

MINUTES

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on the 8th July 2017 at 11am at Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrew's Road, Leicester LE2 8RE

Provisional until confirmed at the next Area Council Meeting.

PRESENT

Mark Bennis	Honorary Secretary / Meeting Chairman
Peter Jenkins	East Anglia Area Delegate
Steve Mason	Midland 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
Stuart Willis	South East Area Delegate
Steve Kirby	Western Area Delegate Alternate
Andrew Potts	Mid-West Area Delegate
Peter Disney	South West Area Delegate / RNMAA Del
Bill Scott	Northern Ireland Area Delegate Alternate
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 18th February 2017.
- 4 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 18th February 2017 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 5 Communication strategy.
- 6 To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers (*Power & Silent Flight*)
- 9 To receive the following proposals:
 - a) *From ASRC, that for the purposes of Achievement Scheme tests, the BMFA National Centre at Buckminster be effectively granted 'all areas' status i.e. that the National Centre effectively resides in every BMFA Area. Please note that all Club Examiner (CE) tests must still follow the established procedure, with all requests for*

CE tests being made to the Area Co-ordinator, as at present. In accordance with the Achievement Scheme Handbook, club rights, in respect of recognising Achievement Scheme tests, are NOT affected by this proposal.

- b) *From Western Area, to increase the number of ASRC core members from the current 7 to 8. To amend the Council Handbook (Issue v8 dated Feb15) Appendix P, page 65, sub paragraph (c), to read eight elected members rather than the seven currently detailed. Other paragraphs will also need to be amended to reflect this change.*
- c) *From East Anglia Area, that the term "Club Examiner" be replaced with the term "BMFA Examiner".*

- 10 To receive reports from committees or co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.
 - a) Achievement Scheme Review Committee
- 11 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.)
- 12 To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.
- 13 Any Other Business.
Note: Items for Any Other Business must be handed to the Chairman of the Meeting **IN WRITING** before the meeting commences. This will be strictly enforced.

THE VOTING STRENGTH OF THE MEETING IS 13

MINUTES

A1179/07/17 (1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from the following:
Simon Vaitkevicius, Records Officer
Martin Dilly FSMAE London Area Delegate
Phil Durant, Western Area Delegate (Steve Kirby Alternate)
Dave Burstow Southern Area Delegate
Maurice Doyle Northern Ireland Area Delegate (Bill Scott Alternate)

A1180/07/17 (2) Request for permission to be absent.

There were no requests.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman for the meeting.

Duncan McClure was asked if he would carry out the role for this meeting due to there not being an Executive PRO, which he agreed to and this was carried unanimously.

A1181/07/17 (3) Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 18th February 2017.

Page 2

Apologies for Absence – Add Stuart Willis to list of apologies

Page 5

Fourth paragraph from the bottom, fourth bullet point – Second line, Insert “preferably” before “linked”.

Page 7

Penultimate paragraph – Replace “Honorary Secretary” with “Chairman”.

South Midland Area Delegate proposed that the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 18th February 2017 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Seconded by North East Area Delegate

Vote: For: 8

Ags: 0

Abs: 5

Carried by a majority vote.

A1182/07/17(4) Matters/Actions arising from the meeting on 18th February 2017 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

ACTION / NOTES

Page 5

- **Action Hon Sec, fifth and sixth bullet points** – Actions ongoing, see notes below:

- Honorary Secretary to help define reasons/times when the Office will inform an Area with club/flyer issues when they contact Leicester direct.

The Honorary Secretary advised that he had discussed this briefly with Andy Symons and Manny Williamson but due to the current workload incumbent on Manny and Andy this has not been progressed. *Action remains ongoing.*

HON SEC

- Honorary Secretary to seek clear guidance with regard to some of the Areas who wish to help fund National Teams.

The procedure that is already in place could do with simplifying, which is what he is looking into. *The Honorary Secretary will report back at the next meeting. Action ongoing.*

HON SEC

A1183/07/17 (5) Communication Strategy.

The Society has appointed the services of a professional PR Consultant, Paul Tallett for an initial period of six months. Paul gave a presentation at the Full Council Meeting in May. He is very focused in trying to set up a strategy for the BMFA.

The Honorary Secretary had asked Paul to prepare a précis for this meeting, of where we are in terms of progress. This was debated at length.

PR FORECAST BY PAUL TALLETT – (APPENDIX A)

Cont'd/...

Summary of discussion:

Social Media

Statistics provided in Paul's statement prove that the increased level of engagement on the BMFA Facebook page is working. In the interests of the Society we should embrace this as a means by which we can communicate with a far wider audience. So much of what we do is communicating with our audiences and every Area has their own audience but we still need to expand on this. Social media is overtaking websites but it is another means and to be used in conjunction with websites and emails. We have to accept that this is the way forward.

Website - Whatever we do as a group, the important thing is we put important information on the website and we need to get fresh information out and entice people to attend shows/ events etc. We need to agree to move forward, take the expert advice and take it forward, we need to be flexible.

