

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on the 6th October 2007 at 11am at Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrews Road, Leicester LE2 8RE.

Provisional until confirmed at the next Area Council Meeting.

PRESENT

Graham Lynn MBE	Meeting Chairman
Nigel Barker	East Anglia Area Delegate
Keith Barker	East Anglia Area Chairman Alternate
Terry Rounce	London Area Chairman/ASRC Chairman
Martin Dilly FSMAE	London Area Delegate
George Maynard	Midland Area Delegate & Chairman
John Thompson	Northern Area Chairman
Gordon Warburton FSMAE	Northern Area Delegate
Tom Jones	North East Area Chairman
Allan Weighell FSMAE	North East Area Delegate
David Lloyd-Jones	North West Area Delegate
Peter Spurway	South Midland Area Delegate
	Alternate/Power & SF AS Controller
Ian Menage	South East Area Chairman Alternate
Keith Miller FSMAE	South East Area Delegate
Stuart Simpson	Southern Area Delegate
John Harris	Western Area Chairman Alternate
Phil Durant	Western Area Delegate
Mike Chignell	South West Area Delegate
Frank Buttery	South West Area Chairman Alternate
Howard Menary FSMAE	Northern Ireland Area Chairman
Mike Colling FSMAE	Northern Ireland Area Delegate Alt
	Alternate/Education Co-ordinator
Mick Evans	RAFMAA Area Chairman

In Attendance

Linda Harding

Minute Taker / Office Manager

Visitor

James Smith

Exeter Model Club

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 9th June 2007.

- 4 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 9th June 2007 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 5 To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.
 - a) Power
 - b) Silent Flight
- 6 To receive reports from committees or co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.
 - a) Achievement Scheme Review Committee
 - b) Flight Challenge
 - c) Education
- 7 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.)
- 8 To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.
- 9 To confirm dates of Areas Council meetings 2008.
- 10 Any Other Business.

MINUTES

A953/10/07 (1) Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from the following:

Stuart Marsden, PRO
 Chris Bromley FSMAE, North West Area Chairman
 Peter Christy, South Midland Area Delegate
 Bob Cutter, South East Area Chairman
 Paul Bellingham, RAFMAA Area Delegate
 Elton Drew FSMAE, Western Area Chairman
 Robin Jones FSMAE, Mid West Area Delegate
 Roger Bellingham, South Midland Area Chairman

Areas Council conveyed their best wishes to Chris Bromley for a speedy recovery.

A954/10/07 (2) Request for permission to be absent.

Permission was granted to the following:

Manny Williamson, Development Officer.

At this point in the meeting Nigel Barker, East Anglia Area Delegate was appointed Vice-Chairman of the meeting.

A955/10/07 (3) Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 9th June 2007.

Page 3

- **Top of page** - Robin Jones FSMAE Mid-West Area Delegate, not Western Area.

Page 8

- **Third paragraph, fifth line** - Change "snot" to "not".

Page 9

- **Bottom of page, item 7c) Review of Area Council working practices** - Add bullet point "East Anglia raised the idea of encouraging new volunteers into Area posts, by limiting the number of terms anyone could serve unless unopposed. Concern was raised that unsuitable applicants might displace time-served experts."

Page 11

- **Third paragraph from the bottom, second line** - Change "is" to "it".

South East Area proposed that the Minutes of the Areas Council Meeting held on 9th June 2007 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Seconded by North East Area.

Vote: For: 17

Ags: 0

Abs: 5

Carried by a majority vote.

A956/10/07 (4) Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 9th June 2007 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

ACTION / NOTES

Page 3

- **A949/06/07 Matters Arising, heading "Page 4", audio edition of Members Handbook** - Chairman advised that he did speak with the Tech Sec regarding the provision of audio Members Handbook but Tech Sec has been incapacitated for some time due to health problems.

Chairman said if there is going to be a cost associated with producing something he would prefer it to be discussed at the next Executive meeting. It was reported at the last meeting that some of the free packages are not suitable and if we are going to do something it should be done properly.

East Anglia Area Delegate commented that it is more a matter of having the method of producing this in place, in case we were asked for it again.

East Anglia Area Alternate Chairman suggested we contacted the Partially Sighted Association, to ascertain what packages are available. Chairman said this was a good idea and tasked East Anglia Area Delegate to look into it.

**EAST ANGLIA
AREA
DELEGATES**

Page 4

- **Fourth paragraph, heading "Page 5", publication of contest dates in BMFA News** - Northern Area Delegate raised a concern that there was still a gap in the dates between the last two issues of BMFA News.

Chairman advised that the most important criteria, which was followed in the latest issue, is to make sure when the publication came out that it was from the date people would be reading it. He does not think it was ever the intention that everything would fit over between issues.

