

MINUTES

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on the 24th September 2011 at 11am at Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrews Road, Leicester LE2 8RE.

Provisional until confirmed at the next Area Council Meeting.

PRESENT

Nigel Barker	PRO/Chairman
Peter Leavesley	East Anglia Area Delegate
George Maynard	Midland Area Delegate
Terry Rounce	London Area Delegate Alternate
Andy Symons	Northern Area Delegate
Tom Jones	North East Area Delegate
David Lloyd Jones	North West Area Delegate
Duncan McClure	South Midland Area Delegate
Keith Miller FSMAE	South East Area Delegate
Stuart Simpson	Southern Area Delegate
Phil Durant	Western Area Delegate
Aidan Lafferty	Northern Ireland Area Delegate Alt
Paul Luby	RAFMAA Area Delegate
Peter Spurway	PAS Controller
Chris Moynihan	SFAS Controller

Visitor

Alan Penn

Midland Area ASC

In Attendance

Linda Harding

Minute Taker / Office Manager

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence.
- 2 Request for Permission to be Absent.
- 3 Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 29th January 2011.
- 4 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 29th January 2011 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 5 To receive a proposal from the following Areas to appoint Chief Examiners:
 - a) From Midland Area that John Bridgett, Membership Number 023167 is appointed Area Chief Examiner (Fixed Wing) for Midland Area.
 - b) From Southern Area that Matthew Lodge, Membership Number 144947 is appointed Area Chief Examiner (Helicopter) for Southern Area.

- 6 To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.
- a) Power
 - b) Silent Flight
- 7 To receive the following proposals from Chris Bromley FSMAE on behalf of Achievement Scheme Review Committee:
- i. *That the 2010 Member's Handbook, page 69 column 2, Area Chief Instructors, be modified as follows:
Delete Existing Section, Area Chief Instructors and replace with new text. (Details appended).*
 - ii. *That the 2010 Member's Handbook, page 69 column 1, BMFA Approved Instructors, Paragraph 2 be modified as follows:
~~He must be a current member of the BMFA and initially be put forward by a club to be tested by an Area Chief Instructor, in much the same way that a Club Examiner is tested by an Area Chief Examiner.~~
He must be a current member of the BMFA and initially be put forward by a club to the local Area Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator (ASC) to be tested by an Area Chief Instructor. The ASC will then arrange for the test to take place.*
 - iii. *That the Standards Booklet for the 'C' Certificate (Aerobatic) be modified by adding a new drawing to the 'Hourglass' section on page 10. (Details appended)*
 - iv. *That the 'A' Certificate (Fixed Wing) Standards Booklet, Page 7, Item (c) "figure of eight" be modified as from 1st January 2012. (Details appended).*
 - v. *That the appended Achievement Scheme Grievance Procedure is ratified by Areas Council.*
 - vi. *That in the event that the Achievement Scheme Grievance Procedure is accepted the 2010 Member's Handbook, page 57 column 2, be modified.(Details appended).*
 - vii. *That the appended Achievement Scheme document, 'Guidance for Area Chief Instructors' is ratified by Areas Council.*
 - viii. *That in the event that the Achievement Scheme document 'Guidance for Area Chief Instructors' is accepted the 2010 Member's Handbook, page 69 column 2, be modified.(Details appended).*
 - ix. *That the 2010 Member's Handbook, page 61 column 1, The 'A' Certificate (Helicopter) paragraphs (b) and (c) be modified to add an intermediate landing and take-off. (Details appended).*
 - x. *The 2012 Issue of the 'A' Certificate (Helicopter) Standards Booklet, page 9, Sections (b) and (c) be modified. (Details appended).*
 - xi. *That the Standards Booklet for the Helicopter 'B' Certificate, Page 17, Section (k) **Perform an approach at 45° to the vertical, landing within a pre-determined two metre square**, be modified.(Details appended).*
 - xii. *That the 2010 Member's Handbook, page 57 column 1, 'A', 'B', and 'E' Certificate Re-Tests, be modified.(Details appended).*
 - xiii. *That the 2010 Member's Handbook, page 61 column 1, a new section be added, 'C' Certificate (Scale). (Details appended).*

xiv. *That, in the event that the 'C' Certificate (Scale) is accepted the appended booklet covering the standards required of Candidates and Examiners working with the 'C' Certificate (Scale) be accepted.*

