

MINUTES

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on the 27th September 2008 at 11am at Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrews Road, Leicester LE2 8RE.

Provisional until confirmed at the next Area Council Meeting.

PRESENT

Nigel Barker	Meeting Chairman/PRO
Peter Leavesley	East Anglia Area Delegate
Terry Rounce	London Area Chairman/ASRC Chairman
Martin Dilly FSMAE	London Area Delegate
George Maynard	Midland Area Chairman & Delegate
Andy Symons	Northern Area Chairman Alternate
Gordon Warburton FSMAE	Northern Area Delegate
Allan Weighell FSMAE	North East Area Chairman
John French	North East Area Delegate Alternate
Keith Barker	North West Area Chairman Alternate
Roger Bellingham	South Midland Area Chairman
Peter Christy	South Midland Area Delegate
Bob Cutter	South East Area Chairman
Keith Miller FSMAE	South East Area Delegate
John Harris	Western Area Chairman Alternate
Phil Durant	Western Area Delegate
Robin Jones FSMAE	Mid West Area Delegate
Frank Buttery	South West Area Chairman Alternate
Mike Chignell	South West Area Delegate
Mike Colling FSMAE	N Ireland Area Chairman Alternate/ Education Co-ordinator
Mick Evans	RAFMAA Area Chairman
Peter Spurway	RCPAS Controller

In Attendance

Linda Harding
Chris Bromley FSMAE

Minute Taker / Office Manager
Technical Secretary

Observer

Mike Goldby

Scale Rep
(Co-opted Meeting Vice-Chairman)

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 7th June 2008.
- 4 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 7th June 2008 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 5 To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.
 - a) Power
 - b) Silent Flight
- 6 Discussion item on the possibility of starting a Youth Committee. (Document appended).
- 7 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
- 8 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.)
- 9 To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.
- 10 To confirm dates of Areas Council meetings 2009.
- 11 Any Other Business.

MINUTES

Mike Goldby was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Meeting.

A988/09/08 (1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from the following:

Graham Lynn MBE, Honorary Secretary
 Manny Williamson, Development Officer
 David Lloyd-Jones, North West Area Chairman & Delegate
 Elton Drew FSMAE, Western Area Chairman
 Nial Ball, Western Area & SFAS Controller
 Jim Andrews, Mid West Area Chairman
 John Thompson, Northern Area Chairman
 Tom Jones, North East Area Delegate

A989/09/08 (2) Request for permission to be absent.

There were no requests.

A990/09/08 (3) Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 7th June 2008.

Page 1

- **List of those present** - Delete Martin Dilly FSMAE, London Area Chairman.

Page 9

- **Fifth paragraph from the bottom, first line** – Replace “The Records Officer” with “North East Area”.

Page 15

- **Fifth paragraph from the bottom, first line** – Replace “The Records Officer” with “North East Area”.

RAFMAA Area proposed that the Minutes of the Areas Council Meeting held on 7th June 2008 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Seconded by Northern Area

Vote: For: 17

Ags: 0

Abs: 4

Carried by a majority vote.

A991/09/08 (4) Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 7th June 2008 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

ACTION / NOTES

Page 6

- **Third and fourth paragraph from the bottom, Western Area providing copy of BMFA/BHPA Shared Site document to paragliding club** – London Area asked if Western Area had provided a copy of the BMFA/BHPA document to the paragliding club where they share the site.

The representatives from Western Area were unable to answer the question. The Chairman commented that now that Western Area is aware that we have a document they have the option to use it if they feel it would be useful.

Page 8

- **Fourth paragraph from the bottom, proposal to Full Council for additional paragraph to Areas Constitution Article 26** – The Technical Secretary advised that a proposal was submitted and accepted at Full Council.

Page 10

- **Seventh paragraph, Examiner Log Books** – The Office Manager advised that work is in progress.

Page 14

- **Sixth paragraph, action on Tech Sec to provide notice in August issue of BMFA News reference changes to various sections in the Achievement Scheme booklet/handbook** -

The Technical Secretary apologised that he had missed the August issue of BMFA News for inclusion of a notice. Unfortunately with the run-up to the Power Nationals he had forgotten. However he will put a notice in the next issue of BMFA News. Although important, the changes are not critical and it is not too much of a problem if there is a delay in notification.

Page 16

- Fifth paragraph, application for funding from County

Councils – London Area asked if there has been any progress on the examination of the attempts to co-ordinate BMFA Areas with Sport England/UK Regions.

The Chairman commented that his understanding of the situation was that an Area could form a sub-committee to represent a County to match whatever Area was required.

The Technical Secretary commented that it has been mentioned that our Area structure does not match the Sport England Regional structure however his understanding of Sport England is that the only funding you are likely to get from them is for Olympic Sports.

The vast majority of funding that we can tap into happens at County level, not at Regional Sports Council level. As the Chairman has already commented there would be no problem for an Area which is split into County Areas to set up a sub-committee within the Area to represent a County which could then apply for County-based funds.

