

MINUTES

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on the 18th February 2017 at 11am at College Court, Leicester Knighton Road, Leicester LE2 3UF (Sat Nav: LE2 3TQ)

Provisional until confirmed at the next Area Council Meeting.

PRESENT

Mark Benns	Honorary Secretary / Meeting Chairman
Terry Rounce FSMAE	London Area Delegate
Martin Lynn	Northern Area Delegate
Tom Jones	North East Area Delegate
David Lloyd-Jones	North West Area Delegate
Duncan McClure (Vice-Chairman)	South Midland Area Delegate/AS Controller
Dave Burstow	Southern Area Delegate
John Harris	Western Area Delegate Alternate
Andrew Potts	Mid-West Area Delegate
Peter Disney	South West Area Delegate / RNMAA Del
Maurice Doyle	Northern Ireland Area Delegate
Ian Nelson BEM	RAFMAA Area Delegate Alternate
In Attendance	
Andy Symons	Club Support Officer
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 23rd July 2016.
- 4 Matters/Actions Arising from the Area Council Meeting held on 23rd July 2016 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 5 To appoint a representative to the Awards Committee for 2017.
- 6 To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.
 - a) Power
 - b) Silent Flight
- 7 Area & Club Committees - Recruitment and Sustainability discussion. *(Discussion Document appended to this Agenda)*

- 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 Area Council.
- 11 To confirm date(s) of Area Council Meetings for 2017.
- 12 Any Other Business.
 Note: Items for Any Other Business must be handed to the Honorary Secretary of the Meeting **IN WRITING** before the meeting commences. This will be strictly enforced.

The Honorary Secretary thanked everyone for attending at fairly short notice. As a new incumbent to the post of Honorary Secretary (Chairman of Area Council) he felt it was important to call a meeting because he wanted to introduce himself and also get to know more about how the Areas function and how we can move forward to try to establish better communication and interaction with Clubs.

Area Council paid tribute to the previous Honorary Secretary Robin Sleight MBE FSMAE, who sadly passed away in early December 2016. Robin worked tirelessly for the Society and will be greatly missed.

THE VOTING STRENGTH OF THE MEETING IS 12

MINUTES

A1168/02/17 (1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from the following:
 Simon Vaitkevicius, Records Officer
 Peter Jenkins, East Anglia Area Delegate
 Phil Durant, Western Area Delegate (John Harris Alternate)
 Steve Mason, Midland Area Delegate
 Martin Dilly FSMAE, London Area Delegate (Terry Rounce FSMAE Alternate)
Stuart Willis SE Area

A1169/02/17 (2) Request for permission to be absent.

There were no requests.

A1170/02/17 (3) Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 23rd July 2016.

There were no corrections.

North East Area Delegate proposed that the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 23rd July 2016 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Seconded by South Midland Area Delegate

Vote: For: 7

Ags: 0

Abs: 5

Carried by a majority vote.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman for the meeting.

Duncan McClure was asked if he would carry out the role for this meeting which he agreed to and this was carried unanimously.

A1171/02/17(4) Matters/Actions arising from the meeting on 23rd July 2016 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

ACTION / NOTES

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- Action AS Controller, to create a short article on the BMFA organisation (with diagrams) for publication in the BMFA News magazine – The Achievement Scheme (AS) Controller explained that unfortunately events had overtaken and he was not in a position to produce anything sooner, however he was hoping to use the document he had produced which was circulated with the agenda for this meeting as a template. In its present format it is probably too long and will need editing. He is happy to carry the action forward for which Area Council were grateful.

**AS
CTR'LLR**

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To determine date of next meeting if seen as a near term requirement – Dates suggested for 2017 were 28th January/4th February.

The rationale behind convening a meeting early in 2017 was to consider ratification of any changes to the AS for that year. Since then however the timings for ratification of changes to the AS has been moved. Any changes will be notified on the AS website in December for comment, to enable implementation of any changes in January.

Therefore Area Council would need to consider convening a meeting later in the year to consider and discuss any changes, possibly in November. It was suggested, as most of the Area Delegates would already be gathered for the Society AGM which is always held in November, arranging the Area Council Meeting on the same day.

Although it made sense in terms of a cost saving exercise, in practical terms it might not be as simple. The Honorary Secretary and Office Manager would look at the logistics in more detail.