Also that the Achievement Scheme Review Committee be given the authority to change this Standards booklet in line with any changes to the manoeuvres in the BMFA Scale Rule Book without referral back to Areas Council. Any such changes will be notified to the ASRC by the Scale Technical Committee and jointly agreed.

xv. *That the 2010 Member's Handbook, page 57 column 1, Withdrawal of Certificates, paragraph 5, be modified. (Details appended).*

- 8 To receive reports from committees or co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.
 - a) Achievement Scheme Review Committee
 - b) Flight Challenge/Education
- 9 Review Silent Flight Achievement Scheme, Club involvement and safety. *(Brought forward from January Area Council meeting – A1083/1/11 (8) Reports AS Controllers b) Silent Flight).*
- 10 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.)
- 11 To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.
- 12 To confirm dates of Areas Council meeting 2012.
- 13 Any Other Business.
Note: Items for Any Other Business must be handed to the Chairman of the Meeting **IN WRITING** before the meeting commences. This will be strictly enforced.

Chris Moynihan was appointed Vice-Chairman.

VOTING STRENGTH OF THE MEETING IS 12.

MINUTES

A1089/09/11 (1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from the following:

Robin Sleight MBE Honorary Secretary (Area Council Chairman)
Ian Robb Northern Ireland Area Delegate
Martin Dilly FSMAE London Area
Mike Colling FSMAE Education Co-ordinator
Doug McClure South Midlands Area Delegate
Chris Bromley FSMAE Elected Officer

A1090/09/11 (2) Request for Permission to be absent.

There were no requests.

A1091/09/11 (3) Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 29th January 2011

Page 2

- **Apologies** - Add George Maynard, Midland Area Delegate

London Area proposed that the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 29th January 2011 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Seconded by East Anglia Area

Vote: For: 10
Ags: 0
Abs: 2

Carried by a majority vote.

A1092/09/11 (4) Matters/Actions arising from the meeting on 29th January 2011 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

Page 3

- **First Paragraph, action ASRC to discuss ACE's ability to re-asses Club Examiners** – Ongoing, will hopefully report back at the next meeting.

ACTION / NOTES

ASRC

Page 7

- **First paragraph, annual update of Achievement Scheme Standards Booklets** – The Chairman suggested it might be prudent to include the date of issue rather than the 'year' on the front of all new/revised booklets for the sake of clarity. Ideally this should be applied to all BMFA documents.

ASRC/OFFICE

Page 8

- **First paragraph, reference to lack of assistance from local Areas to man the stand at Association of Science Education event in January 2011** – London Area commented that they are more than happy to provide assistance if possible but do require adequate notification beforehand.

North West Area had been provided with a written statement from Mike Colling FSMAE Education Co-ordinator as an addendum to the Education report and which he had been asked to read out at this meeting on behalf of Mike Colling FSMAE. It relates to the above comment and it expresses his disappointment that it seems the Areas do not read the Education reports that he provides to Full and Areas Council because the reports do make reference to events and requests for help.

The Chairman commented that it is fair to say there has been a breakdown of communication and maybe we should take more time to read the various reports.

However where someone has a particular need, they should do more than include a request in a report and make contact with the relevant person on the Area Committee.

The Chairman asked North West to report back to Mike Colling FSMAE that we are always keen to publicise and make known his needs as required. If there is a specific event that he believes he might require extra help with, he should have a word with the meeting Chairman who can then convey the information to the meeting.

This concluded matters arising.

A1093/09/11 (5) To receive a proposal from the following Areas to appoint Chief Examiners.

- i) **From Midland Area that John Bridgett, Membership Number 023167 is appointed Area Chief Examiner (Fixed Wing) for Midland Area.**

Seconded by Northern Area
Carried unanimously

**MIDLAND
AREA/PAS CONT.**

- ii) **From Southern Area that Matthew Lodge, Membership Number 144947 is appointed Area Chief Examiner (Helicopter) for Southern Area.**

Seconded by PRO

Due consideration was given to the above application taking in to account comments from Southern Area in support of the appointment and the PAS Controller who felt he was not able to recommend the application.

The main criticism is that there is not enough evidence of the candidate's ability for testing as a Club Examiner.

The PAS Controller was happy to arrange a visit to the Area to assess the standard of testing by the candidate, which Southern Area agreed to.

**PAS
CONTROLLER**

The meeting were in agreement that the application should be deferred to the January Area Council for a decision, by which time there should have been the opportunity to assess the ability of the candidate in the field.

