

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on the 2nd February 2008 at 11am at Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrews Road, Leicester LE2 8RE.

Provisional until confirmed at the next Area Council Meeting.

PRESENT

Graham Lynn MBE	Meeting Chairman
Nigel Barker	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
Alf Tunnicliffe	Midland Area Delegate Alternate
Andy Symons	Northern Area Chairman Alternate
Gordon Warburton FSMAE	Northern Area Delegate
Allan Weighell FSMAE	North East Area Chairman
David Lloyd-Jones	North West Area Chairman
Keith Barker	North West Area Delegate 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
Stuart Simpson	Southern Area Delegate
John Harris	Western Area Chairman Alternate
Phil Durant	Western Area Delegate
Peter Bailey	Mid West Area Chairman Alternate
Howard Menary FSMAE	Northern Ireland Area Chairman
Mike Colling FSMAE	Northern Ireland Area Delegate Alternate / Education Co-ordinator
Mick Evans	RAFMAA Area Chairman

In Attendance

Linda Harding	Minute Taker / Office Manager
Peter Spurway	R/CP Achievement Scheme Controller
Nial Ball	R/CSF Achievement Scheme Controller
Manny Williamson	Development Officer
Chris Bromley FSMAE	Technical Secretary

AGENDA

- Apologies for Absence.
- 2 Request for Permission to be Absent.
 - 3 Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 6th October 2007.

- 4 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 6th October 2007 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 5 To appoint a representative to the Awards Committee for 2008.
- 6 To ratify the following members of the Achievement Scheme Review Committee:

Terry Rounce – Chairman	Dick Whitehead
Mick Eames	Bob Mahoney
Chris Bromley FSMAE	Martin Godden
Peter Spurway	John Harris
Nial Ball	
- 7 To receive a proposal from the RCPTC that the RCPTC has a permanent rep on ASRC.
- 8 To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.
 - a) Power
 - b) Silent Flight
- 9 To receive an update from Midland Area regarding Midland Area Meetings conducted by email.
- 10 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
- 11 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.)
- 12 To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.
- 13 To confirm dates of Areas Council Meetings 2008.
- 14 Any Other Business.

MINUTES

A963/02/08 (1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from the following:

Jim Andrews, Mid West Area Chairman
 Robin Jones FSMAE, Mid West Area Delegate
 Mike Chignell, South West Area Delegate
 Elton Drew FSMAE, Western Area Chairman
 Tom Jones, North East Area Delegate
 John Thompson, Northern Area Chairman

A964/02/08 (2) Request for permission to be absent.

There were no requests.

A965/02/08 (3) Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 6th October 2007.

Page 1

- Attendance list

Alter Keith Barker to Chairman Alternate for East Anglia Area.
Alter Howard Menary FSMAE to Northern Ireland Chairman.
Alter Mike Colling FSMAE to Northern Ireland Delegate Alternate.
Alter Ian Menage to South East Area.

Page 5

- Penultimate line - Delete Delegate.

Page 7

- Third paragraph from the bottom, second sentence - Alter sentence to read:
"The facility may be available for model flying, with the necessary permission from the Station Commander and a Defence Estates Licence".

Northern Area proposed that the Minutes of the Areas Council Meeting held on 6th June 2007 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Seconded by London Area

Vote: For: 18

Ags: 0

Abs: 5

Carried by majority vote.

A966/02/08 (4) Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 6th October 2007 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

ACTION / NOTES

Page 3

- Final paragraph, action East Anglia Area Delegate to look into audio text packages- The PRO (East Anglia Area Delegate at the meeting) advised that he had looked into it and there are many packages available.

It is possible to do although it takes time to get sensible pronunciation with some of the words. He has made a sample, which is available to anyone who wants to have a listen.

He has proved that it can be done but suggested we wait until we get a request. We should ensure that whatever we produce is the most up-to-date information at that time. He does not feel it warrants production of an audio bank at this stage.

