

MINUTES

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on the 9th August 2014 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
Phil Gutteridge
Peter Jenkins
Terry Rounce
Marian Ainsworth
Tom Jones
David Lloyd-Jones
Duncan McClure

Stuart Willis
Stuart Simpson
John Harris
Peter Disney
Mike Colling FSMAE

In Attendance

Andy Symons
Linda Harding

Visitors

Chris Bradbury

Meeting Chairman
Meeting Vice-Chairman Alternate
East Anglia Area Delegate
London Area Delegate Alternate
Midland Area Delegate
North East Area Delegate
North West Area Delegate
South Midland Area Delegate/PAS
Controller
South East Area Delegate
Southern Area Delegate
Western Area Delegate Alternate
South West Area Delegate / RNMAA Del
Northern Ireland Area Delegate Alternate

Club Support Officer
Minute Taker/Office Manager

Multi Rotor Adviser

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence.
- 2 Any key items arising from the last Areas Council Meeting, 26th January 2013, not covered by subsequent events.
- 3 Confirmation of Wayne Pendleton as a Helicopter ACE.
- 4 To receive a proposal from the ASRC that the attached Multirotor 'A' Test be added to the inventory of Achievement Scheme Tests (Deferred from the Full Council Meeting held on 17th May 2014).
- 5 Discussion on the future of Areas and how to achieve best practice. See attached documents (especially the paper by Duncan McClure) which form the basis for this discussion.

- 6 Areas perception of key Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities (for improvement) and Threats to the future of the BMFA.
- 7 Discussion on the recent BMFA Survey (results summary now on the BMFA website <http://www.bmfa.org/News/NationalModelFlyingCentreSurvey/tabid/224/Default.aspx>), especially in the light of the loss of Church Fenton and the restrictions to casual use of Barkston Heath. (Both are new factors since the survey was initiated).
- 8 Any Other Business (Items to be notified preferably prior to the meeting and certainly in advance of the meeting if notified on the day).
- 9 Any perceived need for another scheduled meeting.

THE VOTING STRENGTH OF THE MEETING IS 13

MINUTES

A1148/8/14 (1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from the following:

PRO
Mid West Area
Western Area
Northern Area
Northern Ireland Area
London Area

A1149/8/14 (2) Any key items arising from the last Areas Council Meeting, 26th January 2013, not covered by subsequent events.

The Minutes were reviewed and there were no corrections.

South West Area proposed that the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 26th January 2013 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Seconded by North West Area

Vote: For: 6
Ags: 0
Abs: 7

Carried by a majority vote.

ACTION / NOTES

A1150/08/14 (3) Confirmation of Wayne Pendleton as a Helicopter ACE.

There were no objections and confirmation was accepted.

The meeting were made aware of the intent for the PAS Controller to write to a member of the Northern Area saying that unless he was registered with a club who supported his Club Examiner status, by the end of August, he would lose that status. The Club he previously belonged to had requested withdrawal of his Examiner status, hence the above procedure which is being followed in accordance with the procedure in the handbook.

This led to debate as to what should be done, if anything, about re-validating Club Examiners and what to do about registered Club Examiners who no longer are members of their club of registration which might require a change to the procedure. ASRC were tasked to look at this at some point in the future.

ASRC

PAS Controller commented that it is important to remember that the Scheme is run by the Club and it is very much a club decision. We need to be able to demonstrate that there is a process and that process does work.

A1151/08/14 (4) To receive a proposal from the ASRC that the attached Multirotor 'A' Test be added to the inventory of Achievement Scheme Tests (Deferred from the Full Council Meeting held on 17th May 2014).

Duncan McClure PAS Controller introduced the proposal and gave a brief résumé of the changes introduced since being deferred from Full Council in January 2014.

Chris Bradbury, member of the Multi Rotor Special Interest Group was present. He provided a major input in the Multirotor 'A' Test schedule and is here today to impart some of his vast knowledge and wealth of experience.

Chris explained the technicalities of multi rotor flying and answered satisfactorily the various questions put to him by some of the delegates.

South East Area proposed that the Multirotor 'A' test be added to the inventory of Achievement Scheme Tests.

Seconded South Midland

Vote: For: 12
Ags: 0
Abs: 1

Carried by a majority vote.

A notice informing of the inception of the new scheme and availability of the relevant forms will be placed on the website within the next week.

The Multirotor 'B' schedule had previously been circulated however did not appear on the agenda as a proposal. PAS Controller commented that there is a reasonable degree of urgency for the 'B' schedule also and we should make full advantage of the presence of Chris Bradbury who again had a major input in the Multirotor 'B' schedule. Chris gave a brief overview of the 'B' schedule document.

The Chairman commented that the reason for discussing the 'B' now is that there is a demand for the scheme and any document we can get out in the public domain is better than none at all and any feedback can be taken on board and the document amended if necessary.

**PAS
C'TRLLR/
ASRC/
CLUB
SUPPORT
OFFICER**

**CLUB
SUPPORT
OFFICER**

Northern Area proposed that the Multirotor 'B' Test be added to the inventory of Achievement Scheme Tests.

Seconded by RNMAA

Vote: For: 11
Abs: 2
Ags: 0

Carried by a majority vote.

**PAS
C'TRLLR/
ASRC/
CLUB
SUPPORT
OFFICER**

The inception date for the Multirotor 'B' Schedule was set for 1st September 2014.

