

MINUTES

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on the 13th October 2018 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
Paul Hoey	East Anglia Area Delegate
Martin Dilly FSMAE	London Area Delegate
Martin Lynn	Northern Area Delegate
Martyn Kinder	North-West Area Delegate
Richard Whitehead	South Midland Area Delegate Alternate
Stuart Willis	South East Area Delegate
Andrew Potts	Mid-West Area Delegate
David Smith	Southern Area Delegate
Maurice Doyle	Northern Ireland Area Delegate
Ian Nelson BEM	RAFMAA Area Delegate

Guests

Mike Woodhouse FSMAE	FFTC Representative
Mike Colling FSMAE	Indoor TC Representative

In Attendance

Linda Harding	Minute Taker/Office Manager
Andy Symons	Club Support Officer

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 17th February 2018.
- 4 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 17th February 2018 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 5 To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.
 - a) Power
 - b) Silent Flight

- 6 Discussion items:
- a) Area involvement in administering and co-ordinating Area events and contests (indoor and outdoor). The topic to be discussed to consider whether Areas are able to continue running Area Contests and Events. (Area Council Chairman)
 - b) Publication of Area-related copy in BMFA News magazine. (Southern Area)
 - c) Circulation of updated club lists to Areas. These lists are currently not available to Area Secretaries until half the membership year has elapsed, so it would be useful to find a mechanism to circulate them much earlier. (Southern Area)
 - d) Introducing Safety Review to Areas Council.
- 7 To receive reports from committees or co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.
- a) Achievement Scheme Review Committee
 - b) University Payload Challenge
 - c) Education
- 8 To receive reports from Area Committees.
- 9 To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.
- a) Update on the new online membership system.
- 10 To confirm dates of Areas Council meetings 2019.
- 11 Any Other Business.

THE VOTING STRENGTH OF THE MEETING IS 11

MINUTES

A1205/10/18 (1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from the following:
 Simon Vaitkevicius Records Officer; Steve Mason Midland Area Delegate; Tom Jones North East Area Delegate; Duncan McClure South Midland Area Delegate and AS Controller; Phil Durant Western Area Delegate; Peter Disney, South West Area and RNMAA Delegate.

A1206/10/18 (2) Request for permission to be absent.

There were no requests.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman

David Smith was appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Meeting.

A1207/10/18 (3) Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 17th February 2018.

There were no corrections.

Mid-West Area Delegate proposed that the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 17th February 2018 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Seconded by South East Area
Carried by 9 votes in favour and 2 abstentions.

A1208/10/18 (4) Matters/Actions arising from the meeting on 17th February 2018 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

ACTION / NOTES

Page 4 – funding for ASRC video – The Chairman recorded his thanks to those Areas that made contributions towards funding for making the Achievement Scheme video.

The Chairman requested a regular update from Duncan McClure AS Controller as to how filming is progressing.

**RCP/SF
ASC**

Page 5 – PR Report – Martin Dilly FSMAE, London Area Delegate queried why we were selling t-shirts with the image of a Spitfire on the front, which he saw a picture of in the latest issue of the BMFA News magazine and wondered what the significance of a Spitfire had in relation to model flying.

He was advised that as a PR initiative our PR Consultant Paul Tallett has introduced a new range of t-shirts of varying designs for sale, which can be ordered through the BMFA office by calling Linda Harding, Office Manager. The BMFA benefits from a small percentage of any sales.

This concluded Matters Arising.

A1209/10/18 (5) To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.

Refer to written report (APPENDIX A)

The Chairman recorded his thanks to the AS Controller for providing a report. He is out of the country at present. The Chairman commented that he believes the Achievement Scheme is developing well. In terms of PR the ASRC are working on filming training videos for 'A' and 'B' testing, which is a very positive step.

There are concerns within the East Anglia Area in relation to the standard of examination and consistency of assessments. The Chairman commented that the whole point of what the ASRC are trying to achieve is to spread consistency. He advised that if anyone has a specific issue locally, the best course of action is to request an invitation to attend one of the ASRC meetings to discuss the matter further.

Within the London Area questions have been raised as to why the scheme is free, even to non-members. The Chairman commented that the whole ethos of the Achievement Scheme is about improving standards and safety of model flying and this has a major impact when it comes to negotiating our annual insurance premium.

A1210/10/18 (6) Discussion items:

Items a), c) below were discussed at length.

- a) **Area involvement in administering and co-ordinating Area events and contest (indoor and outdoor). The topic to be discussed to consider whether Areas are able to continue running Area Contests and Events.**
- b) **Circulation of updated club lists to Areas. These lists are currently not available to Area Secretaries until half the membership year has elapsed, so it would be useful to find a mechanism to circulate them much earlier.**

In summary:

We have the mechanism now with the introduction of the membership portal to improve communication between Areas and Clubs. It is also important that we use the multiple platforms available to us to reach out to members, including social media.

The meeting supported the initiative to produce and circulate on a regular basis an electronic 'Members News' information publication. It needs to headline items such as forthcoming events/ achievement scheme news/ Area news/ organisation news etc with direct links to the relevant articles, including lots of pictures.

Areas will be responsible for submitting their own contributions. The return path for comments and enquiries will be directed back to the respective Areas. The concept is to attract more members and engage better with them but educate them at the same time so that they have a better idea of the structure of their governing body and acknowledge the importance of the work that the Areas do for the Association.

