

MINUTES

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on the 22nd September 2012 at 11am at Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrews Road, Leicester LE2 8RE.

Provisional until confirmed at the next Area Council Meeting.

PRESENT

Nigel Barker	PRO/Chairman
Peter Leavesley	East Anglia Area Delegate
John Bridgett	Midland Area Delegate
Terry Rounce	London Area Delegate Alternate
Neil Cooper	Northern Area Delegate
Tom Jones	North East Area Delegate
David Lloyd Jones	North West Area Delegate
Duncan McClure	South Midland Area Delegate
Bob Cutter	South East Area Delegate Alternate
Stuart Simpson	Southern Area Delegate
Phil Durant	Western Area Delegate
Andrew Potts	Mid Western Area Delegate
Paul Luby	RAFMAA Area Delegate
Peter Disney	SW Area Delegate/RNMAA Area Delegate
Andy Symons	Club Support Officer/PAS Controller
In Attendance	
Linda Harding	Minute Taker / Office Manager

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 the 28th January 2012.
- 4 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 28th January 2012 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 5 To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.
 - a) Power
 - b) Silent Flight

6 To receive the following proposals from Chris Moynihan BMFA Vice-Chairman, on behalf of the Achievement Scheme Review Committee:

- i) That the following be added to the guidance booklet for chief examiners and be recognised as the established procedure for an Area Chief Examiner to carry out assessments for the position of club examiner.

Assessment of Candidates for Club Examiner Status.

The candidate should be fully conversant with the BMFA guidelines and safety codes for model flying, CAP 658 and the requirements of the Air Navigation Order and also the BMFA achievement scheme standards booklets. He should have prepared, before the assessment, suitable questions to ask both A certificate and B certificate test candidates. If the candidate cannot demonstrate this level of knowledge and has not prepared the required questions he should be considered as not suitable for club examiner status and the assessment should not take place.

The assessment will consist of 2 parts, the same procedures and methods will apply for all club examiner assessments in all disciplines.

1) Demonstration flight.

The candidate will be asked to fly the manoeuvres from the B certificate as if he was being examined. The candidate may have a helper and caller if he wishes, however the candidate is expected to be fully conversant with the manoeuvres and the order in which they are to be flown.

The candidate will be expected to fly the B test well enough to achieve a "good" pass, the Chief examiner carrying out the assessment must be satisfied that the candidate has the ability to demonstrate all the manoeuvres in the A and B tests of the relevant discipline, however it is not expected that the candidate fly a perfect B test.

Upon landing, and completion of the post flight checks, the candidate must brief the Chief Examiner on the flight, as part of the briefing the candidate must inform the Chief Examiner whether he considers the flight to have been a "pass" and also point out any errors made. The Chief Examiner will be expecting an honest and accurate appraisal of the flight and if he feels this isn't the case, or the candidate does not mention an obvious error from the flight in the briefing, the candidate should be considered as not suitable.

2) Demonstration Tests.

The candidate must then carry out as a minimum either an A or B certificate examination but preferably both.

The club examiner candidate will be expected to give both a pre-flight briefing to the pilot explaining what he is looking for and the positioning required for each manoeuvre and also a post-flight briefing explaining reasons for failing a candidate where relevant and also pointing out any areas where improvements could have made.

The pilots for these tests can be either actual test candidates, volunteer pilots for the purpose of "simulated" tests or, in the event that no other pilots are available, the Chief Examiner. If the pilots are actual candidates for tests and after the completion of a test a pass has been achieved, the Chief Examiner can award the relevant certificate.

The chief examiner will make his final judgement on suitability for club examiner status based on both parts of the assessment and to award Club Examiner status the Chief examiner must be satisfied that the candidate has a suitably high level of knowledge, flying ability and has the required approach to examining candidates and understands the standards required to achieve passes at both A and B level.

Cont/d.....

Agenda Item 6 cont/d...

- ii) That in the event that the previous proposal is accepted that the following be added to members handbook.

A guidance booklet for Area Chief Examiners is available which details the procedure that must be followed to carry out the assessment for the position of club examiner. It is recommended that candidates for club examiner familiarise themselves with the procedure.

- iii) That Indoor Aerobic A and B achievement scheme tests appended as separate documents, be accepted.

- 7 Discussion item from ASRC – *Does Areas Council think that when the achievement scheme controller's submit a report on a candidate for Area Chief Examiner status they should also include a recommendation on the candidates suitability?*
- 8 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
- 9 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.)
- 10 To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.
- 11 To consider the impact and potential implementation of a "strategy group" from the Areas as outlined in the Southern Area proposal to Full Council in September 2012. (Note this agenda item is only applicable if the Southern Area proposal is passed).
- 12 To confirm dates of Areas Council meetings 2013.
- 13 Any Other Business.

