

# MINUTES

## SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 11am at Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrews Road, Leicester LE2 8RE.

Provisional until confirmed at the next Area Council Meeting.

### PRESENT

Robin Sleight MBE	Meeting Chairman
Nigel Barker	PRO
Peter Leavesley	East Anglia Area Delegate
Martin Dilly FSMAE	London Area Delegate/RAeC Delegate
Terry Rounce	London Area Chairman
George Maynard	Midland Area Chairman/Delegate
Peter Spurway	RCP&SF AS Controller
Andy Symons	Northern Area Delegate
Allan Weighell FSMAE	North East Area Delegate Alternate
David Lloyd Jones	North West Area Delegate
Keith Barker	North West Area Chairman Alternate
Peter Christy	South Midland Area Delegate
Bob Cutter	South East Area Chairman
Keith Miller FSMAE	South East Area Delegate
Stuart Simpson	Southern Area Delegate
Colin Booth	Western Area Chairman
Phil Durant	Western Area Delegate
Mike Colling FSMAE	Northern Ireland Area Delegate Alt

#### **In Attendance**

Linda Harding	Minute Taker / Office Manager
Chris Bromley FSMAE	Technical Secretary

#### **Visitors**

Peter Disney	South West Area
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### 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 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009.
- 4 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 5 To appoint a representative to the Awards Committee for 2010.

- 6 To ratify the following members of the Achievement Scheme Review Committee:
- |                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Terry Rounce – Chairman | Dick Whitehead |
| Mick Eames              | Bob Mahoney    |
| Chris Bromley FSMAE     | Andy Symons    |
| Peter Spurway           | John Harris    |
- 7 To receive a proposal from  
*London Area that Peter Spurway, Membership Number 54587 is appointed Area Chief Examiner (Helicopter) for London Area.*
- 8 To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.
- a) Power
  - b) Silent Flight
- 9 To discuss whether the 'A' Certificate must be passed before the 'B' Certificate is attempted.
- 10 A Constitution for the ASRC.
- 11 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
- 12 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.)
- 13 To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.
- 14 To confirm dates of Areas Council Meetings 2010.  
**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2010**  
**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010**
- 15 Any Other Business.

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## MINUTES

**VOTING STRENGTH OF THE MEETING IS 18**

### **A1036/01/10 (1) Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from the following:  
 Jim Andrews FSMAE Mid-West Area Chairman  
 Tom Jones North East Area Delegate  
 Terry Bailey FSMAE North East Area Chairman  
 Mick Evans RAFMAA Area Chairman  
 John Thompson Northern Area Chairman  
 Robin Jones FSMAE Mid-West Area Delegate

Ian Robb Northern Ireland Area Delegate & Chairman  
Tony Butterworth Southern Area Chairman  
Manny Williamson Development Officer

**A1037/01/10 (2) Request for permission to be absent.**

There were no requests.

**A1026/09/09 (3) Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2009.**

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- **List of attendees** – Add George Maynard Midland Area Delegate/Chairman.

**Western Area proposed that the Minutes of the Areas Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.**

Seconded by Nor.

Vote: For: 16  
Ags: 0  
Abs: 2

Carried by a majority vote.

**A1038/01/10 (4) Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2009 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.**

**ACTION / NOTES**

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- **Sixth paragraph, action ASRC to submit a proposal re ACE Area of operation** – The Chairman had been handed the following proposal before the start of the meeting:

Proposal from the Technical Secretary on behalf of the ASRC:

**“When outside of their own area, Area Chief Examiners may only operate with Club Examiner status unless prior agreement has been sought from the Area Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator in the other area (e.g. an ACE cannot conduct a ‘B’ test without a second Examiner).”**

A drafting amended was suggested to replace “sought” with “obtained” which was accepted.

The above proposal including the amendment was seconded by Northern Area.  
Carried unanimously.

**ASRC/TECH SEC**

The inception date for the above proposal will be effective from the date of publication of the next BMFA News issue which is April 2010.

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- **Fifth paragraph, CAA prosecution** – The Technical Secretary informed the meeting that the BMFA member in question was successfully prosecuted by the CAA for fraudulently obtaining LMA licence documents.

An action was placed on the office to submit an official notice on the outcome of the prosecution, in the BMFA News.

