

# MINUTES

## SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 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/ASRC Chairman
George Maynard	Midland Area Chairman/Delegate
Peter Spurway	RCP&SF AS Controller
Andy Symons	Northern Area Delegate
John Thompson	Northern Area Chairman
Allan Weighell FSMAE	North East Area Chairman Alternate
David Lloyd Jones	North West Area Chairman
Keith Barker	North West Area Delegate Alternate
Peter Christy	South Midland Area Delegate
Jim Wright	South Midland Area Chairman
Keith Miller FSMAE	South East Area Delegate
Stuart Simpson	Southern Area Delegate
Colin Booth	Western Area Chairman
John Harris	Western Area Delegate Alternate
Mike Colling FSMAE	Northern Ireland Area Delegate Alt
Peter Disney	South West Area Delegate / RNMAA Del
Ian Robb	Northern Ireland Area Delegate
Mick Evans	RAFMAA Area Chairman
<b>In Attendance</b>	
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 30<sup>th</sup> January 2010.
- 4 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2010 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

- 5 To receive a proposal from the following Areas to appoint Chief Examiners:
  - i) *Western Area that John Harris, Membership Number 27760 is appointed Area Chief Examiner (Fixed Wing) for Western Area.*
  - ii) *Cornwall Sub-Area that Andrew Hothersall, Membership Number 132307 is appointed Area Chief Examiner for Cornwall Sub-Area.*
- 6 To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.
  - a) Power
  - b) Silent Flight
- 7 To receive a Proposal from the Honorary Secretary to adopt formal Terms of Reference for the ASRC. (Document appended).
- 8 Possible change to the Area Council Constitution.
- 9 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
- 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 date of next meeting.
- 13 Any Other Business.

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## MINUTES

### **VOTING STRENGTH OF THE MEETING IS 20**

#### **A1051/06/10 (1) Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from the following:  
 Tom Jones North East Area Delegate  
 Phil Durant Western Area Delegate  
 Manny Williamson Development Officer

#### **A1052/06/10 (2) Request for permission to be absent.**

There were no requests.

**A1053/06/10 (3) Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2010.**

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- **List of attendees** – Add Jim Wright South Midland Area Chairman.

**North West Area proposed that the Minutes of the Areas Council Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2010 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.**

Seconded by London Area  
Carried unanimously

**A1054/06/10 (4) Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2010 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.**

**ACTION / NOTES**

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- **Fourth paragraph, appointment of Silent Flight Controller** – Unfortunately the formality to appoint Chris Moynihan as Silent Flight Achievement Scheme Controller was omitted from the May Full Council discussions. However there were and are no objections to this appointment.

**ASRC/OFFICE  
MGR/AREAS**

This concluded matters arising.

**A1055/06/10 (5) To receive a proposal from the following Areas to appoint Chief Examiners.**

**Western Area proposed that John Harris, membership number 27760 is appointed Area Chief Examiner (Fixed Wing) for Western Area.**

Seconded by Northern Area  
Carried unanimously

**WESTERN AREA/  
OFFICE/PAS  
CONTROLLER**

**Cornwall Sub-Area proposed that Andrew Hothersall, membership number 132307 is appointed Area Chief Examiner (Fixed Wing) for Cornwall Sub-Area.**

Seconded by Northern Area  
Carried unanimously.

**CORNWALL  
SUB-  
AREA/OFFICE/  
PAS C'TRLLR**

South West Area thanked the PAS Controller for making the visit to the South West to take the test.

**A1056/06/10 (6) To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.**

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

The PAS Controller posed a question in his report as follows –  
“Clubs are solely responsible for their own Examiners does Council feel that this is how matters should stay”.

This was debated at length and opinions were varied.

The Chairman tasked ASRC to discuss whether they believe the boundaries of responsibilities for ACE's to re-assess a particular Club Examiner should be changed and if so to submit a suitable proposal to Areas Council for consideration.

**ASRC**

The discussion should take in to consideration that currently the ToR for AS Controllers states that AS Controllers should "ensure that any complaints about the Achievement Scheme, especially malpractice, are dealt with correctly."

The PAS Controller commented on this point that he is aware that he is required to look into complaints however the facility to do this is non-existent within the current frame-work, which is why he brought it to the attention of Areas Council.

**b) Silent Flight** – No report.

***RAFMAA Chairman joined the meeting at this point increasing voting number to 21.***

**A1057/06/10 (7) To receive a proposal from the Honorary Secretary to adopt formal Terms of Reference for the ASRC.**

The Honorary Secretary had prepared and circulated copies of an amended version of the ASRC ToR previously circulated with the agenda, for consideration.