In the Chairman's summing up he asked Area Delegates to report back to their committees and clubs to spread the word and work on recruiting volunteers who have the relevant knowledge, enthusiasm and social media communication skills. For our part we will endeavour to provide workshops to train people if we get sufficient support from Areas.

A1184/07/17 (6) To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers

***** **ASRC/AS Controller combined written report (APPENDIX B)**

Following on from the discussion on the last item, the Achievement Scheme has already seen benefits in relation to social media interaction. Both the Achievement Scheme website and Facebook page are proving dividends.

A query was raised in respect of procedures for de-selection of Club Instructors/Examiners. It was pointed out that there are documented disciplinary procedures in place for clubs to apply if they need to. We rely on clubs to manage this. Several Areas already successfully run Examiner & Instructor workshops, however some Areas have still not embraced this initiative. The Chairman asked Delegates to report back to their respective committees and stress the importance of running the workshops and emphasise the importance of the workshops to the clubs. The ASRC does offer its assistance to those Areas that are finding it difficult to organise and/or run these events.

The AS Controller reported that he receives a lot of enquiries from members wishing to arrange tests, particularly Silent Flight and Helicopter which is probably because we have fewer Examiners in those disciplines. This has prompted him to look in to the possibility of setting up a 'Find an Examiner' facility on the website. In the meantime he will continue to refer the enquiries to Area Co-ordinators which has worked well and he would appreciate it if Area Delegates could pass on his thanks to their respective AS Co-ordinators.

ALL AREAS

A1185/07/17 (7) To receive the following proposals:

- a) **From ASRC, that for the purposes of Achievement Scheme tests, the BMFA National Centre at Buckminster be effectively granted 'all areas' status i.e. that the National Centre effectively resides in every BMFA Area. Please note that all Club Examiner (CE) tests must still follow the established procedure, with all requests for CE tests being made to the Area Co-ordinator, as at present. In accordance with the Achievement Scheme Handbook, club rights, in respect of recognising Achievement Scheme tests, are NOT affected by this proposal.**

The AS Controller reiterated that the ethos of this proposal does not have any impact on the club rights in respect of recognising the AS tests. It is a mechanism to expedite 'A' and 'B' testing at the National Centre on an ad hoc basis.

The East Anglia Area Delegate had been asked by his Area to raise the following:

- Whether, if the proposal was accepted, if this would in some way subvert the AS Co-ordinator role and also impact on the standards issue;

- Whether it could potentially impact on the income generated for the National Centre if members were turning up just to be tested and not paying for the privilege of use of the site;

The AS Controller commented that the AS Co-ordinators have no role in administering 'B' Certificate testing and it has the potential to impact positively in generating income for the National Centre, not a negative impact.

Seconded by North West Area

Vote Carried: For 12, Abs 0, Ays 1

- b) **From Western Area, to increase the number of ASRC core members from the current 7 to 8. To amend the Council Handbook (Issue v8 dated Feb 15) Appendix P, page 65, sub paragraph (c) to read eight elected members rather than seven currently detailed. Other paragraphs will also need to be amended to reflect the change.**

Seconded by North East Area.

Following a brief debate, the consensus was that not enough thought had been given to the proposal before being submitted and was best referred to the ASRC for discussion to obtain their views.

Western Area Delegate withdrew the proposal on the proviso that it appears on the next Area Council Agenda and following discussion at the next ASRC meeting prior to the next Area Council Meeting.

Post Meeting Note: Email received 30/11/17 from Western Area Secretary advising that the Western Area wish to formally withdraw the proposal as this has been overtaken by events and is no longer required.

Cont'd/...

*Proposals
Cont'd/...* c) **From East Anglia Area, that the term “Club Examiner” be replaced with the term “BMFA Examiner”.**

Seconded by North West Area

Views were aired and the majority consensus was that there is no need for change.

Defeated by majority vote: For 3 Abs 0 Ags 10

A1186/07/17 (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 B) – abridged verbal report below:**

The ASRC Secretary advised that the full report will be circulated by email to all ACE's, ACI's and Club Examiners. He asked Area Delegates if they could, to the best of their ability, disseminate the report to the clubs in their Area.

As a spin-off of the AS Conferences held earlier in the year, the ASRC have developed a standardised one hour AS club night presentation. If any clubs would like this there is ready made material that can be downloaded from the AS website onto a memory stick. The idea is that one or two members of the ASRC would come along and deliver the presentation. It would be appreciated if Delegates could circulate this information to clubs in their Area.

The ASRC, also as a result of the AS Conferences, have developed an Action Plan which is basically 'to do' list. Anyone interested in following the progress of ASRC can access this through the AS website. To support and run alongside the Action Plan the ASRC have developed a Communications Strategy to enable a consistent approach in the way we communicate with the members and press alike.

The BPC test form is available on the BMFA/AS websites as a free download. Hopefully all test forms will be available for download soon.