**OFFICE**

*Post meeting note:*

*The Development Officer submitted a statement to the BMFA News Editor, which will be published in the April issue.*

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- **Penultimate paragraph, set up generic email address for Tech Sec** – The Technical Secretary advised that as far as he is aware alias email addresses for the Executive have been in existence for some time. However some of the Executive choose not to use this system and prefer emails to be routed through the office, which works perfectly well.

This concluded matters arising.

**A1040/01/10 (5) To appoint a representative to the Awards Committee for 2010.**

**London Area proposed that Keith Miller FSMAE is appointed Areas Council Representative to the Awards Committee.**

Seconded by North East Area  
Carried unanimously.

**OFFICE MGR**

The Technical Secretary suggested the election for the elected posts on the Awards Committee should take place after the Areas Council representative has been appointed. His reasoning being that a situation could arise whereby the person appointed by this meeting could also be elected, which would reduce the numbers on the Committee.

The above suggestion was noted however the decision to make any changes would need to come from the Awards Committee.

**AWARDS CTTEE  
CHAIRMAN**

**A1041/01/10 (6) To ratify the following members of the Achievement Scheme Review Committee.**

Terry Rounce – Chairman	Dick Whitehead
Mick Eames	Bob Mahoney
Chris Bromley FSMAE	Andy Symons
Peter Spurway	John Harris

**The Vice-Chairman proposed that the above members be accepted as the Achievement Scheme Review Committee for 2010.**

Seconded by Western Area

Vote: For: 14  
Ags: 0  
Abs: 4

Carried by a majority vote.

OFFICE

**A1042/01/10 (7) To receive a proposal from the London Area that Peter Spurway, Membership Number 54587 is appointed Area Chief Examiner (Helicopter) for London Area.**

Seconded by Northern Area  
Carried unanimously.

OFFICE/LONDON  
AREA

**A1043/01/10 (8) To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.**

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**WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX A)**

The PAS Controller informed the meeting that it had recently come to his attention that a Helicopter ACE, on two separate occasions, tested candidates for a 'B' Fixed Wing. It was noted that the PAS Controller took what he thought to be the appropriate action, which was to have the candidates re-tested.

There is nothing really to report on the Silent Flight scheme.

South Midland appreciated the stats covered in the PAS Controller report. He did however request that the same information is reported next time for 'A' tests and Silent Flight tests. The PAS Controller was happy to do this.

PAS CONT

It is anticipated that Chris Moynihan will become the Silent Flight Controller, subject to formal ratification at the next Full Council meeting.

**A1044/01/10 (9) To discuss whether the 'A' Certificate must be passed before the 'B' Certificate is attempted.**

The following points were covered in the discussion:

- It seems logical that if someone has the ability to pass a 'B' they should be able to pass an 'A' however the requirements for the 'A' are not included in the 'B' test.
- To do both tests would only add about five minutes on to the test.
- The questions would follow both tests.

There was general agreement that the 'A' test should be passed before the 'B' and that it should be sequential.

An action was placed on the ASRC to submit a formal proposal to Areas Council.

ASRC

### **A1045/01/10 (10) A Constitution for the ASRC.**

The Chairman said that he, assisted by the BMFA's Vice Chairman, were tasked by Council to create an agreed constitution for the ASRC. The document dated 23 January and presented today was an initial draft for discussion and it had been prepared at his request by the ASRC Chairman and the Tech Secretary. There was absolutely no implied criticism of the ASRC in seeking a constitution for them, they continue to do an excellent job; but, for the future Council thought it sensible to have a formal definition of how they are constituted and what they are tasked to do. The Technical Secretary commented that such committees did not have Constitutions; they had "Terms of Reference" so henceforth the document will be treated as terms of reference.

The Chairman stated that he intended the discussion to provide input for future amendments and the timescale he envisaged to reach a formally agreed document, was by the September 2010 Area Council meeting. Currently there was some uncertainty amongst the membership about how people got seats on the ASRC and whether it necessarily represented a balance of interests. He commented that if the process involved fully open elections by all BMFA members, that would certainly be fully democratic but was highly unlikely to achieve the vital balance of interests as needed. However simple appointments, without any election, while being an easy way to ensure a balance, could lead to a perception of lack of democracy. The meeting concurred that a sensible way forward to achieve both aims was to actively and publicly seek nominations and then elect by Area Council voting members from these nominations.