ALL AREAS

- b) **Publication of Area-related copy in BMFA News magazine.**

The Southern Area Delegate explained that the primary problem is the lack of communication and feedback from the BMFA News magazine Editor. The Chairman took an action to speak with the Editor and ask for a protocol of how to submit articles and how he communicates. The Chairman will provide Areas with the feedback at the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN

- d) **Introducing Safety Review to Areas Council.**

At the last Safety Review the SRC Chairman, Peter Halman FSMAE had observed that the majority of model flying related incidents occurred at club levels rather than competition. It therefore seemed more appropriate for the Safety Review Committee to have representation from Clubs/Areas rather than from Technical Committees.

A 'Safety' item will appear as a regular agenda item for future Area Council meetings however it is yet to be determined what exactly we will cover under this item which the Area Council Chairman will ascertain from Manny Williamson and Peter Halman FSMAE.

CHAIRMAN

The Chairman had been provided with a list of third party and personal accident claims which he read out (without personal details) to highlight the nature of typical claims.

Cont'd./...

Discussion
items
cont'd/...

Update on the new online membership system.

During lunch recess Andy Symons, assisted by Stuart Willis provided a comprehensive overview of the new online membership system through access to the Go Membership portal. All were extremely enthused by the implementation and prospects.

The Chairman recorded his thanks to Andy, Stuart and Helen Feaver Membership Secretary for their valuable input during the induction process.

A1211/10/18 (7) To receive reports from committees or co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.

a) Achievement Scheme Review Committee (ASRC)

******* Refer to written report (APPENDIX B)**

Richard Whitehead South Midland Area Delegate Alternate is also a member of the ASRC. He advised that several hours of filming for the test guidance videos had already taken place but there is still a lot more work to be done in both editing and adding graphics to complete the videos. The Chairman reiterated his thanks to those Areas that contributed to funding the making of the video.

b) University Payload Challenge

A meeting was held to review and update rules and procedures for the event. The invitation notice will be sent out as soon as updates are finalised. The East Anglia Area Delegate commented that he had seen the video footage of the Payload Challenge held earlier in the year and it is excellent.

c) Education

Mike Colling FSMAE the Education Manager referred the meeting to the report he submitted for the Society's AGM in November and he had nothing else to report.

The South East Area Delegate commented that he is involved in organising and attending education workshops and the feedback is that there is a requirement for kits that require more building skill such as a drone. Mike Colling FSMAE responded that it is very difficult to find the right balance for producing kits of varying skill levels at an affordable price. The idea of producing the gyminnie and frog kits etc. following on from the dart was exactly for that reason. It is a perennial problem and whilst he agrees, unfortunately we do not have the resources or contacts. We are now on board with various organisations such as SkillForce (a National Education Charity) and the Scout Association, thanks to the efforts of Paul Tallett our PR Consultant. Hopefully we will benefit from this in the future in terms of reaching out to the younger generation.

The Club Support Officer commented that he believes our Education Programme needs a major overhaul. It is very outdated and not really in line with the schools' curriculum.

A1212/10/18 (8) To receive reports from Area Committees.

***** **East Anglia – Refer to written report (APPENDIX C)**

***** **South East – Refer to written report (APPENDIX D)**

***** **Mid-West – Refer to written report (APPENDIX E)**

***** **North West – Refer to written report (APPENDIX F)**

***** **Southern – Refer to written report (APPENDIX G)**

***** **RAFMAA – Refer to written report (APPENDIX H)**

***** **Northern Ireland – Refer to written report (APPENDIX I)**

The Northern Ireland Area Delegate specifically highlighted reference made in his report that some of the Clubs in Northern Ireland Area advertise in farmers journals and thought it was worth mentioning in case other Areas are interested in doing the same.

***** **Northern – Refer to written report (APPENDIX J)**

***** **South Midland – Refer to written report (APPENDIX K)**

***** **London – Refer to written report (APPENDIX L)**

The London Area Delegate added that the BMFA will be having a stand at the Model Engineer Exhibition at Alexandra Palace and any offers of help with setting up and manning the simulator will be gratefully accepted. The dates are January 17th for set up and 18th – 20th for the show.

***** **Midland Area – Refer to written report (APPENDIX M)**

***** **RNMAA / South West Area – Refer to written reports.
(APPENDICES N & O)**

The Chairman thanked Areas for submitting their reports, all of which he had read with interest. The aim of this meeting is to provide support to Areas which we endeavour to achieve.

A1213/10/18 (9) To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.

Club Support Officer

Clubs have been provided with the relevant GDPR guidance and information.

We need the assistance of Areas to help with the recruitment of new members by encouraging clubs to attend more non-flying events such as village fetes etc. We are prioritising the simulator availability specifically for those events.

In conjunction with Paul Tallett our PR Consultant we will be putting together a guidance package for clubs. It would help if Areas could get involved more with some of the club-run events.

**ALL
AREAS**

The Chairman was tasked with speaking to our PR Consultant about promoting membership at shows, possibly in the form of a business card hand-out which features a QR code.

CHAIRMAN

A1214/10/18 (10) To confirm dates of Areas Council Meetings 2019.

Saturday 16th March 2019 at Chacksfield House.

A1215/10/18 (11) Any Other Business.

The RAFMAA Area Delegate raised the issue that where some Areas have built up excessive funds in their accounts he believes this to be bad practice and it should go back into central funds.

The Chairman clarified the process for allocating Area funding. He personally would prefer Area funds to be allocated to Areas on a 'needs' basis rather than the current system as he doesn't see the necessity for Areas to hold excessive funds especially when others have no reserves. There was a clear disparity of funds between Areas with some holding large sums and others struggling to run events, highlighting the need for change. The Chairman agreed that each Areas current reserves would not be at risk acknowledging historic practices, however he reiterated his aim to ensure Areas received funds on a 'needs' basis.