**HON SEC
OFFICE
MGR**

A1172/02/17 (5) To appoint a representative to the Awards Committee for

2017.

David Lloyd-Jones FSMAE was happy to continue as Area Representative to the Awards Committee.
Seconded by North East Area Delegate and Carried unanimously

**HON SEC
/ OFFICE
MGR**

**A1173/02/17 (6) To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme
Controllers**

Item 8a) ASRC WRITTEN REPORT ALSO REFERS

Duncan McClure (AS Controller) reported that January/February is a busy time of the year for him as the annual Area Chief Examiner/Instructor (ACE/I) ratification process gets underway. Duncan recorded his thanks to the office staff or their valuable assistance during this process.

In order to streamline the process, from 2017 ACE/I's will receive only one all-encompassing certificate if they are qualified in more than one discipline, instead of multiple certificates.

The North West Area Delegate commented that their Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator (ASC) would be willing to email the certificates but the consensus was that as some Areas are more proactive than others it would not be consistent.

Duncan advised that in future, copies of all Reports and Minutes of the ASRC will be emailed to ACEs. He hopes to encourage all Areas to hold at least one AS workshop per year. If Areas need any help with arranging a workshop they should contact a member of the ASRC who are always willing to help.

AS Roadshows have been organised, one in the North and one in the South, both taking place in March. These have been organised predominantly to promote how the scheme works and highlight the implementation of any changes to the scheme for 2017. There is an open invitation to all members to attend these roadshows.

**A1174/02/17 (7) Area & Club Committees – Recruitment and Sustainability
discussion.**

The Honorary Secretary explained the background to this exercise. Having reviewed the SWOT analysis, reports and statements previously supplied by some Areas, he had created a space diagram which he was able to explain with the aid of a power point presentation (*Copy provided as a separate document with these Minutes*). He had produced the diagram to help himself better understand and learn about the activities and objectives of the Area roles and in turn hopefully provide a better guidance and understanding for Areas.

Ultimately the aim is to provide a better understanding of the role of the Areas in conjunction with the Area Constitution. Hopefully this in turn will help resolve the issues we currently face with regard to recruitment and improve communication between the Areas and Clubs Committees. It was acknowledged that the system is quite complex and this is evidently one of the reasons why club members fail to volunteer for roles in the Area Committees.

Cont'd/...

Recruit-
ment and

Below is a reminder of the questions from the Honorary Secretary for

which he asked feedback for this meeting:

1. Your Committee's current strength/status of – how many persons carry out dual roles etc.
2. Do you have a problem now or in the next 2 years in terms of new committee members?
3. Is the current structure of Areas and their committees correct?
4. How do you currently recruit to committee?
5. Why do you think it is difficult to get new persons on board?
6. Suggestions on how one could generate new persons to join a committee.

The Honorary Secretary made it very clear that he would guide the meeting to establish positive feedback with the aim to leave the meeting with a series of actions. To kick-start a brainstorming session again with the aid of power point, the Honorary Secretary had selected a series of comments from the reports, SWOT analysis and the latest responses he received to the above questions from some of the Areas.

The debate gave everyone a voice and was extremely positive. Each of the bullet points raised was discussed at length.

The main actions were agreed as follows:

- We utilise a regular column set aside in the BMFA News for Area articles. This has been very limited in the past, if non-existent and would certainly provide greater exposure to the Areas.
- The Area PRO position has always been a difficult role therefore we acknowledged that we all take responsibility for the publicity of the Areas.
- The North-East Area Delegate, Tom Jones accepted the inaugural role of Area News Co-ordinator. Tom can be contacted on 07728 290784. **TOM JONES**
- Each Area attended agreed that they should have an active website preferably linked to Facebook and Twitter to provide social communication and a more interactive approach with the Clubs. New and ongoing websites would easily be cross-linked to the BMFA main site/Facebook etc. to portray a co-ordinated approach. **TOM JONES / ANDY SYMONS**
- Honorary Secretary to help define reasons/times when the Office will inform an Area with club/flyer issues when they contact Leicester direct. **HON SEC**
- Honorary Secretary to seek clear guidance with regard to some of the Areas who wish to help fund National Teams. **HON SEC**

The Honorary Secretary requested that Areas submit articles and/or events concerning their Area to tom.jp11@live.com so that Tom can compile, edit and send to the BMFA News Editor. Any amendments will be discussed with the author so it is imperative that a contact number is provided, these will then be dropped into a shared file. Andy Symons, Tom, the BMFA News Editor and the Honorary Secretary will have access initially. The BMFA News Editor will have complete discretion to edit any article prior to publication.