The general feeling was that the original document was favourable.

**ASRC Chairman proposed we accept the original document.**

**ASRC/OFFICE**

Seconded by Western Area  
Carried unanimously

A point was raised that having reviewed the ToR for ASRC there is still no documented method for the appointment of the AS Controllers. It was pointed out that this is a matter for Full Council they are two separate issues.

Western Area CV not discussed – feeling of the Western Area is that this is "over the top" in relation to other sub-committees.

The Honorary Secretary commented that he believed as the CV was part of the whole document it had also been approved.

For the benefit of Western Area the Honorary Secretary explained the reasoning for the requirement for a CV, which Western Area thought was unnecessary.

The CV is based on the standard format that is used for Technical Committee and Elected Officer nominations. The main aim was to standardise the procedure so that candidates know exactly what is expected of them instead of receiving CV's in different formats and some more detailed than others.

The Honorary Secretary also explained that he was conscious of the fact that the only mechanism by which this Council will be able to select applications, in the event we have more than the required minimum, will be this document which is why he wanted to provide a reasonably standardised form.

Western Area was happy with the explanation from the Honorary Secretary and will report this back to his Area.

#### **A1058/06/10 (8) Possible change to the Area Council Constitution.**

The document highlighting the relevant changes had previously been circulated with agenda.

The Chairman pointed out that the word "Council" should be deleted from the title because the document refers only to the Area Constitution.

The background to the proposal to change the Area Constitution came about as a result of the creation of the Devon and Cornwall Sub-Areas.

The Honorary Secretary explained further that he submitted it purely for discussion at this point. The reasoning behind the concept is that in creating the Devon and Cornwall Sub-Areas Full Council was already conscious that Areas Council is quite a big meeting to start with, partly because we have potentially both the Chairman and the Area Representative from each Area present at the meeting. It was therefore decided that Sub-Area Chairmen would not have the right to attend Area Council they would be represented solely by the Area Delegate.

The question was also posed at Full Council whether it is really necessary for both the Area Delegate and Chairman to be present at Areas Council.

It might simplify this Council a little bit and it could potentially allow any urgent business to be dealt with by email correspondence between a small number of people.

London Area pointed out that there would also be a saving of approximately £3000 per year in expenses.

The Chairman gave notice to the meeting that it is his intent to create a formal proposal to Full Council. This met with the general consensus of this meeting.

**A1059/06/10 (9) To receive reports from committees or co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.**

**a) Achievement Scheme Review Committee  
Indoor Aerobic Achievement Scheme 'A' & 'B' tests  
\*\*\*\*\* WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX B)**

Back out for discussion and thoughts.

ALL

Nothing further to report that is relevant at the moment.

**b) Flight Challenge  
Covered in the Development Officer Report – APPENDIX O**

The Development Officer in his report offered to provide presentation to Areas Council covering BMFA insurance as there are still some misconceptions about the cover provided to members.

North West pointed out that it is not widely known by Clubs however it came to light recently because of a theft at a club that he is a member of, that our Insurance Brokers Perkins Slade are able to provide insurance cover for theft of club property such as mowers, generators etc. This is important information that we need to get across to our members and Clubs.

The general feeling of this meeting is that the best mechanism to disseminate information of this nature is BMFA News however we do recognise that the more avenues of dissemination there are the better.

**c) Education**

It seems funding is quite tight in schools at present and it is difficult to appreciate what kind of budget Teachers have to work with. From a conversation with a Primary School Teacher who was arranging a special programme over three days on flight she was given funding of £10 to buy goods for the whole year.

**A1060/06/10 (10) To receive reports from Area Committees.**

**\*\*\*\*\* RAFMAA AREA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX C)  
\*\*\*\*\* DEVON AND CORNWALL SUB AREA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX D)**

The Chairman commented that it seems we have finally crossed the 't's and dotted the 'i's' in relation to the South West Area Sub-Areas, which is very good news.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Peter Disney for his help in this.

**NORTH EAST AREA** – Nothing to report.

\*\*\*\*\* **SOUTHERN AREA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX E)**

The Delegate had omitted in his written report to report on the event at RNAS Yeovilton open day in February.

It was a bitterly cold day but the Area still put on a good display. The Area Chairman received a very nice letter from the Director of the Air Museum thanking Southern Area for their participation in the event and commenting that their contribution to the event increases numbers through the gate significantly.

They were not charged for having stand space at the event however it was a different matter when the Area took stand space at Blackbushe Airport which cost £75 for one day, which they feel is extortionate.

The comments from other Areas were that generally they either pay very little or nothing at all for stand space at local events.