The ASRC are keeping a watching brief on the advances within the sport, notably those applied to drones and the use of GPs.

A1187/07/17 (9) To receive reports from Area Committees.

Western Area (Verbal Report)

They have held one Examiner Workshop so far which was very successful with just under thirty attendees. Another one is scheduled for September and they are hoping to focus on multi-rotor flying.

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

It's been reasonably quiet over the last few months. The Area is pleased to welcome Terry Moore as an Area Chief Examiner for the Midland Area. They continue to provide financial assistance to several Clubs in the Area. The Midland Area Secretary, Alf Tunnicliffe is currently awaiting a hip operation and conveys his thanks to Steve Mason for representing the Area at various meetings.

Cont'd/...

***** **South East Area – Written Report (APPENDIX D)**

The South East Area Facebook page is working very well. A case in instance is that the Area were contacted via the Facebook page by a club that had members who wanted to take the multi-rotor achievement test, which the Area duly arranged and tests conducted and passed.

***** **Mid-West Area – Written Report (APPENDIX E)**

The Area continue to communicate and grow via the Facebook group. Facebook came into play when the Area needed to cancel workshops due to inclement weather conditions. The website set up by Andy Symons is working well and prompting clubs in the Area to take up the offer of utilising the BMFA web hosting and skills.

The Area meetings are still being venue rotated which seems to be working well.

Hopefully we can all learn from the success of the Mid-West Area making use of social media combined with the Area website and pass it on. We can discuss it in more detail at the November Area Council meeting.

***** **East Anglia Area – Written Report (APPENDIX F)**

Attendance at Area Meetings still fluctuates. In the past the Area has tried rotating the meeting location but attendance was even less.

Activities include:

Running Free Flight competitions at MOD Sculthorpe;

Arranging Examiner Workshops;

Organising aerobatic teach-ins, called Clubman Events, the idea being to provide ordinary club pilots to learn how to fly aerobatic manoeuvres properly with the help and guidance of an experienced aerobatic pilot;

Organise a New (to aerobatic) Pilot Open Day (NPOD) in conjunction with GBR/CAA. The objective is to encourage newcomers to precision aerobatics to have a go at finding out what flying in competition is like;

Arrange club visits within the Area to promote what the Area does in the hope of encouraging more participation by club members.

The migration of the East Anglia Area website, with considerable help from the Club Support Officer, to the new look 'Corporate Area website' template has been completed.

The Chairman had the pleasure of attending the Clubman Event and praised the exceptional organisation and welcome he received. It was an excellent day and he urged Areas to contact the East Anglia Area for advice if they are considering organising events.

***** **South West Area (Cornwall & Devon Sub-Areas) - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX G)**

Northern Area – (Verbal Report)

They now have an active website and Facebook page. Area meetings are generally still well attended. Looking at options of whether. They plan to organise club visits to promote the Area.

A great deal of effort was expended organising a two-day fly-in. It will take place at Pontefract Racecourse on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd July. All welcome to attend. They organised an Achievement Scheme road show and an Examiner Workshop with another workshop planned for later in the year.

They hold regular indoor flying sessions on Saturday afternoons and at RAF Dishforth on Sundays. They applied for a multi-discipline (Control Line and Fixed Wing) Licence to use RAF Dishforth but it got rejected, which is why Sundays at RAF Dishforth are restricted to R/C only. It was suggested the Area provide the Club Support Officer with the documents relating to the application and he will look into it.

The Area Secretary will be standing down and so far they do not have a replacement.

North West Area – (Verbal Report)

North West Area ran the Eddie Riding Scale Free Flight Trophy event at RAF Woodvale which ended about five years ago due to the loss of use of RAF Woodvale. Scale Technical Committee have asked if they could run it at the August Nationals because Scale Free Flight has moved to the Free Flight Nationals that takes place in May each year which leaves a gap at the R/C Nationals.

Unfortunately, it is too late to organise for this year and there is some uncertainty as to the Nationals being held in 2018 at RAF Barkston Heath. It was suggested that providing the Area agrees at the next Area meeting, they run it in 2019. It was suggested the Area could make use of the National Centre to hold the Eddie Riding Event in 2018.

North East Area – Written Report (APPENDIX H)

Pleased to report that the breakdown in communication with Albemarle Barracks has now been resolved.

Northern Ireland Area - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX I)

The Area have approximately 400 members in 26 clubs and attendance at Area meetings is on average around 15 clubs. The average age of club members is steadily increasing and there are very few juniors. There is a small cadre of FPV multi rotor racers that are considerably younger and some are dabbling in more traditional forms of aeromodelling.

They are hoping to recruit more juniors since assisting ATC Groups in the Area with their aeromodelling elements of their activities.

The same familiar volunteers continue to assist on the Area stand at various events. It is very difficult to recruit new volunteers. They continue to hand out Drone Aware information, which is very well received and generates lots of questions.