Northern Area Delegate said he thought it was important we do not have any gaps between issues. Chairman said it was more imperative that the Contest Calendar, which is the formal definitive BMFA document, does not have any gap.

- **Fifth paragraph, promoting model flying to the more mature person** - Northern Area Chairman advised that he had submitted a report to the Development Officer.

Northern Area Chairman said he thought it would be a good idea to place an advert in SAGA magazine; however he had not had very good feedback from his initial contact with SAGA with regard to an article.

Chairman offered to contact the Editor of SAGA to discuss the matter.

CHAIRMAN

South West Area Delegate reported that their Area ran a day function specifically for the more mature members of the community. Thirty people attended and they all had a wonderful day.

Northern Area Chairman advised that he also did a presentation to the local PROBUS (Professional Business) Club, which was very well received.

- **Sixth paragraph, Council Member's website material** - London Area Delegate advised that he is still awaiting information from several Council Members to complete their entries on the BMFA Website.

It was suggested details of the relevant incumbents are provided, otherwise they will be unaware the information they have probably sent, has not been received.

Chairman requested that everyone checks the website to see if they are included, if not to contact London Area Delegate.

ALL

Page 5

- **Third Paragraph, 'Why Compete' booklet** - London Area Chairman asked if copies were made available at the Power Nationals in August. East Anglia Area Delegate confirmed that copies were available and were well received.

London Area Chairman also commented that he thought the Power Nationals Programme was excellent, a sentiment echoed by the meeting.

- **Top of the page, "The Pussycat" new addition to the education kits** - Chairman said he felt it was appropriate that we re-emphasise the commendation of the new kit to Mike Colling FSMAE who produced it, as he was not present at the last meeting.

- **Fifth and eighth paragraph, actions on Development Officer re Toyota advert on Top Gear and contact with BBC as a result of his visit to Namibia** - Development Officer was not present at the meeting to make any comment.

Page 7

- **Top of the page, Examiner test forms** - Western Area Delegate commented that he had been informed by some of his Area Chief Examiners that they were being issued with the old Examiner forms.

Office Manager advised that all Chief Examiners had been provided with a supply of the new forms initially and subsequently they are replenished with new forms when they send in pass forms.

Page 9

- **Halfway down the page, item 7b) Midland Area meetings conducted by email** - South West Area Delegate advised that the South West Area have expressed an interest in the idea of conducting electronic meetings and requested a verbal update so that he could report back to the Area AGM in November.

Midland Area Delegate was unable to provide a detailed report other than to say that it is working very well for the Committee and the main advantage is saving on travelling costs. The continuing problem they have is the apathy of their Clubs.

A detailed update on the situation would be provided at the February 2008 meeting, when the two representatives from the Midland Area who instigated the scheme, would be attending. By then Midland Area would have been operating the scheme for a whole year.

Chairman suggested this Committee have the authority to extend the scheme to include South West Area if it so wished.

North West Area Delegate proposed that we extend the Experiment to allow South West Area to conduct Area Meetings electronically for a trial period under the same terms as the Midland Area.

Seconded by Northern Ireland Area Delegate
Carried unanimously.

**SOUTH WEST
AREA**

South West Area Delegate thanked Council. He was hopeful that his Area would take up the offer. They would introduce it from January 2008 if they agree to go ahead and he would hopefully be able to provide an update at the February 2008 Area Council Meeting.

- Bottom of page 9 continuing on page 10, item 7c) Review of Area Council working practices - Chairman said the review of Area Council working practices should be an ongoing item for discussion at Area Council. It should not be minuted every time but it is something we should be reviewing regularly.

Chairman asked for comments on any items discussed during the review at the last meeting.

Page 10, action for South West Area to test the idea of a youth delegate.

South West Area Chairman Alternate commented that he took the idea back to his Area. It was very well received and they are working on it.

Concerns were raised as to the practicality of having a youth element within Area Committees. Various viewpoints were covered.

Chairman mooted the idea, which is possibly something the Education Committee could address, to look at the concept of youth and how youth can dovetail into the management side of the Association in the future.

There was some discussion as to what age constitutes a 'youth'. South West Area said he believes it should be under 18's. Education Co-ordinator suggested 25 is a good age.

Chairman explained that there are two aspects to consider emanating from this discussion.

- South West Area is looking into the concept of introducing a youth person onto the South West Area Committee, and advising us how it is going.
- As a body, we could investigate the concept of a role for a 'Youth Committee' within the BMFA, who could look at what young people wanted from the Sport and how they achieved it.

Chairman asked the Education Co-ordinator if he could arrange a meeting with the Education Committee to address this concept.

**EDUCATION
C'TTEE**

If there is a need in the future to change the Area Constitution to introduce a 'Youth' element then that is something we would have to consider.