We would give full support to any Area who wishes to do that.

Page 17

- First paragraph, Brooklands Museum aviation conference

– A further conference is being planned for November. Mike Colling advised that it would be taking place the day after the BMFA AGM and he has been requested to attend by the Development Officer.

Terry Rounce, London Area advised that he would also be attending. Whereas at the last meeting they only had about ten minutes to talk about model flying, this time they have been allocated about thirty minutes.

Martin Dilly FSMAE, London Area commented that at the previous conference several of the air sport organisations were showing promotional DVD's. He believes it is time the BMFA commissioned a properly scripted model flying DVD. The Chairman advised that we are moving forward with this concept.

This concluded matters arising.

A992/09/08 (5) To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.

******a) Power WRITTEN REPORT – (APPENDIX A)**

With respect to paragraph three of his report, earlier this week he wrote to all FW qualified Area Chief Examiners to ask if they had any interest in a Jet 'C' and he is very impressed with the initial response.

South Midland suggested that it seems a little premature to talk about a Jet 'C' when there is neither a Jet 'A' or 'B'. The general consensus is that anyone embarking on Jet flying should be of 'B' standard.

The ASRC Chairman advised that the concept of a Jet 'C' will be discussed at one of the ASRC meetings in 2009.

ASRC were tasked with reviewing the Achievement Scheme paperwork currently in place for the 'A' FW to consider whether it is necessary to specify model types/limitations.

ASRC

Reference point 5 of the AS Controller report, use of old Examiner forms. The Chairman asked Delegates to report back to their Areas and remind their Chief Examiners to make sure they use the up-to-date forms.

AREAS

b) Silent Flight – No report.

A993/09/08 (6) Discussion item on the possibility of starting a Youth Committee.

The document prepared by Mike Colling FSMAE Education Co-ordinator had been circulated with the agenda.

The recommendation is that Area Council should put forward a proposal that Areas add a Youth Representative post to the list of elected officers of the Areas. The reason being to put forward the views of the younger members of the Association. There should be an upper age limit to this post of say 25.

This item was thoroughly debated including arguments for and against the concept of a 'Youth' member on Area Committees.

One of the main points that came to light from the discussion was that the Areas Constitution does not set a limit on age for being an Area officer, so it does currently allow Areas to appoint a junior person.

Midland Area proposed that having been adequately discussed he considers that the existing functions proposed here as possibilities, at present, are already very efficiently cared for by Mike Colling FSMAE and the Education Working Group.

It was felt the debate was best concluded by the above statement.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their input and recommended Areas think about whether there are any Clubs in their Area with active younger members and generally think about the youth element and incorporate it a little more.

A994/09/08 (7) To receive reports from committees or co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.

a) ASRC

A meeting has been arranged to get together with all Area Achievement Scheme Co-ordinators. This will take place on the 25th October 2008. Delegates were urged to remind their ASC's if they had not yet responded to do so.

ALL AREAS

The meeting is being held specifically to consult with ASC's face-to-face to ascertain whether there are any issues with regard to their job that they feel need addressing. On that basis it is not appropriate to send an alternative if the ASC is unable to attend.

The ASRC Chairman reiterated the ruling for inception dates for Achievement Scheme proposals passed at this meeting which is one month after the notice has been published in the next edition of the BMFA News. If it falls in the last third of the year it makes sense that the inception date is 1st January the following year.

The ASRC Chairman raised concerns with regard to Examiner 'A' Certificate testing he witnessed at a testing day organised at Old Warden by a commercial organisation. The testing was deplorable and eventually he made himself known to the Examiners and expressed his concerns.

Western Area brought to the attention of the meeting that they raised concerns regarding inconsistencies of Club Examiner testing standards three years ago. At the time they were told that there was no evidence of this but if provided with any evidence then we can think about doing something about it.

He believes the concern highlighted by the ASRC Chairman constitutes evidence. He asked if this Council feels we should now do something about it.

The Technical Secretary also pointed out that a proposal was put to this Council about the same time the concerns were raised by Western Area. The concept was to introduce a further grade of a properly trained Senior Chief Examiner whose remit would be to have a much greater role in policing the standards of Club Examiners at Area level. It was turned down because the consensus was that there was no evidence that standards were different across the country.

The PAS Controller commented that the situation is more serious than just a couple of Examiners being witnessed on the occasion mentioned. Standards do vary wildly. The problem is getting any written documentary proof of these acts. He receives reports and allegations by telephone however people are reluctant to put anything in writing. There is a problem and it is quite widely spread but people do not want to do anything about it.

South West pointed out that there is already a procedure in place for re-testing and believes that is sufficient. He further commented that maybe the best option in cases of this nature might be to talk to the Examiners' Club pointing out the areas of concern.