Andy Symons was appointed Vice-Chairman.

VOTING STRENGTH OF THE MEETING IS 12.

MINUTES

A1119/09/12 (1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from the following:
Robin Sleight MBE Honorary Secretary (Area Council Chairman)
Aidan Lafferty Northern Ireland Area Delegate
Martin Dilly FSMAE London Area Delegate
Mike Colling FSMAE Education Co-ordinator
Chris Moynihan SFAS Controller/BMFA Vice Chairman

A1120/09/12 (2) Requests for Permission to be absent.

There were no requests.

A1121/09/12 (3) Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 28th January 2012

Page 11

- **Second paragraph, third line** – Replace “Romana” with “Remarnie”.

London Area proposed that the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 28th January 2012 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Seconded by South Midland Area

Vote: For: 9
 Ags: 0
 Abs: 3

Carried by a majority vote.

A1122/09/12 (4) Matters/Actions arising from the meeting on 28th January 2012 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

ACTION / NOTES

Page 3

- **Penultimate paragraph, action ASRC to include full date and issue number on Achievement documents and ideally all BMFA documents** – The action was completed in as much as the Achievement documents now include date and issue number.

Page 4

- **Second paragraph, banner advertising offer to Areas**
– There were no takers for the banner advertising.

Page 6

- **Top of page, ratification of Southern Area Chief Examiner (Helicopter) Matthew Lodge** – Southern Area advised that Matthew did accept his ACE status despite his initial reaction to decline.

Voting figure now 14 due to arrival of RNMAA/SW Area Delegate and Mid West Area Delegate.

- **Penultimate paragraph, action ASRC to look at the wording which covers re-ratification of ACE's and clarify what 'confirm' actually meant in relation to this**
– No action was taken by ASRC because they believe the wording is correct it is the action that needs reviewing. The real issue is if a ACE has not submitted a report and a request has not been received by the relevant Area not to re-ratify the ACE, should we remove them as ACE.

Cont/d...

ACE
Rat
Cont/d...

Following due debate it was agreed that Areas raise the issue at their meetings and they will be expected to explain in January about any they wish to ratify who have not submitted reports.

ALL AREAS

At the January meeting we can review the situation and see what reports are missing. If there are any ACE's that are still not complying with the terms of their appointment we can then discuss them specifically and decide what is the best way forward with their respective Delegate present.

The current PAS Controller will prepare a report detailing which ACE's from what Areas have submitted reports, which he will then either pass on to the new incumbent if one is appointed at the January Full Council, or provide an update himself to Area Council in January.

PAS
CONTROLLER

He will also endeavour to obtain information from previous years of those ACE's who have habitually failed to provide a report. This will depend on whether he is able to make contact with Peter Spurway his predecessor to find out this information.

PAS
CONTROLLER

Page 7

- Second paragraph from the top, action Office Manager to source enamel badges to replace current cloth achievement badges – Andy Symons looked into this and has managed to obtain prices for enamel badges. He provided details of a design to fit on a small enamel badge similar to the BMFA enamel badge approximately 1inch in diameter, which he passed round for Delegates to have a look at.

Economically it would be better to supply enamel badges which would cost around £1.50 on an order for 200, as opposed to £4.25 which is the current cost to produce cloth badges and we currently charge £5 for them.

The general consensus was that we should pursue the route of producing enamel badges for the Achievement scheme.

ASRC

Page 9

- Fourth paragraph, request for volunteers from London Area to help at the ASE (Association Science Education) event in January 2013 – A request for volunteers, preferably from London Area, was reiterated.

The date of the event is Wednesday 2nd – Saturday 5th January 2013.

This concluded matters arising.

A1123/09/11 (5) To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.

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

Part of the report highlighted that there is a shortage of Helicopter Club Examiners.

b) **Silent Flight** – No report.

A1124/09/12 (6) To receive the following proposals from Chris Moynihan BMFA Vice Chairman/SFAS Controller, on behalf of the Achievement Scheme Review Committee.

In the absence of Chris Moynihan the Chairman asked for individual proposers for items 6i), 6ii) 6iii).

North East Area proposed 6i), Seconded by North West Area.

i) That the following be added to the guidance booklet for chief examiners and be recognised as the established procedure for an Area Chief Examiner to carry out assessments for the position of club examiner.

Assessment of Candidates for Club Examiner Status.

*The candidate should be fully conversant with the **relevant** BMFA guidelines and safety codes for model flying, CAP 658 and the requirements of the Air Navigation Order and also the **relevant** BMFA achievement scheme standards booklets. He should have prepared, before the assessment, suitable questions to ask both A certificate and B certificate test candidates. If the candidate cannot demonstrate this level of knowledge and has not prepared the required questions he should be considered as not suitable for club examiner status and the assessment should not take place **at that time**.*

The assessment will consist of 2 parts, the same procedures and methods will apply for all club examiner assessments in all disciplines.