After an extended and fruitful debate, it was established that most Areas raise funds by other means, therefore not all their funds are accountable to the BMFA.

All at the meeting agreed in principle that we need to work more closely than ever before, whilst maintaining the Areas' identity and heritage. The Chairman recognised this as a sea-change in how areas function in the future.

The Chairman placed an action for Areas to discuss their future financial requirements with their committees for 2019/2020 and present them at the Area Council Meeting in either February/March 2019. Further, the Chairman would seek the assistance of the Honorary Treasurer Keith Lomax and hopefully arrange for him to attend next areas Council to further the discussions on Area's funding.

**ALL
AREAS/
CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 3.58 pm

**Power & Silent Flight Controllers Report
Areas Council, 13th October 2018**

The Bulk of Achievement Scheme matters are captured in the ASRC report which follows later in the agenda, but I thought I would briefly take the opportunity to highlight a few items which I personally think are important.

My year as Scheme Controller feels like it has been just one long summer of testing ! I can't think of the last time I've conducted so many tests during the season. Of course some of this has been down to the number of organised AS events that I have attended, and the weekend at Buckminster particularly sticks out, but there has also been a significantly greater demand for tests locally, and I've been called upon to conducted many at clubs within my Area. I like to think that the various initiatives the ASRC has instigated (particularly the articles encouraging members to have a go at the 'B' certificate) have also had an influence on the numbers. I'm equally sure the fabulous weather has also had something to do with it, but for whatever reasons, all of this gives me real confidence for the future of the scheme.

As well as attending and presenting at the AS Roadshows, I have also delivered quite a number of Club night presentations, some in company with fellow ASRC members, at various clubs throughout the country during the year.

I'm really pleased to see the re-invigoration of some Area committees, especially because this has also included the appointment of several new Area AS Co-ordinators, who have proven to be both keen and energetic in their support of the scheme. These appointments have helped to revitalise the scheme in their areas, where, to put it bluntly, things had really been in the doldrums for several years. As I said before, I believe the scheme is most effective when driven at grass roots level by Area & Club, Examiners and Instructors, so I'm really pleased to see these changes.

Another significant piece of work for the rest of 2018 and beyond, will be the deliberations regarding '**continued competency**' for all examiners, at both Club and Area Chief level. This is something that has often been discussed at Area's Council in the past, which is the reason the ASRC are now looking into how this might be implemented. However, whatever is decided, it will bring an increased importance on Areas running examiner/instructor workshops (and other events) on a regular basis, so you do all have a role to play in helping us with this. Don't forget that the ASRC are there to help if you need any assistance and or advice. I notice that some Areas are intending to hold Area Chairman's conferences, which I think is a great idea. If any of you that are organising such events think that a presentation on the Achievement Scheme might be a useful element, please just let me know.

Hopefully you will have read my comments in the ASRC report noting that the committee is about to enter one of its busiest periods of the year. One of the reasons I personally enjoy my seat on the committee, is that it is always busy and we get things done and, perhaps more importantly, the current mix of individuals work really well as a team and possess an excellent distribution of knowledge and skills. I mention all of this because it is this Council that appoints ASRC members, and there are a number of members up for re-election shortly. I'm hoping that there will be a measure of continuity in the makeup of committee during these forthcoming elections, to ensure the smooth continuation of the above mentioned work streams.

And finally, with a view to improving communications and providing an up to date insight into what the ASRC is working on, all ACEs and Area Co-ordinators should now routinely be receiving e-mail copy of the ASRC reports to Full & Areas Council. If you think individuals in your Area may not have been receiving these, please let me know.

Duncan R McClure
RC P&SF Achievement Scheme Controller
duncanmcclure@hotmail.co.uk

**Achievement Scheme Review Committee
Report to BMFA Areas Council Meeting
13th October 2018**

The ASRC has met only once so far this year (in January) primarily because of budget restrictions. However, committee members are in regular e-mail contact and make best use of this media for discussion and decision making. In addition, several of the committee members have also got together at a number of Achievement Scheme events that have run throughout the season. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 3rd November.

- The Achievement Scheme 3 day 'Open weekend' at the National Centre, Buckminster on the 3rd, 4th and 5th August was a huge success, the event included demonstrations of the various tests, and many attendees took the opportunity to take a test, in a variety of disciplines, including Helicopter, Multi-Rotor and Fixed Wing.
- The Achievement Scheme theme focus on 'Continued Competence' for examiners has received overwhelming support from all those who have attended the two Roadshows, including all of the Examiners present! The details of how this might work are yet to be thrashed out, but everyone appreciates that it will be a challenge to achieve the desired result without discouraging examiners, both current and future. All current examiners will shortly be sent an e-mail questionnaire to gather their views, ahead of the subject being discussed at the next ASRC meeting.
- Both of the Roadshows held this year were well attended and two Roadshows are planned for early spring next year, one of which will be in the North West Area.
- As I'm sure some of you will be aware, the ASRC is about to enter one of its busiest periods of the year, when all scheme materials are reviewed for the coming year. With a portfolio of 21 certificates and their associated guidance documents, I'm sure you will appreciate that this is no easy task. Add to this the work that is going into the production of the new videos and the deliberations over 'Continued Competency' mentioned above, and I hope that you can see just how much the current committee do in support of the scheme.
- Test numbers for the year to date are extremely healthy, and there have been an encouraging number of new Club Examiners appointed, which we like to think is a direct result of the 'promotion' of the role by various means, both on-line and in BMFA News.
- The Achievement Scheme Facebook page and the dedicated scheme website continue to be extremely popular, with many useful discussions. The Facebook page in particular, is proving to be a very useful resource for members asking questions and or seeking advice on a wide variety topics, covering the scheme and the various tests. New members are being added at the rate of nearly one a day, and there is a notable increase in those joining immediately after the publication of scheme articles in BMFA News.
- I'd like to take this opportunity to say a big 'Thank You' to all of the individuals and Areas involved in donating funds to help the ASRC develop further test guidance videos. In excess of £1200 has been donated to date, and as I write, we have just finished filming over four hours of video for the major flying elements for the FW 'A' & 'B' certificates and also the Helicopter 'A'. However, there is still much work to be done in both editing and adding graphics & animation to complete the videos, and it would be wrong of me to suggest that publication is imminent. In support of the videos and in addition to the Areas, I'd also like to thank Jon Laughton of Ad Manum consultants, as they have also offered to sponsor i.e. provide further financial support, for the development of the Achievement Scheme videos. Regardless of the money involved, it is really great to see that the Scheme has attracted a sponsor!