**AGENDA ITEM – JANUARY 2012 AREA COUNCIL -
Reconsider Southern Area Application for Matthew
Lodge (144947) to be appointed as Area Chief
Examiner (Helicopter) for Southern Area.**

OFFICE MGR

A1094/09/11 (6) To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.

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

In addition to the written report the PAS Controller advised that he had received several telephone calls from different people concerned about the publication of photographs and reports in the BMFA News of several children who had passed their 'A' certificates.

The concern is that undue prominence is being given to the children attaining their 'A' certificate and they think it will cause problems in their clubs, particularly the ones with 'A' certificate rules that the children are able to fly on their own. There is concern also that it is becoming a 'competition' as to who can get the youngest person through the test.

The PAS Controller believed it was right that he brought it to the attention of this Council and to ask whether this Council had the same concerns or feelings.

The consensus was that there is no undue concern with children attaining their 'A' certificate and we should be encouraging safe flying standards. The general flying at the club thereafter is down to individual club rules.

b) Silent Flight

He has registered an additional Club Examiner in Silent Flight in the Sussex Area.

He raised concerns at the last meeting which was echoed around the table that more needs to be done to promote Silent Flight Achievement Schemes.

Speaking as a Silent Flight Examiner himself his prime concerns are that because Silent flight is a less populated area of model flying we have much fewer Examiners and those Examiners do far fewer tests than most Power Examiners, partly because the population is not there to support many frequent tests. Therefore those Examiners do not take many tests and the concern he has is that maybe their polish and aptitudes start to rust and erode fairly quickly in terms of the protocol and skills of testing.

What he intends to do is draft a letter to predominantly Silent Flight clubs and draw their attention to the onus of responsibility on them to promote the achievement scheme and to seek their views as to what more we could do as a Silent Flight Achievement Scheme. It was suggested a letter is sent out to the relevant clubs with their 2012 Affiliation Pack renewal.

**SF AS
CONTROLLER**

RAFMAA again raised the point which he initially brought up twelve months ago that the BMFA/BHPA Shared Use guidance booklet is still not available on the website. The Office Manager will follow this up with the CEO.

OFFICE MGR

A1095/09/11 (7) To receive the following proposals from Chris Bromley FSMAE on behalf of Achievement Scheme Review Committee.

The Chairman asked Andy Symons on behalf of the ASRC to guide the meeting through the various proposals with the view to voting en bloc.

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ii) That the 2010 Member's Handbook, page 69 column 1, BMFA Approved Instructors, Paragraph 2 be modified as follows:

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He must be a current member of the BMFA and initially be put forward by a club to the local Area Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator (ASC) to be tested by an Area Chief Instructor. The ASC will then arrange for the test to take place.

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iv) That the 'A' Certificate (Fixed Wing) Standards Booklet, Page 7, Item © "figure of eight" be modified as from 1st January 2012.

v) That the appended Achievement Scheme Grievance Procedure is ratified by Areas Council.

vi) That in the event that the Achievement Scheme Grievance Procedure is accepted the 2010 Member's Handbook, page 57 column 2, be modified.

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x) *The 2012 Issue of the 'A' Certificate (Helicopter) Standards Booklet, page 9, Sections (b) and (c) be modified.*

xi) *That the Standards Booklet for the Helicopter 'B' Certificate, Page 17, Section (k) **Perform an approach at 45° to the vertical, landing within a pre-determined two metre square**, be modified.*

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xiii) *That the 2010 Member's Handbook, page 61 column 1, a new section be added, 'C' Certificate (Scale).*

xiv) *That, in the event that the 'C' Certificate (Scale) is accepted the appended booklet covering the standards required of Candidates and Examiners working with the 'C' Certificate (Scale) be accepted.*

Also that the Achievement Scheme Review Committee be given the authority to change this Standards booklet in line with any changes to the manoeuvres in the BMFA Scale Rule Book without referral back to Areas Council. Any such changes will be notified to the ASRC by the Scale Technical Committee and jointly agreed.

xv) *That the 2010 Member's Handbook, page 57 column 1, Withdrawal of Certificates, paragraph 5, be modified.*

Seconded by Western Area
Carried unanimously

ASRC/TECH SEC

A1096/09/11 (9) To receive reports from committees or co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.

a) ASRC

Chairman of ASRC thanked everyone for their co-operation and support with regard to the achievement scheme proposals sanctioned above.