1) Demonstration flight.

The candidate will be asked to fly the manoeuvres from the B certificate as if he was being examined. The candidate may have a helper and caller if he wishes, however the candidate is expected to be fully conversant with the manoeuvres and the order in which they are to be flown.

Cont/d...

*The candidate will be expected to fly the B test well enough to ~~achieve a "good"~~ **achieve a** pass, the Chief examiner carrying out the assessment must be satisfied that the candidate has the ability to demonstrate all the manoeuvres in the A and B tests of the relevant discipline, however it is not expected that the candidate fly a perfect B test.*

Cont/d... Upon landing, and completion of the post flight checks, the candidate must brief the Chief Examiner on the flight, as part of

Ach
Proposal
Cont/d... the briefing the candidate must inform the Chief Examiner whether he considers the flight to have been a "pass" and also point out any errors made. The Chief Examiner will be expecting an honest and accurate appraisal of the flight and if he feels this isn't the case, or the candidate does not mention an obvious error from the flight in the briefing, the candidate should be considered as not suitable **at that time**.

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The pilots for these tests can be either actual test candidates, volunteer pilots for the purpose of "simulated" tests or, in the event that no other pilots are available, the Chief Examiner. If the pilots are actual candidates for tests and after the completion of a test a pass has been achieved, the Chief Examiner can award the relevant certificate.

The chief examiner will make his final judgement on suitability for club examiner status based on both parts of the assessment and to award Club Examiner status the Chief examiner must be satisfied that the candidate has a suitably high level of knowledge, flying ability and has the required approach to examining candidates and understands the standards required to achieve passes at both A and B level.

PAS Controller/Club Support Officer provided background information to the above proposal.

Amendments to the wording in the proposal above were suggested and are shown as ~~strike through~~ for deletions, **bold italics** for additions.

The proposal including amendments to the wording was carried unanimously.

**PAS
CONTROLLER**

South Midland Area proposed 6ii), Seconded by RNMAA

ii) That in the event that the previous proposal is accepted that the following be added to members handbook.

A guidance booklet for Area Chief Examiners is available which details the procedure that must be followed to carry out the assessment for the position of club examiner. It is recommended that candidates for club examiner familiarise themselves with the procedure.

**PAS
CONTROLLER**

Cont/d... Carried unanimously.

Ach
Proposal
Cont/d...

London proposed 6iii), Seconded by SW Devon Sub Area.

iii) That Indoor Aerobic A and B achievement scheme tests appended as separate documents, be accepted.

PAS Controller/Club Support Officer provided background information for this proposal.

After due consideration and debate the following amendments were suggested:

'A' Certificate Test Standard booklet – Page 2, third paragraph from the top, delete as a whole.

'A' Certificate Test Standard booklet – Page 7, third paragraph from the bottom, delete as a whole.

The proposal including the above amendments was carried unanimously.

**PAS
CONTROLLER**

Test Standards booklets for Indoor Aerobatics 'A' and 'B' appended as separate documents.

OFFICE MGR

The Chairman thanked ASRC for seeing the above proposals through.

A request was made that Area AS Co-ordinators should ensure their ACE's get access to the information discussed at Areas Council.

**AREA AS
COORDINATORS**

A1125/09/12 (7) Discussion item from ASRC

Does Areas Council think that when the achievement scheme controller's submit a report on a candidate for Area Chief Examiner status they should also include a recommendation on the candidates' suitability?

The general consensus was that it should not be required of the PAS Controller that he/she makes a recommendation on the candidates' suitability. A report from the PAS Controller on the candidates' activities will suffice, to enable Areas Council to make the final decision.

**PAS
CONTROLLER**

A1126/09/12 (8) To receive reports from committees or co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.

a) ASRC – Nothing to report.

A question was raised with regard to training for the Scale 'C' Examiners. The PAS Controller advised that the majority of the training sessions that were set up for testing the Scale 'C' Examiners did not materialise because of weather conditions. Another factor was that the previous PAS Controller had not passed on to him any details of which Examiners had received training.

Cont/d...

*Cttee
Reps
cont/d...* The situation will be reviewed as soon as information is forthcoming from the previous PAS Controller.

Progress is being made for Jet 'C' training in that specific Jet workshop days are in the process of being set up for the Autumn.

b) & c) Flight Challenge & Education
******* WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX B)**

The Club Support Officer advised that the Development Officer is currently working on a new format for the 'Flight Challenge' which is not going to involve one big event, it will require schools to organise their own flying competitions. A website is currently under construction and the idea is that schools will be able to register, order kits and post results online.