**HON SEC /
ANDY
SYMONS /
BMFA
NEWS
EDITOR**

Post Meeting Note:

The Honorary Secretary wrote to Areas and requested that all attendees of Area Council sign up to a closed group on Facebook to help blog ideas, with the exception of those whose work or personal circumstances exclude them from such platforms.

This will enable the Area Council to discuss minor items; ideas to promote the Areas; upcoming events; feedback on any articles published and we could also as an additional measure receive meeting dates or amendments to them as a back up to the usual procedures.

A1175/02/17 (8) To receive reports from Committees or Co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.

**a) Achievement Scheme Review Committee (ASRC)
***** WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX A) – abridged verbal report below:**

Thanks were recorded to Mick Eames who was a long standing member of the ASRC and Phil Gutteridge, for their work on the ASRC as they are no longer serving members following the election process.

Special thanks were also recorded to Terry Rounce FSMAE for the invaluable long term contribution he made to the work of the Achievement Scheme whilst serving on the ASRC for nearly twenty years, seventeen of which were as Chairman. Terry will continue as a member of the committee for 2017 but has indicated that he does not wish to continue as Chairman.

Chris Bradbury and Richard (Dick) Whitehead who are both currently serving on the Committee following the election process, received thanks from the ASRC for attending meetings during the year in a voluntary non-voting capacity. Their contributions were invaluable.

The important thing to highlight is that there are no major changes to the 'Scheme' for 2017 however the focus for 2017 will be promotion and communication and contact with grass-roots Examiners and Instructors.

The first multi-rotor video guidance was launched late in 2016 and we have received very positive and encouraging feedback. The video can be viewed at <https://achievements.bmfa.org>

The Basic Proficient Certificates (BPC) have generally been received well. The important message to members is that the BPC and 'A' tests are identical except for the type of aircraft you present for the test with.

- If you present with a model that is <1kg you will take a BPC (irrespective of whether it has stabilisation or not);
- If you present with a model with stabilisation, you will take a BPC (irrespective of mass);
- If you present with a model without stabilisation and >1kg you will take an 'A' test.

The FPV Extension Certificates for both FW and multi-rotor have been published. These are available to any BPC or 'A' Certificate holder.

Cont'd/...

The ASRC very much welcome feedback on any new materials that are introduced and are open to suggestions. The Committee do their best to obtain expert input with any new developments but these are not cast in stone.

Work on the new RC Rotary Wing flight training manual, will be progressed early in 2017.

Terry Rounce FSMAE, ex-Chairman of the ASRC asked for the minutes to record his appreciation of Dick Whitehead and Chris Bradbury for attending and imparting their expert advice when called on at the ASRC meetings, which was purely on a voluntary basis. Chris Bradbury's knowledge in all things multi-rotor was especially valuable.

b) University Payload Challenge

Andy Symons Club Support Officer advised that preparation for the University Payload Challenge scheduled for 3/4 June is well under way and entries are looking good.

c) Education

No report.

A1176/02/17 (9) To receive reports from Area Committees.

North East Area (Verbal Report)

The North East Area Delegate reported that the process to obtain the annual DIO Licence to fly at Albemarle Barracks took much longer this year which was probably due to the relocation of the administration offices. It did give cause for concern however he was pleased to advise that everything is in order and they have now received the Licence.

No change in the number of clubs attending Area Meetings.

Mid-West Area (Verbal Report)

The Mid-West Area Delegate reported that 2016 was a fairly uneventful year. The Mid-West Area AGM was quite well attended and the same Committee were voted in.

In 2016 the Area trialled holding their meetings at different venues with the aim of trying to capture more clubs to attend, which was quite successful. They will continue this for 2017.

The Mid-West Area Facebook group is proving popular with 85% of clubs in the Area on board. It is proving to be the best method to get information out to clubs.

Northern Area (Verbal Report)

The Northern Area Delegate reported that they are in the process of setting up an Area Website and they have also set up a Facebook page.