Most of the members in the Area belong to clubs and are purely sport flyers. The more competitive adventurous flyers tend to be in the minority of disciplines of Free Flight, C/L and Gliding with a few aerobatic and helicopter flyers.

Cont'd/...

NI Area
Report
Cont'd/...

They held an Achievement Day offering members the opportunity to either be tested or practice under scrutiny of the Examiners. Successful tests included one 'B' and 'C' in Fixed Wing, Helicopter 'A' and 'B' and a Club Examiner.

They chose a central location to hold their meeting which meant equal travelling time of approximately one hour, except for very local clubs. Meetings are generally well attended.

RAFMAA Area – Written Report (APPENDIX J)

Worthy of note is that RAFMAA members, Messrs Tricker and Barker have been selected as Team Members to compete at the 2017 Control Line European Championships being held in Hungary in August.

Also worthy of note is that membership within RAFMAA has remained stable and there has been no safety related incidents brought to the Committee's attention. RAFMAA's strategic ambition remains to have over 50% of its members with 'A' or 'BPC' certificates and over 20% of its members with 'B' certificates or higher by 2020. The former has already been achieved and it is hoped that this will encourage the latter. They are hoping to recruit from within, another Fixed Wing and Helicopter Examiner. This will give more flexibility due to duty commitments and allow for multi-rotor 'B' testing.

South Midland Area (Verbal Report)

They currently only continue to achieve one-quarter to one-third of club attendance at Area meetings. The suggestion of rotating venues was not popular with current attendees.

The Examiner/Instructor work shop usually held in the Spring was not held as the Area AS Co-ordinator had other commitments however, there are two planned for the Autumn.

The Area has provided financial assistance for a few Area competitions, mostly Control Line.

All of the Committee posts are filled except for the PRO. The Chairman commented that whilst that post is not disappearing from Areas it is one that is likely to be a shared role by other members of the Committee with the use of social media and Area websites as a means of communication and he believes this is the way forward.

A1188/07/17 (10) To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.

Club Support Officer (Verbal Report)

The Club Support Officer reported that it has been a rather busy period and a great deal of his time has been spent attending shows helping on the BMFA stand and assisting with the delivery and collection of the BMFA simulator trailer which is hired out to Clubs and Areas.

For those Areas yet to move forward with a website, the CSO urged them to get in touch, especially if they have any concerns or are reluctant for any reason.

He would like to be able to report back to the Executive Committee about the feelings within this Committee because it is important to provide feedback to the PR Consultant in terms of moving forward.

Cont'd/...

He urged Areas to discuss the matter at their next meeting and get back to him as soon as they can.

**ALL
AREAS**

Honorary Secretary (Verbal Report)

He does try to read all reports and follow threads on Facebook and websites. He has very positive vibes and hopefully everyone feels these meetings are productive. He is grateful of the efforts the Areas have put in so far and urged them to keep up the good work.

He will be submitting a nomination for the Honorary Secretary post for the forthcoming election process.

He attended Free Flight Nationals and the East Anglia Area Clubman event. He will do his best to attend the Power Nationals but it looks unlikely.

A1189/07/17 (11) Any Other Business.

East Anglia Area – The East Anglia Area Delegate asked for an update on the production and distribution of the new edition of the BMFA Handbook. The Office Manager reported that the BMFA Handbook will be distributed to members with either the October issue or December issue of the BMFA News magazine.

Club Support Officer – He is short of copy to publish in the Club Corner column in the BMFA News magazine and asked Areas if they could report back to Clubs. Anything club related is usually very well received.

Tom Jones, NE Area Delegate – The Area Discussion Group that he was tasked to set up for inclusion in the BMFA News is not moving forward as he had hoped. It is evolving slowly. It might be prudent to obtain more guidance from the PR Consultant before we take it any further.

The Chairman and Andy Symons will liaise with Paul and update Areas.

**CHAIRMAN
ANDY
SYMONS**

A1190/07/17 (12) Date of next meeting.

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for **Saturday 4th November 2017** at BMFA, Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrew's Road, Leicester LE2 8RE.

Post Meeting Note: *The meeting scheduled for Saturday 4th November 2017 was cancelled.*

The Honorary Secretary closed the meeting at 3.25pm.

Communication

Below are my findings so far, relating to communication from both the BMFA and its regions. Hopefully this gives an insight in to work currently underway, areas discussed with future action points, and recommendations of improvements within this area of the PR strategy.

Email

As previously mentioned, I see this as the backbone to communication going forwards. I have met with Dave, Andy, and Manny to discuss the current situation, and possible solutions.

This is a large task and not one to be undertaken lightly, hence we concluded the project must be done once, and done correctly. I would like to see a system, whereby the BMFA can communicate with all of its members, from one email sent.

Ideally, a second system could also be set up that communicates on a regional level. From a template that comes from head office, this can then be adjusted and forwarded out from each region admin to their clubs. This isn't a priority and would only be tackled once the first system is in place and working satisfactorily.