The comments on aspects of the document needing further work were identified as:

- The responsibility of the ASRC to supply relevant information to the rule books
- The need to formally seek, via a notice in the BMFA News, nominations for vacancies on the ASRC. The Areas could help in drawing potential candidate's attention to such vacancies.
- As with most other committees, elected members will be in post for two years with half of them coming up for election each year.
- As said above, the Area Council will elect members for vacancies on the ASRC drawing from nominations received. If (an unlikely event), a large number of nominations are received some sub group from Area Council could be constituted to conduct an initial filter out of unsuitable candidates. A key criterion is a need to have had adequate experience as an examiner.
- In electing nominees to vacant positions the Area Council will bear in mind the need to retain a balance of relevant skills and interests.

- To help standardise the process and help ensure that suitable candidates are properly considered, a pro-forma CV would be created defining exactly what CV information was sought and in what depth. This could be an appendix to the Terms of Reference document.

The Chairman thanked the meeting for all the constructive inputs received, as above, and undertook to have a further draft available by the June Area Council meeting. This should cover all points raised and will be a major step towards getting a voted on proposal in place for the September Area Council meeting.

HON SEC

**A1046/01/10 (11) To receive a report from committees or co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.**

**a) Achievement Scheme Review Committee**

They are currently working on the Scale 'C' and the Indoor 'A' and 'B'. Hopefully there will be more to report after the next meeting in April.

Andy Symons added a comment that in general the feedback on the proposed Indoor achievement scheme from the aerobatic indoor flyers has been very positive, although a few changes will be necessary to some of the sequences.

The Technical Secretary stressed that it is quite important to note that the indoor achievement scheme is not aimed at F3P flyers. The F3P category models are very specialised and there is no reason why they cannot do the test, however the test is aimed at models that the average indoor aerobatic model flyer can achieve the test with.

**b) Flight Challenge**

Covered in the Development Officer report Appendix J.

**c) Education**

He attended the ASE at Nottingham University in January. Some of the models suffered badly as a result of weather extremities causing condensation in the exhibition marquee.

Nevertheless as usual it was a good PR exercise and good contacts were made both here and abroad, particularly the Netherlands and Norway.

He is still busy with kit orders and the current trend compared to last year seems to have moved more to Schools rather than Youth Organisations.

A new model was launched at the D&T Show in November 2009, which is the 'Sky Dart'. It is electric radio controlled, designed to fly both indoors and outdoors. It is aimed primarily at schools, science clubs, engineering clubs and youth organisations rather than individuals.

**A1047/01/10 (12) To receive reports From Area Committees.**

\*\*\*\*\* **NORTH EAST AREA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX B – to follow, not received in time for publication of minutes)**

\*\*\*\*\* **SOUTHERN AREA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX C)**  
In addition Southern Area reported that the next open day at Yeovilton will take place in a couple of weeks' time and they are hoping for good weather.

He attended the London Model Engineering Exhibition and was very impressed with the BMFA setup and flying exhibitions.

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

\*\*\*\*\* **EAST ANGLIA AREA - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX E)**  
East Anglia commented that surprisingly this month there was an up-turn in attendance at the Area meeting, which is very encouraging.

\*\*\*\*\* **SOUTH MIDLAND AREA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX F)**  
The newly appointed delegate for South Midland Area commented that one of the topics on the Area agenda for the future will be to address certain issues pertaining to the achievement scheme. They will also endeavour to promote the Area as much as possible through the BMFA web site where they can, with the aim of bringing more clubs on board.

**NORTH WEST AREA**

Syd Lawton, one of the stalwarts in the North West Area died suddenly in December.

North West Area was pleased to report that the Chairman of a newly affiliated club to the Area attended the Area meeting recently. The Club Chairman also contributed to the discussions at the meeting and has indicated that he would be attending further meetings.

The indoor meetings continue as usual, run very efficiently by Keith Barker. They will be holding a Scale event at Shawbury sometime in July.

The Area has a very good web site also run very efficiently by Keith Barker.

**NORTHERN IRELAND AREA**

There has been a change of chairmanship since the last meeting. Ian Robb has taken on the posts of Chairman and Delegate.

The Area has a presence at several events and is very keen to promote the Area and the BMFA.