They have in excess of sixty clubs in their Area but generally attendance at Area Meetings is very poor, usually around six clubs.

They hold regular events in the hope of trying to get people interested. This year the Area is also hosting an Examiner Workshop. The first Achievement Scheme Road Show is taking place in the Northern Area in Brighthouse.

The Area has appointed a new ~~Honorary Secretary~~ Chairman, Tim Haigh.

The Area Delegate was grateful for confirmation that it was possible to apply for a DIO licence to include multi-disciplines.

Western Area (Verbal Report)

John Harris, Western Area Delegate Alternate reported that the licence application to fly at Merryfield Airfield this year had not been straightforward but hopefully all will be resolved soon.

Western Area, like many of the other Areas struggle to get Clubs to attend Area meetings. Hopefully the outcome of today's meeting will move things along in terms of better communication between Areas and Clubs.

London Area - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX B)

Terry Rounce FSMAE London Area Delegate Alternate wanted to reiterate what had been noted in the written report that London Area were grateful to Tony Butterworth and other members of the Southern Area who helped out as volunteers at the London MEX at Alexander Palace in January.

Club attendance at London Area Meetings unfortunately has not improved.

The Mid-West Area Delegate commented that he took a new approach last year in the hope of generating some interest and visited approximately thirty-eight clubs in their Area, unannounced. He firmly believes this was a contributing factor, together with the rotation of meeting venues that helped to increase attendance at Area Meetings.

The London Area Delegate commented that unfortunately, despite similar efforts, London Area has not had the same success.

North West Area (Verbal Report)

Attendance at Area Meetings is usually around twenty people, representing twelve voting clubs.

The North West Area Delegate commented that initially he was not in favour of the mandatory questions for the AS tests however he now realises they are based on standard guidance in the Members Handbook which is nothing new and he fully endorses it.

Northern Ireland Area - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX C)

The Northern Ireland Area Delegate highlighted a few salient points from the written report.

Communication has always been regarded as a priority in the Northern Ireland Area, especially now with electronic communication which they have adopted. More than half of the clubs in the Area attend the Area meetings. Attendance is also increasing and clubs who are not present are also producing reports for the meetings, which is very encouraging.

They have a full Committee for 2017 and they have a full calendar of events.

South Midland Area (Verbal Report)

The South Midland Area Delegate reported that like a lot of the Areas, South Midland Area struggle to get a good attendance at Area meetings. From just over sixty clubs, attendance is between 10-15 voting members. However when he first started attending there were probably forty people in attendance.

Cont'd/...

The reason he started attending Area meetings as a club representative was because the club received a visit from the Area representative, much the same that was reported by the Mid-West Area Delegate.

South Midland Area has two Examiner/Instructor Work Shops planned for the beginning of the year. The Area is functioning quite and has a full compliment of Committee members, with the exception of a PRO.

Southern Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX D)

The Southern Area Delegate commented that they would like to see more numbers attending Area meetings, club attendance at Area Meetings is generally around twelve people, which actually represents directly or indirectly, twenty-six of the sixty-five clubs in the Area.

People either belong to more than one club or fly more than one discipline in another club and they also have quite good geographic cover. It would still be nice however to have better attendance.

RAFMAA Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX E)

They held their first Indoor session at RAF Wyton in January. The FPV pilots set up an indoor race circuit for a new challenge which proved to be very popular and because of its technicality it seems to be attracting the younger generation.

They are still fully committed to the Achievement Scheme. The RAFMAA Area Delegate advised that although they don't hold Work Shops per se, as AS Co-ordinator for the Area he arranges a ground school session during the weekend of the RAFMAA Championships and invites Examiners/Instructors and anyone wanting to take an 'A' or 'B'. He is committed to a task set by their President that by 2020 50% of Officers should hold an 'A' Certificate and 20% should hold a 'B' Certificate and is doing okay so far.

In addition to the events mentioned in the written report, they have been invited to attend the RAF Marham 'Friends and Family Day' which normally attracts about 3,000 people and they will be providing a static display. They have also been asked to put on a display at a Wings and Wheel event but they are considering attending just as a PR exercise.

The RAFMAA Annual Fly-In/Championships and AGM is set for the last weekend in July. RAF Honington has re-affirmed their commitment to host the RAFMAA annual event for the next few years which is good news for RAFMAA and allows maximum attendance for all their members.

