Midlands Area in conjunction with BARCS will run the Area Championships for F3J Thermal Duration Gliders on 22nd April at Marsh Gibbon near Bicester. The Area will also be assisting with the annual BARCS **Radioglide International Eurotour** event, also to be held at Marsh Gibbon.

*Duncan McClure
Delegate – South Midlands Area
26th January 2012*

SOUTHERN AREA

We started off the day after the last Area Council meeting with an attendance at Tangmere Air Museum near Chichester, where we gave a flying display and had the BMFA Southern Area stand. The event went better than last year apart from the wind. The local farmer also decided to cut his crops in the middle of the flying display.

The Area committee were very disappointed at the outcome of their proposal to have a new ACE helicopter ratified. We feel the reasons given were unacceptable. In fact the outcome upset 2 committee members to such an extent that they resigned their posts at the Area AGM, so at present we are 2 committee members down. We are hoping the situation will be resolved at the forthcoming Area Council meeting.

November brought about the annual Balsa Brain quiz, which like last year was hugely successful, with around 70 members attending. The raffle raised well over £100 for the British Legion charities.

The AGM was held soon after, but numbers attending were down on last year.

The only real activity has been the indoor flying. This has grown quite considerably with more venues being used. The only problem is maintaining numbers as sports halls, etc are very expensive to hire. It costs between £4 - £8 per person per session to fly.

In a fortnight we will be attending Yeovilton Fleet Air Arm Museum again, and putting on a 2 hour flying display for the visitors, so hope for good weather. It is an excellent show with stands and static displays, many under the resident aircraft wings and fuselages.

Stuart Simpson
Southern Area Delegate

SAM 1066 & Digital Library

1. Background

Some years ago, SAM 1066 set up a library in memory of its founder (David Baker). The library (called the David Baker Heritage Library / DBHL) comprises model aircraft plans and model aviation magazines. Approximately 200 model aircraft related books were passed to BMFA in 2011 & a further 900+ full size aviation books donated to the National Aerospace Library.

SAM 1066 is in the process of digitising its plans library, in conjunction with AVANZ (New Zealand), SAM 122 in Slovakia, Co-op Plans in USA & Derick Scott in UK. Approximately 3000 plans are listed via the SAM 1066 website, with a further 4000 to be added on the CO-op plans website. The history of this project was briefly described in the application made by SAM 1066 for a document scanner in 2011. The application for the scanner was withdrawn at a previous BMFA Full Council meeting, with the intention of representing the case at a later date.

2. The Magazine Library

The SAM 1066 magazine library was formed by merging magazines from the Bournemouth Model Aircraft Society (BMAS) library & the DBHL. It comprises a comprehensive collection of British & foreign model aviation magazines & is operated as a strictly not for profit reference library, under the custody of Roy Tiller (BMAS) from his home. SAM 1066 members can make email requests of Roy for articles etc (inclusive of searches). Roy will page scan the item requested and respond by email, with an appropriate digital attachment.

It is acknowledged that Roy Tiller cannot be expected to carry out this task indefinitely. Thus it was decided to investigate possibilities for digitising the magazine library as a long term project. The significant requirement would be the capital investment for a document (as opposed to a page) scanner, capable of scanning and digitising magazine copy at speeds considerably faster than the low cost page scanners commonly available. Hence an application was made to BMFA Council for financial support.

However, through the good offices of Jim Wright (Chairman of Ivinghoe Beacon Soaring Association and South Midland Area), a suitable high speed document scanner with page feeder has recently been kindly donated to SAM 1066 by the company of one of the South Midland area delegates. This has been gratefully accepted and work is now in hand to organise how to set up the digital magazine library. This work will proceed at a slow pace initially, as the primary focus is to complete digitisation of the plans library. The magazine project essentially will replicate the function of the current (paper) library & when completed, its use will be constrained to a strictly not for profit reference library. In so doing, both projects (digitising of plans & magazines) are preserving aeromodelling history for future reference.

Thus the submission to BMFA for financial support to assist with magazine scanning is now not necessary and can be formally withdrawn. Support of the Southern Area BMFA is gratefully acknowledged in the submission of the original funding application.

South East Area Report to Areas Council Meeting on 28.1.12

At our Area AGM in November 2011 we were at last able to elect a new Education Co-ordinator, Michael Greenslade, having been without one for some time. Michael is a lecturer at Greenwich University and is particularly interested in the University Challenge, so hopefully we will see participation from Greenwich in this even some time soon.

At our first Area meeting this year, a volunteer came forward to take up the position of Council Delegate, much to the relief of the writer who has been acting as Alternate for this post since his resignation from the full position in 2010. The volunteer is Stuart Willis, a member of Felbridge Flyers RMFC and is experienced in both fixed wing and helicopter R/C and will, I am sure, prove to be a very useful member of Council . I was hoping to bring him to this meeting in order to show him the ropes, but unfortunately he is already committed elsewhere. He will, however, be commencing his tour of duty at the next Full Council meeting in May. This, therefore, should be my last meeting in the capacity of Alternate, although I may be asked to fill in on the odd occasion in the future when Stuart is unable to attend. It is nice to at last have the SE Area Committee on a fully staffed basis.