Because of the complexity, it was concluded that this project should be tackled after the next renewal window in early 2018 to give us the chance to gather the correct data.

Social Media

If you cast your mind back to the presentation I gave at the Council Meeting in May, our then Facebook page offering was, PER MONTH, reaching 1,768 people, with a total reach of 1,794, and an engagement figure of 140.

This has now grown.

PER WEEK it is reaching 9,554, with a total reach of 10,089, and is engaging with 1,396 people.

We have also seen an 11% uplift in following numbers.

Please note the initial figures were per month, the new figures are per week. Quite an increase I think you'll agree.

Our Facebook page still has lots to give, I have many ideas of ways to progress it further, but overall, I feel this well underway to maturity.

One area I would like to address is how the different region's own Facebook pages interact with the main one. I would like to see a policy adopted, that when a region posts, admins of the main page are tagged in, thereby being notified of the post, allowing them to replicate the message to the best possible audience.

Websites

Again, in a meeting with Dave, Andy, and Manny, we discussed the main website, along with the area sites. I expressed how I would like to see uniformity across all sites. We discussed the pros and cons, as well as any technical issues that may need to be overcome to achieve this.

Much like the email system, it won't be an easy undertaking. We have a desire to lift the BMFA's profile, this means showing a united front from our online offering.

My biggest concern would not be the setting up of the sites, but the maintenance of them. If we are to make them of interest to members, as well as relevant to Google rankings, they need to be updated and maintained.

WWW.PROGRESSIONMARKETING.CO.UK

**Achievement Scheme Review Committee
Report to Areas Council Meeting
8th July 2017**

The ASRC has three times so far in 2017, in February, April and an informal meeting in June at the National Centre. A provisional date of 4th November has been agreed for the important task of reviewing all Achievement Scheme materials for 2018.

Key developments within the period include:-

- The two one day Achievement Scheme Conferences planned for earlier in the year have taken place. Both events were very well attended and a large volume of very positive feedback has been received from both events. The committee are pleased that the overriding sentiment from these events was a real sense of 'All in it together' rather than a 'them and us', which is excellent.
As a result of the success of these conferences, a **third** event is being planned for **October**, at the **National Centre**. Use of the **National Centre** for other Achievement Scheme events, such as Examiner / Instructor Workshops and perhaps training days etc. is also under consideration.
A spin-off of the events has been the development of a standardised ASRC club night presentation.
- One of the outcomes of the conferences has been the establishment of an ASRC Action Plan. This is essentially an internal tool to ensure that all questions and enquiries relevant to the Scheme are responded to accordingly. Where appropriate, committee members will take ownership of a query and see it through to close out. This will be a living document going forward, and hence will provide a long term record of the work undertaken by the committee.
- In addition, to support and run alongside the Action Plan, an ASRC Communications Strategy has been developed. The aim of this is to aid both understanding and promotion of the scheme and help to ensure consistency with any broader BMFA PR initiatives. Regular contact has been established with Paul Tallett, the new BMFA PRO, and a regular Achievement Scheme presence in the BMFA News has been initiated, with a number of articles identified for inclusion in the remainder of the issues planned for 2017.
- Following the success of the introduction of a downloadable test form for the Basic Proficiency Certificates, it has been agreed that all Scheme test forms will be modified to a similar format, so that for 2018 onwards, all test forms will be available for examiners to download.
- Another notable outcome of the conferences has been the establishment of an Achievement Scheme Facebook page. This has already proven to be extremely popular with members and has produced some very useful discussions. The membership is controlled and moderated by the Club Support Officer, the Hon. Sec. and the Scheme Controller and to date general behaviour has been excellent. Members are warned when they join that any abusive and or inappropriate behaviour will result in their removal from the Group!

- Following the success of the Multi-Rotor Guidance video, which stimulated a significant volume of positive feedback, work has started on the development of similar guidance for the FW 'A' certificate and some filming has already taken place. Importantly, the video will feature more than just flying, with discussion or 'banter' elements being used to cover certain aspects, for example positioning between manoeuvres. It is also planned to use animation and or diagrams within the guidance, particularly to help illustrate the shape and positioning of manoeuvres.
- The committee has recognised the necessity to continually monitor technical advances within the sport, notably those applied to drones and the use of GPS. Consideration of any relevant technical developments will be an important element of the November review of scheme materials for 2018.
- Although not directly related to the Achievement Scheme, the Committee continues to monitor developments with the EASA 'Prototype Rules' and liaises with the CEO on such matters, as appropriate.
- The Committee has identified two important operational changes that it wishes to present to Areas Council for consideration. The first of these is on today's agenda for formal consideration, whilst the second will be presented at some later date, when more details for the new membership database are available.
 - a) A proposal to permit, primarily for the purposes of **'B' Certificate testing only**, that all Area Chief Examiners be able to operate as an ACE i.e. able to conduct a 'B' test without another examiner, when conducting any testing at the **National Centre**. Under normal circumstances, an ACE only enjoys Club Examiner rights when operating outside of their area, so this proposal would effectively give the NC site a special 'all areas' status. The reasoning behind this is to simplify and expedite testing at the NC.
 - b) The current club Registered Instructor re-ratification process is causing unnecessary paperwork for the office, primarily as a result of Clubs making changes to their Registered Instructors at the beginning of each year, which then requires the re-issue of a significant volume of associated membership cards. As a result, the committee is suggesting that a solution could be to keep Registered Instructors under club control, but that this would no longer be logged on the individual membership cards. As a substitute, clubs would be provided with an electronic template to enable them to independently generate their own Registered Instructor Certificates for their members, as appropriate. All of this will need to be consistent with and dependent on developments with any new database system at the Leicester office. The arrangements for Approved Instructors, Qualified Instructors and Area Chief Instructors would remain unchanged.