Two of their personnel, Chris Barker and Neil Tricker compete Internationally in Control Line Team Racing.

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

The Devon Sub-Area remains in suspension and apparently there is no desire for the situation to change.

Cornwall Sub-Area consistently achieve 85% representation at their meetings. Attendance is not limited to club representatives and any BMFA members (including Country Members) are welcome to attend and take part in discussions.

On a positive note they will be welcoming the affiliation of a new club, the Cornwall Slope Soarers Association. The aim is to represent the interests of all of those modellers who fly at St Agnes head and to provide a single point of contact when liaising with the local National Trust warden and Para Gliders who also use the site.

Cont'd/...

Communication within the Area is generally by post as some officers do not have good broadband and internet service can be limited in certain locations.

The Honorary Secretary thanked the Areas for their reports and commented that there seems to be common trends and threads across the board. Going forward our aims and objectives should focus on positivity not negativity.

Area reports for the next meeting should concentrate on progress and involvement from this meeting.

AREAS

A1177/02/17 (10) To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.

Club Support Officer (Verbal Report)

He was pleased to report that two more flying sites in the Bristol area have been secured and the authorities have expressed a willingness to allow model flying if any other sites become available.

We now host fifty Club Websites, the most recent being the Teeside MFC. All seem to be manging successfully.

Some clubs seem reluctant to welcome drone flyers however the experience at some clubs who do welcome them find that they eventually also take to the more traditional form of FW flying, therefore clubs can be missing out on attracting new members.

The volume of enquiries regarding the AS mandatory questions is much less. Hopefully we have managed to raise the awareness regarding the lawful aspects of flying model aircraft.

The Club Support Officer highlighted a case in instance whereby a club had received totally the wrong advice when they contacted the Area for information relating to a constitutional matter. This could have been very costly for all involved if he hadn't been made aware and managed to rectify the situation. Areas should be aware of what they don't actually know particularly in relation to constitutional matters. They should contact the office to speak a member of staff who has the knowledge and experience to deal with such matters and who would also be able to obtain legal advice if necessary.

A1178/02/17 (11) To confirm date(s) of Area Council Meetings for 2017.

The next meeting was scheduled for Saturday 8th July 2017

A1178/02/17 (12) Any Other Business.

Duncan McClure, AS Controller advised that the ASRC are currently busy putting together a communications strategy, targeted initially at the Achievement Scheme. The ASRC are conscious that it remains consistent with anything the BMFA is doing as a whole.

Their wish is to make contact with grass-root Examiners. The organised Road Shows are the first step towards this but the aim is to put together a consistent strategy.

The Honorary Secretary closed the meeting at 3.48 pm.

RATIFIED

**Achievement Scheme Review Committee
Report to Areas Council Meeting
18th February 2017**

The committee would like to formally thank and recognise the invaluable long term contribution that Terry Rounce FSMAE has made to the work of Achievement Scheme. Terry has served on the ASRC for nearly twenty years, seventeen of which have been in the role of ASRC Chairman. Although Terry will continue as an ordinary member of the committees for 2017, he has indicated that he does not wish to be considered for the role in 2017, and hence the committee would like to thank him for all his sterling work in the past, steering the committee through some very interesting times and significant developments.

Peter Willis was elected as the ASRC Chairman for 2017 at our recent meeting on 11th February.

The committee would also like to thank Chris Bradbury and Richard (Dick) Whitehead, both of whom have attended meetings during the year in a voluntary none-voting capacity. Dick has significant silent flight expertise and has diligently proof-read all of the new and revised ASRC materials. Chris has provided invaluable input and assistance with the production of the Multi-Rotor tests and also significantly, the draft Multi-Rotor guidance video – mentioned in later items.

The ASRC met three times in 2016, the last meeting being in November, when all of the scheme documentation for 2017 was agreed. With the exception of the previously notified FPV extension certificates, the ASRC are not proposing any changes to scheme materials for 2017. The focus for 2017 will be on communication and promotion of the scheme, and contact with the grass-roots examiners and instructors, who are vital to the promotion of the scheme.