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

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

\*\*\*\*\* **EAST ANGLIA AREA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX H)**

East Anglia echoed the sentiments contained in the South Midland Area report that it is difficult to recruit new Area Officers when existing members retire. Their concern is mainly how to induce younger members throughout the Area to step in and take on the various roles.

North West commented that a scheme which was applied by his club some time ago and seems to work, which is to appoint members as Executive Committee members with no specific job at that given point but as and when a committee role became vacant they were happy to volunteer themselves.

East Anglia took this on board and felt the idea might be worth considering for their Area.

\*\*\*\*\* **NORTH WEST AREA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX I)**

\*\*\*\*\* **NORTHERN IRELAND AREA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX J)**

Northern Ireland Delegate commented that it was good to meet everybody and put faces to names.

The meeting asked after Howard Menary's welfare. The Delegate thanked the meeting for their concern and reported that Howard is doing okay and is still very interested in what is going on in within the Area and indeed the BMFA.

Howard sends his regards to everyone.

\*\*\*\*\* SOUTH EAST AREA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX K)  
\*\*\*\*\* LONDON AREA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX L)  
\*\*\*\*\* MIDLAND AREA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX M)  
\*\*\*\*\* NORTHERN AREA – WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX N)

**A1061/06/10 (11) To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.**

**PRO**

Events he has attended recently include the Rougham Show and the Free Flight Nationals.

Events he plans to attend include Teeside, Weston Park, Old Warden and Power Nationals in August.

He is gathering more photos and would welcome any other high quality input however precise details of what and who is in the photo must be included.

He is still open to ideas for give-aways on the stand. He is currently working with Allan Weighell to try to source stop watches that we can get branded at a reasonable price.

South West Model Engineer show went very well this year.

Membership figures are slightly down on this time last year however the number of clubs has increased.

The PRO noted a request from Northern Area as to the possibility of supplying different colour sweat shirts such as light grey.

Club list from map book to electronic google earth, displayed and could have a look after the meeting, should be going live in the not too distant future.

Agenda and Minutes on web site, he has been looking into it with the CEO to make them more accessible and easier to find what you are looking for.

**Honorary Secretary**

His main activity recently has been involved with producing the Terms of Reference for the ASRC and put forward suggestions for the Area Committee Constitution.

He recently flew in the Radio Glide event at which new rules were introduced that allow electric models, winch-launched gliders and hand-launched gliders to fly together at the same time.

It was particularly gratifying to see in action the electric models and winch-launched gliders more or less ended up at the same altitude at the start of the timing slot.

The weather conditions were very unkind on the day and it was probably not a fair test for the hand-launched models.

Indoor expressed their gratitude to the Honorary Secretary for acting as Chairman at a meeting in April to discuss the future of Indoor flying.

**Development Officer**

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**WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX O)**

**A1062/06/10 (12) To confirm date of next meeting.**

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on the **25<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at 11am.**

The PRO will chair the meeting in the absence of the Honorary Secretary.

**A1063/06/10 (13) Any Other Business.**

It was noted for the record that London Area believe it is not necessary to hold three Areas Council meetings. Most items can be covered at Full Council and their suggestions is to hold one Area Council Meeting prior to the AGM that Delegates and Chairman could attend, the rest of the time just send Delegates to Full Council.

The Honorary Secretary pointed out that when drafting the Area Constitution changes he proposed striking out the clause that states "Area Council shall meet three times per year".

We need to move one step at a time and probably the first step would be to move to two meetings per year. If we can get the Areas Council down to a more manageable size it would save a lot of people's time and travel to cut down the number of meetings and also anything urgent could be handled by email.

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The Office Manager was tasked with checking who should receive a copy of the annual Examiner ratification forms. North West Area ASC does not seem to be receiving them.

**OFFICE MGR**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2.25pm.

Linda Harding, Office Manager

**CIRCULATION:**

- |                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| All Council Members       | All Tech Committee Members |
| SAA Delegate              | Fellows (as requested)     |
| All Area Chairman         | Club Bulletin              |
| All Area Secretaries      | Office Manager             |
| RNMAA Chairman            | Accounts Manager           |
| All Area AS Co-ordinators | BMFA News Editor           |
| PAS/SFAS Controller       | Chief Executive            |
| Flying Site Adviser       | Development Officer        |

**R/C Power Achievement Scheme Controller**

Report to Areas Council 5 June 2010

The new Helicopter B test forms and test standards booklets have been issued to all helicopter examiners.