He also thanked Alan Penn who is here today as a visitor, for his contribution and advice on the 'grievance procedure' proposal.

The ASRC have managed to get through a great deal of work over the last few months. Special thanks were recorded to Chris Bromley FSMAE who has worked especially hard and was instrumental in putting the proposals together for the meeting today.

**b) & c) Flight Challenge & Education

WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX B)**

RAFMAA suggested if it is not something we do already that it might be worth adding private boarding schools to the Flight Challenge circulation. They are always looking for different ideas how to keep the students occupied during the weekend and basically have a 'captive' audience.

**DEVELOPMENT
OFFICER**

The Chairman commented that he believes it is crucial we get Areas and Clubs involved at local level and approach schools personally to be in with a chance of getting them on board for Flight Challenge. Paperwork through the post is generally a lost lead.

London Area commented that the children absolutely love the workshops and taking part in Flight Challenge. The problem is that the teachers do not have, or cannot be motivated, to find the time. Once you get in to the school they want you back again but it is getting the teachers involved which is the difficult part. Ideally we need to target aeromodellers in the school profession.

North West commented that he had previously made a suggestion that we produce posters to put up in schools asking if there are any staff members or parent who is interested in aeromodelling and if so to get in touch with us.

The Chairman tasked North West to provide some ideas for the posters.

**NORTH WEST
AREA**

North West further suggested Flight Challenge takes a different format and hold the competition initially at the school, where a BMFA observer could be present and have the results correlated by the office.

Northern Area suggested it might be worthwhile placing an advert in BMFA News specifically aimed at teachers.

A1097/09/11 (9) Review Silent Flight Achievement Scheme, Club Involvement and safety.

Covered earlier in the meeting.

A1098/09/11 (10) To receive reports from Area Committees.

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

***** **Southern Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX D)**

***** **South East Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX E)**

***** **North West Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX F)**

North East Area – Everything is running as normal. Still achieving a reasonable attendance at meetings. The Geordie Nats as it was originally called and held at Albemarle is now basically run as a fly-in and is hosted by the Cramlington Club.

London Area – Continues to run as smoothly and efficiently as always. No issues to report.

**Northern Ireland Area – WRITTEN REPORT
(APPENDIX G)**

East Anglia Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX H)

The Delegate advised that this would be his last meeting as sadly he is resigning from the position. Effectively there are so few clubs attending Area meetings and the lack of enthusiasm has made it difficult for him to attend Council meetings with any great conviction and feels the proper thing to do is stand down.

He has nevertheless enjoyed his appointment on the Area and thanked members of Council for the help and friendship they have given.

Western Area – Nothing to report.

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

In light of the recent suspension of the Devon Sub-Area and the need to keep the achievement scheme running in the interim of any decision as to the future of the Sub-Area, Area Council agreed that the existing ACE's should continue to carry out the same job and PAS Controller would act as ASC.

**PAS/SF
CONTROLLERS**

Midland Area – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX J)

The report was produced by the Area Secretary, on behalf of the Delegate. The Delegate however wished to comment on the report of the Dart Building at the Power Nationals that he believes there were sufficient helpers however their time was somewhat wasted because of spending time building the dart kit rather than showing the children and letting them have hands-on experience.

RAFMAA Area – The Championships were held recently. The format was changed considerably and there were more people turned up just to fly rather than be put off by the pressurised competitions.

The Development Officer was in attendance and gave a presentation on the workings of the BMFA.

**A1099/09/11 (11) To receive any reports from the Office and any
Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.**

PRO – Has attended several shows since the last meeting. Sywell on two occasions, Free Flight Nationals, Power Nationals. Unfortunately the Slope Nationals clashed with a Council meeting therefore he was unable to attend however he is determined to get there one year.

He was also unable to attend the Silent Flight Nationals as he was rather busy manning the BMFA Stand at the Power Nationals.

There is a Face Book page for the BMFA now which has not been set up by us although we do have some admin control.

He is keen to promote our presence on line. He works on the premise that the average age of the BMFA is getting higher. He also believes that fewer children are getting involved in the hard-core modelling scene and tend to flit in and out of modelling because they are able to obtain cheap plastic models.

RAFMAA advised that they are now taking a different approach. They accept that the young cadets are more in to participating in aeromodelling with the ARTF and foamy kits and now embrace this rather than reject it. The aim is to get model flyers on board and nurture and encourage them to move on to building the models.