Key developments within the period include:-

- To support the theme of communication and promotion of the scheme, the ASRC have organised two one day Achievement Scheme Conferences – along the lines of the recent Chairman's conferences - to 'spread the word' around the country and give examiners and instructors the opportunity to hear the whys and wherefores of the various developments at first hand, as well as the chance to be able to ask questions and provide feedback.
The dates for the first two of these conferences have been set for Saturday 25th February, at the Brighthouse Sports Club (HD6 4LX), and Saturday 18th March, at the Angel Hotel, Royal Wootton Bassett (SN4 7AQ). The venues have been chosen to give a reasonable national spread, but additional events and locations will be considered, if there proves to be sufficient additional demand. Full details of the events, including content, have been published in the BMFA News and on the website. Content covers such items as; guidance on running examiner/instructor workshops, new AS materials (the BPCs, FPV extension etc.), Screening of the 1st draft of the Multi-Rotor examiners guidance video, the Mandatory Questions and a Q&A Session.
- The draft of the Multi-Rotor video guidance has also been posted on YouTube and the Achievement Scheme website. A significant volume of very positive and encouraging feedback has been received to date. The video can be viewed at :- <https://achievements.bmfa.org>.
- Early efforts in 2017 will focus on the development of an ASRC Communications Strategy. The aim of this will be to aid both understanding and promotion of the scheme and the intention is to ensure consistency with any broader BMFA PR initiatives.
- The Scheme Controller has prepared a one side of A4 guidance note for all Examiners, which details and provides useful background information on the recent developments within the Scheme. This has been published on the New Achievement Scheme website. In addition, the office is also including a copy of this letter with the documentation that is returned to examiners after every successful test. Furthermore, an article advertising the new Achievement Scheme Handbook and explaining the rationale and philosophy behind the new 'Basic Proficiency Certificates' and the mandatory 'legal' questions has been published in the BMFA News. It is hoped that this will provide a useful mechanism by which to communicate important information to the membership.
- The **Basic Proficiency Certificates** that were introduced last year appear to have been well received by clubs, and a number of certificates have already been awarded. These certificates cater for a wide range of aircraft for which there was previously no provision in the scheme. **They allow the use of stabilisation systems**, such as 3 axis gyros for FW aircraft and Atti mode, etc. for Multi-rotors, and the tests may also be taken with an aircraft of any mass i.e. there is no requirement for the aircraft to be 1Kg or over.

The BPCs don't change the underlying philosophy of the scheme, which is to provide goals and challenges to encourage flyers to improve, but are intended to operate **alongside** the existing certificates, to acknowledge and support the way the current 'A' and 'B' tests are often used by clubs, and others, to assess member's capabilities.

Importantly, **the flying elements of the Basic Proficiency Certificates are exactly the same as the 'A' certificate, for the relevant discipline.**

Whether you take a **BPC** or a conventional 'A' cert depends entirely on what model you present for the test with;

- If you present with a model that is <1kg, you will take a **BPC**, (irrespective of whether it has stabilisation or not).
- If you present with a model with stabilisation, you will take a **BPC** (irrespective of mass).
- If you present with a model without stabilisation and >1kg, you will take an 'A'.

The committee has assisted the Tech. Sec. by collating and providing input for the Multi-Rotor section for the new edition of the Member's Handbook.

- The FPV Extension Certificates for both FW and Multi-rotor have been published. These are available to any BPC or 'A' Certificate holder. The draft schedules for the tests were posted on the website in December for comment and the tests 'went live' on 1st January this year. As is standard practise with all the Achievement Scheme materials, the ASRC remains open to feedback (especially for new material) and will keep these tests under close review during the coming year.
- Work on the new RC Rotary Wing flight training manual, which has been awaiting comments and feedback from the committee and AHA, will be progressed early in 2017, once the scheduled conferences mentioned above have been delivered.
- An additional on-line quiz, aimed primarily at FW BPC and 'A' certificate candidates, has been added to the Achievement Scheme website, following the popularity of the quiz on the mandatory questions, which to date has registered over 7000 attempts. The intention is to continue to develop this feature in the future, to include quizzes appropriate to the various tests.
- The Scheme Controller has completed the compilation of all ACE / ACI 2017 ratification returns from the Areas. The office will be issuing the 2017 certificates shortly. The certificates this year will be different to those issued previous. The new format will be a single certificate listing all relevant disciplines, as opposed to multiple certificates as issued in the past.