- The new Achievement Scheme Awards have proved popular and there have been a number of nominations for the two types of award – the AS Certificate of Merit and the AS Long Term / Exceptional Service award. The committee conversed on-line to decide the successful recipients and the office have sent out a letter from the ASRC Chairman informing each individual and inviting them to the awards dinner.
- An Achievement Scheme column is now an established regular feature in the BMFA News, and after some deliberation, the size and format of the allocation for Achievement Scheme copy has been agreed with the editor. The feedback received so far on the articles has been 100% positive and there has been quite a flood of material for inclusion in future issues.

Duncan R McClure
ASRC Sec. and representative to Council
October 2018

RATIFIED

**British Model Flying Association
East Anglia Area Report to Areas' Council on 13.10.18**

1. The Area Committee

The Area has seen an increased level of activity over past months

- 1.1 A new approach has been introduced to providing a financial subsidy for clubs seeking to hold 'one of' or a series of events open to all clubs and BMFA members in the Area. Whilst not restricted in the type of event clubs may wish to promote, it is particularly hoped that Indoor events will be forthcoming as facilities become increasingly expensive.
- 1.2 A successful conference for Club Chairman attended by 23 delegates was held 3 October, 2018 with inputs covering:
- An insight into the new BMFA membership portal by Andy Symons, BMFA Club Support Officer
 - A presentation on how to improve and maintain club membership
 - How Clubs can use social media to promote membership by Paul Tallett, BMFA Marketing and PR Consultant
 - Data Protection guidance for clubs
 - How to use the BMFA website platform for your Club
- 1.3 Consideration is being given to holding an area flying event in 2019 aiming to use it as a platform to improve area communication, understanding and participation of members to the wider disciplines within our sport.

2. Achievement Scheme

- 2.1 Currently there are 7 Area Chief Examiners with the need to recruit more, specifically in the north west and south east of the area. There is a particular need for Helicopter examiners. It is pleasing that 2 further potential Area Chief Instructors have been identified.
- 2.2 The Area Chief Examiner team held 2 Fixed Wing Achievement Scheme Instructor and Examiner Workshops hosted by the Chelmsford and Raydon clubs. Over 40 participants attended however it was notable that a number of participants were aspirant Fixed Wing A or B achievers rather than club instructors or examiners. Of particular concern is the shortage of suitable candidates coming forward for the position of Club Examiner. Again a need for the Area to address by supporting clubs in training and ratifying Club Examiners.
- 2.3 In 2019 2 Fixed Wing A & B Assessment sessions are planned to specifically cover safety and setting up the model before testing delegates for the A & B in response to an identified need. Certificates gained will be ratified by the candidates own Club.

3. Free Flight

Free Flight activity remains a strong feature of the Area. In July an Area Gala at Sculthorpe was well attended and in the autumn the trial for the British Team were held at the same venue.

Mike Woodhouse, FSMAE, again organised the Free Flight Nationals at Barkston at the end of May. It is also pleasing to report that the Free Flight community have worked well with special interest nature groups to minimise impact on the natural habitat, particularly where vulnerable species are concerned.

4. Team GB

Garry Peacock, Chairman of Harlow & District MAC, East Anglia ACE and Chairman of the GBRCAA, represented GB at the F3A (Precision Aerobatics) European Championships held in Grandrieu (Belgium) placing 32nd. Mike Woodhouse, FSMAE, was team manager and participant in F1B at the 2018 European Free Flight Championships held in Hungary.

5. **Area Website**

The area website <http://eastanglia.bmfa.org/> is increasingly being used as our primary means of communication both for general information and to specifically draw to the attention of club secretaries information posted on the corporate BMFA website. Encouragingly some Clubs have submitted profiles of their Club and their events but to be a comprehensive resource more clubs are being encouraged to submit information.

The functionality of the website has been improved by adding contact details for Area Committee Executive members or any ACE/ACI by clicking on a link. Finally to enable monitoring of the site we aim to add a visitor counter.

Paul Hoey

RATIFIED

South East Area's Report October 2018

The year ended on a sad note. Bob Cutter, the Area Chairman for over 30 years, passed away on the 29th August. Bob was a happy jolly person who always saw the funny side of life. He will be missed. I attended his funeral with members of his flying club Felbridge Flyers.