The A and B test forms for achievement scheme candidates are a two-part form. All examiners are asked to ensure that the left hand page is given to the candidate and the other part sent to the Office. If the second part goes astray the candidate still has the means to confirm the achievement. It is also very important that the candidate's first name and surname are written legibly so that the certificate bears the correct spelling.

If the achievement certificate is to be sent direct to the candidate, then a note to that effect with the pass form when sent to the office will ensure this is done. The normal route for the certificate would be for it to be presented via the examiner.

Weights of suitable models for the Achievement Scheme remain popular questions for telephone enquiries. The minimum weight limit is 1kg, Many clubs have a requirement of an A certificate to fly solo, this prevents the lightweight models being flown as often as they could be. One such club in the Northern Area changed their rules so that these small models may be flown without an A certificate.

I have received another letter with a complaint that – quote “ ....the BMFA is not controlling its examiners and trying to make them consistent in their examining, particularly with regard to the 'B' Certificate”

My interpretation of the current handbook is that the Clubs are solely responsible for their own examiners. Does Council feel that this is how matters should stay?

Peter Spurway  
Controller RCPAS  
Phone 01727 851223  
Email [rcpas@bmfa.org](mailto:rcpas@bmfa.org)

Indoor **Aerobatic** Achievement Scheme A & B tests discussion document.

Schedules devised for aerobatic models ONLY, and specifically designed to be challenging enough to represent a level of achievement advanced enough so indoor organisers will not insist on A certificate as a condition of entry to indoor flying venues.

Indoor Aerobatic Achievement scheme "A" test  
Suggested Sequence

- 1) Take off/launch
  - Choice of hand launch or roll of ground/floor
- 2) One low level left hand circuits, one high level left hand circuits.
  - Circuits can be either oval, rectangular or square at the discretion of the candidate, however the same circuit type must be used through the complete manoeuvre .
- 3) One low level right hand circuits, one high level right hand circuits.
  - Circuits can be either oval, rectangular or square at the discretion of the candidate, however the same circuit type must be used through the complete manoeuvre .
- 4) Fly a "figure of eight" course with the crossover point in front of the pilot.
  - Height to be constant and below 3 meters
- 5) Fly one inside loop from the bottom.
  - Manoeuvre should be performed in front of the pilot.
- 6) Fly one outside loop downwards from the top (Bunt)
  - Manoeuvre should be performed in front of the pilot.
- 7) Fly one double stall turn
  - The model should be flown at 1 – 2 metres high past the pilot from left to right the first stall turn should be performed towards the right hand end of the hall, after the first stall turn is completed the model should return past the pilot at 1 – 2 metres high and the second stall turn performed towards the left hand end of the hall. Both stall turns should be away from the flight line.
- 8) Perform 1 square or rectangular circuit with 1 full roll on opposite sides of the circuit.
  - Height of manoeuvre should be between 2 and 5 metres, rolls can be in the sides or the front and back of the circuit, the direction of rotation of each roll should be opposite
- 9) Perform a rectangular approach and land.
  - Landing should be within a 5 metre by 5 metre square in front of the pilot.

Answer 5 Questions based on the indoor code of practice and local flying rules.

Indoor Aerobatic Achievement Scheme "B" test

- 1) Take off/launch
  - Choice of hand launch or roll of ground/floor
- 2) One inverted low level left hand circuits, one inverted high level left hand circuits.
  - Circuits can be either oval, rectangular or square at the discretion of the candidate, however the same circuit type must be used through the complete manoeuvre .
- 3) One inverted low level right hand circuits, one inverted high level right hand circuits.
  - Circuits can be either oval, rectangular or square at the discretion of the candidate, however the same circuit type must be used through the complete manoeuvre .

- 4) Cuban eight
  - Manoeuvre should be performed in front of the pilot
- 5) Multiple inverted (negative) spins.
  - Performed in front of pilot, entry inverted minimum of 2 spins (more at pilots discretion), exit inverted in same direction as entry.
- 6) Two consecutive square loops with half roll in each top leg.
  - Manoeuvre should be performed in front of the pilot
- 7) Knife edge pass with half roll.
  - Half roll performed in front of pilot.
- 8) 5 second prop hang, climb to maximum height with full roll in up leg, stall turn.
  - Prop hang five metres out in front of pilot, canopy towards pilot 2 metres high, climb to stall turn with roll in up leg, stall turn to either left or right.
- 9) Square harrier circuit.
  - Manoeuvre performed below 2 metres
- 10) Perform a rectangular approach and land.
  - Landing should be within a 1.5 metre by 1.5 metre square in front of the pilot.

Answer 8 Questions based on the indoor code of practice and local flying rules.