South Midland Area suggested that having heard everything today we are all aware of the issues now and that ASRC discuss it at their next meeting and report back to us with some ideas of where they think they can go.

Northern Area also suggested to the ASRC Chairman that it might be prudent to include discussion on this issue at the forthcoming ASC's meeting.

ASRC CHAIR

The Chairman asked Areas to consider the issue between now and the next Areas Council and report any feedback then to ASRC.

ALL

ASRC Chairman report continued...

There are some minor changes to the 'A' and 'B' test standards books. Draft copies of the revised booklets will be circulated to Area Council members for comments prior to submitting to Full Council in January 2009 for ratification. Comments should be made in writing, either email or fax, to the ASRC Chairman.

ASRC Chairman advised that the ASRC will be discussing the concept of a Scale 'C' in 2009 and that as always with the Achievement Scheme it will be pitched at Club flyers. When they feel it is necessary they will also seek specialist advice from the relevant bodies. The foundation for the Scale 'C' will be based on the Scale Rule Book.

The Technical Secretary pointed out that apart from the Scale competition element of which there are probably fewer than a hundred competitors, we currently offer nothing after the 'B' certificate for the Club scale flyer and that is what we are trying to offer with the Scale 'C'.

Various opinions were expressed. The Chairman said he hoped the ASRC would find them useful in their deliberations and looks forward to a detailed proposal for the Scale 'C' in the future.

Western Area asked when we can expect to see ribbon drawings for the 'C' Certificate, which has been previously requested. The Technical Secretary advised that it is his intention to include ribbon drawings in the 'C' Certificate paperwork however it is proving very difficult and he has not yet learnt how to do them properly.

If anybody can produce ribbon drawings he would be more than happy to work with them. Northern Area offered to pass on details of the person who produced ribbon drawings for GBRCAA schedule to the Technical Secretary.

Northern Area

**b) Flight Challenge
(BRIEF REPORT INCLUDED IN DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
WRITTEN REPORT) – (APPENDIX L)**

The Chairman said it was delightful to see so many children having fun at Flight Challenge. He was impressed with some of the flying and also real achievement in the face of adversity. They were just having a good time and giving it another try.

c) Education

From a chance remark during a telephone conversation he talked to HSE regarding risk assessment for using modelling knives in Schools.

They were very helpful and said there were no rules against using modelling knives in schools as long as they are properly supervised.

He commissioned for Sky-Hi Products a professional Safety Officer to do a generic risk assessment on building the 'Dart'. He has passed it on to the Development Officer if anybody would like a copy.

It was interesting to note that in the opinion of the Safety Officer the highest risk is the fact that you might slip and trip as you walk out on a wet field to launch the model.

He will be attending the D&T Show, which coincides with the BMFA AGM. Two new models will be launched at the Show; the 'Arrow' and the 'Vulcan'.

We will also be issuing, to celebrate twenty years of the Education Programme and the 100 thousandth Dart produced a Limited Edition Dart collection of six different Darts in a box which will be available only from the BMFA.

We have already booked the stand for the ASE Exhibition at Reading University 8/9/10 of January 2009. Volunteers to help on the stand would be most welcome. He only requires one person because it is only a small stand.

South West Area thanked whoever was responsible for arranging the updated version of the Teachers Guide. He also asked how we were getting on with producing a digital version.

The Education Co-ordinator advised that work is in progress.

A995/09/08 (8) To receive reports from Area Committees.

North West – In the absence of the Delegate David Lloyd-Jones who is unwell at this time, the Alternate Area Chairman gave a brief report.

The Area stands have been well received and lots of people visited at Weston Park, Cosford and Woodvale. It was very good to talk to so many members and non-members.

The Delegate also manned the stand at an event at Llandudno for the first time and he has been asked back next year. It was more on the lines of a model engineer show.

The Indoor events resume on 19th October in Rochdale.

***** **RAFMAA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX B)**

The Vice-Chairman advised that as a result of a change to ATC rules three or four years ago we now have an increased number of ATC Squadrons on board as Youth Groups. We could provide a list of those Squadrons if it would be of any use.

***** **NORTH EAST – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX C)**

***** **WESTERN AREA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX D)**

The Area currently does not have a full complement of Officers and are experiencing difficulties in continuing to function.

The Technical Secretary advised that if the Area does not exist Free Flight flyers will lose Merryfield for their Area Centralised Free Flight Competition Events because they can only be organised through the Area.

SOUTH WEST – They too are finding it increasingly difficult to fill the Officers' posts and do not know if there will be a South West Area next year. Crisis time will come at their AGM in October.

The Technical Secretary commented that it might be necessary for this Council to rethink the way we operate in certain areas and in certain circumstances.

We might have to seriously consider splitting the larger Areas into Counties with an overview in Area Committee made up of officials from the Counties.