Delegates are kindly asked to feed all the information contained in this report back to their area committees and clubs.

Duncan R McClure
ASRC Sec. and representative to Council
February 2017

LONDON AREA REPORT TO COUNCIL 18th February 2017

Same old same old, the Area is still lacking in the number of clubs attending the Area meetings, you name it, we have tried it, all of us here know that the only way to get a response is cause a panic!!

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the L.A. to thank Tony Butterworth and his members for their help at the Eng. Exhibition at Alexandria Palace this year they travel a long way to be there and are VERY welcome, as are everyone else who volunteers their time

We have run Workshops and Training Days, Bickley ran an international F5B event among other things, they are pro active in almost every sphere of the sport. Concord pull their weight but, many clubs are still very insular, a pity! It is the L.A.'s policy not to interfere with Club policy or politics.
Terry Rounce. L.A. Chairman

RATIFIED

Northern Ireland Area 13

The Area has now, for the first time, a full complement of Officers. The recent election of an Education Co-ordinator has opened the possibility of more effective action in this area. Unfortunately it is a second duty for an existing Officer, but most posts are held by one person.

There are reasonable prospects that all posts will continue to be filled for the foreseeable future. A few Clubs are relatively new and their vigour and activity is welcome. They are as a consequence now coming to Meetings, which have always been well attended, and in time are likely to be willing to make the effort required in post.

This Area has functioned well since it started, possibly helped by the geographical size and the effort made initially to find the most suitable (central) location for Meetings. Attendance at Meetings has been consistently good, over 50% of Clubs being represented regularly, and relationships between Clubs are good and developing.

For the other Areas, there are forces pulling in opposite directions. The large number forming the Council make it unusually large and those familiar with Board functions in other organisations find this unfamiliar and apparently unwieldy. The large number having to travel each time is a disadvantage. Those serving in existing Areas are naturally unwilling to voluntarily change without very demonstrable advantages.

Conversely, if Areas were smaller, i. e. there were more and each was a more manageable geographical size, it might be much easier to convince Clubs that the Area is within their reach and their concerns can be heard and acted on. Our experience would support this concept. Delegates can attend a Meeting no more than one hour from home, and can team up with other local Clubs when relationships are good.

Our Committee members have been put forward by existing Officers in recent times, so they are those who have a good track record of making a positive contribution, as opposed to anyone willing being press ganging in an actual Meeting. This is a welcome development. Ideally, understudies for each Officer should be mentored and elected as their time comes. An Ideal World!

There is an unfortunate tradition of very limited numbers of fliers being willing to take Club posts, and this continues into Area activity. As time goes on, we hope to change the climate of opinion and help people to appreciate that being involved in Club and Area activity is a natural extension of everyone's interest in the grass on the other side of the fence.

It could be helpful if perks for Officers could be established which cost nothing but conferred status or added value to their flying. For example, if all Officers were made Honorary Members of all Clubs in the Area, they would have more flying sites available to them, they would be encouraged to meet more people, and everyone would benefit. Clubs generally make members of other Clubs welcome, but this would be formal recognition of this tradition, and the contribution made by Area Officers. It would also, if adopted by the Committee, imply that it should apply to all Clubs, including those not attending.