A1100/09/11 (12) Any Other Business

Northern Area advised that the BMFA classified ads website now offers commercial banner advertising. They currently have a number of empty slots that could be filled with forthcoming events.

It has been cleared with the CEO and therefore the offer is available for Areas (NOT clubs) to make use of the facility. Any Area wishing to advertise an event should email classifieds@bmfa.org with a jpg image, 500 pixels by 150 pixels together with the link to wherever the notice needs linking to on the internet. Commercial advertising will obviously be given priority.

ALL AREAS

RAFMAA reported that following discussion at their AGM recently they will be submitting a couple of proposals, briefly outlined as follows:

Introduce a separate classification of insurance for park flyers.

Instructing for a fee, the candidate should be tested by an external Examiner not the instructor/examiner who trained them.

A very useful discussion ensued in relation to the above point and various suggestions were mooted.

ASRC were tasked with looking at finding out details of how many Examiners we have working for commercial organisations or training schools and exchange ideas with RAFMAA to assist them in putting together a structured proposal.

ASRC/RAFMAA

A1101/09/11 (13) To confirm dates of the Areas Council in 2012.

These were confirmed as **Saturday 28th January 2012**
and **Saturday 22nd September 2012.**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 14.50pm.

PROVISIONAL

R/C Power Achievement Scheme Controller

Report to Areas Council 24 September 2011

All Area Chief Examiners should already be in possession of the latest version of Club Examiner test forms. If anyone does not have these forms, please let me know and arrangements will be made to get them to you. The current Helicopter Examiner form is mauve and will have CB Mar 2007 at the bottom of the back page. The Fixed Wing Examiner test form has CB Mar 10 in the same place.

It's that time of year when all Chief Examiners/Instructors should be putting some thoughts towards their reports for their respective Area AGM's. These are normally collated by the relevant Area Scheme Coordinator.

The training for the Scale C has commenced, but the weather has not been too kind this year. Thanks go to Ian Pallister, Scale Tech, and to all the scale flyers who undertook the extra scrutiny.

I am hoping to get some feedback towards the end of the year, both from candidates and examiners, as to how the flybarless changes are working for the helicopter A and B tests.

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

Education Working Group Report to BMFA Area Council Meeting 24th September 2011

Since the last report to the Area Council Meeting in May, there should have been the two finals of the events that the BMFA run. I refer to the University Challenge and the Schools (and Youth Groups) Flight Challenge. However only the University Challenge actually happened. A report in the BMFA News (October edition) gives a full account of this years event. However it is felt that the lack of qualifying flights was due to the teams not preparing the models properly prior to flight. Next years heavy lift rules have been changed to help this and also to reduce failure rate of the models.

The BMFA Flight Challenge should have been held at Duxford in July. However with only five teams booked to take part it had to be cancelled at the last moment. I think that as we were unable to run the contest last year due to not finding a suitable flying site, the momentum may have been lost. I feel that a re-look at the sort of event the BMFA puts on for schools is overdue. In the last week or two I have managed to book a meeting with three local (to me) school Heads (two primary and one secondary) all have never taken part in the BMFA Schools Challenge. From these meetings it was obvious that all the schools were keen to participate in a model aircraft centred event as long as it did not require travel from school and at a low cost. I am in the process of producing a discussion document on the way forward. We will have to see what comes of it.

Since the last Area Council Meeting in May, the BMFA Education stand has only been to one venue.

Exhibition space has already been booked (Stand C22) for the Association for Science Education event to be held at the Liverpool University on the 5th to the 7th of January. As it is close to my home it will be good to be in my own bed at night. NW Area has already offered to help man the stand.

Mike Colling
Education Working Group.

Northern Area Report Sept 24th 2011

Our RC fly-ins at Dishforth are still well attended with 2 fly-ins a month weather permitting.

October sees the start of our indoor "season with monthly events at Leeds Trinity College, we also will be holding some other indoor events at a different venue.

This year saw the return of the Pudsey Swapmeet which was well attended.

The area ran the BMFA stand at the LMA show at Elvington.

John Thompson has expressed an interest in retiring as Area Chairman (again) we hope to find a suitable replacement.

Southern Area Report

The Area attended the Blackbushe model show in May with the stand and our new sail type banners. They are very effective and bring our presence to people's attention.