A1127/09/12 (9) To receive reports from Area Committees.

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

It is encouraging to note in the report that the Area and local clubs were involved in a local village fete, which was very well received and attendance was excellent and the feedback was very good.

Mid West Area – Unfortunately the bad weather has restricted model flying activities in the Area. However there was an increase in attendance at Area meetings which we probably have the bad weather to thank for.

North West Area – With regard to canvassing new members North West Area publicise on their website an introduction offer of free trial sessions, which has brought in prospective new members.

The full report will be published in the Directors Annual Report booklet for consideration at the SMAE AGM.

South East Area – Has had the wettest weather in history and certainly put paid to the Area Scale competition held at the Hastings Club in August.

The Area PRO received an email from the Bromley Soaring Club regarding the smooth administration of the membership renewals and asked that the compliments of the Area be passed on to the staff at Chacksfield House.

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

London Area - The show at Middle Wallop was very successful and was blessed with good weather.

Cont/d... Everybody in the London Area with a model 7kg and above de-camped for the duration of the Olympics.

Area
Rep
cont/d...

North East – The Area is doing fine and has had quite a success in Control Line, Free Flight and Aerobatics competition flying both at the Nationals and abroad.

South West Area (Cornwall & Devon Sub-Areas) – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX E)

Northern Area – Doncaster Model Flying Club have offered their site for selection events for any discipline. This information will be passed on to the Competition Secretary.

The University Challenge was held in the Northern Area at Elvington Airfield in June, which was very successful.

A flying session is held every two weeks at Dishforth and Northern Area are very happy to report that despite the bad weather only one of the days was lost.

BMFA had a presence at the Elvington Show which was well attended.

South Midland Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX F) – They had a reasonably active year and a reasonable number of clubs attend Area meetings. Interestingly most of the disciplines are represented which lends to quite lively debates.

The Area is funding a number of Area flying events, Radio Glide being one of them. They have also provided Area funding to a number of individuals who are representing the UK in international competitions.

Quite a number of Area members did well at the recent Power Nationals.

Southern Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX G)

Western Area – Nothing to report.

RAFMAA Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX H)

A1128/09/12 (10) To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.

Club Support Officer – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX I)

A1129/09/12 (11) To consider the impact and potential implementation of a “strategy group” from the Areas as outlined in the Southern Area proposal to Full Council in September 2012.

***** **Proposal to Full Council appended – (APPENDIX J)**
A Copy of the proposal put to Full Council in September was circulated to the meeting.

The Chairman provided brief background information in relation to the Southern Area proposal to Full Council.

Generous debate was given to this item and various viewpoints were aired.

Effectively the Association’s Articles of Association does already provide a mission/objective statement in Articles 1.3.1.4 and 1.3.1.22 of the SMAE Articles of Association. (Hard copies of the Articles of Association were made available at the meeting). If an electronic copy is required Areas should request this from the office.

AREAS

It was felt that maybe we should be concentrating on the implementation of these articles.

Areas were tasked to look at the objectives in the Articles of Association and discuss with their members whether they feel they are suitable for us as an Association in the 21st century. If they decide they are then the first half of the proposal, the mission statement, is dealt with.

AREAS

We can then move on to deciding how we implement it and what is the way forward.

A1130/09/12 (12) To confirm dates of the Areas Council in 2013.

These were confirmed as **Saturday 26th January 2013** and **Saturday 21st September 2013.**

A1131/09/12 (13) Any Other Business

There were no items for AOB.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 14.50pm.

RC Power Achievement Scheme Controllers Report – Sept 2012

With Peter Spurway standing down as RCPAS I have taken on the role as RCPAS until a replacement can be confirmed at the January Full Council meeting. Notices have been placed in the BMFA news inviting applications for the post. I already deal with achievement scheme related emails and calls that come in to the office on a daily basis, so taking on the role hasn't meant much of an increase in work load as yet.

RC Power tests 2012

	2011 to 30 th Sept	2012 to date
Fixed Wing A	630	539
Fixed Wing B	100	88
Helicopter A	155	81
Helicopter B	28	12

As can be seen there is quite a drop in tests for this year, whether this can be attributed to anything more than the generally poor weather It is hard to say. There is a shortage of both Club and Area Chief Examiners for helicopters in my opinion, perhaps this is something the areas can look in to.

