

MINUTES

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LIMITED

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 20th May 2011 at Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrews Road, Leicester LE2 8RE.

Provisional until confirmed at the next Executive Meeting.

PRESENT

Robin Gowler FSMAE
Robin Sleight MBE
Keith Lomax FSMAE
Peter Halman FSMAE
Jo Halman FSMAE
Chris Bromley FSMAE
Nigel Barker
John French
Dave Phipps
Liz Boswell

Chairman
Honorary Secretary
Honorary Treasurer
FAI Delegate
Competition Secretary
Technical Secretary
PRO
Records Officer
CEO
Minutes Clerk

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Correction and Adoption of the Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 5th March 2011.
3. Matters/Actions Arising from the Meeting of 5th March 2011 which are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
 - 3a. Strategic Plan.
4. To receive reports from the Executive.
5. Travel Costs.
6. Review of Council Agenda.
7. Trust Funds.
8. Safety.
9. Chacksfield House.
10. Any Other Business.
11. Date of next meeting.

MINUTES

E940/05/11 (1) Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Chris Moynihan (Vice-Chairman).

E941/05/11 (2) Correction and Adoption of the Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on the 5th March 2011.

Page 4 – Proposal to Establish a BMFA National Flying Site

- Third paragraph, to amend
From “When and if a piece of land is sited”
To “When and if a piece of land is identified”

The Honorary Secretary proposed that the Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on the 5th March 2011 be accepted as a true record.

Seconded by the PRO

Vote:

For: 7

Ags: 0

Abs: 2

Carried by a unanimous vote.

E942/05/11 (3) Matters / Actions Arising from the Executive Meeting of 5th March which are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

Page 2 – FAI Delegate Report

The CEO provided the FAI Delegate with the following figures on the UK contribution to CIAM:

BMFA subscription to the RAeC is £16857 which is 25% of the RAeC income

BMFA subscription to the FAI is £7100 and

RAeC subscription to the FAI is £28400 which is 43% of their expenditure

A question was raised over whether the RAeC could provide replica trophies for awards at the BMFA AGM. Currently memento certificates and photos are produced. Trophies can be borrowed as long as the BMFA arranges for transport to and from the RAF Museum at Hendon.

E943/05/11 (3a) Strategic Plan

Proposal to Establish a BMFA National Flying Site

The CEO updated the meeting with potential sites for a National Flying Site. An airfield was sold at Sealand near Chester for £6million, this was already partially developed as an industrial park. In the middle band of England the price depends on the size of the plot, but £5000 is the minimum per acre. 1000 acres at Leadenham grade 2 agricultural land is currently priced at £7.6million.

The Head of Access at The National Trust has been contacted, but a response has not yet been received.

29.5 acres at Southam has been looked at. The site is small and access difficult, the site has water but no electricity, there is a disused farm building, but no planning permission for change of use, and the potential purchase price was in the region of £175-200K.

The Chairman reported on a number of potential airfields that may become available, a few leads have been followed up, there are empty airfields and it is awaited for these to be released for sale.

Information has been received from Kevin Dodd General Secretary of the Model Aeronautical Association of Australia, they encourage clubs to buy flying sites via loans to clubs or by buying and renting out. It is an interesting model and they hold a portfolio of land.

The CEO reported that he had approached the bank. Their requirement is now for every £1million borrowed there is a requirement to demonstrate that the BMFA could service a debt commitment of £174,500 per annum. The interest on £1million is £8300 per calendar month equating to £99,600 per annum. So there is a need to demonstrate an ability to pay the interest plus three quarters again. This would be over a period of 20 years.

There is an organisation that would be potentially interested in sharing larger premises with the BMFA.

Detailed discussion took place on the way to progress the proposal to develop a flying site and how this could help to promote model flying as a sport to more competitors and to showcase to spectators.

Action: A Sub Committee is to be set up comprising HON SEC, PRO, FAI DEL, HON TREAS and CEO

Action: The Sub Committee is to produce a basic business plan outlining potential income and expenditure of developing an agricultural site and an airfield site.

This is then to be presented to the AGM. If the AGM agrees the outline then approval should be sought to appoint a professional business planner to produce a more detailed plan for the AGM in 2012. The plan should outline the benefit to members, the income that can be generated and the potential costs. Discussion took place on whether the plans should or shouldn't specify a place

Proposal to Establish a BMFA National Museum of Aero-modelling

It was reported that Jim Wright has met with a number of people and is developing a plan for submission to Council.

Action: Invite Jim Wright to next meeting to update on developments.