South West advised that an idea that is being mooted at the moment is that instead of having officers that do the organising and representative of all the clubs being the Committee that do the debating and making the decisions, we revert to the officers being elected by the clubs to run South West Area.

It is still very much in the embryonic stage at the moment. If this Committee think this is a sensible idea they would require some help to develop it further.

He does not feel it is a good idea if there are problems to wait until it becomes endemic all the way through the Areas. If a problem is flagged up now is the time to try and solve it.

***** **EAST ANGLIA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX E)**

In addition to the written report East Anglia advised that the Club to which he belonged did apply to the Local District Council for funds and was given a great deal of help as to how to go about the application and they were very successful. They received £2000 for a new mower.

The Local Councils are the people to go and see for funding.

***** **MIDLAND – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX F)**

***** **SOUTH MIDLAND – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX G)**

South Midland highlighted some of the points in the report.

Most of the BMFA activities these days seem to concentrate on Radio Control and it is nice to know that in their Area they have very active Control Line and Free Flight sections. They all come along to the Area Committee meetings as well.

They provided two of the pilots for the Helicopter Team at the European Championships this year which took a Bronze Medal.

The weather has curtailed a lot of their activities throughout the year but all in all they have not done too badly.

South Midland Area Chairman pointed out that the first thing he did when he became Chairman ten years ago was to move the venue for meetings to the centre of the Area, which has improved the number of Delegates they get to the meetings.

***** **SOUTH EAST – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX H)**

LONDON – No written report. He referred to the report in the minutes of the previous meeting, which will be the same report for today.

***** **NORTHERN - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX I)**

Gordon Warburton FSMAE Northern Area Chairman announced that he would be standing down this year after fourteen years.

The Area will be manning the BMFA stand again at the Christmas Show at Harrogate.

They bought a Gala Tent with some of the Area fund this year and it has been put to good use.

At the Castle Howard event pretty much all the spectators are non-modellers. The feedback was very interesting and they were most impressed with what they saw.

***** **SOUTHERN - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX J)**

***** **NORTHERN IRELAND – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX K)**

There were 2000 special 'Darts' produced for The Bombardier Family day. They were produced with their own graphics on to celebrate their 100th anniversary as they are the oldest aircraft manufacturer in the world. Part of the celebration was to give every employee one of these.

***** **MID WEST – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX L)**

A996/09/08 (9) To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.

***** **DEVELOPMENT OFFICER – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX M)**

Reference UAV's in the report, North East commended the excellent work put in by the representatives of the BMFA in making sure that it is made quite clear to everybody that UAV's are not model aircraft.

Technical Secretary

The Technical Secretary reported that there will be a change to the ANO. Fairly soon there will be a change coming in that will severely restrict the use of data gathering equipment in models. Basically anything that can feed back to the computer in any way whatsoever is data gathering equipment and so are cameras.

The intention as set out in a consultative document from the CAA is that a blanket exemption will be granted to the BMFA. That will mean that data gathering equipment for sport and recreational purposes will come under the edit of the BMFA and we will be issuing personal exemptions.

Anybody who does not have a sport and recreational exemption will fall under the CAA licence to do commercial work. If you have an exemption from the BMFA and you then go and do commercial work with it you will be breaking the law.

A number of people in F1A Gliders are using on-board recording altimeters which they then download when they land. We are discussing this with the CAA. If they accept that either a transmitting or recording Variometer is not necessarily data gathering equipment then there will not be a problem. If there is a problem we will issue an exemption for it.

The Development Officer has been involved in some work on "First Person R/C" which you have probably read in BMFA News. It is a download link from an active video camera in the aircraft.

That is an example of data gathering equipment. At the moment that information goes to a headset worn by the pilot. There is no reason whatsoever why that could not be diverted and multiplexed into a computer hard drive.

The Technical Secretary expressed his thanks to everyone who helped at the Power Nationals. It went very well with only a few minor problems.

PRO

He had a lot of fun going round with the stands up and down the country. Teeside was very interesting. The Gala tents that Northern Area mentioned are excellent and he recommends them to Areas. They are easy to erect and dismantle. They give you a lovely bright, light, clean space to work in for running a stand.

If an Area wants access to a Gala Tent to try they should contact the PRO and he will see what he can sort out.

It is good to see a few more volunteers at some of the stands helping out, getting involved and having some fun. He is hopeful this will continue growing.

There has been some feedback about sponsorship and things for 2009. Things people wanted to see at the Power Nationals in terms of buses and other things.

A997/09/08 (10) To confirm dates of Areas Council Meetings 2009.

These were confirmed as:

31st January 2009
6th June 2009
26th September 2009

A998/09/08 (11) Any Other Business.

London Area made a request for information of the overall cost of Areas Council Meetings throughout the year.

This will be provided in the report from the Office at the next meeting.

OFFICE MGR

The Chairman closed the meeting at 15.15pm.