Andy Symons
Acting RCPAS

Education Working Group

Since the last Council meeting we have been involved in a number of events. The first being the University Challenge, the 18th, as usual two separate contests being run. For the second time this became an International event with two teams competing from Germany and four from Turkey. This years event had the largest entry ever - thirteen teams competed in the final two tasks of the Heavy Lift event and twelve teams competed in the Electric Contest. Saturday afternoon saw all teams give their presentations in one of the Elvington museum buildings. At the end of the flying part of the contest, only seven teams managed to get a score in the Heavy Lift event and nine teams in the Electric Contest. This years Heavy Lift Contest was won by Strade University (Germany) with a final score of 390.57 points. The Electric Contest was won by University of Liverpool team with a final score of 146.87 points. The changes that were made to the rules this year made for a safer contest and it would appear that with the increase in participants this has not reduced its appeal.

The BMFA was invited to have a stand at the "Mini Maker Faire" at the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI), Manchester. The North West Area took on this two day event running workshops for building AeroJets and FUN Copter helicopters. Apart from the early morning (10.00) workshop all the rest were over subscribed. The Maker Faire concept was started at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to promote skills particularly electronics amongst the young. Apparently there are other Maker Faires up and down the country so may be we can get involved with more.

With the Cancellation of the BMFA Flight Challenge event due to lack of numbers it was time that a new format was devised and as a result the "Fly Your Plane Challenge" announced in the August edition of the BMFA News, has now started and the web site will be up and running in the next day or so. Please publicise this event around your local schools and youth organisations.

I have now booked the stand at the Association for Science Education annual conference to be held next January the University of Reading. This event enables the BMFA to establish direct links with individual science teachers and regional science organisations (such as STEMNET) in various parts of the country.

Manny Williamson our Development Officer, with the help of the office staff and Traplet have produced a DVD on the building and flying of the BMFA Dart along with a CD of all the BMFA Educational publications. This is hoped to provide information in a more compact cost effective form

Mike Colling, FSMAE
BMFA Education Working Group.

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

In the East Anglia Area this year there has been yet again a notable lack of communication from clubs to the Area committee, so it is difficult to report with any certainty on the general health of the Area. I have assumed that since the Area has had no direct approaches from its clubs for any kind of information or assistance – with one exception – that they are operating without problems.

Despite the weather – either too hot, too wet, too cold or too windy – club activities in the few reported instances reported suggest that model flying still enjoys a healthy local following, and that from time to time inter-club meetings are very successful. My own club engaged recently with the Harlow club in a radio-control “combat” session using the ubiquitous, and thankfully cheap, “Gremlin” flying wing. Harlow had quite a long journey to reach us but nevertheless brought a large, enthusiastic and, as it turned out, skilful contingent. With a barbeque and good weather the meeting was very successful, and will doubtless be repeated in the not too distant future. Whether or not such flying is to everybody's taste is unimportant – but the fellowship which it engenders is the lifeblood of our sport.

Publicity for our sport amongst the greater populace in the Area appears in the main to be dependent upon the larger shows, such as the recent ‘Wings and Wheels’ exhibition, and more distant national events that fill the calendar. At a local level it is less simple to generate interest, so when my club decided to attempt an exhibition of models and a small flying display at a local village fête, we had a few misgivings. Fortunately a progressive club member drove the issue forward, since he was also on the fête committee. The club was assisted by the Area with publicity materials and simple models for youngsters to build, and these were used in a “workshop” open to visiting children. The response was astounding – the workshop demanding the attention of several members for the whole day. Older children and adults were invited to “fly” on a number of simulators belonging to club members: again an unexpected high level of interest was discovered. The outcome of the exhibition was a number of the public expressing an increased interest in taking up model flying, and some expectation that it might be introduced as an after-hours subject in at least one local school. Naturally the club was delighted with the way the day had gone, but better still was the fact that for next year a few more village committees have expressed a willingness to host such an event at their fêtes. Given that we are but one club amongst many, and that we operate in a sparsely populated rural environment, it would be nice to think that other clubs, who may not have considered such activities before, might, on the basis of our success, pick up the gauntlet. Hard work perhaps, but the potential gains are high.

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 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. Bury MFC organized the event in conjunction with the Great Britain R/C Aerobatic Association, and on 15th September 2012, took ten pilots from four clubs through a carefully structured series of flights. The ‘trainee pilots’ all improved significantly during the day and then flew a friendly ‘competition’ flight, followed by a barbeque. The day was deemed to be a success by everybody concerned and demonstrated how carefully orchestrated collaboration between clubs and specialist groups can be of benefit to the sport at large.

Pete Leavesley,
September, 2012.

Sept 2012 Midland Area Report
Area Council Meeting 22.9.2012

We are pleased to report that the Midland Area Festival of Flight at Barkston in June was blessed with excellent weather just for that day! With awful weather systems either side so our prayer mat still seems to work.

Attendance was very good and all participants and public had a good day of competitive flying with a large selection of free prizes to go home with.