Maurice Doyle
Delegate

Areas Council 18 February 2017 - Southern Area Update

- A successful 2016 AGM with 15 attendees, including club reps from as far as North Dorset and the Isle of Wight. Committee returned including the Dorset Area, South Hants Support and Vintage F/F reps. These new roles have proved successful during 2016 in improving the diversity and communication across the Area. Finances remain healthy and well managed, and support for key sites and events maintained.
- Much has been done with 2 key airfields critical to many modellers in our Area (particularly F/F), Middle Wallop and Odiham. We have supported events, open and family days at these sites, to maintain positive relations and continued modelling activities in a rapidly changing military and security environment.
- RNAS Yeovilton – we have supported the FAA Museum twice-yearly Model Shows with one of the best RC flying displays in the West Country over many years. Unfortunately the Museum has discontinued the Model Shows but we are in communication to maintain an RC flying event for the future. RNAS Merryfield has come under security pressures which have curtailed large scale F/F events, but limited usage has been maintained.
- We are currently arranging, with the RAC Tank Museum at Bovington, to resurrect the RC flying display (which used to happen regularly some years ago) in October 2017 as a BMFA event.
- The growth of S Area E-soaring and now RC Scale heli events has proved we can improve the level of events within the Area despite financial risks and other difficulties with venues.
- The SABMFA website has continued to attract significant attention to advertise events and provide a forum for Area and club information.
- The Committee supported the London Area at the annual Model Engineering Exhibition 2016 and 2017 with both manpower and models.
- At HQ's request the Area took on the responsibility of providing the BMFA stand at the Farnborough International Air Show. Considerable effort was required with respect to security, set up, equipment, etc., to meet the organisers' requirements. Our presence was to support the UK Drone Show and Futures Day to highlight BMFA support to this new branch of model flying, as well as covering broader flying activities. A very positive event with the opportunity to meet other organisations such as the CAA and MAA and interact with the public. The CAA were delighted that the BMFA had attended the show to support drone activities and awareness in terms of education, safety and operational requirements.
- The Balsa Brain Trophy quiz (now 32 years old) was successfully held in December 2016. Many clubs sent teams, providing an opportunity for interaction both between them and the Area.
- Overall despite the pressures from military and governmental changes, the Area has maintained a positive and interactive approach going forward into 2017.

AREA 14 (RAFMAA) REPORT

Since our AGM in August 2016 we have done our first Slope Soaring event at Leek and Moorland area in September 2016. The event had a good attendance however; the weather was such that we were unable to conduct any competitions as the wind was too light to afford an Aerobatic competition or Pylon racing.

We held our first Indoor session at RAF Wyton in January which was well attended. Our FPV pilots set up an indoor race circuit for a new challenge which proved to be spectacular. We hope to hold a further Indoor event in March/April.

We were hoping that we could organise another 'Warbird' event as they are quite popular with the Warbird fraternity in the country. Unfortunately, we cannot find a station that is willing to host us due to security and availability outside normal operating times.

Our second Slope event is scheduled for 5-7 May in the Devizes area. Attendance is building and we are making sacrifices to the 'weather god'.

We have embryo plans for a Thermal event in June. Negotiations are underway with a station management at the moment.

This will bring us back full circle to our Annual Fly-In and Championships and AGM set for the last weekend in July. RAF Honington has re-affirmed their commitment to host our annual event, for the next few years. This is very good news for our Association as this allows maximum attendance for all our members.

Although we do not have a dedicated Education Representative in our Area, there are times where individual members are asked to give a talk to a group of children.

Recently one of our members gave a talk/demonstration at a local school for their lessons on 'Flight'. He took examples of all types of model and had a simulator set up for the students to have a hands-on experience. This culminated in him giving an indoor flight demonstration in the school dining hall.

We have an event coming up at RAF Digby where they have invited us to join and display (static) at their 'Vintage Day'. This will give us an opportunity to promote ourselves and the sport as a whole.

We are still fully committed to the Achievement Scheme and have a number of personnel wanting to achieve.

Notwithstanding personnel on 'Operations' we are looking forward to a busy flying season, weather permitting and successful events.

South West (Cornwall and Devon Sub-Areas) Report

Yet another relatively quiet winter/spring period in the South West with little activity due to high winds and rain. Interclub and open events for the Summer have been scheduled and are being publicised. A constant subject for debate is how to attract more people into the hobby, but a solution is proving hard to identify.

The consensus in Cornwall remains that the current Areas construct isn't broken and doesn't need fixing. Attendance at the Cornwall Sub-Area meetings is not limited to club representatives and any BMFA members (including Country Memembers) are welcome to attend and take part in the discussions. Although we are only dealing with a small number of affiliated clubs we consistently achieve 85% representation at meetings.

A positive note in the New Year is the formation and imminent affiliation of a new club, the **Cornwall Slope Soarers Association**. The aim is to represent the interests of all of those modellers who fly at St Agnes head and to provide a single point of contact when liaising with the local National Trust warden and Para gliders who also use the site.

The Devon Sub-Area remains in suspension with administration issues being handled directly through Chacksfield House and Achievement Scheme matters dealt with by the National AS Co-ordinator: apparently there is no desire for the situation to change.

Peter Disney

South West (Cornwall and Devon Sub-Areas) Delegate

14 Feb 17