Other Areas for Strategic Planning

Council Members and Elected Officers

The meeting discussed the definition of younger members and the types of people that should be encouraged to become more involved in the future. Discussion took place on whether there is a need to re-establish the role and function of areas, perhaps concentrating more on regions in line with the Sports Council regions on a County basis and also making greater usage of communication methods.

There is a consensus that management structures need to be streamlined, with a balance between democracy and efficiency.

Action: A new organisation structures is to be investigated, an initial draft paper is to be drawn up – PRO.

National Championship Venues

Discussion took place on being able to show case the sport and the provision of suitable locations for competitions especially for control line and free flights because of the space and facilities required; and what provision could be made for spectators and the general public to access events. Scale attracts in the region of 100 spectators when events are advertised in local press, F3A and F5B competitions attract fewer numbers and do not engage the public. Control line competitions are on MoD land and therefore almost impossible to accommodate casual spectators.

Public Parks

DEFRA controlled land is governed by model bye-laws, the BMFA had a lot of input into these and they have been in operation for 6 or 7 years. Currently the Home Office bye-laws are similar to the old DEFRA byelaws, it was suggested that the BMFA could go to the Home Office with the current DEFRA bye-laws and ask them to consider adopting similar. This would then give an easier system for approaching District Councils for flying at a local level. This will be a lengthy process as any changes will be subject to a very lengthy consultation process.

Website

The number of page hits is to be clarified.

Growing Membership

A number of non affiliated clubs have been approached and some have become members. A new membership survey was again discussed; and if it is to be carried out the survey questions needs to be very carefully designed to obtain relevant feedback.

E944/05/11 (4) To receive reports from the Executive.

Honorary Treasurer

Sian Sargeant joined the meeting and presented the supplementary accounts to the meeting. The accounts submitted to the meeting showed an excess for the year of £4276, reserves are being used up as planned. Bank Interest received is £8,573, down from £15,500 last year and £40,000 from year before, this is in line with national trends. Income is down mainly due to reduction in donations and bequests. Detailed analysis of expenditure items was presented. Staff costs were increased due to the appointment of an additional member of staff. Analysis of meeting costs shows that travel remains the largest item of expenditure. Elected officers expenses have reduced. Total Public Relations costs were on budget. There have been inaccuracies in the reporting of stock. Flying Site Advice is just below budget. There was a slight overspend on International teams. The overspend on the AGM costs is smaller than in previous years. Education has come in under budget. The University Challenge cost the BMFA £3,761.34. The Electric Indoor masters cost £715.70. The Chairman's Conference N Ireland cost £2,143.41 and the Chairman's Conference Husbands Bosworth cost £534.37. Expenditure on the BMFA News was under budget by £12,258.97. Photocopying and Stationery costs were higher than budgeted, it is thought that there is a problem with analysis and all invoices are currently being examined. Subscriptions are up slightly, as is depreciation. The level of Irrecoverable VAT is also up due to the change in. The Free Flight Nationals made a small surplus as did the Power Nationals and Silent Flight Nationals.

The meeting thanked Sian Sargeant for her presentation of the accounts and for the considerable effort in producing the detailed analysis.

The Honorary Treasurer presented a proposed policy for International Team Funding 2012 onwards. There are three basic proposals for discussion:

- 1 Payment philosophy - the proposal is for the allowance system to continue rather than known costs plus contribution.
- 2 World and European Championships – to balance expenses so that the actual cost is fixed whether it is a European or World Championship.
- 3 Supplementary Team Members – to continue with two levels depending on level of involvement.

Action: To be presented to Council in May for members to take to Area and Tech Committees and for decision to be reached at the September Meeting of the Council.

FAI Delegate

The FAI Delegate reported that he had written an update on the 2011 plenary, this has been circulated to Council.

There have been a number of discussions on metal helicopter blades and the issues with gas turbines. A company called Zircotec has developed a capability of spraying ceramic onto metal. This allows very high temperatures and may be a way round the heat from the turbines damaging blades. This matter is being investigated, and could result in huge cost savings. More information can be found at www.zircotec.com.

Oliver Witt has received the CIAM scholarship.

Honorary Secretary

The Honorary Secretary reported that he had completed the draft handbook. He gave thanks to Competition Secretary and Honorary Treasurer for their help in producing the final format. In conjunction with this the precedent list is now being brought up to date.

The meeting discussed that some amendments were required to Page 30 and 31 "Procedure for a Perceived Breach" an amended paragraph should be submitted to May Full Council meeting.