Arrangements are well in hand for our annual Crawley Indoor Meeting next Saturday, February 5th and we were very relieved that the hire fee for the K2 main sports hall has not been increased from last year's figure of £980, so hopefully we will again at least break even.

The organisers of Brighton Modelworld approached us last year regarding the inclusion of an indoor model flying display at this year's show in February, but because we would have been sharing space with a model car racing circuit it was thought inadvisable to proceed with this for Health & Safety reasons. However, since then, arrangements have been made for a dedicated flying area surrounded by netting with a team of demo flyers in support. In addition a basic BMFA stand will also be mounted displaying literature and Education Project models, etc.. This is very much a trial run and if successful we may try and increase the scope of our participation for next year's show.

Keith Miller Council Delegate Alternate

BMFA East Anglian Area, Delegate's Report, January 2012.

The winter season in our Area has passed without the usual climatic upsets generally associated with the season, apart from one or two days when exceptional winds kept us all indoors. Otherwise outdoor flying has continued with little interruption. At this time of year indoor flying is popular in the region, with clubs from Norwich, Watton, South Norfolk, Bury St Edmunds and other smaller outfits running regular and popular events. Finding halls suitable for such events is not so easy, and as a result events are tailored to suit the venues. The rising popularity of the smaller radio-control models has attracted a lot of new flyers, usually younger pilots, who manage to mix quite happily with the generally older, stick and tissue brigade. The mixture of types has proven beneficial, and the division between the two camps is slowly blurring as each party discovers the attractions of the other. What's more, unlike most club nights, the proportion of young flyers is surprisingly high.

The Area meeting, as usual, was not well attended, but new faces were evident from the clubs who did send a delegate. Along with the new members was a renewed desire to expand aeromodelling into a wider section of the Area's population. The South Norfolk club had acquired two complete trainer aircraft, with engines, radio gear, fuel, batteries and sundry items from a number of sponsors eager to advertise their services and wares, and the club is now seeking interested parties to participate in 'flying experience' days.

What to do with Area funds always provides us with something of a quandary – clubs rarely approach the Area for financial support. The rural nature of the region and its paucity of good roads tends to work against the idea of Area-sponsored events. However, the Bury St Edmunds club, which hosts the Large Model Display at Rougham, has indicated that it would like to run an aerobatic tuition day for members in the Area who would like to move up a step from basic sport flying, perhaps using the sort of retro style models that were in evidence at the recent successful meeting organised by Paul Bardoe in Shropshire. Such a day would definitely provide a boost for local activities since, with two notable exceptions, the majority of East Anglian members have long journeys to events.

Relationships between clubs, at least locally, seem to be very good, and my own club was recently invited by the Norwich club to participate in an informal discussion concerning model noise. Ever a troublesome subject, noise is still a major consideration for many rural clubs, since their activities stand out readily in places where there is little ambient noise. Amongst the good-natured banter it was encouraging to discover that clubs do take the matter seriously, and the exchange of ideas proved valuable to all concerned.

Pete Leavesley,
January, 2012.

Cornwall and Devon Sub-areas (South West) Report

The winter weather has been a little kinder this year in the South West and flying has continued across the region in one form or another, but other than the usual building projects taking shape there has been little activity in Cornwall with a lay off in Sub-Area meetings since October (standfast the AGM). However next month the first meeting of the year will confirm venues, dates and proposed schedules for the 2012 series of inter-club competitions. In addition there are also aspirations to run Helicopter and Vintage events this summer and any proposals will be warmly welcomed. Previous meetings have established that many members in the County feel that there is the potential for a further achievement/proficiency test between the FW B and C tests to encourage continued development for those sport flyers not dedicated to aerobatics. To this end it is intended to discuss and expand a proposal at the next meeting with the aim of locally trialling an intermediate test over the summer for possible presentation to the ASRC in due course. Attendance at the Sub-Area meetings is not limited to club representatives and any BMFA members in the County are very welcome to come along and take part in the discussions – the more the better!

Although suspended as a Sub-Area, in Devon following a great deal of hard work by their committee the Exeter Club (which lost it's flying site at Exeter race course in December 2010) have become established at their new venue near Chudleigh and is again moving forward. The use of Little Haldon as an open flying site has continued under the stewardship of 3 local clubs. The cut strips are looking good and the spring grass growth will overcome the last of the heather and generate a fine surface for the summer. Financing the mowing and general care of the site is from club event grants and transmitter fees at the regular open events which have become known as the "Devon Glider Days": the confirmed dates for 2012 are:

Sunday March 18th, Reserve March 25th
 Sunday May 13th, Reserve May 27th
 Sunday July 22nd, Reserve July 30th
 Sunday September 23rd, Reserve September 30th
 Sunday December 30th, Reserve January 1st

Peter Disney

26 Jan 12

Northern Area Report 28/1/2012

There is little report on since the last areas council meeting.