Our very popular Electric Fly-in had to be scrapped as the sites' new landlords have put severe restrictions on numbers on-site at any one time. It is alright for normal club members, but not if including visitors. We are still looking for an alternative site.

We also put on a flying demonstration at Lasham Gliding Club, as they showed interest in combined flying days, but nothing decided yet. We also gave a demonstration at Follands, the military manufacturer down at the Hamble River. Unfortunately weather was terrible so we could not do it justice. It was an open day for staff and families with a potential of 3000 personnel.

We now have an excellent webmaster who has done wonders with the website and we now many outside "hits".

Middle Wallop which is in our area, is one of the busiest sites for F/F and competitions are well attended.

In a couple of week's time we have been asked to give a flying demonstration for Lord March of Goodwood car and horse racing fame, on his front lawn. We have decided to do it as hopefully it will lead to further flying on his estate and at some of the events he holds.

Quite a few of our members were up helping at the Nationals in support of the campsite, loos and the gate.

Stuart Simpson
Southern Area Delegate

South East Area Report to Areas Council Meeting on 24.9.11

A longer period to report on due to the loss of the mid year meeting, so this covers what has transpired since January 29th.

The annual Crawley indoor meeting took place in February, this time luckily without the double booking experienced last year and, due to a good turnout, we were able to easily cover the hire cost of the K2 Leisure Centre main sports hall, which this time amounted to £980.

Our free flight stalwarts continue to use Ashdown Forest for our Area competitions and general R/C glider and electric glider flying is also permitted. In April we received advice from the Conservators of a number of incidents between model flyers and other users of the Forest and in particular where one lady and her small daughter had been verbally abused by two flyers, possibly flying R/C electric gliders, after she had talked to them about their deliberate overflying low, towards and over horse riders. The Forest rangers had been unable to find the modellers concerned but the result was that we were warned that a recurrence of this would possibly result in our losing the facilities we enjoy on the Forest, which would be fatal for free flight in the South East. We publicised this matter locally, but as our licence with the Conservators allows any BMFA member to fly on the Forest (with certain restrictions), it was deemed advisable to request a suitable insert in BMFA News. This duly appeared and happily, we have so far had no further complaints.

Our Scale Day in July, was run once again at the Hastings club excellent Middlebridge site in gorgeous weather and this time we had an additional class to cater for ARTF models. Amongst the demonstration models was Colin Hammond's 1/6th scale Lancaster and the commentary for this was carried out by Hastings member Tony Banfield, who happens to be an ex Commanding Officer of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and, of course, flew the full size Lanc. The only mishap during the day was when one flyer's Spitfire landed in a nearby stream.

Back to the Ashdown Forest, in August, in conjunction with the East Sussex Soaring Association, we ran the Ashdown Trophy cross country event for R/C gliders (including electric). In view of the warning from the Conservators previously referred to, we were a bit apprehensive about this but needn't have worried as CD Allen Elliott did a good job with a successful and trouble free competition won by well known flyer, Colin Lucas.

Last year, the South East Area assisted in setting up and manning the successful BMFA stand at the Southern Model Airshow at Paddock Wood and we hoped to do the same this September. Unfortunately, due to the unavailability of anyone in Leicester to bring the stand trailer down South, we were unable to carry this out, but hope to do so in 2012.

Finally our last event of the year, the Towner Trophy for thermal soaring is due in early October under new management as CD Kevin Beale and scorer Keith Wright have both retired gracefully. We are most grateful for their many years of devoted service in this connection. The new CD is Simon Smith and scoring will be catered for by yours truly.

Our Area meetings are still not attended by as many clubs as we would like and it would appear that most members have little interest in the workings of the BMFA other than as insurance providers and all they want to do is just fly at their club field without other hindrance.

Keith Miller, Council Delegate Alternate

**North West Area
Report to Areas Council Meeting
24th January 2011**

Our Area monthly Indoor events for R/C and Freeflight models at Rochdale are due to start again for the winter period, and have been extremely well supported in previous years, so we expect – and hope for - a similar attendance this winter! Remember, it is only £3 for a full six hours of slotted flying! Contact keithatrochdale@aol.com for details

The Area Scale Fun Fly R/C event at RAF Shawbury was held this year on the 24th July 2011. We would like to thank the RAF Shawbury model club for organising this on our behalf once again.