Please send any feedback either via the office to Andy Symons, or via email to [andysymons@talktalk.net](mailto:andysymons@talktalk.net)

**ROYAL AIR FORCE MODEL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION (RAFMAA) – BMFA AREA 14 –  
REPORT TO AREAS COUNCIL 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010**

After, a successful RAFMAA Championships at RAF Honington in September last year and the election of a new Executive Committee, work turned to the events for 2010. The first major event and our showpiece was RAFMAA Warbirds 2010. This was held in April at RAF Scampton and once again attracted a large number of pilots and helpers. All went smoothly and the weather was better than the previous 2 years. A wide variety of model aircraft were on show with pilots ranging from the average Club flyer to seasoned show pilots taking part. Big thanks to Chief Technician Dan Platts and Corporal Alex Drummond for their sterling efforts organising the event and to the RAFMAA members who assisted over the weekend. An excellent spread in the June issue of RCM&E courtesy of Alex Whittaker and Mike 'Crash' Parry followed up the event.

Planning is now well underway for the RAFMAA Members fly-in at RAF Scampton, scheduled towards the end of July. There have been a couple of indoor events but these are now very poorly supported and have been combined with civilian events to enable modellers to take part. Similarly, Neil Tricker has been arranging slope and thermal events but numbers are dwindling making the effort disproportionate to the outcome. That said, Neil has been seeking to combine his events with local Clubs.

Early September will see the Championships at RAF Honington once again with the AGM and elections. The good news is that we are holding membership numbers at previous recent levels and we have a number of young and enthusiastic members driving aero modelling on their Units and getting others involved and interested.

M A EVANS  
Wing Commander  
RAFMAA Chairman

## Devon and Cornwall Sub Area Reports

EGMs were held in February to establish the Cornwall and Devon sub-areas and elect officers. Both meetings had a healthy attendance and generally went well. The first full meetings were held in April using the (then) provisional Sub-Area constitution, which has subsequently been ratified, to establish routines, confirm budgets and discuss events.

**Devon.** The Devon meeting was held on 21 April in Okehampton, being a neutral venue and centrally located to encourage attendance. Unfortunately, compared to the EGM turnout was a little disappointing: reasons for this are not clear, but hopefully the next meeting will see an increase in numbers. The meeting ran exceptionally smoothly with a keen and willing attitude towards making the new organisation work. A solution to funding grass cutting at Little Haldon was readily accepted by all present. It was agreed that Devon needs more ACEs and a request for candidates for consideration has been made. To date 2 events have been supported with Sub Area funds, with more planned for the summer.

**Cornwall.** The Cornwall meeting was held 2 days later on 23 April in Roche with a good percentage club attendance and followed a similar agenda. There is a desire to hold several competitions during the Summer and suitable venues are being sought. A good deal of time was also spent discussing the requirement for a Cornwall Sub-area Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator and additional ACEs. Following a visit by the National Co-ordinator steps have been taken towards filling the posts.

Peter Disney

### Southern Area

We have held two Area meetings since the last Area Council meeting, both at a new venue near Southampton. This of course has increased the mileage for some committee members and decreased it for others. Unfortunately the overall attendance has not changed much.

We agreed last year that if clubs held events and ended up making a loss, Area funds would be available to make up the loss if they so wished. It is amazing how many events now seem to run at a loss with the clubs crying poverty, but then I suppose that is what the money is for.


We had, I think what is our only model show in the Area held in the middle of May, at Blackbushe airport near Camberley. It was a nice day, flying was excellent, it was a one-day show but was well attended. The Area had a stand there and the usual group of volunteers, but the main gripe was that the Area was charged £75 by the organisers for the privilege of being there. I was under the impression that the BMFA attends shows for virtually nothing as supporters of aero modelling in general. What happens in other areas? Something to discuss I think.

We have a good program of events coming up, held at various club venues, and I trust they will not make too much of a loss!

Stuart Simpson

BMFA Western Area  
Area Report June 2010

The South West Model Engineering Exhibition held at the Bath & West Showground at Shepton Mallett in May was a fantastic success. Using the BMFA Trailer and display tent certainly paid dividends. This is the second year we have attended this event to promote the BMFA Western Area, and many BMFA members took the opportunity to have a chat with us. We were kept much busier this year, and I was able to talk to dozens of BMFA members who cannot normally get to our regular Area Committee meetings. Lots of credit must go to Bob Mahoney for the cracking flying displays he organised for this event. In common with many other Areas, we struggle to get clubs to send delegates to our Area meetings. I am currently exploring ways of increasing the take up of our invitations to clubs to attend them. It is a bit of an uphill struggle, but it is important so we aim to persevere. Some of our clubs attended the Chairman's Conference held in Basingstoke, and I have been getting quite a lot of positive feedback and comments about it. To date I have not heard any negatives mentioned at all. I find this very heartening. If this is pushed more it could be a good way to get more interest in the BMFA from our members, rather than be in it "just for the insurance" which is a reply I have heard from so many clubs.