Page 4

- Fifth paragraph, action on Chairman to contact the Editor of SAGA - The Chairman advised that he had spoken with the new Editor of SAGA Magazine and briefly explained who we are and what we do.

He believes there is an opportunity to put a tailored article in the magazine. He has passed the information on to the Development Officer who has it in hand.

- **Fourth paragraph from the bottom, Council Member's website material** - London Area advised that he is still waiting for three cv's.

Page 6

- **Penultimate paragraph, action on Education Committee to arrange a meeting** - The Education Co-ordinator advised that he is in discussion with the Camping and Caravan Club of which he is a member, about how they run their youth section. There are certain issues which he is looking into. He should be in a position to report back at the next meeting.

The Chairman asked that an Agenda item is included on the June Areas Council Meeting to receive a report from the Education Working Group Co-ordinator on Youth involvement at committee level.

AGENDA ITEM JUNE AREAS COUNCIL MEETING - Education Co-ordinator report on Youth involvement at committee level.

OFFICE MGR

Page 7

- **Fifth paragraph from the bottom, Education meeting** - The Development Officer advised that a notice had been circulated calling a meeting on 16th February. He would however send the notice out again as it was apparent that some people had not received it.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

- **Fourth paragraph from the bottom, RAF Digby** - North West Area asked if RAFMAA could enlighten him as to what kind of facilities RAF Digby has to offer. RAFMAA advised that it is quite a small station not too far from RAF Cranwell and used to be an aerial farm and aerial training unit. It has come to the end of its useful life as an aerial training centre so the aerals are being taken down. It has a very large gymnasium facility with a high ceiling. Some indoor flying already takes place there.

- **Penultimate paragraph, Salisbury Plain** - London Area advised that they have provisional approval for more training dates this year on the basis that they will be charged per man day rather than a flat rate for X number of weekends per year. They are also looking at the possibility of using Area 18.

Page 8

- **Second paragraph, Hon Secretary report on UAV's** - The Honorary Secretary provided a résumé following recent meetings he had attended in Brussels.

Page 10

- **Top paragraph, GTBA/JMA and Jet 'C' certificate** - The Technical Secretary advised that the document put to Full Council in January for adoption was accepted as a good effort but confusing in places. An action was placed on Honorary Secretary to arrange a meeting between himself and the Technical Secretary with the relevant parties to clarify some of the clauses within the document.

Once they are happy with the changes he will put it forward to Technical Council for ratification. The Jet 'C' Certificate will be put on hold until the GTBA/JMA Code of Practice has been accepted.

South Midland Area, in his capacity as R/CPTC Chairman said he believed a final document was available for them to look at. He advised that a document was brought to the last R/CPTC meeting, which addressed most of the points raised at Full Council. A few mistakes were pointed out at Full Council, which have been corrected and they are also working on the diagrams.

- **Seventh paragraph, operational dates** - The Technical Secretary expressed concern with the ASRC statement that Achievement Scheme proposals approved at Areas Council become operational immediately. He believes it is a grave mistake to start putting things into place immediately. It should be a natural procedure that an inception date is put on it that is at least several weeks after the next BMFA News. He would also suggest an inception date of January 1st for anything that has been ratified towards the back end of the year.

Not everyone agreed with this and some felt strongly that if it is anything to do with a safety matter it should be notified immediately.

- **Penultimate paragraph, S.M.A.R.T.E.E.** - The Technical Secretary advised that, having discussed it with the Development Officer they feel the S.M.A.R.T. acronym is possibly not the right place for the double E. They will be having a meeting sometime over the next few weeks to discuss the possibility of introducing a new acronym incorporating the double E, possibly called S.W.E.E.T. It is intended as a reminder to make people think about what they are doing and will incorporate such things as the Sun, Wind, Emergency, Eventuality, Turbulence. Detailed information and guidance will be published in the handbook.

The Development Officer advised that the next issue of BMFA News (published at the beginning of April) will include a 'Safety Special' which will also provide details of the new acronym. If anyone has any safety related points they think would be useful to include in this issue they should let him have the information.