## **LONDON AREA**

The majority of helpers at the LMEX at Alexander Palace were from the London Area. The Area meeting scheduled for January had to be cancelled due to the weather.

Area 8 on Salisbury Plain has been confirmed as the London Area venue for Free Flight Centralised events.

The RAeC Awards ceremony will take place on April 27<sup>th</sup> at the RAF Museum at Hendon where the Duke of York will be presenting the awards. Tickets are £35 each or £60 for two tickets.

### **\*\*\*\*\* SOUTH EAST AREA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX G)**

The delegate added that the Area has agreed to help with the manning of the BMFA stand at the Southern Model Air Show later in the year and he is currently organising a roster for this.

### **\*\*\*\*\* NORTHERN AREA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX H)**

The delegate briefly added that the Area have managed to secure RAF Dishforth twice a month for r/c flying.

### **\*\*\*\*\* MIDLAND AREA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX I)**

With reference to the educational and training initiative set up by the Area, eight clubs in the Area are taking full advantage of the equipment provided within the scheme and full details can be found on the Midland Area web site.

## **A1048/01/10 (13) To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.**

### **Honorary Secretary**

The Honorary Secretary together with the BMFA Chairman and CEO will be making a further visit to the South West Area to attend the Devon and Cornwall AGM/EGM's.

### **Technical Secretary**

Rule Books are almost finished. He is very pleased with the assistance of the Technical Committees this year.

The Members Handbook will be published this Spring.

The Technical Secretary stressed that if Areas require events published in the Contest Calendar they must send the information to him.

The Technical Secretary highlighted an issue that came to light recently in respect of insurance for event organisers. He pointed out that a members' individual insurance does not cover you for organising anything.

To invoke the organisers insurance an event must be organised either through an Area or affiliated club or specialist body.

## **PRO**

He attended the 'Flying Show' in November last year, which is mainly aimed at full-size light aircraft enthusiasts. The combined efforts of the BMFA stand and the trade element for the flying slots worked very well.

There was a great deal of interest in the model flying element and it was well worth us having a presence.

He also attended LMEX at Alexandra Palace, which was well attended. The support of London Area at the event is very much appreciated. Gemma Sargeant was congratulated on the excellent work she does with the children's workshops at the LMEX.

He is pleased that we have some new faces on the Area Committees. Personally he does not agree with the same person taking on more than one role on Area Committees and made a plea to Areas to try to avoid this if possible.

The PRO offered his services in any way he can and urged Areas to contact him if they required any assistance with shows or events.

He will be attending the Rougham show in May. He implored Areas to encourage clubs in their Area to assist at local shows/events.

The PRO recommended the use of the on-line Members Handbook, which is always kept up-to-date. It is quite useful because it includes the additional information which is usually produced as addendum sheets for members and the additional information is printed in red.

## **Office Manager**

The Office Manager reported that membership figures are as they should be for this time of year and everything is on track.

She urged delegates to remind clubs that they should be issuing their members with the 'temporary receipt' cards that are provided, specifically for use at the beginning of the membership year. They are valid for two months and provide members with proof of insurance in the interim period until the full membership card is issued.

**AREAS**

## **Development Officer**

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## **WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX J)**

### **A1049/01/10 (14) To confirm dates of Areas Council Meetings 2010.**

The dates for 2010 are as follows:  
**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June; Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September.**

North East pointed out that the timings of the first Full Council and Area Council meetings seemed very close this year and suggested it might be worth considering re-scheduling for future years.

**A1050/01/10 (15) Any Other Business.**

There was none.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 3.05 pm.