The return of the Pudsey swap meet seems to have been welcomed by aero modellers in the area.

We have a new chairman in Peter Hornby who has swapped roles with John Thompson who is now Vice-Chairman. Andy Symons has taken over as area achievement scheme co-ordinator.

The Dishforth RC flyins are still proving popular (when the weather allows) and once again our indoor sessions are always busy.

The stand will be manned at the LMA Bradford seminar, LMA Elvington show and we hope at the Winterton show. There is also a Schools education event on Thursday 14th June at the Yorkshire Air Museum at Elvington which is useful for showcasing what the BMFA does, we have usually managed to have a presence at this and hope to do so again this year however we should be considering expanding the presence.

Andy Symons

NORTH EASTERN AREA REPORT
AREA'S COUNCIL 28TH JANUARY 2010

The Area continues to have the support from the regular 16 or so delegates that attend nearly every monthly meeting along with a regular attendance from visitors, making each meeting reasonably well attended.

The licence for Albemarle airfield has been negotiated at the same fee as last year

The event run by the area for the last 10 years was been renamed from the Geordie Nat's to the Great North Fly-in in an attempt to get more club level flyers involved. This name was “hijacked” by a local microlight group, so this year is renamed the North **Eastern** Area Fly-in, hosted by Cramlington CADMAC, to be held on Sunday, 5th August. Club flyers will be most welcome.

AREAS COUNCIL

Development Officer Report

January 2012

Increasingly this is a very busy time of the year both for the office and also for me personally.

In November we again attended The Flying Show at the NEC Birmingham with a large BMFA stand.

This is a full size light aviation show and our presence was very well received, the indoor flying area generated much interest and it is clear that there is a significant “cross over” between the model and full-size disciplines however the overall attendance for the show seemed to be a little down on previous years and we are due to meet with representatives of the BMAA who organise the event in the near future in order to discuss the way forward for the coming year’s event.

My thanks must go to Horizon Hobby who provided pilots and models for this show and also to the small team of willing helpers who manned the stand over the weekend, the PRO’s and Chairman’s presence were much appreciated.

The Christmas period was busy with preparation for our attendance at the London Model Engineering Exhibition which took place last weekend, once again we hosted a large information stand at this show which was very busy for the duration of the event, the BMFA Aerojet workshop was again a huge success largely thanks to the dedication and unwavering enthusiasm of Steve Midson who ran the workshop. The stand provided the usual range of information, static display models, saleable goods and indoor flying. The stand was well supported by plenty of willing helpers from the London Area, my thanks to these gents and particularly Martin Dilly and Terry Rounce who recruited most of those helping as well as attending the event.

Again Horizon Hobby supported the flying display with pilots and models from their micro range (the models not the pilots).

Planning for the 2012 Heavy lift challenge is well underway and I have already received a reasonable entry for this competition, the event will take place at Elvington in North Yorkshire over the weekend of 9th and 10th of June. The competition has continued to evolve and this year we have implemented some changes that are aimed at increasing the overall safety of the competition as well as still presenting teams with a meaningful challenge.

The 2012 Children’s Flight Challenge is still “in limbo” at this stage due to difficulties in tempting teachers to take groups of children to external events.

Alternatives to the current Flight Challenge format are being evaluated and Mike Colling has conducted some research and arrived at a proposal for a postal style event the schools can participate in, I am due to meet with Mike in the near future to discuss moving forward with this project.

The BMFA Electric Indoor Masters F3p and Freestyle event was again held in December in Bradford, this weekend long event proved to be a complete success with very positive feedback from all involved and excellent coverage in the monthly modelling press, a report will feature in the next edition of the BMFA News, this event has now become an established feature on the annual competition calendar. My thanks again to Andy Whitehead who is the originator of the event in this country and also to Andy Symons and the rest of the team for all their assistance during the course of the weekend, Linda Harding also attended this event ensuring that raffle ticket sales were again at a spectacular level.

For 2012 I have again been appointed as the controller for the Nationals Showline and work has already started on the planning of this event, I am pleased once again to have Ali Machinchy working with me as well as the confirmed support of a number of the country's display pilots.

Based on the success and positive comments received in relation to last year's Showline I look forward to working with the organising team and pilots at this important element of the National Championships at Barkston.

I have recently completed and released a new BMFA guide book aimed at assisting those who take on the responsibility of organising and running model flying displays of all sizes.

The Display Organisers Handbook is available through the office as an A5 booklet (30 pages and around 8000 words) or can be Emailed as a pdf file; it will also feature on the website in the resources section. My thanks to those who assisted with the production of this booklet.

Overall the theme in the office has been that of an increasing workload, the usual club disputes and fallouts as ever take up a significant amount of time as does providing a general advice and assistance service to the membership, flying site problems are also on the increase.

Following the recent advertisement in BMFA News we are due to interview a small number of applicants for the post of Club Support Officer in the near future, hopefully this process will recruit a suitable individual in order to ease the workload in the office and permit time to work on longer term projects.

Manny Williamson
Development Officer