- **Final paragraph, Examiner Log Books** - The Chairman advised that this was discussed at an Executive Meeting. They felt it was not a viable exercise as presented and that we should look at an alternative method of reporting the information.

Page 11

- **Top of the page, concerns regarding the Hovering 'M'** - The Chairman advised that he had received an AOB item from the Western Area regarding this issue which he felt should be discussed as a matters arising.

Before Western Area put forward the AOB item the Technical Secretary reminded those present that he was responsible for placing decisions made by this Council into the Member's Handbook but, as he was not present at the Areas Council meeting in October 2007, he can only act on what the minutes say as to what the exact changes are that he should be making in the handbook regarding the revised helicopter 'B' Test manoeuvre.

Also he was not present at the Technical Council meeting in October following Areas Council where subsequent discussions and proposals took place (leading to what is now known as Part B of the replacement manoeuvre).

Subsequent to those meetings, it is clear that the original and minuted decisions taken by this Council in October (now known as Part A of the replacement manoeuvre) had been overtaken by events and he requested that this meeting clarify the situation so that the BMFA documentation that he was responsible for should be correct.

Western Area read out the AOB item:

"The Western Area committee consider that there are serious safety implications with Part B of the revised helicopter 'B Test' (the "pirouette and hover") and ask this committee to remove the manoeuvre forthwith. The Western Area committee cannot foresee any circumstances where the aircraft should be put in such a position and so believe that Part A of the revised test (the "four point pirouette") is sufficient proof of the helicopter pilot's ability to the standard expected of a 'B Test'. Further, the committee believe that if the AHA wish to test display pilots specifically then they could introduce a dedicated test, moderated by the AHA, to meet their requirements.*

**As reported in Technical Council Minutes 20 October 2008, "R/C Power - Written Report (Appendix E)".*

The Western Area would like to respectfully remind this committee that a similar manoeuvre, the "pilot's pirouette", was previously proposed and the proposal subsequently withdrawn following discussion regarding the suitability of the manoeuvre. "

Peter Christy voiced the sentiments of the AHA on the issues surrounding the suspension of the Hovering 'M' and the subsequent replacement manoeuvres.

He recommends to this Council that we stay with the replacement manoeuvres. He was involved, together with certain members of the ASRC, in achieving what he believes is an optimum compromise to the Hovering 'M'.

He asked that the minutes record that he wishes to dispel the illusion that he was responsible for the removal of the Hovering 'M'. In actual fact he was very much opposed to it. The Chairman agreed it should be recorded that Peter Christy was not present at the meeting when this decision was made. He reiterated the statement he made at the time that it was a great pity that Peter Christy was not present.

Peter Christy expressed concern that if we adopt the Western Area proposal then we will be in a position where the AHA will not accept 'B' Certificates for competition flyers, including the Nationals.

The Technical Secretary as Nationals Co-ordinator commented that, if the AHA takes that stance, he would have to take the matter to Full Council because running the Nationals is Full Council's responsibility. AHA can run their own events how they wish but for the Nationals and any events they run on behalf of the BMFA he believes they should operate to the BMFA criteria.

Peter Christy responded to say that if the BMFA wish to run to those criteria they are welcome to do so but the AHA will not.

The Technical Secretary said he would report this to Council.

Peter Christy commented that we are in danger of breeding a generation of pilots that are only capable of flying a helicopter directly in front of them and nowhere else, which is not acceptable when flying in front of the public.

There were various viewpoints expressed both for and against this argument.

The PAS Controller alluded to the fact that the comments he has received about the new manoeuvre from the non-FAI fraternity are that they do not feel the need to fly over their shoulder. They are quite happy with Part A of the manoeuvre but not Part B. He cannot see that there will ever be an agreement between the FAI flyers and the regular flyers.