Linda Harding, Office Manager  
1<sup>st</sup> March 2010

**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

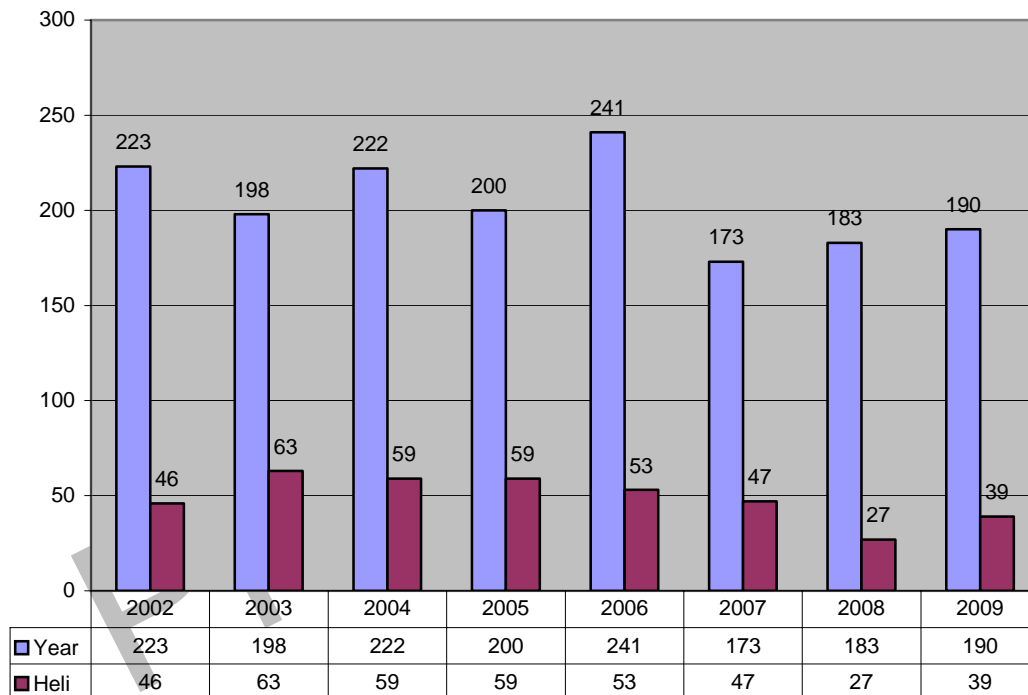
## R/C Power Achievement Scheme Controller

Report to Areas Council 30 January 2010

Hopefully when the new Helicopter B test forms and test standards are available, all helicopter examiners will receive a copy. This will enable all the candidates to get the decade off to a good start.

A table is shown below, showing the respective results for R/C Power Fixed Wing and Helicopter passes at B test level since 2002.

BMFA Achievement Scheme B tests



The first batch of Chief Examiner certificates for 2010 has been posted. Prior to being posted, the respective area must have requested ratification, and recipient's BMFA subscription for 2010 paid.

A point from the ACE reports: A Chief Examiner may only carry out a B Test (on his own) or an Examiner test, in the discipline for which he is approved by Areas Council.

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

NORTH EAST AREA REPORT TO FOLLOW.

Provisional

**SOUTHERN AREA**

In the middle of last October, the Royal Navy held their open day at Yeovilton. This is when 100 or so exhibitors of every description, but mainly plastic kits, set up shop all around the aircraft and the museum. The Southern Area are asked to organise a 2 hour flying slot during the day for the 8000 or so members of the public to watch. We are lucky that we can attract many well known show flyers to participate. The weather was near perfect for flying and a good time was enjoyed by all. We always get a very nice letter of appreciation for our efforts, and a nice cheque as well.

The AGM was late this year, middle of December, where we had a few resignations but managed to replace them. The numbers attending were no higher than normal even with a nice spread of sandwiches.

With virtually no flying at present, indoor flying is very popular, both f/flight and r/c. It is good that the venues are reasonably well attended due to the high costs of renting the leisure centres.

Our first Area meeting is next week, and we have just been informed that our Hon Sec has resigned due to ongoing hospital treatment and other stressful things. Where is there a Linda when you need one?

Stuart Simpson

Delegate

# BMFA Western Area

## Area Report January 2010

Weather is still the dominating factor across the area, with a number of our clubs being unable to access their flying fields for a number of weeks. Those that still can are finding the going a bit 'slick'. The rain followed by snow which subsequently thawed out has left many grass fields totally waterlogged. I realise we are not alone, and many of the clubs flying from grass fields across the country are probably suffering from similar problems.

There is some good news that Free Flight comps. are increasing in the area this year. The Merryfields site has been booked for eight events this year rather than the more usual six.

Plans are in hand to promote the BMFA Western Area and our affiliated clubs at a couple of large events in the area this year. This is to build on the success we had at the South West Model Spectacular at Shepton Mallett showground last year. We are hoping to use the experience learned with a repeat effort this year, and to follow on with our attendance at the Woodspring Wings show if our current discussions are successful. We would hope to have the use of the BMFA trailer and tent at these events if available.