The Area ran its area indoor competition at the K2 Leisure Centre in February this year with a reduced flying area and associated reduction in cost, but still was not able to break even. So, the decision was taken not to run the event in 2019, as the Area funds were running very low after the losses that had been made on this event over the past few years, and because of the Area having the ongoing costs of the Ashdown and Longman Site Licences. This decision was reversed later in the year after a campaign to see if the Area could find additional funding for the two Licences we pay for from clubs was fruitful. With the payments we get regularly from a couple of clubs, the extra donations and some prudent budgeting, the Area funds are looking slightly better. I also spoke to the Free-Flight Technical Committee about the situation and the fact we did not want to lose this long- running event and they said they would help with the promotion of the event and may be able to help out financially. I'm hoping for a turn around in financial viability for the event.

The Area will be having meeting with the Ashdown forest conservators to see if there is a way of extending the hours BMFA members are allowed to fly on the forest, This has come about due to some members being stopped from flying by forest rangers, because they were flying outside of our licensed hours. The members say they have been flying for many years on the forest but had never been stopped. Some know about the licence but thought it was only in relation to competitions, despite the licence details being published on the area website and in the area news letter.

The Area has a number of events this year. The Scale Fly-In, at the Epsom Radio Flying Club field near Gatwick was very much a success with more people attending than expected. We have been invited back next year and hope to make it a bigger event. The All-Electric Fly-In at Epsom Radio Flying Club and a Scale competition at the Hastings Club had to be postponed due to about the only wet weekend this summer. These took place at the end of September and beginning of October. The Scale competition was very well attended with more kit built models entering that ARTF's this year,

Although the Electric fly-in was not as well attended it was enjoyed by all that did turn up and plan to run both again next year. The Area did not run any Examiners Workshops this year partly due to financial considerations but manly due to the lack of response from the people we had last year.

The Area website hosted by the BMFA is working well and the email part of system is used on a regular basis. There is still the issue of returned emails because people change roles and do not inform us of the changes. Facebook is enabling us to keep in contact with a lot of people because the posts are seen by hundreds of people.

The Area was able to provide a number of BMFA Darts to the ATC Squadron at Biggin Hill as part of their model-making activities. Myself and two others were asked to help out at the Warden Park Academy student enrichment days to explain about model aircraft and the BMFA. Each of the nineteen students built, trimmed and flew BMFA a dart. The Area has been asked back to do a similar thing in 2019 only this time over two days.

We are seeing more clubs represented at Area committee meetings, which is very encouraging, but it would be nice to see more, however, my Area is quite large and clubs are spread across a number of counties.

Stuart Willis South East Area Council Delegate.

Mid-West Area 2018 Annual Report

The Mid West area continues to grow in strength and we're currently holding our meetings at different venues throughout the area, but looking to re-think our venues to include the clubs towards the edge of the area. We are maintaining a dozen or more representatives from clubs attending each meeting and those that cannot make the meetings keep connected via our area Facebook forum page, allowing topics to be discussed between meetings. As a communications medium, it works well and I believe has pulled many clubs closer to the Mid-West Area. We held Examiner workshops throughout the year, and are being well attended by examiners and general BMFA members alike.

The Area contributed towards two Fly In events.

The "Wings over Wales" was hosted by the Gaer Park MFC and was very well attended. Along with the BBQ and social get together, trophies were awarded for most entertaining flight, best scale flight and best scale model.

The North Cotswold MAC held their "Fly for Fun" BBQ and again had a good selection of visiting clubs.

Andrew Potts
(Mid-West Area Delegate)

BMFA NW Area Report – October 2018

Events

The area has supported two fly-ins this summer, Blackpool and Blackburn which were both very successful.

The Indoor Technical Committee have negotiated access to the Manchester Velodrome and three events have been scheduled, the first was held two weeks ago.

The winter programme for the NW Area is filling up quite nicely with a number of indoor events scheduled: <http://www.bmfa-nw.org/events.html>

ASC

For personal reasons, Wayne Pendleton had to stand down as ASC and Kevin Watson took on the reins. He has kindly provided a report reproduced here:

As a new ACE in 2017 I was honoured to be asked to take over as AS Coordinator and continue the good work started by Wayne Pendleton. The area has now produced a map with locations and speciality of ACE in an attempt to rationalise examiner availability and usage. We have identified a shortfall of Helicopter Area Chief Examiners and plans are in place to recruit 2 more this year.

<http://www.bmfa-nw.org/ascheme.html>

Area has supported one examiner and instructor event at Skelmersdale with 22 attendees and excellent feedback.

Plans are in place for a BMFA Achievement Scheme Roadshow event in spring of 2019.

Moving forward the area wishes to reverse the low profile in evidence during the last 5 years and be an accessible resource for those wishing to instruct, examine or just take part in the achievement scheme.

Area Meeting Attendance

Attendance at BMFA NW Area meetings continues to be poor with only a handful of regulars attending the event. The consensus from an unofficial straw poll appears to be that the 'average' BMFA non specialist club see very little relevance for them so there is little need to attend these meeting. This really needs to be addressed perhaps by changing the format so that club activities become the focus of the event.

Area Officers

Mike Colling has stated that he will be standing down as Acting Chairman at the NW Area AGM. Currently, we have 4 candidates who have put themselves forward to take on the role of Chairman. Mike Colling has agreed to remain in post as Vice Chairman to ensure a smooth handover

Martyn Kinder

NW Area Delegate

Southern Area Report to Areas Council
October 2018

Our website is being updated. Following delays in implementing changes to Southern Area committee on the BMFA website, the BMFA Southern Area page now redirects to our own website.