We have added a NEW fun fly event for the club modeller with the kind help of the Bickershaw MFC – this was held in June. This event was for all models, not just scale, and we thank the Bickershaw club for all their efforts in making this a success.

It was well attended, but the wind velocity was high, and a large number of attendees elected not to fly – but said they would be back next year!

We have recently given a gift of a First Aid kit to each of our clubs in the North West with the compliments of the Area Committee, and whilst the contents are unlikely to repair a broken leg, it was an opportunity to bring to the attention of the clubs the importance of completing the label we placed in the box indicating the GPS reference of the flying field that could be relayed to the emergency authorities in the event of a serious accident.

We have also asked a helicopter club within the Area to put forward a proposal about organising a flying or competition for helicopters only, that we might be able to support from Area funds.

This brings the total of events supported by the Area to 12 as follows:

- 7 indoor events (R/C and FF).
- 1 Scale Fly-in (RAF Shawbury)
- 1 R/C mixed fly-in (Bickershaw MFC)
- The Eddie Riding Scale FF Trophy (Woodvale)
- 1 Helicopter and 1 other Indoor event (being negotiated at present)

Our Area appears to run quite smoothly, both at the meetings and at the clubs despite the lack of numbers - we can only assume that this is because our clubs have no problems for us to try to assist them with.



North West Area Delegate and Chairman

NORTHERN IRELAND AREA REPORT SAT 24 SEPT 2011

The Northern Ireland Area had a full program this year from indoor free flight to jet turbines .All disciplines held there own comps and numbers taken part where up from Last year. Early in the year the Northwest Model Aircraft Club hosted a talk given by Manny Williamson on what B.M.F.A can do for you which was well attended and raised Some interesting question.

On the model display side we had five major shows

Mount Stewart National Trust
Portrush Air Show
Newcastle Air Show
Ballycastle Marconi Day
Ballymena Vintage car Show

These shows were well attended by both modelers and public and the weather was kind to us

The Area was also involved with Queens University this year to assist them with some Technical issues in the design and building off two flying model aircraft which was very Successful and both models were finished and flew very well.

Earlier in the year we had some club problems and I would like too thank the Staff at Head Office for there help and support

As the winter nights draw in the indoor season is looking more inviting and we look Forward to some good nights fun.

All in all the Area is buzzing and after all that's what's it all about

Ian Robb
Area Chairman

BMFA East Anglian Area – Delegate’s Report. September, 2011.

The relatively benign weather during early 2011 treated the East Anglian Area’s main events kindly. The large model display at the beginning of May, organised by the Large Model Association and hosted by the Bury Model Flying Club at Rougham, went very well, despite some breezy intervals. The popular Wings and Wheels event held at North Weald at the end of June fared rather better this year and was once more very successful. Both events had a good BMFA presence, and attracted new and existing members alike.

This year I was pleased to be invited again by the BMFA Development Officer, Manny Williamson, to assist in an education project at a school in Norwich for boys with behavioural problems. This entailed the building of half a dozen simple, radio-controlled models with boys who would not normally enjoy such activities, and their success in completing the models and then flying them gave them a platform on which to build their often slight self-esteem. The High School in Reepham invited us to attend a Parents’ Day. The school’s children and their mums and dads engaged in simple aeromodelling activities, eventually flying numerous BMFA Darts in the gymnasium. Parent enthusiasm was equal to that of the children, particularly apparent when parents began to ask questions about the principles of flight. It was clear from such questions that they began to see aeromodelling as something potentially much more profound than a mere pastime. I believe that this kind of interaction with the wider community does the BMFA great credit. This idea was reinforced by similar reactions when I was invited to assist at the BMFA Dart building workshop at this year’s Nationals at Barkston Heath.

A memorial meeting was organised by the Norwich MAC at Tibenham airfield (an ex-USAF airbase) and hosted by the Norfolk Gliding Club. Raydon and District MAC held an open day in September for which they obtained sponsorship from NPS South-East Ltd. My own club also received a grant from the Anglia Water community projects funds, enough to buy two complete aeroplanes, engines and radio sets, the purpose of which will be to introduce local youth groups and other interested parties to radio-control aeromodelling. That private companies are willing to set some of their profits aside in these financially uncertain times for the benefit of the community at large is to be applauded. Whilst they may not be well advertised I’m sure that funds are available from other similar sources; it just needs somebody to ferret them out.