We are seriously looking at ways of extending this event to TWO days (Sat and Sun) with non-airfield camping using the available local sites to help with people who have to travel long distances to compete making this event a more attractive proposition.

The lack of people willing to put themselves up for area committee posts still continues but following our initiative in having a Midland Area BMFA Stand at the August Nationals we had meaningful discussions with many attending club members and whole committees over the full weekend resulting in a greater understanding and a positive approach from several members promising to assist with better attendance at both AGM's and other face to face routine meetings, the remainder of course being still done electronically. Physical help will be mandatory if our wishes for FOF 2013 is to succeed.

Many thanks to Leicester Office for their practical help in sorting out our Nats Stand, we are most pleased with the result.

George Maynard's health has not improved but we remember his long service to our area in the past.

Would tech committees note we start formulating content of FOF 2013 in November 2012 and we are looking at the availability of Sat and Sun 1st & 2nd June booking for Barkston, to be confirmed.

John Bridgett Chair
Alf Tunnicliffe Sec/Treas.

Cornwall and Devon Sub-areas (South West) Report – Sep 12

Throughout the Summer Area meetings have seen clubs well represented with a turn out of approx 70% of those affiliated attending.

The majority of business has concerned the 2012 series of inter-club competitions with respect to confirmation of venues, dates and proposed schedules. The events themselves have all been run and have again met with widespread approval and a desire to see the series continue through 2013 as well. Debate continues on the payment (or not) of travelling expenses to Examiners in respect of their duties and the current situation remains that first call should be on the Club they are attending to conduct the tests and secondly on the Sub-Area funds. A suggestion earlier in the year that there should be an additional Achievement Scheme target test lying between the current Power B and C has prompted discussions over several meetings if there was an actual need for the test and if so, what should be required. After canvassing opinions, the consensus has settled on the fact that there is likely to be very little demand for the B-Plus test for the time being and the idea has been shelved: the good work the Davidstow club did in designing and trialling a potential schedule will be kept on record for when the subject is re-visited next year. The Achievement Scheme has been actively campaigned by the ACE who has run several Club Examiner standardisation sessions across the County. The number of examiners is now at a healthy level and able to meet demand for testing.

I finish with a reminder that attendance at the Cornwall 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!

In the suspended Devon Sub-Area things through the Summer have been quiet with Club Grant claims being handled by Chacksfield House and currently there is very little demand to return to full status.

The use of Little Haldon as an open flying site has continued under the stewardship of 3 local clubs and now sees regular RC power and silent flight flying. The strips have been cut twice and are developing into good surfaces for take off/landing. To finance the mowing and general care 2 open events have been run during the Summer to qualify for payment of the club Grant which is added to transmitter fees on the day. There are 2 further “Devon Glider Days” remaining this year on Sunday September 23rd(reserve September 30th) and Sunday December 30th(reserve January 1st).

Peter Disney

Sub-Areas Delegate

BMFA South Midland Area Report Areas Council September 2012

I have attended all of the Full Council and Area Council meetings held so far this year, as well as all of the South Midland Area Committee meetings. I am also planning to attend the BMFA AGM in November.

The South Midland Area has had another active year. Attendance at Area meetings typically attracts representatives from approximately 14 clubs, which equates to the representation of roughly a third of all members within the Area. The attendance at meetings remains strong and debate lively.

All Area committee positions were filled, with the exception of PRO which has been vacant for several years. We did however, have to co-opt two positions, our Secretary, (Barry Ensten) and Treasurer, (Andy Todd) when Chris Tompkins stood down having completed 29 years as Area Treasurer. Our Education Officer has also stood down from 31st August 2012 with immediate effect.

Once again a small number of clubs within the Area have experienced problems with their flying sites, mostly associated with either retention, planning applications and or in obtaining new sites. The assistance of BMFA HQ and the Flying Site Officer in these matters has been most valuable.

The Area has provided modest financial support to a number of Area events and also the attendance of individuals from the Area at International competitions.

During this period I have been a member of the Team Travel Study Group, which was assembled by the Chairman for the purpose of establishing enhanced funding for UK teams competing in International competitions. To date this has involved attendance at two meetings at Chacksfield house.

I am also a member of the ASRC. I have attended all meetings held this year and have been responsible for the developed the Gas Turbine (Jet) 'C' Certificate.

I would like to thank the Area Committee for its support and guidance in my endeavours, and I look forward to being able to make a valuable contribution on their behalf in the future.

Duncan McClure
South Midland Area Delegate

Southern Area

The first major show we attended coincided with the last Area Council meeting held at Blackbushe Airport. It was well attended; weather good, with excellent flight line flying. The Southern Area stand and banners were much admired.

We now have a new Chief Examiner - helicopters, after much Area Council discussion, and Matt Lodge has taken up the position.