CIRCULATION:

All Council Members

SAA Delegate

All Area Chairmen

All Area Secretaries

RNMAA Chairman

All Area AS Co-ordinators

PAS/SFAS Controller

Flying Site Adviser

All Tech Committee Chairmen

Fellows (as requested)

Club Bulletin

Office Manager

Accounts Manager

BMFA News Editor

Chief Executive

Development Officer

Provisional

R/C Power Achievement Scheme Controller

Report to Areas Council 27 September 2008

1. In accordance with this Council's wishes, the meeting of Coordinators has been arranged for 25 October 2008. To date, no response has been received from Mid West Area, (probably because no-one has volunteered for the job). Every Coordinator has now been sent two letters.
2. Whilst I have always been able to state how many Club Examiners we have for the various disciplines, currently 935 Fixed Wing, 100 Helicopter, and 72 Silent Flight, the actual number of individuals has always eluded me. Thanks to help from my daughter and an Excel macro...the magic number is 1034 individuals. (At least it was at the time of writing).
3. All Area Chief Examiners are approaching the time for reports for their respective area AGM's. All Fixed Wing Chief Examiners should have now received a letter regarding interest in a Jet C certificate. The initial response is looking very positive.
4. Quite why some Chief Examiners persist with using old out-of-date forms is beyond me, hence the following repetition.
5. All Area Chief Examiners have now had the new Examiner forms. Contrary to popular myth I would like to confirm there is NOT a prize for the ACE producing the oldest form, even if it has the words SMAE at the top. Please dispose of all the old Examiner forms thoughtfully.☺

Peter Spurway
Controller RCPAS
Phone 01727 851223
Email rcpas@bmfa.org

AREA 14 (RAFMAA) REPORT TO AREAS COUNCIL – 27th September 2008

Since the last report, RAFMAA has held its annual fly-in at RAF Waddington, held a further Committee meeting, AGM and the RAFMAA Championships at RAF Honington.

The Fly-in was expanded this year to include a training and introduction session using the buddy box system to give prospective new members the opportunity to experience model flying. The Air Training Corps were present and we were able to fly control line as well as RC power. The weather was bad for most of the time but flying did get underway. An informal BBQ and social was held on the Saturday evening, which was a great success. The down side was the loss of a couple of models, which is always a sad occurrence. Thanks go to Andy Rogers for all the work and preparation that went into the event.

The Championships got underway at the end of August at RAF Honington and we were blessed with four days of excellent weather. A larger turnout than previous years was most encouraging with 34 or so competitors. We were particularly pleased to welcome back Robin Gowler FSMAE, BMFA Chairman and I thank him for his sterling contribution throughout the event. New Champions were crowned and new members recruited so all in all an outstanding success. My thanks go to all who made it happen and in particular Ian Nelson who stepped into the breach at the eleventh hour to manage the event following Dan Platts' enforced absence.

The AGM passed-off without any drama and a new Executive Committee was duly elected. Changes to the annual subscription were voted through and the new appointment of Vice Chairman made congratulations to Andy Rogers who now wears three hats!

We are hoping to run an Indoor event at RAF Digby in November and planning has commenced for Warbirds 2009, which will probably be held at RAF Scampton once again, subject to confirmation.

Original Signed

Mick Evans
Wing Commander
Chairman

North Eastern Area report to Areas Council Sept 2008

The Area continues to function well with an average of 26 attendees at each monthly meeting.

Our annual event of the last seven years, the "Geordie Nats" has been changed by necessity. The MoD were asking extortionate monies which we could not recover, so the Cramlington Club stepped in with a superb venue about a mile long and half a mile wide. The day went well with the Mayor of Blyth Valley and the Chairman of Northumberland Council in attendance, escorted by the Area Chairman, and were most impressed. Tom Jones, the Area Delegate & PRO arranged for the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight's Dakota to attend, which it did right on time giving a superb low level display.

As an Area we do not pay mileage to Club delegates, but with their blessing we support our members in International Comps, which this year worked out about £350 our highest to date.

The Area Education Coordinator has embarked on a 12 month agreement with a Middlesbrough School to introduce basic aerodynamics using models, to include the Dart and Gymminie Cricket, Control Line, Rocketry, Indoor and Radio Control. A class of 22 will be whittled down to about 12 within a few weeks. The problems with winter coming on and dark nights will mean a long building season and a rather intense spring flying their outdoor creations. He also spent an evening in February with the Richmond 20/40 ATC unit taking them through the flight challenge and leaving them the paperwork. After hearing nothing from them for 4 months he was startled to see them turn up at Duxford in late June and winning the Senior Event in style. They will be revisited in the winter with the view to moving them to higher objectives.

An appeal to Area Club Delegates at the August meeting to look to their clubs for a volunteer to take on the task of Area Secretary, to replace Mike Bell who has done 2 more years than he could really afford, did not fall on deaf ears. There is a distinct possibility that there is going to be a bun-fight at the AGM in December.