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

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
MIDLAND AREA
REPORT FOR AREA COUNCIL MEETING Saturday, 8th July 2017**

Things have been relatively quiet over the last few months with no specific issues from Area Clubs.

We are pleased to welcome Terry Moore to our Achievement Scheme as an area Chief Examiner. He is the current contact for Heart of England Aeromodellers in the Worcestershire district and is very keen to carry out his duties where they are most effective.

We have provided, from our area ongoing funds, financial assistance to Greenacres Club in Sutton Coldfield and Mansfield Club in North Notts following their requests for assistance with the cost of providing toilets at their public displays where publicity is given to the public regarding the activities of the BMFA and future membership possibilities.

On a personal basis I have been obliged to restrict my activities due to the dismemberment of my steel hip and a subsequent delay of 7 months for a repair!!!!

Hopefully this will be sorted out shortly to enable me to get back to full speed again.

Thanks go to Steve Mason for providing personal representation of our area at various meetings and for performing his usual ASC business.

Alf Tunncliffe Secretary
John Day Chair
Midland Area

South East Area Report July 2017

The start of 2017 has not been good for the South-East Area. The annual indoor competition at the K2 leisure Centre in Crawley has made a loss of over £300 mainly due to the increase in the cost of hiring the hall. This was caused by them insisting on us paying for the hall for a full 12 hours, not just the 8 we have had in previous years. We will only be using two thirds of the hall for 2018 to see if it makes the competition more financially viable, but this may raise issues with the reduced flying area. We tried to run a scale fly-in, but had to cancel it due to the lack of people registering for the event. We have re-scheduled it for September to see if we have more luck.

The area ran an Examiners Workshop in June. We only had 32 replies to over 100 invites that were sent out to examiners in the area; 16 saying they were unable to attend, 16 booking places at the workshop on the day, but only 7 turned up. The area has now run three workshops and it appears that the same few people have attended all three. This has raised the question of whether club committees are ratifying their club examiners because it's what they have always done, and just because the person likes the status of "examiner", not because they are active responsible examiners.

The area pays for a flying licence on Ashdown Forest. This licence has very strict dates, times and locations for when flying can take place, to fit in with other users of the forest, but it appears that flyers are flouting the conditions of the licence, despite contacting all the clubs in the area and pointing out what can and can't be done. If this continues there is a chance we could lose the use of the forest.

To finish on a more positive note. The area was contacted via its Facebook page by a club that had members who wanted to take the Multi-Rotor achievement test. We put a Helicopter Examiner in touch with the club and he duly visited the club and took 3 tests 2 "A" and a "BPC" and all 3 candidates passed.

Stuart Willis
South East Area Chairman and Area Delegate.

Mid West Report - July 8th 2017

We have held a couple meetings, although we continue to communicate and grow via the Facebook group. The Website that Andy Symonds set up is working well and prompting clubs in the area to take up the offer of utilising the BMFA web hosting and skills..

Throughout the year we intended running 4 workshops alongside area Fly In events to maximise participants to both events. Unfortunately the first 2 were rained off, but there are two left and we are hopefully going to get some promises good weather..

The meetings are still being venue rotated, which seems to be working well, offering a chance to meet up in a different sector of the Mid West Area..

Andrew Potts
Mid West Area delegate

RATIFIED

EAST ANGLIA AREA REPORT TO AREAS COUNCIL – 8TH JULY 2017

Attendance at the East Anglia Area Committee meetings has fluctuated so far this year. We had 11 members attend the May meeting but dropped back to 6 for the June meeting. We continue to try and encourage attendance but the cry from the Clubs that are not close to the meeting location is that they cannot afford the time to travel to these meetings. Some Clubs have suggested that meeting location is rotated around the Area but when this has been tried in the past attendance has been even less than we currently “enjoy”!