Chairman  
Western Area

**South Midlands Report to Areas Council Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

Attendance at the last two meetings has been down on 2009. The meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010 had a voting strength of only 11 delegates (bad weather reduced number) and 27<sup>th</sup> April had a voting strength of 10 delegates compared to an average of 15 at meetings in 2009.

With 60 clubs in the Area this is a rather low representation. However, if attendance was too high then Area funds would probably not be sufficient, even totally consumed, by paying mileage/travel claims to delegates.

Two officers of the South Midlands Area Committee have indicated their intention to stand down at the AGM in December 2010. Area Delegate, Peter Christy and Area Education Officer, Brian Cooper have both served for a number of years. We are already seeking potential candidates to fill these important roles. We also want to fill the position of Area PRO that has been vacant in recent years. Finding more than one nominee or volunteer for each vacant post is a common problem that results in new Area Officers being elected unopposed.

The South Midlands Area has several members in the British Teams at European and World Championships events in 2010.

Examples we are currently aware of are:

- F3C Helicopter – Steve Roberts will compete in Romania.
- Indoor – John Shaw will be in the British team again in Belgrade.
- F3J in France – Austin Guerrier (competitor) Peter Allen (tow-man) and Chas Dunster (timekeeper, thermal spotter and helper) all members of the Ivinghoe Soaring Association (ISA)

For the third consecutive year, the South Midlands Area with BARCS and the ISA, will host the Interglide international Eurotour event for F3J at Marsh Gibbon near Bicester. Radioglide was also held at Marsh Gibbon on 26-28<sup>th</sup> May but conditions were very poor with wind and rain.

*Jim Wright  
Chairman – South Midlands Area  
4<sup>th</sup> June 2010*

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

The spring in East Anglia has been most amenable to model flying in the main, with only brief spell of wet weather to deter us. Steady winds seem to be a permanent feature, and this year they took their toll on one of the Area’s premiere events, 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. The Saturday was all that one could have wished for, with generally blue skies and plenty of sunshine. The breeze blowing across the flight line was it seemed nothing more than a slight nuisance for the large models and the flying displays were generally very good. Trade on the BMFA stall was brisk throughout the day, with numerous membership renewals being taken up and a steady stream of clothing and model sales. Sunday turned out to be a disaster – the wind had blown up overnight making flying all but impossible and the tents and marquees behind the crowd line were in danger of being blown away. The meeting was abandoned, discretion being the better part of valour.

Little news has been received from any but the most local clubs to my own, and the late timing of the Area meeting precludes any further comment about activities further afield. It appears however that two clubs have lost their flying sites, due to circumstances beyond their control. Many local clubs have tenure of their sites on a rolling basis and when ownership of the sites changes the new landlords do not always want to continue with existing arrangements. As always the acquisition of suitable new sites proves to be difficult, and members have in some cases migrated to other clubs in the vicinity in order to ensure continued flying.

Spurred on by a report about E2K pylon racing in a recent edition of the BMFA News my own club has introduced a new club racing competition. Some members will be racing models like those described in the article, whilst there will be heats for models used in other disciplines, say one for aerobatic models and one for ab initio models. The aim is to be as inclusive as possible and to have fun – something which is not always evident when the competition warms up. Having flown combat events in the club for several years, which has sharpened up the responses and general flying discipline of recently qualified ‘A’ certificate fliers, we hope that the same good effect may emanate from the new competition. The combat days have also led to enquiries from other clubs in the Area with regard to inter-club events. If this happens even on a small scale it will be worth the effort, since contact with our peers is a way to share experience and promulgate new ideas.

Pete Leavesley.

## North West Area Report to Areas Council Meeting

5th June 2010

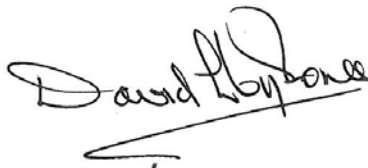
There is very little to report at this meeting other than as follows . . . .

The Eddie Riding Memorial Trophy for Free Flight Scale will be going ahead at the Woodvale Rally on the 7th August 2010

Richard Riding – the son of Eddie Riding, and who some of you might recognise as the retired Editor of Aeroplane Monthly has given us a **magnificent prize of £100**, which is to awarded as a single prize for the “Eddie Riding Designs” class winner. This is in remembrance of the death of his father which was 60 years ago this year.