We held our electric flyin event a couple of weeks ago, which has been postponed a couple of years because the landlord of the original site put severe number restrictions on the site. Again a well attended event. Electric seems to be getting more and more popular.

Free flight events are popular in our Area, having Middle Wallop and Salisbury Plain in the area.

A select group from our Area were up at the Nationals, not flying but involved in the ground work, like organising the camp site and checking the loos!

Next month we have Balsa Brain and the Yeovilton show to look forward to for the winter, then the indoor events start in earnest.

Stuart Simpson

Area Delegate

Royal Air Force Model Aircraft Association (RAFMAA) Area 13 Report

Warbirds over Scampton held 21st – 22nd April 2012, attended by many well known UK modellers, articles have appeared in many UK modelling magazines.

Kerosene over RAF Wittering held 28th – 29th April 2012 and Kerosene over RAF Marham meeting held 28th – 29th July 2012, both in co-operation with the Jet Modellers Association. Both well attended and enjoyed by all. Articles have and will be appearing in magazines this year.

RAFMAA has been represented at many modelling meetings throughout the year, BMFA, LMA, individual club events and rally's in the hope of recruiting more retired members to bolster our numbers. Well received at all events and increase in membership reflects this. Many renewed members attended RAF Annual Champs/Fly-in. Figures to follow.

AGM held at Annual Champs/Fly-in. Elected committee members names and posts below. Contact details to follow.

Chairman – Sqn Ldr Dempster Hamilton
Secretary – SAC Will Waters
Treasurer – Sgt Chris Abbot
BMFA Delegate – C/T Paul Luby
PRO – Flt Lt Giles Fowler
Comp Sec – Cpl Mike Matthias
Asst Comp Sec – Cpl James Goodright
Site Advisor – Flt Lt Wez Szmaglik
Achievement Scheme – Mr Ian Nelson
Equipment Scheme – Sgt Kieran Arnold
Property Scheme – Cpl Danny Houston
Airmen's Rep – SAC Gaz Hughes

Retirement of Large Model Association (LMA) Models.

Many Junior Ranks Messes (JRM) nowadays are new functional buildings with very little in the way of character. I was approached by the Flt Sgt JRM Manager at RAF Brize Norton regarding the feasibility of purchasing models that could be hung in the JRM to add character and give meaning to the rather bland building. He had little idea of the costs of models the size he required so I approached the LMA and asked what their members do when retiring their models. Given the size of LMA models, storing them when retired is generally not practical, so they are scrapped. After asking them if they'd like to retire them to a RAF JRM the response was very positive. LMA is going to run an article in its news letter and we already have two donated models. We are going through the motions at the moment to hang the first and we'll go from there. If we can satisfy the Health & Safety police then the future looks good. See picture on reverse of RAF Brize Norton JRM.



Club Support Officers Report Areas Council 22- 2012

As a first official duty I attended and gave a presentation at the Chairman's Conference at Brighouse in March. I had already been assisting with the ongoing dispute affecting the Huddersfield club.

I assisted with the stand at Wings and Wheels in June and also ran the stand at the LMA show at Elvington in August. I also assisted the Development Officer with the University Heavy Lift Challenge at Elvington in June, a very successful event.

I have attended the annual Safety Review Committee meeting and all ASRC meetings through the year. I have taken on the duties of the RC Power Achievement Scheme Controller after the resignation of Peter Spurway, until a replacement can be put in place in January.

Once again I was the Safety Team leader at the Power Nationals at Barkston Heath in August, as usual there are a number of items for review for next year but in general there were very few problems over the weekend despite a few enforced last minute changes, such as having to move the swap meet outdoors, a great success in my opinion and it is my opinion it should be a permanent move.

I have carried out a number of flying site visits to advise on planning and noise issues and also assist and recommend with local operating procedures. I am also looking forward to visiting clubs for club talks.

We have a number of clubs going through the planning process that I am assisting, it is clear that individuals seem more and more willing to object to our clubs activities especially in relation to perceived noise nuisance, one local authority has recently decided that all noise related applications will now only be accepted if submitted with a professionally conducted noise assessment, something which could add a large expense to the process, however after a number of phone calls to both the planning department and environmental health they are prepared to relax the requirement on a case by case basis, good news for one particular club currently submitting an application.

We have had further good news regarding the Melton & District club, a planning application had been received for the construction of a new dwelling within 150m of their mown strip, the club were rightly concerned that this could have a detrimental effect on their activities in the event of the occupants making complaints regarding noise. The club have been at the site for 23 years and benefit from a certificate of lawful use. We advised strong objections to the application and sent a letter strongly objecting on their behalf. The decision was pushed to the Planning and Development Committee and the Chief Exec, Club Chairman and myself prepared a deputation which we submitted at the meeting. Despite the planning officer supporting the application, and dismissing the concerns of the club as not relevant to the application, the committee almost unanimously rejected the application. We may not of heard the last of the proposed development however it's certainly round one to us.