Whilst strongly supportive of the proposed Achievement Scheme training videos, Southern Area runs a very tight budget, with a £131 deficit this year following the reduction in Area grant. All of our income goes to support flying activity within the Area so, unfortunately, we do not have enough fiscal headroom to provide financial assistance to this worthwhile project.

Since the last Area Council meeting, Southern Area have attended or run the following:

Wallop at War 28 May

We again provided a BMFA presence at this annual event at the Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop. This year included a flying display in addition to our usual static display, which was very well received.

Farnborough International Air Show 20 July

Following a request from the Chief Executive, three members of Southern Area supported the BMFA presence as part of a static display on the Friday.

Southern Area Gala 7 July

Held at Middle Wallop airfield by kind invitation of the airfield manager. Attended by members of 12 area clubs, with 34 flyers, a good turnout given the late acquisition of a licence and the necessarily limited advertising. We hope that this will become an annual event.

Odiham Families day, 29 August

This event at RAF Odiham is for the members of the RAF and their families. Southern Area BMFA members are invited to put on a static display.

Crookham Gala, 2 September

Hosted by Crookham Club, this free flight event was held on Salisbury Plain and included the George Fuller "Dixielander" Trophy.

Croydon Coupe Day & SAM 1066, 30 September

A combined 'old & modern' free flight day on Salisbury Plain that included a "one-off" Wakefield comp to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the last UK win in this event, and the SAM1066 Jaguar trophy.

Wimborne MAC Scale Day, Sunday 7 October. A 'low key' fixed wing flying only event run to BMFA scale rules to tempt model flyers into scale competition.

David Smith
Area Delegate

Area 14 (RAFMAA) Area Report October 2018

The Association has had a very busy and fruitful year, especially with the RAF 100 events. This gave us many opportunities to promote RAFMAA, championing our sport of aeromodelling to the wider general public and our continued commitment to support our national body, BMFA, where possible.

In order to promote STEM subjects, RAFMAA, with support from 38Gp, committed £5k of funding to create a Drone Technology Hub. The Hub is designed to inform audiences about how drones fly, how they're operated safely and the legal constraints that apply to them. It also provides a safe enclosed area for interested parties to have a go flying a micro-drone around an obstacle course using First Person View. The Hub has been prominent at various events including the RAF100 Airshow, RAF Sport for kids STEM day, Honington Families Day and Cosford LMA show not to mention also the Show Line at this year's BMFA Nationals. The Hub has proved a resounding success with both experienced modellers and members of the general public (particularly the younger generation), with our message of drone safety being well received and garnering much praise. The Hub will hopefully serve to germinate any hidden desires towards our sport as it travels to shows over the coming years.

Deeply involved from the outset, RAFMAA has also promoted Aeromodelling this year by championing Love Production's desire to inform recent generations about the Battle of Britain, using Model Aircraft. About 20% of contributors were from RAFMAA, quite an accomplishment given that we make up about ½ of a percent of the BMFA.

RAFMAA's competition season was as busy as ever with Slope Soaring, Free Flight, Control Line, Thermal, Indoor, RC Power and Quad-racing all represented. Attendance at our Annual Fly-In was higher than previous years, particularly in quad-racing with Army and Navy personnel joining RAFMAA to be able to compete. In addition to competitions, RAFMAA always supports a number of other flying events. This year's Warbirds at Shawbury was a tremendous success and we were pleased to be involved in the Old Warden season opener for their RAF 100 Air Show. For this we were co-located with the Old Warden Model Flying Club and between us the static display looked fantastic. We've also supported all Old Warden Shows this year and, of course, the BMFA Nationals Show Line with our "through the ages" slot and commentary.

Despite our small size, we've had members competing at the BMFA Nationals in Scale, the World Championships in F3C and the World Championships in Control Line. Closer to home we have pilots competing nationally in drone racing. We've offered £200 of assistance towards an Achievement Scheme video and £400 towards a National Control Line site.

Our secretary/PRO has been particularly active this year promoting RAFMAA and our sport with photos and articles being included in Aeromodeller, the BMFA News, the Power Nationals programme and RCM&E. We've featured on BBC Breakfast and British Forces Broadcasting Service news. Between this and our support to grass roots development through the provision of training aircraft and instructors countrywide we're enjoying about a 10% increase in membership from this time last year. We've had a number of Achievement Scheme successes in Power A, Power B, Indoor A and Indoor B disciplines.

Lastly, we're delighted to announce the recognition of 2 of our members: Ian Pallister became a FSMAE after many years supporting both RAFMAA and the BMFA; Ian Nelson was awarded the Roger Bedford Memorial trophy and a Royal Aero Club Bronze medal for his work in RAFMAA and his local club over the last 25-years.

STOP PRESS!

We have just received news that our Secretary/PRO, Cpl Alex Woods, has been awarded BMFA Honorary Member status for his outstanding work with the Association this year.

Per Ardua!

Ian Nelson

BMFA Delegate

Area 14 RAFMAA

Area 13 (Northern Ireland) Report to Area Council Meeting 13/10/18

The Area is flourishing, and our attendance at Meetings continues to be very pleasing, with attendance in the high teens and more than half the 25 Clubs regularly sending delegates. The number of Clubs which have never come is very small and we continue to use contacts with them to encourage them to come along.

Clubs are promoting Modelling on a regular basis, with many static and flying displays throughout the year. More would always be welcome, and the message from Meetings is always to look for more opportunities.

Support for the Achievement Scheme is spreading and more Examiners and more tests are being promoted. Public Relations activity is increasing which should help us keep the membership of all Clubs healthy. Club flying sites are well established and more are being pursued, always an essential activity to secure the future.