Another Examiners Workshop is being arranged for August to be hosted by one of our Bristol clubs. These have been extremely popular events in the past, and we expect a good response from members in our area.



Chairman  
Western Area

## BMFA East Anglian Area – Delegate’s Report, January, 2010.

This winter the weather has been quite variable, mainly windy and often wet, whilst the recent spell of snow brought much of the Area to a halt. Despite the vagaries of the weather, outdoor activity has remained high. It is a credit to instructors in the Area that they have continued to train newcomers to radio control flying even in these most adverse conditions. This has paid dividends for trainees, who are now flying – and passing – the ‘A’ Certificate schedule, some with a longer term view of achieving ‘B’ Certificate status. Once more indoor flying activities throughout the area have also proved popular, recently giving fliers the opportunity to air their Christmas gifts. Traditional stick and tissue models are favoured by some clubs, but several clubs manage to run mixed free-flight and radio-control events very successfully.

My usual report seems to despair of the attendance at Area meetings, but this month was something of an exception. It seems that a few clubs have had changes in their leadership, which has prompted the new committees to send delegates to the meetings. Whilst relations between clubs in various parts of the Area are generally good, it was clear that the new club officials were desirous of extending such networks. From the reports that these new delegates brought it was also clear that clubs were actively pursuing the promotion of model flying with various bodies – air cadets, school groups, scouts and others. They also raised concerns about the extent of their responsibilities with regard to young people in such situations and this matter was discussed at some length. It is encouraging to see that clubs take children very seriously.

Model flying obviously catches the eye of otherwise casual spectators from time to time, and recently my own club was approached with a view to providing a display at a local event in June. Perhaps summer is not as distant as we think. In the past such invitations have been extended but have had to be turned down because the flying spaces offered have been inadequate for safety considerations – perhaps this will be different – the venue is a horse racing course. If so it will be yet another chance to promote aeromodelling.

Pete Leavesley.

### **South Midlands Report to Areas Council Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

During 2009, the South Midlands Area held four meetings including the AGM in December 2009. The average attendance at meetings was 16 delegates, (including Area Officers). The delegates represent approximately 25% of the 60 clubs in the South Midlands Area.

There have been several significant changes to the Area Officer positions during 2009.

In June 2009, Ian Self resigned as Secretary and Duncan McClure agreed to take over the role. Duncan has been a regular attendee as club delegate for the White Horse MFC (Oxfordshire).

Before the AGM, the Area Chairman, Roger Bellingham resigned and is succeeded by Jim Wright who is also Chairman of the Ivinghoe Soaring Association (ISA). In addition, Charlie Newman stood down as Vice Chairman for personal reasons. He is replaced by Mick Eames, (Luton & District MAC) who will also continue as Area Achievement Scheme Coordinator and a Chief Examiner. We are pleased that Peter Christy has agreed to continue as Area Delegate for a further year to provide continuity, as he had intended to stand down at the 2009 Area AGM.

We had the usual difficulty of finding more than one nominee or volunteer for each vacant post so all the new Area Officers were elected unopposed. Only the position of Area PRO remains open.

During 2009, a major topic of discussion in the meetings has been various aspects of the Achievement Scheme. These discussions included how to ensure a consistent standard of testing across examiners, the suitability of candidates for appointment as Area Chief Examiner and much debate on whether a Club Examiner in the area should be retested as requested by a club delegate.

At the May 2009 meeting, the North London MFC made application to transfer to the London Area. This was approved by the South Midland Area but was subject to acceptance by the London Area and ratification by Areas Council both of which subsequently happened.

The Area has continued its practice of awarding support of £50 each to *South Midlands Area club members* who achieve a team place and represent the UK at World or International Championship events. In 2009, awards were made to John Shaw in the F1D Indoor team and Roy Cherry in the F2B C/L Aerobatic team.

*Jim Wright  
Chairman – South Midlands Area  
24<sup>th</sup> January 2010*

South East Area Report to Areas Council Meeting on 30.1.10

As usual at this time of year things are fairly quiet on the active flying front outdoors but since the last Area meeting we have been able to run off our Towner thermal soaring trophy, hosted once again by the Sussex RFC at their Ashurst field.