On the activity front, we can report the following:

- We run approximately 8 Free Flight competitions at MoD Sculthorpe. Our Secretary is to be commended for his long standing relationship with the MoD Range allocation staff to ensure that we continue to enjoy access to this facility. However, the fact that Stone Curlews nest on the airfield means that the RSPCA has final say on whether, and where on the airfield, these activities may continue!
- We have held 2 Examiners Workshops every year for the past 3 years. Average attendance per workshop has varied between 25 to 30. So far this year, we have held one Examiners Workshop in May with a second planned for later on in the year. Despite the weather being extremely cold for May, we had 16 Examiners/Instructors/Candidates attend. A good half dozen cried off on the day before the event which was a bit disappointing. Our experience has been that the vast majority of attendees leave feeling that the workshop was a great success and that they learned a lot about what the test standards should be. It has also flagged up the fact that many BMFA members seem unaware of the Test Guidance documents and of the more recent changes to the Achievement Scheme e.g. the BPC. This despite much publicity from in BMFA News as well as that published by our Area to all Club Secretaries. This is a rather disappointing state of affairs.
- We planned to hold 4 aerobatic teach-ins, called Clubman Events this year. The idea is to provide ordinary club pilots to learn how to fly aerobatic manoeuvres properly with the help and guidance of an experienced aerobatic pilot. Unfortunately, the first event in early May had to be called off due to strong winds. The next 2 were blessed with excellent weather conditions. The event at the Harlow Club drew an entry of 11 (one dropped out on the day) while the event at the South Norfolk Club drew the full 12 entries. The BMFA Hon Sec was a very welcome visitor to this event. The 4th Clubman Event is planned for August at the Tendring MFC. Feedback from participants has been that they have learned a lot of useful techniques which some intend to use to raise their flying skills further.
- We are also planning to run a New (to aerobatics) Pilot Open Day (NPOD) at the Bury MFC site in September. This is done in conjunction with the GBR/CAA. The objective is to encourage new comers to precision aerobatics to have a go at finding out what flying in competition is like. The Clubman Events are intended as a primer for those who might become interested in attending the NPOD. We provide mentors who currently fly in GBR/CAA Competitions and after three rounds of training we encourage participants to fly in a one round competition. This will be the 5th NPOD the Area has arranged and, like the Clubman Events, has had excellent feedback from participants. This year, there is a GBR/CAA competition scheduled for the beginning of October at MoD Sculthorpe and we are encouraging participants from both the Clubman and the NPOD Events to enter this competition. A total of 6 pilots who attended our NPODs have gone on to fly in GBR/CAA competitions which is an excellent return on the effort of those involved.
- We have also offered to go out to Clubs to talk about what the Area does in the hope that we can encourage more participation by Club members. We will also take the opportunity to speak about the Achievement Scheme and how the Area can help in ensuring that standards are both identified and maintained for the various AS tests. To date, we have had 2 Clubs take up this offer and we hope that based on the success of these talks that more Clubs will decide to extend an invitation to the Area officers.
- With considerable help from the Club Support Officer, the migration of the East Anglia Area website to the new look “corporate Area website” template has been completed. We are still in the process of putting information onto the site. All Area Clubs have been given the URL and asked to circulate it to their members. All have been encouraged to consider using the website to advertise any events and to encourage their members to subscribe to the site. We have published reports on the Examiners Workshop and the Harlow Clubman Event on the website. We are in the process of providing one of our Control Line Clubs to put a short report, with pictures, on their activities.

Peter Jenkins
East Anglia Area Delegate
2017

6th July

South West (Cornwall and Devon Sub-Areas) Report

A very quiet first six months of the year: things are ticking along steadily and I have not been made aware of anything significant to report.

Peter Disney

South West (Cornwall and Devon Sub-Areas) Delegate

6 Jul 17

RATIFIED

NORTH EASTERN AREA DELEGATES
REPORT TO AREA COUNCIL JULY 2017.

The North-Eastern Area continues to meet the first Wednesday of every month, with an average of 16 clubs represented and 5 or 6 observers, the Area continues to have good relations with our local airfield, Albemarle. Recently we have experienced some issues with access to the Airfield, mainly due to poor communications within Albemarle, our airfield liaison Terry Bailey FSMAE had a meeting with them and resolved this, leaving with the impression that they are very happy to have us on their site.

The Area has supported Teesside Model Flying Club both with their annual Airshow by covering the cost of the toilets required to run a very successful show, and by providing some financial aid to them replenishing their training equipment.

The North-Eastern Area has a small number of dedicated pilots competing in R/C and Free Flight competitions.

Thomas Jones
North Eastern Area Delegate

Area 13 (Northern Ireland) Report: 8/7/17

Approx 400 members in 26 clubs throughout Northern Ireland. Area meetings attended by an average of 15 clubs with some sending more than one person. Quarterly meetings with the Winter meeting being our AGM.