Queen's University Belfast have been assisted with their efforts in the Heavy Lift Challenge, along with other Cadet and education activities.

Members have been active in mainland UK and in the Republic in various classes, with some notable successes in Free Flight, Control Line, Indoor and Gliding. Local Competition flying continues to engage a dedicated few, who would like to encourage others.

Our long standing Treasurer, Bob McIvor, has been awarded the Arthur Mullet Trophy, to be awarded at the BMFA AGM. The Committee has also marked his long commitment with a suitable trophy, which will be presented at the Area AGM, both very well deserved. The Committee was at full strength, and new members to restore this will hopefully be elected soon.

This Summer's weather has been exceptional and a very good flying season has been enjoyed by all.

Maurice Doyle
Delegate
Area 13

The new area secretary appointed at the AGM last year, has settled into the new role and all the committee posts are filled, apart from the education co-ordinator.

The area meeting attendance has increased marginally, but there is still much room for improvement. At the most 6 to 8 area clubs (out of over 70) are represented at the meetings. We are still striving to encourage more clubs to become involved, with the area business and events.

The Northern area website is getting a facelift and getting things up to date, to try and encourage better links with all the Northern area clubs.

We held an area one day Fly In this year, rather than a 2-day event like last year. The event was held on Sunday 15th July 2018, at Pontefract race course (PANDAS flying site). The event was reasonably well attended, but only tends to attract members from the more local clubs. The committee are undecided as to whether to hold a similar event next year.

An Examiners work shop was held in April at the Huddersfield flying site. This was well attended and seemed to be well received.

The area appointed a new Achievement scheme co-Ordinator (Bob Rowland). Bob has attended the area meetings and has plans to organise some achievement scheme related events next year.

The area holds regular indoor flying sessions at the Leeds Trinity University Sports Hall, on Saturday afternoons and hold an annual area swap meet at this same location.

We are continuing to subsidise a few other area clubs, to organise indoor flying sessions at other locations within our area.

The area organises regular flying at RAF Dishforth on a Sunday. The Dishforth flying licence is proving more difficult to obtain and an application for a multi discipline licence (control line and fixed wing) was unsuccessful this year. The area chairman and area delegate are going to review the whole set up at Dishforth, before we approve any applications and funding for any events next year. It was generally felt it would be a shame to lose this facility, but it needs to be open to more disciplines and members.

Martin Lynn,
Northern Area Delegate.

**BMFA South Midland Area
Report to Areas Council, October 2018**

The South Midland Area has had another reasonably active year, with attendance at Area meetings typically attracting representatives from approximately 15 clubs, which equates to the representation of roughly a quarter of all clubs in the Area. The attendance at meetings remains reasonably strong, with useful debate and discussion and we even have several new club representatives within our ranks. We have also increased our use of e-mail for input and discussions on Area matters.

Thankfully in 2018 we have been able to fill all of the Area Committee positions, with just the one concession that the Chairman also fulfils the role of Area Delegate, a combination which we have found works pretty well. The exception to the above is the position of PRO, which has been vacant for some time.

The Area has run a very successful Achievement Scheme Examiner/Instructor workshop in conjunction with the Midland Area at Buckminster. Such collaborations (we did the same thing last year with the Southern Area) work really well and help to spread the organisational load. Workshops are now established annual events for the Area and have historically been hosted by a variety of clubs (with suitable flying sites and facilities) at different locations throughout the Area. Plans are in hand to run at least two workshops in 2019. This year there has been a notable increase in the number of requests for Club Examiner tests in the Area.

As well as financing the Achievement Scheme workshops, the Area has provided modest financial support to other Area organised events and also to Area members who are competitors at International competitions.

Our Area Education Officer, Brian Cooper, has done some excellent work with Youth and Education Support (YES). Also, with a small team of members from a few Area Clubs, (Ivinghoe Soaring Association, Aylesbury and Leighton Buzzard) Jim Wright and team have continued to support the Cool Aeronautics events that are held at the Trenchard Museum in RAF Halton. Cool Aeronautics is a Royal Aeronautical Society program aimed at 9-11 year olds and typically has 6 'aero' related activities. As part of the RAF100th Anniversary celebrations this year the team have already helped over 600 children build and fly the BMFA AeroJet in 7 events at RAF Halton with 3 more planned this year.

The Area supports and continues to take a keen interest in the study looking into potential charitable status for either the Association and or the National Centre.

Jim Wright continues his work in support of the further developments at Buckminster, particularly in connection with securing external grant funding.

I would like to thank all the members of the Area Committee, and associated clubs, for their support and guidance in my endeavours, and I look forward to being able to represent them in the future.

Duncan McClure
South Midland Area Delegate

LONDON AREA REPORT – OCTOBER 2018

The London Area-sponsored Robert Mahoney Memorial Electric Fly-In was held at Middle Wallop in early August. Benefitting from the fine weather, turnout was up on last year and a wide variety of models were flown. These ranged from a small Concorde from a 1960s Aeromodeller FF plan, flown RC on rudder and motor only, to an 88 inch span Maher Thunderbird powered by 8S Lipos. The Robert Mahoney Memorial Trophy was won by Roy Thompson, of the Basingstoke Club for his scratch-built model of the Martin-Baker Meteor ejector-seat test aircraft.