PAS Controller thanked the meeting for allowing this item to be considered. He also thanked Chris Bradbury for his attendance and for imparting his experience and knowledge.

A1152/08/14 (5) Discussion on the future of Areas and how to achieve best practice and (6) Areas' perception of key Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities (for improvement) and Threats to the future of the BMFA.

The Chairman commented that there are no specific proposals put forward today and the above items are purely for discussion. The intention is to gather opinions and ideas from the Areas to hopefully form the basis of a formal proposal for a better strategy.

A paper entitled 'Discussion Document on the BMFA Area System' produced by Mike Colling FSMAE had previously been circulated. The Chairman asked Mike to provide an overview of the document as an introduction to debate on agenda items (5) and (6) above.

The following is a summary of actions/comments emanated from the ensuing debate:

- It was agreed to be pointless to consider bigger Areas to reflect the Sports Council. The Sports Council had already devolved much of their funding to lower levels and we would always be playing "catch up". Additionally one of the reasons for limited attendance at Area meetings was the travel costs and bigger Areas would exacerbate that problem. Thus the Chairman envisaged no change whatever to existing Area boundaries.
- Chairman to write to Sports Council to get clearance and details of all their subsidiary bodies and then follow up with such bodies making the point that model flying is registered with the Sports Council as a "Sport". Thus these subsidiary bodies should also note that registration and support model flying as may be relevant. To map Wales to this it may be required to create a virtual "Welsh Association."
- Duncan McClure South Midland Area Delegate to create for the BMFA News a short article on the BMFA organisation (with diagram/s) showing the relevance of the Areas to ordinary members and explaining "what is in it for them." Areas if they have comments on the bullet points in the draft copy of this document on the Agenda on page 24, should let him have them as soon as possible.

HON SEC

**DUNCAN
MCCLURE
/ AREAS**

Cont/d...

- Chairman to create Terms of Reference/Objectives for Areas. Probably as an appendix to the Areas Constitution document and also highlight the role of the various Area Committee members. This appendix is to pick up on bullet points as per pages 23 & 24 of the Agenda of this August meeting plus any other inputs provided to the Chairman by the Areas by the end of September 2014. Objective is to help justify the role/existence of the Areas and the appendix should be ready for the January 2015 Council meeting.

HON SEC

(Post meeting note: This possible appendix may prove to be an update on the existing "Guide to Areas document – a document the Honorary Secretary had not had a chance to review prior to the meeting)

- The SWOT discussions were (as anticipated) inconclusive with some confusion as to whether Areas were trying to produce SWOTS as relevant to them or as relevant to the BMFA as a whole. We have some of each. Perhaps the appendix described above should include a suggestion that Areas do create and maintain SWOT analyses for themselves and part of their objectives is to minimise ongoing threats and weaknesses and capitalise on the strengths and opportunities. Similarly the Chairman to maintain a BMFA level SWOT with similar objectives.
- In Head Office staff responding direct to Clubs in writing (rather than the usual phone calls) better efforts should be made to copy the topic to the relevant Area unless the Club in question requests that this not be done.
- There was support by the meeting for a web site access exclusive to registered Area representatives – this could provide forum and voting facilities.
- It was strongly recommended by some present that much more use should be made of Facebook as a communication medium especially as it is seen relevant by younger flyers.
- Action to be considered to add data on clubs on the website to show which BMFA Area is relevant to them.

AREAS/
HON SEC

CEO

CLUB
SUPPORT
OFFICER

PRO

CLUB
SUPPORT
OFFICER

A1153/08/14 (7) Discussion on the recent BMFA Survey (results summary now on the BMFA website

<http://www.bmfa.org/News/NationalModelFlyingCentreSurvey/tabid/224/default.aspx> , especially in the light of the loss of Church Fenton and the restrictions to casual use of Barkston Heath. (Both are new factors since the survey was initiated.

The Chairman commented that the reality is that the result of the survey was quite inconclusive. There was a majority support for the concept of a National Flying Centre but no corresponding support for any (significant) increase in fees to create and maintain it. Since the survey was initiated we have experienced the loss of RAF Church Fenton and restrictions imposed on casual use of RAF Barkston Heath and he was curious as to whether people have picked up any groundswell of opinion that this is a real problem.

- Threats to flying sites – besides loss of airfields by the MOD, include erection of wind turbines and arrays of solar farms.
- People are selling, through the BMFA Classified Ads website, models in abundance, probably due as a result of loss of flying sites for jet models.

It probably necessitates a continued PR drive on the membership to keep labouring the point that there is a real threat to model flying sites and also, if the current study about a National Flying site shows the concept may be viable, to convince the “Average Club Flyer” that there is value for him in supporting the creation of such a Centre.

East Anglia advised that they regularly have use of RAF Sculthorpe near Fakenham which is an excellent site and would probably be suitable as a National Flying Site/National Centre.

**DEV
OFFICER/
PRO**

A1154/08/14 (8) Any Other Business.

There was no other business.

A1155/08/14 (9) Any perceived need for another scheduled meeting.

The Chairman had received no notification that would appear to be worth arranging another meeting for. His aim is to retain the option of calling a meeting giving due notice as and when it is worth doing so. He feels this meeting was worthwhile. He would hope once the Area website is up and running it will help to mitigate the need to hold a meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4pm.