The Scale Fly – in is to take place at RAF Shawbury on the 11<sup>th</sup> July, and registrations are now coming in thick and fast.

Our Indoor events at Rochdale are now finished for the summer, but are set to restart in October – full details and dates are on the North West Area website at [www.bmfa-nw.org](http://www.bmfa-nw.org)



North West Area Delegate and Chairman

## **NORTHERN IRELAND AREA REPORT TO AREA'S COUNCIL**

**5<sup>th</sup> June, 2010**

As the new Chairman for the Northern Ireland area (13), I would like to begin by thanking the BMFA office staff and area members for making me feel so welcome at the council meetings.

The number of clubs affiliated increased by 2, bringing our total to 24.

Area meetings continue to be very well attended with over fifty percent of the clubs sending delegates to every meeting.

We have held our Area scale championships static round, the flying round is not until July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The static round was held at Mount Stewart, a National Trust site, with considerable interest shown by a large number of visitors.

A round of the IMAC championships was held on the last weekend in May, with a number of competitors travelling over from England.

The Area aerobatics round 1 was held with an increase in the number of competitors from last year..

On the gliding scene, one of our members built and flew the largest PSS model in Ireland, an impressive B52.

The indoor flying continues to be well supported with most clubs now hosting a meeting.

The achievement scheme continues to make progress with many of the clubs now requiring their members to hold the "A" certificate before being permitted to fly solo. We have appointed a new Area chief examiner and one club has appointed a club examiner.

For the first time in Northern Ireland the LMA have appointed inspectors for models over 20Kg, two inspectors are now rated to test both prop and jet turbine models. One model has progressed through the scheme and is currently awaiting it's exemption certificate, while a second model is waiting for it's exemption to test fly certificate.

Finally I would like to pass on our appreciation to Dave Phipps and Robin Gowler for attending the dinner given in honour of Howard Menary, our areas founding chairman. The area presented Howard with a display model as a token of our gratitude, and it was good to have members from head office on hand to make the official presentation.

Ian Robb  
Area Delegate

### **South East Area Report to Areas Council Meeting on 5.6.10**

Our annual indoor meeting at the magnificent K2 leisure centre in Crawley on February 7<sup>th</sup> was this year a little fraught as we learned shortly beforehand that we had been double booked with a table tennis championship. As no alternative was available, we had to settle for use of two thirds of the hall with separation from the ping pong exponents by netting. Luckily this did not affect us too much with little in the way of complaints and a 50% reduction in the hire fee meant that we were able to make a small surplus, the first time for some years.

Education activity this year has so far been restricted to once again joining with London Area in assisting at the annual Dartford Girls Grammar School Science Fair, which this time was extended from three to five days to accommodate visits to two of the other participating schools before the Fair commenced. Our Education Co-ordinator has announced with regret his intention to resign from this post as well as Council Delegate at our next Area AGM, mainly due to a voice problem, caused, it would appear, from a lifetime of inhaling balsa wood dust plus dope and cyano fumes. Hopefully we will be able to find replacements for these posts.

Arrangements are in hand for the year's remaining Area competitions and we are pleased that our Scale Day, which for the last few years has been run at a London Area club field, will this year be held in July back in the South East Area, by kind permission of the Hastings club who will be hosting it at their excellent Pevensey Marsh site between Eastbourne and Bexhill.

Lastly, arrangements are also in hand for SE Area members to assist in running the BMFA stand at the Southern Model Airshow at Paddock Wood in September.

Keith Miller, Council Delegate

## LONDON AREA DELEGATE'S REPORT – JUNE 2010

There is little of note to report recently. The Area continues its policy of assisting in the funding of events run by Area clubs, and this year these events include Croydon Wakefield Day, the 2-Day Electric RC event on July 3-4<sup>th</sup> and the Coupe Europa on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, all of them at Middle Wallop.

There has been a slight problem with the Area's site for free-flight events, Training Area 8 on Salisbury Plain. As a result of a complaint made to Landmarc after the Stonehenge Cup it may be necessary to have Portaloos on site for two-day events there. Access must in future only be via the marked tank crossings, rather than a less rutted grassy track.

Martin Dilly

London Area Delegate

4.6.10

Midland Area Report

Final preparations have now been made for our Annual Festival of Flight at Barkston on Sunday 6th June 2010.

Hopefully the weather will oblige so that the large competitive element (and visitors) may have an excellent day.

The only group not joining us this year is C/L Aerobatic who have a pre-arranged alternative venue.

New for this year is the helicopter participation in the form of aerobatic and scale and we look forward to this addition to events.