Allan Weighell FSMAE
North Eastern Area Chairman

BMFA East Anglian Area – Delegate's Report, September 2008.

Yet again I must report that the East Anglian Area committee continues to be poorly supported. The committee has decided, in light of the apparently successful experiment conducted by the Midland area that it would now be worth pursuing a similar course, if permitted that is to say, that some meetings at least should be conducted by electronic means.

More agreeably, club activity seems, despite the lengthy periods of inclement weather, to be as healthy as ever. In Norwich, Wymondham (Norfolk) and Lowestoft (Suffolk) clubs are running regular indoor flying sessions between September 2008 and May 2009. The clubs involved cooperate where possible to ensure that the evenings do not clash thus ensuring a long spread of such evenings throughout the winter. These events are open of course to all potential flyers throughout the area, and are not restricted simply to club or country members. This has the benefit of attracting new modellers, particularly juniors, into the aeromodelling world. Flying at the events caters for different groups of flyers, from those who enjoy 'shockies' and helicopters to those whose allegiance lies with stick and tissue models. Because of the number of events we are able to separate the categories to a satisfactory degree, thus avoiding conflict arising from the differing needs of each group.

Recently the South Norfolk and Stansted clubs and collaborated in an instructors' workshop. The purpose was to ensure that club instructors were training to a recognisably constant scheme. Non-instructors were also invited to participate in post-mortems of mock tests, in order to ascertain that the lessons being taught were actually being learnt. It was gratifying to discover that virtually every fault that had been committed throughout the proceedings had been observed, the more so because some of the observers taking part were juniors.

The Area Education Officer, after a period of enforced activity, is now embarking on a programme of events throughout the area aimed essentially at young people, who must be seen as the future life blood of aeromodelling. The Education Officer's background in teaching and training are expected to stand him in good stead in this venture. With all the necessary planning it is probable that the earliest events will take place early in the New Year.

Pete Leavesley.

Midland Area Report

The committee has been fortunate this recent summer, being favoured with exceptionally fine weather for those model aircraft activities in which we have contributed.

The main events being, the LMA 'Fly-in' East Kirkby where we did our best on the BMFA stand - making money - helping at the children's Flight Challenge, Duxford and at the Nationals, in the hangar, Barkston - to keep children happy - and parents.

The Area website has received a large number of hits, I understand and is to be reported on at a later date by our Secretary Alf Tunnicliffe and initiator John Bridget. Whilst achiev. scheme co-ordinator is quietly being 'absorbed' (is that the best word?) by Alan Penn.

For the coming winter we look forward in anticipation - and hope - to the possibility of an indoor flying session or two.

George Maynard - Chairman

Provisional

South Midland Area Report, 27/8/2008

Despite problems experienced by other Areas, South Midland Area committee meetings continue to be well supported, with attendances typically in the range of 12-18.

Whilst most of the Area's activities focus on RC, there are also strong control-line (Milton Keynes Club and the Chiltern Flyers) and free-flight (FACCT) contingents.

The Area also contains a strong helicopter contingent, and provided two of the three pilots for this year's bronze medal winning F3C European Championship team.

The Area Education Officer is very active in promoting modelling, helping out with the Dart workshop at the Nationals, and also organising "hands-on" days for scouts and other children during the holidays. However, the atrocious weather has meant that these activities, along with many club events, have been severely curtailed this year.

Peter Christy,
South Midlands Area Delegate.

South East Area Report to Areas Council on 27.9.08

On June 28th, Chairman Bob Cutter accompanied by our Ed Co-ordinator Keith Miller and BMFA News columnist Stuart Taylor attended the Flight Challenge at Duxford to assist with the running of the event. It was nice to see Kings Prep School, Rochester back competing after a few years' absence and they were very successful winning the Premier Team event, second in the Junior Team, second and third in Gyminnie Cricket and third in the Elite class. Well done to them! Stuart Taylor produced a write-up on the event for BMFA News.

Still on the education front, our Ed Co-ordinator has made his usual annual journey to an Ealing school to assist London Area with a two day Dart building session and performed similarly at another school in Rochford, Essex. A member of a SE Area club who is a teacher at Walworth Academy in South London requested help with the introduction to a six week Dart building course and we were able to help with an initial flying demo and chat which enthused the children.

Preparation is well in hand for our all day indoor free flight meeting in Tonbridge in November and in connection with the Dart competition for children which is to be included, 20 local schools have been approached for support as well as the local media.

Our annual Scale Day was again hosted at the Bickley Club field at Sutton-at-Hone in good but breezy weather and resulted in a win for Steve Mansell with his DH9a. Our free flight devotees continue to battle with the rigours of retrieving on Ashdown Forest and in addition to the normal quota of decentralised BMFA events there, also ran a successful gala for South East Area clubs on July 20th.