By contrast, the Croydon Club's Wakefield Day had to be postponed twice due to forecast very high windspeeds, with parts of it finally being combined with the Croydon-run Coupe Europa contest held on Salisbury Plain's Area 8 on Sept. 30th. With a moderate but chilly breeze there was a reasonable entry and no fly-offs required in any class, quite a relief on a site that's quite challenging for long distance retrieves by those not in the first flush of youth. Croydon appreciate the Area's support for their contests.

An RC Achievement Scheme Roadshow was organized at Swanley in the summer and attracted around 40 examiners; however, it was noted that people who would really benefit from getting up-to-date with the Scheme were absent, with attendees mainly being examiners already performing competently.

Bickley MFC has again run several open events throughout the summer, starting with a Bring & Buy and Electric Meeting on 5th & 6th May; this was well attended as usual. Next was the London Area sponsored Fun-Fly competition on 15th July; again this was very well attended with 21 flyers entering the competition and everybody getting a prize. Lastly was the Bring & Buy and Scale Meeting held on the weekend of 11th & 12th August, a reasonable turnout but affected by a bad weather forecast which actually wasn't as bad as predicted.

All the same events will be run again next year except the May event will become a general fly-in.

London Area has contributed £100 towards the cost of the RC Achievement Scheme video.

The continuing lack of representation from most of the Area's clubs at Area committee meetings (5 or 6 out of 31) does strongly suggest that clubs have a very insular approach to their sport and don't see themselves as part of a national body; rather, they see themselves as customers of an insurance provider. I personally think we need to put far more emphasis in our advertising on all the other things the BMFA offers, with the insurance as an added bonus.

Martin Dilly
London Area Delegate

5-10-18

MIDLAND AREA REPORT FOR AREA COUNCIL MEETING 13TH OCT. 2018

The highlight of our year was our first visit to BMFA Buckminster to host an introductory face to face meeting with Midland Area Club Chairmen/Secretaries to discuss our area future policy for 2018/9.

The meeting was well attended by approximately thirty clubs with everyone enjoying the flying site and also the facilities currently being offered in the Main Hall.

Thanks to the staff for providing the refreshments and for laying out the accommodation in this venue.

As an Area we continue to support clubs who are carrying out public displays with the emphasis on public awareness of the existence and facilities provided by BMFA for aeromodelling in all its forms.

By helping with site costs we can contribute to the success of their events.

Midland Area Committee are currently putting together a procedure for our Area AGM which we will hold on line before the Main BMFA AGM later this year.

Flight safety continues to be an eternal source of discussion particularly as the trend seems to be upward which will not endear us to our insurers.

ASC business is not particularly busy just now but Steve Mason is monitoring this in addition to being our Area Delegate whilst running his own modelling business.....

Neil Byrne joined our committee earlier this year and dived in at the deep end to assist Chris Anderson to keep us flying safely at Buckminster.

On the whole , we look forward to a productive year of activities....Brexit or not !!!!

Notes for meeting: Steve Mason presents his apologies that he is unable to attend this meeting due to heavy business commitments.

Our committee have no specific comments to make on the current agenda items except to say that we have found the statement by Southern Area to have some validity, however, the source of the trouble may be clubs being late with their registrations. To publish a list that will need to be continually updated in the interest of speed will only result in staff continually updating the information on hand with the resultant waste of time and effort for revised circulation.

Alf Tunnicliffe
Midland Area Secretary/Treasurer
089853

Royal Navy Model Aircraft Association Report - 2018

Model flying activities at Merryfield under tightened MoD requirements are very well established. Close liaison with the OiC RNAS Merryfield and our DIO Officer have paid benefits and this year we were able to plan 2 charity jet flying events: a change of format and emphasis for the one that has taken place in May for the last 7 years and a new fun fly event in October. Increased scrutiny by MoD of the level of out of hours use of Merryfield earlier in the year resulted in a small re-alignment of membership which was actually very well received in the end. Our closed Group Face Book page has been our primary means of communication and staying in touch for several years now. It remains an excellent co-ordinating "tool" (backed up by email) and like many other organisations we have found it very easy and beneficial to use. The adoption of new GDPR procedures in May, which necessitated the generation of a new Committee post and a minor Constitution amend, was all achieved online. Our only area for concern is the increase in noise related issues. Our models, flying styles and operating positions/areas have not changed from previous years but this summer several complaints have been made. This is something we are acutely aware of and have always worked hard at to minimise the impact on our neighbours. As we are doing nothing different to previous years without noise complaints we hope this is not an indicator of a growing general intolerance towards model flying: time will tell.

Peter Disney

Chairman RNMAA

5 Oct 18

South West (Cornwall and Devon Sub-Area) Report - 2018

Yet another quiet year in the South West with little activity to report: Sub Area meeting agendas show little change from meeting to meeting with business very much of a routine nature adding very little value to proceedings. Previous high attendance levels markedly dropped following a forced venue change and a move from Friday to Thursday evenings: one meeting only made the minimum quorum to proceed. Hopefully a return to the previous venue will see numbers increase again in the New Year and the 2 largest clubs in the county will make the effort to send representatives. There continues to be a complete reluctance to get involved with, adopt or respond to any of the actions generated at Full and Areas Councils. No interest has been shown and subsequently no progress has been made with respect to moving forward to electronic methods of communication eg Facebook pages and making use of the Areas pages on the BMFA web site. Very disheartening.

The Devon Sub-Area remains in suspension. Last year I reported that questions were beginning to be asked on the future for Devon and the way forward with a possible move to re-establish the Sub-Area, however I have not been made aware of any further intent to make progress in this direction. Routine administration continues to be run directly from Chacksfield House.

Peter Disney

South West (Cornwall and Devon Sub-Areas) Delegate

5 Oct 18