Then, in November we repeated last year's all day indoor meeting at Tonbridge in the hope that more support would be forthcoming this time. Unfortunately, this proved not to be the case and a financial loss was again suffered, although not so bad as last year. There was one bright spot however, in that the parent/child competition attracted four entries against just one last time. This may have been because we were utilising the Midair Models Swift Depron design in lieu of the BMFA Dart, but more probably because of a visit to a local school by our Education Co-ordinator the week before the event. Because of the financial outcome it is highly unlikely that this meeting will be run in 2010.

Our Council Delegate attended the Society AGM at the new venue and approved the location and facilities except for the eating arrangements as it was felt that both the lunch facility and the official dinner left a lot to be desired.

The level of snow at the time of the Full Council meeting in January prevented our delegate from attending, as the South East sector of the journey was "interesting", as quoted by someone who did travel..

We are in the throes of final preparations for our annual Crawley indoor meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> and were recently faced with a dilemma when the K2 Leisure Centre, where the event is held, announced that they had double booked us with some table tennis championships. With both events having received wide advertising, it was difficult to sort out new dates, but the Centre being extremely large, was able to partly accommodate the ping pong addicts in other areas, only taking up one third of the main sports hall, with ourselves using the other two thirds. This means that we will only have to pay just over one half of the previously expected hire fee of £1000. Luckily, the sports hall is very large and the space we now have should be adequate.

One good sign is that our Area meetings are being better supported, some 13 people attending the last one a few days ago. If this trend continues we shall have to seek a larger meeting room, which is very welcome.

Finally, efforts are being made to revive one of our old Area events which was discontinued some years ago due to lack of support. This is the Ashdown Trophy which is an R/C glider cross country event where contenders walk around a fixed course on Ashdown Forest whilst trying to keep their models in the air. The authority of the Forest Conservators is being sort for the event but because of the crowded calendar it may not be possible to run it until next year.

Keith Miller, Council Delegate

## NORTHERN AREA

### Chairman's Report to Area January 2010

Although I intended to stand down as Chairman no one seems willing to take over so I have agreed to carry on for at least another year, or until we can find someone younger!

Several of our Committee members officiated at the Indoor Masters f3J event in Bradford in December, and I was pleased to award the new Northern Area's own trophy for the first time to Connor Stevens of Harrogate. We thank the BMFA for sponsoring this event, which certainly put the Area on the international map, and look forward to a repeat performance.

Our own indoor sessions are very well attended and I think we have been providing these facilities for over 15years now, what a difference today from the old Nicads and 35mhz radio.

The good news is I have just received my SPRING copy of the Northern Area Free Flight News. It must be early this year. Ian Wilkenson does a great job editing this missive, which is 18 pages long this time, and shows the enthusiasm of his stalwarts. Interesting reading which brings back memories from my youth.

John Thompson, January 2010

Item 12 Midland Area Report, Areas Council Meeting 30/01/10

During 2009 we managed to launch successfully our long awaited educational and training initiative which was taken up by 8 area clubs who are now taking full advantage of the equipment provided on an ongoing basis.

At our 2009 AGM Peter Turner relinquished his position as PRO after serving many years in this post. In the absence of any input from other area clubs John Bridgett agreed to add these duties to those of his own as Education Co-ordinator which, in the circumstances seemed logical and we thank John for this.

The plans for the Midland Area Festival of Flight 2010 are now coming together. The date and licence is fixed for Sunday 6th June at Barkston.

The weather horrors of last year are behind us and we look forward to good weather this time. Extra toilet facilities are being provided as are full refreshments available from an excellent site in the middle of the airfield. A hike in RAF gate charges means that our entrance fee will have to be £6, but this will include a free draw ticket to test your luck from a vast pile of prizes.

Participation in all the competitive classes looks good with competitive and scale helis joining us and also there will be Vintage and Weatherman speed C/L in addition to all the usual stuff you will see at the Nationals. Sorry no trade or camping this year but we are actively looking to perhaps extend this event to two days (if we can find enough people to give of their time to assist!)

Our area continues to assist Indoor Flying at Market Harborough with growing interest

On a sombre note we record the sad loss of Mike Goldby and are pleased to have been able to recognise his unstinting efforts with an engraved silver plaque prior to his passing.