Regrettably, the Area’s clubs’ other activities have been something of a closed book for much of the year; there seems to be little interaction between clubs, except on a local scale. Few clubs are willing to attend Area meetings, either with good news or bad. This is in contrast to that of some of the more active areas. The lack of enthusiasm has made it difficult for me to attend Council meetings with any great conviction that I am acting for the good of the Area in general. Given this lack of achievement I feel that it is only proper that I should stand down from my appointment at the end of 2011 and pass the baton to somebody who may have a better notion of what it takes to drive an Area to greater heights. Nevertheless, I have enjoyed my tenure of the delegate’s appointment, and would like to thank members of Council for the help and friendship that they have willingly given.

Pete Leavesley,
23rd September, 2011.

Cornwall and Devon Sub-areas (South West) Report

Cornwall. Following a relatively quiet winter/spring period in the South West the start of the summer saw the start of a round-robin series of inter-club competitions get underway in Cornwall. With only 7 affiliated clubs in the county, it was hoped that this type of friendly competition would encourage wider interaction and mutual support both socially in day-to-day club administration. Supported with trophies and grants from the Sub Area Committee, the series comprised scale, aerobatics and fun-fly events hosted by the St Austell, Truro and Redruth Clubs. As well as the individual competition prizes, points were awarded towards an overall trophy to be awarded at the AGM on a club team basis. There was an encouraging turn-out at the events and all three days ran very well. Naturally for a first attempt there have been some lessons identified on how to improve the rules/organisation next year, but there is universal agreement that the series has been most successful in getting the clubs to interact and work together. The Sub Area Chief Examiner concept has been pro-active in furthering the Achievement Scheme and has run several Examiner and Instructor "training" days.

Devon. In the Spring the Exeter and District Club (which lost the use of it's established flying site at Exeter race course in December) located a suitable new field near Chudleigh Knighton north of the A38. Several presentations and model flying demonstrations were made to local organisations and authorities which gained favourable feed-back and resulted in a positive recommendation being forwarded to the Committee. At the Planning meeting there were several objections on noise, but the application was never-the-less passed in August albeit with some time restrictions on use.

Over the Summer use of Little Haldon for model flying has increased greatly, partly as a result of the loss of Exeter Racecourse and partly as the actual flying site matures. Management of the site and liaison with land-owner is being co-ordinated by an association of 3 local clubs. The strip is maturing nicely as the heather and gorse is suppressed by regular cutting allowing the grass to take over again. Finance of the maintenance is through open flying events which pools modest individual transmitter fees, co-ordinating club contributions and club grants from the Sub-Area.

Unfortunately Sub Area meetings had become very confrontational again with certain elements dwelling in the past and not allowing the good start that had been made last year to progress. There has been continual snipping at the policies which had been adopted and implemented (including the successful Club grant arrangements) since the formation of the Devon Sub-Area, a refusal of one vocal club delegate to accept the status of the BMFA Delegate, constant false claims of unconstitutional actions, unfounded allegations of fraud and malicious mis-reporting of events. In June this gave rise to a call for an EGM with the motion of no confidence in the Elected Officers. Constitutional regulations were followed and letters from 12 clubs were received by the Secretary (minimum of 5 required) however at the EGM the Chairman decided to literally apply guidance as a hard rule over and above the Constitution. Despite the reasoned argument of all the Clubs present he absolutely refused to accept the call for the EGM or allow debate to take place. The meeting collapsed and following a mass walk-out any hope of the Devon Sub-Area being able to continue disappeared. In July the Executive Council recommended that Devon be suspended and this was passed at the last Full Council meeting.

Peter Disney

22 Sep 11

BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION.
MIDLAND AREA REPORT FOR;
Area Council Meeting 24.9.2011

We have little to report except to say that we were very lucky with the weather for our Annual Festival of Flight. In spite of this we had a healthy attendance with all competitive events being held within the day.

The usual prizes were distributed from our gate draw and we were very pleased to financially support the prize trophies for Team Race as a gesture to the retiring Dave Rudd.

Our usual efforts at Dart Building took place at the Nationals at Barkston , we could have done with more support for this busy event.

Planning for next year's activities is already ongoing as there is quite a long bank holiday in early June.

We are about to re-start our indoor flying support programme at Market Harborough and Chesterfield with help towards session costs.

Alf Tunncliffe Midland Area Secretary
On behalf of George Maynard Chair, Midland Area/
delegate.
8.9.2011