Copies of the notification and diagrams pertaining to the alternative manoeuvres were made available for everyone to review during lunch recess to assist in making an informed decision when voting on the following proposal:

Northern Area proposed that Council accepts the alternative manoeuvre to the Hovering 'M' for the Helicopter 'B' Certificate put forward by the ASRC in their letter of 29th October 2007 and that it is reviewed again in twelve months.

**TECH SEC
ASRC**

Seconded by Northern Area

Vote: For: 18

Ags: 4

Abs: 1

Carried by a majority vote.

Western Area proposed an amendment to the above proposal that Part A only of the alternative manoeuvres to the Hovering 'M' are accepted, for the reasons outlined in the Western Area statement read out earlier.

The proposal failed to be seconded and therefore fell.

AGENDA ITEM FEBRUARY 2009 AREAS COUNCIL - To review Helicopter 'B' Certificate alternative manoeuvres to the Hovering 'M'.

OFFICE MGR

The Chairman suggested it would be helpful to seek the opinions of our Examiners who are the experts taking the tests, on what they think of the new manoeuvres. These could be included in the discussion when we review the situation in 2009 to help determine if we have made the right decision.

ASRC
CHAIRMAN

The Chairman tasked the ASRC Chairman to write to the Examiners.

The Chairman proposed that the Hovering 'M' is now formally deleted from the Helicopter 'B' Schedule.

TECH SEC
ASRC

Seconded by North West Area

Carried unanimously.

- **Sixth paragraph, Silent Flight Controller** - The Chairman was pleased to report that at the January Full Council meeting Council accepted Nial Ball as the Silent Flight Controller.

Page 13

- **Third paragraph from the bottom, North West Area report on Lottery Grant for Wroughton** - North West Area advised that Wroughton were unsuccessful in their bid to be one of the contenders for a Lottery Grant.

Page 14

- **Fourth paragraph, Dishforth events** - The Technical Secretary made a general comment that the Calendar would really benefit if he was regularly informed by the Areas of any Area events taking place. The minimum information he requires is the date, name of the event, venue and a contact number and or email address. Any large entries will obviously have to be cut down because there are space limitations in BMFA News but Areas will be missing an opportunity to publicise their activities if they do not get the information to him.

- **Penultimate paragraph, new database** - London Area asked if the new database was working okay. The Technical Secretary advised that the Company providing the database had experienced personnel problems which delayed the completion of the database by a few weeks. This in turn meant that it would not have been ready until we were into the new membership year, which is not an ideal time to test it. By mutual consent it will now be introduced in the Spring.

This concluded matters arising.

A967/02/08 To appoint a representative to the Awards Committee for 2008.

Gordon Warburton was unanimously accepted as Areas Council Representative to the Awards Committee for 2008.

**OFFICE MGR
AWARDS C'TTE**

A968/02/08 To ratify the following members of the Achievement Scheme Review Committee.

Terry Rounce - Chairman
Mick Eames
Chris Bromley FSMAE
Peter Spurway
Nial Ball

Dick Whitehead
Bob Mahoney
Martin Godden
John Harris

London Area proposed that the above Achievement Scheme Review Committee members be ratified for 2008.

Seconded by South Midland Area
Carried unanimously.

A969/02/08 To receive a proposal from the RCPTC that the RCPTC has a permanent rep on ASRC.

South Midland Area in his capacity as RCPTC Chairman provided some background information to this proposal. He pointed out that the proposal did not come from the AHA; however it did come about as a consequence of the Hovering 'M' discussions.

Although the 'B' Certificate was never intended to be anything other than a personal achievement, it has taken on a slightly wider role. It has been recognised that it does have wider ramifications. When changes are made to the flying schedule, as it did with the Hovering 'M', then there can be knock-on effects way beyond the immediate circle of the Achievement Scheme. The RCPTC felt it would be useful to have a RCPTC representative on the ASRC to warn the Committee about possible consequences of actions should a similar situation arise.

The ASRC Chairman's response was that the ASRC look after the interests of the Club flyer, not the competition flyer.