As usual we look forward to 2010 with confidence and a hope that some volunteers may yet emerge from the woodwork to help our ageing committee, after all there must be some members within our approx 100 clubs with sufficient foresight and energy to be able to take over if we start falling off our perches.

Alf Tunnicliffe, Secretary

for

George Maynard, Chairman

## AREAS COUNCIL 30-01-2010

### Development Officer Report

As always this is a very busy time of the year both for the office and also for me personally.

In November we attended The Flying Show at the NEC Birmingham with a large BMFA stand.

This is a full size light aviation show and our presence was very well received, the indoor flying area generated much interest and it is clear that there is a significant "cross over" between the model and full-size disciplines.

My thanks must go to Horizon Hobby who provided pilots and models for this show and also to the small team of willing helpers who manned the stand over the weekend, the PRO's presence was much appreciated.

The Christmas period was busy with preparation for our attendance at the London Model Engineering Exhibition which took place last weekend, once again we hosted a large information stand at this show which was very busy for the duration of the event, overall takings were significantly up on previous years and the BMFA Aerojet workshop was a huge success. The stand provided the usual range of information, static display models, saleable goods and indoor flying. The stand was well supported by plenty of willing helpers from the London Area, my thanks to these gents and particularly Martin Dilly and Terry Rounce who recruited most of those helping. As usual Gemma Sargeant from the office worked on the stand and on the Saturday and Sunday Gemma focussed her attention on the workshop, it was certainly good to see so many children building and flying their Aerojets, again the PRO attended this event which was a great help, he even treated us to a demonstration of his new BMFA R/C Skydart. As in previous years' Horizon Hobby provided pilots and aircraft for this event.

The BMFA promotional DVD is still ongoing, unfortunately other projects and commitments have meant that this project is taking considerably longer than desirable, one of the biggest challenges is getting sufficiently ahead on the day to day tasks in the office to direct time to this project, hopefully I will be turning my attention to this important resource in the near future.

Planning for the 2010 Heavy lift challenge is well underway and I have already received a reasonable entry for this competition, the event will take place at Elvington in North Yorkshire over the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> /13<sup>th</sup> of June. The competition has remained largely unchanged for this year other than a change of payload in the Electric Lift, however we have added a video diary competition as an extra feature with a separate prize and award (this is also a way of obtaining some film footage to advertise future competitions..... You see, we are not daft!)

The 2010 Children's Flight Challenge is still in the planning stage and is running behind schedule (again), one of the issues that is taking time to address is the timing of the competition in relation to venue availability, whilst Duxford are broadly supportive of hosting the Challenge it is proving a little difficult to pin them down to a suitable date (again), hopefully this aspect of the competition will be resolved in the near future in order that we can launch at the earliest opportunity.

I am also again working on sponsorship of the Challenge with the Royal Navy following last years success, however at this time I am not hopeful of a positive result as the Navy have already indicated that there may be no funding available, I am currently exploring alternative avenues, this is a constant source of frustration to me as the finances involved are relatively minor for such a worthwhile competition

The first BMFA Electric Indoor Masters F3p and Freestyle event was held in December in Bradford, this weekend long event proved to be a complete success with very positive feedback from all involved and excellent coverage in the monthly modelling press, a report will feature in the next edition of the BMFA News, I am aiming for this event to become a fixed annual competition on the BMFA calendar. My thanks to Andy Whitehead who is the originator of the event in this country and also to Andy Symons and the rest of the team for all their assistance during the course of the weekend, Linda Harding also attended this event ensuring that raffle ticket sales were at an impressive level, Linda must also be congratulated on booking perhaps the worst hotel I have ever stayed in ..... But apparently it was cheap!!

The BMFA Aerojet is proving to be a very successful addition to the range of models that we sell, we are about to launch (pun definitely intended!) a catapult version of the same model, the Aerojet CP, the development work on this is complete other than the instructions. These models are proving absolutely ideal for workshops where there is insufficient time to construct a Dart or where younger flyers are attending.

I am currently working on other aircraft to complement those already available in the "foamy" range.

We are currently working on the 2010 Chairman's Conference for the Southern half of the country. This event will be taking place in either late March or early April.

As always Club talks are proving popular and I have several bookings for the first quarter of the year. As previously I will keep the Areas informed when I am attending their Clubs.

**Manny Williamson**  
Development Officer