There are a number of other club disputes ongoing, they certainly highlight the need for a robust club constitution and all clubs should take the time to examine their constitution to check it is suitable and covers all the eventualities that can occur within clubs, close attention should be paid to disciplinary procedures to ensure they are suitable, although we hope they don't have to be used.

Whether clubs are having issues with noise, planning or disputes they should contact us early for assistance.

Andy Symons
Club Support Officer

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.
(T/A British Model Flying Association)

PROPOSAL FORM

Please use BLOCK LETTERS

Please indicate appropriate Council Agenda FULL/ AREA/ TECHNICAL/ EXEC
(delete if inapplicable)

Proposal must reach the Chief Executive no later than the MONDAY, 26 days prior to the Council Meeting. If the proposal is not received by that date then it will go forward to the next appropriate meeting.

Only Council Members (Elected Officers and coopted Technical Committees) and Area Committees may offer proposals. A separate sheet may be used and attached for long proposals or reasons.

PROPOSAL

Item – way forward for the BMFA

Description ----

That we establish a working group to consider ideas from Areas Council, Full Council and Technical Council to define and produce a mission statement and strategy document.
Membership of the working group to be supported by an agreed number of members from Areas Council, with selected volunteers from Areas Council, determined by vote if necessary.

The objective – to create strategy and mission statement documents to provide direction for all area committees within Britain. Progress against these aims and targets should also be reported back to HQ as part of the annual AGM reports from each area, thus providing direction and co-ordination of all area committees within Britain. ---

- 1) That we create and publish a mission statement for the BMFA – it is common practice for all organisations to advertise a mission statement – the purpose and intent for all members to understand and work towards achieving. This becomes a label for the organisation and publically acts as a banner of intent that all parties within can strive to achieve. For all our external customers it also clarifies purpose and targets.
- 2) That we create and publish a strategy document for the BMFA – a document that we as an organisation create to advertise how we intend to meet the objectives of our mission statement. The strategy should identify crucial elements (targets) that the organisation has accepted need to be met – and should also identify the route we intend to take to meet those targets. This document will need careful review and consideration before it can be completed , however it is necessary as it provides clarification on the long term goals and the routes all involved need to take to support those targets .

REASON: -

Why is this necessary?

All professional organisation are driven by mission statements and strategy – these are foundation documents that drive purpose, direction and define route forward.

All areas committees in the UK should be working together towards a common aim, yes we have individual responsibilities within local areas but part of our efforts should be focussed on working towards a common target – this way all the efforts being expended by area committees can be focussed in the same direction increasing the effectiveness throughout the UK.

The alternative is independent areas making their own decisions on what's important and no co-ordination between each, resulting in poor global results, little achievement and no co-ordination between areas.

The southern area has sought guidance from HQ so that it can ensure it spends some of its time and effort on supporting the society's global targets for the UK – as yet we have not been provided with requested information and this has driven the submission of this proposal.

To provide substance to this proposal stage 1 is identified above, once defined then the BMFA could also consider taking the initiative to support the co-ordination of this strategy with all parties who depend on the growth of our sport (publishers etc) and consider how as partners together we can enhance and develop the strategy to the benefit of all members (the BMFA becomes the catalyst that drives this partnership).

The southern area can also supply professional sample copies of both of these documents to illustrate content and structure if that would help.

AREA COMMITTEES:

Proposed by: _Tony Butterworth_ Club Signature of Club Delegate* Waltham chase
(Only signed if not submitted electronically)

Seconded by: _Peter Turley_ Club Signature of Club Delegate* Petersfield MFC

Date of Area Meeting 18 July 2012 Voting Results: For all present at meeting
 Ags _____
 Abs _____

Members at the meeting – Peter Turley , Ken Gale , Stuart Simpson , Dave Burstow , Steve Warren , Ken Knox , Roger Newman , Terry Weeks , Richard Dickerson , Matt Lodge and Tony Butterworth. All members present reviewed and voted in acceptance of this proposal .

Date: 18 July 2012 AREA Southern Area

*Note: Delegate **MUST** be approved by majority of the Club Committee.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEES:

Proposed by: _____ Technical Committee

Date of Meeting _____ Voting Results: For _____
 Ags _____
 Abs _____

Date: _____ Signature of Committee Secretary _____
(Only signed if not submitted electronically)

ELECTED OFFICERS:

Proposed by: _____ Elected Post _____

Date _____ Signature of Officer _____
(Only signed if not submitted electronically)