Chairman praised South West Area Chairman Alternate for the effort he has contributed so far in promoting the model flyer to youth in the South West Area, and also the South West Area Education Co-ordinator for the work he does.

Page 10

- **Final paragraph, Flight Challenge** - London Area Delegate asked whether Flight Challenge would be going ahead in 2008, in light of the fact that we have not yet secured any sponsorship.

Unfortunately the Development Officer was not present to answer the question. Chairman said he believed the Development Officer was pursuing sponsorship and a venue.

North West Area Delegate reiterated the point he made at the last meeting that if funding cannot be secured an alternative would be for Schools to run their own competitions, which would greatly reduce funding. This is how the event was started in the beginning by holding local Area eliminations. It worked very well in the North West Area.

Issues were raised with regard to transport problems involving children and the various regulations in place, which make it very difficult to organise.

Chairman advised that we must leave the organising of Flight Challenge in the hands of the Development Officer who will no doubt provide a report in due course. If anyone has any specific ideas he suggests they contact the Development Officer direct.

Today's debate has highlighted the need for an Education meeting. Chairman reiterated and urged Education Co-ordinator to try to organise something as soon as possible.

Page 12

- **Final paragraph, RAFMAA** - London Area asked RAFMAA Delegate if he had any information with regard to the use of RAF Digby.

RAFMAA Area Chairman advised that all of the aerial sites are currently being taken down. The facility **may** be available for model flying, with the necessary permission from **the Station Commander** and **a** Defence Estates Licence.

Page 13

- **Third paragraph, Salisbury Plain** - London Area Delegate reported that the Southern Gala arranged at Little Rissington in September had to be cancelled with only three days notice.

Fortunately he was able to arrange for the event to be incorporated with another event on the same day, at Salisbury Plain.

Communications are very good at Salisbury Plain at the moment and hopefully will remain so in the future.

Page 14

- Second paragraph, Hon Secretary report on UAV's -

Chairman, in his capacity as Hon Secretary reported on his visit to Paris where he gave a presentation at the UAV International Conference.

The organiser of the Conference has set up a small group to look at how they are going to control UAV's up to 150kg. They see the input that he is making on behalf of the BMFA and Europe Air sports as vital to what is the end result of how they can operate.

He will be attending another meeting in Paris in a couple of week's time. Soon after he will be attending a meeting of the Working Group 73 he sits on, on behalf of Europe Air sports, for a three day conference.

They have also set up a small working group, which he also sits on and his aim is to bring the two groups together.

The two meetings should set the seal of what is going to happen over the next two or three years.

The formal statement that has already been issued is that over 85% of all UAV's are going to weigh under 150kg. The majority are commercial civilian UAV's. That is what Working Group 73 was set up for, to allow UAV's to operate in controlled airspace.

What we have managed to do is get Working Group 73 to extend their activity to look at UAV's under 150kg, which may or may not operate in controlled airspace.

The main emphasis in his presentations is that UAV's are not model aircraft, which is now almost universally accepted by the Civil Aviation Authorities.

The task he has been given by Europe Air sports is to look at the introduction of UAV's and advise what effect they will have on sport and recreational flying throughout the twenty-seven nations.

Page 16

- Summary of debate reference website forums and deadline for receipt of discussion documents from Areas -

Chairman commented that this topic still requires a more thorough airing of views and suggestions, at some point.

This concluded matters arising.

A957/10/07 (5) To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.

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

PAS Controller had provided a written report and highlighted the following points.

Workshops are going well; he believes the improvements we have seen are very worthwhile. There have also been three 'C' test workshops. We now have a total of sixteen who have actually passed the 'C' test in the UK.

The workshops are gaining momentum. The sticking point is always that some members of some clubs will have to give up their flying for that day. It does seem to create a problem in some cases.

We have had a Chief Examiner who sorted out a test with a club without any recourse to the Area Co-ordinator, which has resulted in a re-test.

Southern Area Delegate said he believed it was a Chief Examiner in the Southern Area who did the aforesaid test. Having spoken with the Chief Examiner he has said that he does not seem to receive any updates on the Achievement Scheme and was unaware of the change in procedure to consult with ASC's when testing candidates.

Office Manager advised that Achievement Scheme updates are published in BMFA News and are produced in the Club Bulletin, which is circulated to all Chief Examiners.

A Fixed Wing Power 'A' test was also carried out by a Club Examiner who is not on the approved list of Examiners held by Council. This will also require a re-test for the unfortunate candidate.

Silent Flight - PAS Controller explained that he sees himself more as a caretaker of Silent Flight until such time that someone takes on the role properly. He regards his job as making sure the paperwork is in order.

The figures presented in his written report include Silent Flight, and are very few in numbers, compared to Power.

A958/10/07 (6) 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)**

ASRC Chairman highlighted the salient points in his written report.