Unfortunately our average age is steadily increasing and there are very few juniors in the clubs, those there are tend to be related to another member. There is a small cadre of FPV multirotor racers that are considerably younger and some of these are also dabbling in more traditional forms of aeromodelling. Recently we've been working with some ATC groups, notably 72 Squadron (Omagh), to help them with their aeromodelling elements. This may be a more fruitful area to recruit juniors as there is already an aviation interest. In 2017, the Area has attended 4 public facing events, (all static). These are manned by the same people all the time, as it is very difficult to get others to help. The Drone Aware information has been going down very well, with lots of questions being asked and answered. Some of our members even carry leaflets in their cars for when they see an unknown "Drone" flyer.

Most of our members are club flyers are purely sport flyers and rarely venture far from their own clubs. The more competitive adventurous flyers tend to be in the minority disciplines of free flight, C/L and Gliding with a few aerobatic & helicopter flyers. At the Causeway Coast Club recently we held an Achievement Day, with flyers taking the chance to either take the test or practice under the scrutiny of our examiners. On the day we had a B & C pass in fixed wing, an A & B Helicopter and an examiners pass.

Bill Scott
Vice Chairman
NIAA (Area 13)

AREA 14 (RAFMAA) REPORT 8 JULY 2017

Our year starts in August after our Main Championships/Annual Fly-In at the end of July. Last year we were pleased to have the BMFA Scale Championships running alongside our events at RAF Honington.

In January and February this year, we held two Indoor events at RAF Wyton and RAF Digby. Both went well and hope to increase our 'Winter' Indoor events in our next season.

Both Chief Examiners managed to get to the ASRC workshops at Brighouse and Royal Wootton Bassett; unfortunately, our Club Examiner was unavailable for both dates due to duty commitments.

In April, we supported the RAF Digby 'Vintage Day' and were well supported by the BMFA with Dave Phipps bringing the simulator trailer along. These events are a good showcase for our Association and married with the BMFA gives excellent exposure of our sport to a wider audience; it also payback for us to support the Stations that have supported us over the years. We were fortunate, the weather was excellent and we had a lot of interest during the day. The simulators were busy all day.

We have a small but enthusiastic group of 'drone' pilots who fly and compete at events whenever they can. Cpl Marc Booth took third place in round 2 of the iSeries league. Chief Technician Brian Barrett is also a main driver for this ever-growing discipline; it is an area which we are keen to promote and support within RAFMAA and we are giving significant investment to develop this new area of our sport in order to attract new members and invest in our sport and future.

In May, we had our 'Slope 2' event; this was held on the slopes of Wiltshire. This is always a popular area for our members to fly their 'slopers'. Although the weather was mixed we did manage a Zagi 'Fun Fly' event which, will be recorded as a competition for our annual championships. We always strive to conduct an aerobatic competition, pylon race and cross country however, all are weather dependant.

June saw us having our annual Thermal competition at RAF Digby. The turnout was smaller than expected considering the blistering conditions of the weekend. We had half a dozen competitors who recorded times to go towards our Championship competitions. The thrust, excuse the pun, was a simple 'Electroslot' competition. You have a 12 minute flight time up to 40 seconds of which is powered. As the weather was very hot there were plenty of thermals to choose from. However, your aircraft had to be down by the 12 minute mark or you accrue penalties; it was a shame to leave those thermals behind.

After the F2C World Championships in Australia last year; our intrepid 'Circle of friends' in the Control Line fraternity, in the guise of Tricker/Barker have been selected go to Hungary this August to compete in the European Championships. A dedicated and hard-working duo in this discipline, we are hoping they have greater success this time.

June also saw us at Wings and Wheels. We had our RAFMAA gazebo with some of our members making our presence felt; all good publicity for us and the sport overall.

In the June 2017 edition of RCM&E we were pleased to see an excellent article about our Annual Championships and Fly-in 2016 published; Cpl Ashley Keates, our PRO, was the author and photographer.

That brings us up-to-date ready for a frantic five days Annual Championships at the end of this month at RAF Honington. These will encompass, RAFMAA Fun Fly, Pattern Aerobatics, Freestyle Aerobatics, RC Scale, Electroslot, Control Line 'Speed' (using mini-Goodyear racers), Free Flight Scramble plus an off the peg line for those who want a more relaxed flying event and Indoor flying if the weather does not play ball. We will also have our 'Training Day' to coach members for their certificates and take their exams as necessary. This will culminate in our AGM then we start all over again in September with 'Slope 1'.

Our membership has been broadly stable over the year and there has been no safety related incidents brought to the committee's attention. Service life encourages Servicemen to continually push and further themselves. RAFMAA is no different and, from next year, will offer membership discounts to those members that have passed an Achievement Scheme examination within the preceding 5 years. RAFMAA's strategic ambition remains to have over 50% of its members with A or BPC certificates and over 20% of its members with B certificates or higher by 2020. The former has already been achieved and it is hoped that this will encourage the latter. An additional anticipated benefit is that this will encourage members who already possess, say, B Certificates, to actively maintain their flying ability and knowledge. Additionally, we want to recruit from within, another Fixed-Wing Examiner and a Helicopter Examiner. This will give us more flexibility due to duty commitments and allow us to conduct multi-rotor 'B' certificates.