He attended a legal seminar held by the Sports Council and the effects of changes in the Company Act to Articles of Association. A draft document incorporating the new position is being drafted and will be presented to the September Executive and Council Meetings.

Following this the constitution will also need to be reviewed and it would seem timely to take into consideration efficiency of the running of the organisation whilst retaining democracy.

He attended a meeting of the CAA. There is an intent to produce a new cap by the end of July. The prime effect removes the previous exemption of pure gliders not being subject to the same conditions as power models.

Records Officer

The Records Officer presented his notes on the induction of a trophy into the Society.
Action: To amend the third paragraph from "The Records Officer will be happy to guide, assist and inform the donor through the induction process." To "The Records Officer will instruct, assist and inform the donor through the induction process." – RECORDS OFFICER

A new trophy is to be donated by Mr Bardoe to the next AGM and an update was requested with regard to the position of the Perkins Slade Trophy.

The Records Officer wished to record his objection to 5.1.7 of the draft Council Handbook.

PRO

The PRO went to Rougham, he reported that he is delighted with how sale of goods has been progressing, but asked for a little more communication when wholesale changes are being considered/implemented.

He asked for an update on the online Club Map, The CEO reported that it has been removed until all is up to date and is in a usable format.

Technical Secretary

The Technical Secretary reported that all latitudes and longitudes have now been entered for the online club map, and these will display correctly when it is back on line.

The addendum sheet to the Members Handbook is usually done this time of year. There are a number of proposals that will be raised in the autumn and so the addendum sheet will be produced in September or December.

He confirmed that all master documents are now held in the office.

Competition Secretary

The Competition Secretary reported that the Power Nationals entry forms will be online next week.

The Indoor Scale event was very successful.

The team race display unit was run at Barton. It was very well received.

All teams have now been ratified.

CEO

The CEO reported that investigations are continuing into insurance renewal, references are being followed up. Risk Assessments have been re-assessed with the insurance company and following this process no recommendations have been made.

A lot of time has been spent in finding a venue for the Silent Flight Nationals, it is thought that Cottesmore may be suitable.

****POST MEETING NOTE – RAF Cottesmore is confirmed as the venue for the 2011 Silent Flight Nationals.****

Arrangements for Free Flight Nationals are all in hand.

A BMFA calendar has been produced and is now available.

He attended the Chairman's conference at Husbands Bosworth, the Indoor Scale Nationals at Nottingham and the RAeC Awards. Awards went to Peter Watson – Gold Medal, Alf Tunnicliffe – RAeC Certificate of Merit, Tom Walker – RAeC Certificate of Merit, John David Jones – RAeC Certificate of Appreciation and Jamie Griffin – Breitling Certificate of Recognition.

The University challenge is scheduled for the 4th and 5th June at Elvington.

Renewal for country members by direct debit is being looked into, this offers potential to reduce costs and aid in member retention.

A review of the website is imminent.

Chairman

The Chairman reported that he had spent the day judging at the Indoor Scale Nationals. This was a very good event with excellent flying.

He attended the funeral of Laurie Barr.

He attended Chairman's conference at Husbands Bosworth and is scheduled to attend the University Challenge and Flight Challenge Flight events.

E945/05/11 (5) Travel Costs

The Honorary Treasurer reported that costs are steadily rising especially for very high mileage users and for towing the BMFA trailer. The maximum Inland Revenue rate has gone up from 40 pence to 45 pence. A car user allowance was discussed as were pool cars. No action is proposed at the moment.

E946/05/11 (6) Review of Council Agenda

Members reviewed the Council Agenda for the meeting scheduled for Saturday 21st May 2011.

E947/05/11 (7) Trust Funds

Discussions have been held and the matter is in progress.

E948/05/11 (8) Safety.

There is no report.

E949/05/11 (9) Chacksfield House.

Quotations have been received for the division of the Meeting Room using movable partitions. The cost is likely to be in the region of £4000. As the Council meeting is being held at an outside venue it will be appropriate for a review of meeting rooms to take place at the next meeting of the Executive.

E950/05/11 (10) Any Other Business.

Life time achievement Award to be placed on the agenda for the meeting scheduled for the 9th July 2011.

Top Gun to be placed on the agenda for the meeting scheduled for the 9th July 2011.

E951/05/11 (11) Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 9th July 2011 at 10.30am.

Transcribed from notes and recording by Liz Boswell, Minutes Clerk.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.12pm.

CIRCULATION:

All Council Members
Fellows (Selected)

COPIES TO:

All Area Chairmen
All Tech Comm Chair
Flying Site Adviser
BMFA News Editor
PAS/SFAS Controller