Our area website has been adjusted to give increased privacy for our club information and John Bridgett will continue to hone various aspects of our site as necessary throughout the year.

Reports from clubs using our kit and radio training scheme continue to be positive and on the support front we will continue to support indoor events at Market Harborough Leisure Centre as usual.

Alf Tunnicliffe, Secretary

for

George Maynard, Chairman

Northern Area Chairman's Report June 2010.

I was invited to the Harrogate Model Engineer Exhibition by the West Yorkshire MFC and found the Harrogate MFC and North Leeds MFC also with stands. Despite the heavy metal usually associated with this event, the West Yorkshire MFC was awarded the 'Best Club Stand' trophy and are to be congratulated. Member John Macnamara was offered the 'Outstanding Model' trophy for his large twin turbine swing wing Tomcat, but declined it due to the basis of the model being pre-fabricated. This superbly finished model was the centre of attraction, and caused him to lose his voice answering the multitude of questions. Local F3P champion, and North Leeds member, Connor Stevenson wowed the crowd with some wild aerobatics in a space not much bigger than my garage. We are considering a BMFA stand for this event next year maybe in an 'Aviation Corner'.

Next week I am taking the Education Stand to the Elvington Air Museum, at the invitation of BMFA member Eric Humphreys, for a seminar run by the North Yorkshire Business Education Partnership.

The Area indoor RC has been so successful this year we are planning twelve sessions through the winter, and have already booked a larger venue for the Swapmeet in October. Peter Hornby's fly-ins at Dishforth are continuing to be well supported, weather permitting, as are the Scale events at Pontefract run by Philip Kent and Gordon Warburton.

John Thompson, Chairman

AREAS COUNCIL 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2009DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORT.

It has been as busy as ever over the last few months, the day to day workload in the office still centres around providing advice and guidance to our members on a range of subjects.

The trend of “fallouts” within clubs is unfortunately continuing and it would appear that there is a tendency on the part of a few individuals to forget that model flying is for fun and relaxation, there would appear to be a small minority of members for whom causing problems and unrest is a source of pleasure ..... such is life.

Insurance matters have also seen an increased workload and sadly 2010 is turning into a bad year from a claims point of view, whilst to date there have been no large claims (fingers crossed, touching wood, stroking a black cat and a number of other measures purported to cultivate good luck!) but there has been a marked increase in damage to vehicles, this will be the subject of a future article for BMFA News (again). Also it is apparent that despite continuous effort and publication of articles and information that the third party and civil liabilities insurance provided as part of the BMFA membership package is still very much misunderstood by the general membership. At some point I would be keen to do an insurance presentation as part of the Areas Council meeting as another way of disseminating accurate information.

The programme of club talks has slowed down a little although it was a busy winter with many late nights and lots of miles travelled, the feedback from these has been very positive and I would like to thank all clubs that have invited me to talk to their members and extended their hospitality to me.

The University and Schools Heavy Lift Challenge will be taking place at Elvington next weekend (12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> of June); entries are slightly down on last years. I feel that this competition needs to further evolve to make it more popular and accessible as well as to reduce the workload on the teams; unfortunately the academic year seems to be increasingly pressured for students in the target age groups. The organisation of this competition becomes increasingly frustrating as despite its worth as a competition and also as a meaningful contribution to the academic year it becomes increasingly difficult to engage teams (not forgetting an entertaining and fun weekend as well as substantial cash prizes!)

The 2010 Children’s Flight Challenge does not as yet have a firm date or venue as Duxford have unfortunately withdrawn their support for the event mainly due to a combination of logistical and budgetary constraints. At this time alternative venues are being explored but it is proving problematic to find a location that “ticks all the boxes”.

Robin Hood Airport had initially offered a large hangar but again it is proving difficult to negotiate an equitable position with all parties involved in the administration of the hangar, a return to Cosford is a possibility that is also being explored.

At present the hope is that the competition will take place in October but the final date will of course be reflected in the availability of a venue.

You will have noted in your latest BMFA News that we are searching for an additional person to join the team at Chacksfield House in the role of Club Support Officer, this role will ultimately encompass the work of the Flying Site Adviser as well as share some of the day to day club and member support, hopefully this sharing of the workload will eventually permit me to focus a little more on the development side of my role.

As you will have gathered from the above Roger Bellingham will be leaving us but the aim is to have a period of overlap in order that the new incumbent can benefit from Roger’s vast wealth of experience, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Roger all the very best for his retirement and to say that it has been a pleasure to work with him (there may be another Areas meeting before this actually happens but I thought I would get in early).

Manny Williamson  
Development Officer