We have been operating this year without an Area secretary but in response to a flyer sent to all our clubs, no less than two responses have been received. All being well, one of these will be elected at our forthcoming AGM and hopefully the unsuccessful candidate will be persuaded to take over one of the four jobs at present carried out by one of our Committee members who shall be nameless!

Of the 71 clubs in the South East Area, 41 have an email facility, and it was decided at our last Area meeting that in future, issues of our newsletter SEADOG would be sent by email to those clubs which will reduce our printing and postage costs by one third.

Keith Miller FSMAE, Council Delegate

NORTHERN AREA CHAIRMANS REPORT TO COUNCIL SEPT 2008.

My apologies for not being able to attend, but I am having some work done on the house which needs my attention.

The exciting news is our new venue for indoor R/C at the Leeds Trinity & All Saints College at Horsforth. We have to thank our Area Committee member, Jack Parker, for arranging advantageous terms for this superb venue.

We also had new premises for what used to be the Pudsey Swap meet. With the escalating costs of the old venue we changed to the Spen Valley Sports College and enjoyed a good turnout.

The weather has affected many of our projects, and the Rufforth Show was severely affected.

Our 3rd Castle Howard fly-in and display, despite awful weather in the week preceding, went ahead with near perfect weather conditions. We had two National champions and the overall Top Gun winner amongst the 54 booked in fliers, an excellent display was put on, on the Sunday afternoon, for the substantial crowd of mainly non-aeromodelling spectators who left with an excellent impression of what the hobby/sport is all about. With refreshment sales and the raffles (with prizes donated by AI's Hobbies, Inwoods, Fighteraces, YT International and many other traders) £550.00 was raised which is being donated to the RAF Benevolent fund. This pushes the total raised over the three events we have held to over £2000.00

Provisional

SOUTHERN AREA

We held a committee meeting last week where it was confirmed that at least four committee members were standing down.

In the Spring we had a large presentation meeting where at least half the Area's clubs sent a representative. Although it was deemed a success it did not produce any new faces at committee meetings.

They all said it would be nice to have a follow up meeting, so we are going to have one in December - what we are not telling them is that the AGM has been delayed and will take place immediately after the presentation! Hopefully with the enthusiasm of the meeting some will be persuaded to join the Area committee.

A point that has been raised is that members who could be interested are already committee members in their own clubs, which all takes their spare time and they do not wish to take on any more. A valid point I suppose, but someone has to.

It has been quieter on the flying front, with indifferent weather, so most clubs doing their own thing.

The indoor season is about to start, so it will be interesting to see what new creations appear this year.

Unfortunately we have not had an Educational coordinator for three years now, so sadly that side of things has ground to a halt.

Northern Ireland Area report to Area's Council 27/09/2008

The area has had another satisfactory year in all aspects especially the PR scene which commenced with our usual static and flying display at Mount Stewart plus BMFA stand. This was followed by the Belfast MFC holding a Dart workshop at the North Down railway show .We again attended the Seagate Young Innovators event which took place at the Odyssey on June 12th. Schools from all over the province take part in this and the Area had the BMFA stand manned as usual and managed to talk to many teachers. Then we had the Emmerdale Extravaganza in the Folk museum with a C/L and Indoor radio display again with the stand. Then there was the Portrush air show with stand,static jet runs and a flying display off the beach.Finally there was the Bombardier Family day, again at the museum,where five of our members worked their butts off building and flying Darts and Tony Monaghan handed out Dart kits like they were going out of fashion.

The Area was well represented at the British Nats.The boys from Banbridge took first and fifth inIMACFreestyle,second and third in IMAC Unlimited and second in Freestyle.They also took second and third in the Fun Fly event.All together not a bad outing.

The competition scene has also been going well.This year the aerobatics was divided into two seperate events held at different venues and attendance was the best ever.This has awakened the scale scene and they are determined to emulate the aerobatic boys next year. Thermal have managed all their competitions despite the weather.

There has been a tremendous increase in interest in the indoor scene and clubs all over the country are now running their own events.If you so wished you could fly every weekend and through the week as well.

Attendance at Area meetings has been excellent over the year and I believe that we are very fortunate in this respect.

We now look forward to our AGM and the winter indoor scene.

WH Menary FSMAE Area Delegate and Chairman

MIDWEST AREA REPORT SEPTEMBER 2008

Mid-West Area meetings have been poorly supported as usual, with only the “faithful few” travelling considerable mileages to attend. We have reviewed the idea of virtual meetings, but we are planning to carry on with actual “face to face” meetings hopefully supported by discussion using the internet.

The Mid-West Area has enjoyed supporting many events covering nearly all the various disciplines. The David Prosser Memorial and the Gathering of Rotary Eagles events were really well supported this year. The Gaer Park Club also hosted a very successful Fly-In.

The year so far has been very much “business as usual” with nothing new or controversial to report.

Robin Jones FSMAE
Mid West Area Delegate

Provisional

**Development Officer Report
27th September 2008**

The day to day workload continues to increase with the majority of my time being spent directly assisting members and clubs in all matters Aeromodelling by letter, telephone and increasingly by Email, the range of topics and issues that we are asked to become involved with is also broadening significantly.

The use of the 2.4GHz band has again taken up large amounts of time, in part due to the sometimes ambiguous regulation that we are subject to and also to specific problems relating to individual manufacturers equipment and compliance. Part of this process involved a trip to Brussels with Graham Lynn MBE and Chris Bromley FSMAE to represent UK Aeromodellers at a meeting of the European Commission. This meeting was called to discuss and clarify the current and future use of the 2.4GHz band for model control, and also received support from UK importers of this equipment.

I have visited several clubs during the course of the year and have given presentations and talks on the general work of the BMFA, several more of these talks have been booked for the winter months some of which can be attributed to the Chairman's Conference.

I have attended a number of shows and organised a large stand at the London Model Engineering Exhibition at Alexandra Palace in January (to be repeated in 2009) and will again be taking an education stand to the Design and Technology show in November.

The first Chairman's Conference was held in March at the Soaring Centre, Husbands Bosworth. This pilot event proved to be a huge success with 100% positive feedback from those who attended. The feedback was very much that delegates had had an interesting and worthwhile day. Preparations are underway to take this concept to other parts of the country in spring 2009.

The 2008 Children's Flight Challenge was again held at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford and proved to be a very successful event, negotiations are already underway to try and secure the same venue for 2009 as well as suitable sponsorship backing.

Schools Day at Old Warden was unfortunately cancelled (by Old Warden) "due to a lack of interest from schools" which was a real shame as this event has previously been well supported and has given a large number of children their first taste of RC model flying.

Following on from the success of the University Challenge in 2007, further changes were implemented for 2008. The Event was held as usual at Elvington near York and proved to be a very successful weekend. Planning is well underway for the 2009 competition with a view to developing this event further.

UAV's are featuring more and more frequently in the public domain and we continually monitor developments in this field along with their potential impact

on model flying. Graham Lynn MBE has a particularly close involvement with this area. In June I was invited along with Graham to attend UAS 2008 which is the largest UAV conference in Europe to give a presentation from the BMFA perspective. This proved to be an interesting and worthwhile trip and the presentation I delivered prompted some positive feedback and sensible questions. The title of my presentation was "UAV's are not model aircraft" it is vitally important that we maintain this stance as currently the UAV community are lacking in direction and leadership and have been to a degree "piggybacking" on the work carried out for recreational model flying when they clearly are conducting their activities as "aerial work" for financial gain.

I was again asked to produce the Nationals Programme which I again undertook with Gemma Sargeant. The 2008 production has been well received although it was noticeably more difficult to obtain advertising revenue, possibly due to the widely publicised "recession" that we are facing.

Work has continued in relation to child protection and particularly welfare policies within model clubs, the processing of CRB Disclosure applications continues to increase in number with the database now containing around 560 BMFA volunteers in possession of an enhanced CRB certificate. Clubs that have taken the step of implementing a welfare policy (and most have) are generally finding that it comes down very much to a common sense approach and that it has very little impact on the day to day club activities.

I would like to thank all of those willing volunteers as well as the employed staff who have assisted and supported me throughout the year; I look forward to working with you all on future projects.

Manny Williamson
Development Officer

HEAVY LIFT CHALLENGE 2008

This year's event again took place at Elvington Airfield nr York with the Saturday's presentations being moved to the Yorkshire Air Museum which proved an ideal and popular location.

The Event was again sponsored by our insurer, Royal & Sun Alliance and the total for running the event including the substantial prize fund fell within the budgeted figure (£5000).

A full report of the 2008 competition will feature in the forthcoming issue of the BMFA News and can also be viewed on the BMFA website www.bmfa.org or the new Education Working Group website www.flyyourplane.com

A two page report of the competition written by Alistair Sutherland also featured in Radio Control Model World magazine.

The 2009 competition will be launched within the next few days (just awaiting delivery of the brochure covers) and the airfield and museum are booked for the 13th/14th of June 2009.

CHILDREN'S FLIGHT CHALLENGE 2008

The 2008 Challenge was again held at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, this time in Hangar 2.

The competition attracted a record attendance with over 200 children taking part on the day and over 100 adults in attendance.

The new Gyminnie Cricket class attracted a good entry as did the Elite class introduced two years ago. The competition benefited from attendance by several members of the Indoor Technical Committee, this was much appreciated and of huge benefit to those teams who were struggling with aircraft trimming techniques.

A full report will feature in BMFA News and again can be viewed on the two websites listed above.

Preparations are due to start for the 2009 competition and at this time various sponsorship avenues are being explored.

My thanks to all those who volunteered and gave up their free time to assist with the two events above.

Manny Williamson
Development Officer