

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.

We do not want the competition element brought on to the Committee as a permanent fixture. If there is anything we need specialist advice on we always involve the relevant Specialist or Technical body and invite them to the ASRC meeting to discuss it.

We would find ourselves in a ridiculous situation if we had to wait for the RCPTC representative to take something back to the RCPTC for their response before the ASRC could make a decision on anything.

There was a lengthy debate with very opposing views.

The Chairman put the proposal forward on behalf of the RCPTC.

Seconded by London Area

Vote: For: 2

Ags: 21

Abs: 0

Defeated by a majority vote.

A970/02/08 (8) To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.

a) Power

The PAS Controller is encouraged by what has come to light over the past few months that people are actually reading some of the information that is available.

With regard to the new Helicopter 'B' manoeuvre agreed today he reported that the Examiners and candidates for the Helicopter 'B' test have all said that they disagree with it. We will have to wait and see what happens in the future.

b) Silent Flight - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX A)

The Chairman invited Nial Ball to briefly address the meeting, as this was the first meeting he has attended since being appointed Silent Flight Controller.

He started flying models about ten years ago following a twenty-year stint in motorcycle road racing. He started off primarily in fixed wing power but quickly took up slope soaring as he lives in Westbury in Wiltshire which is an excellent slope soaring site. He also took up silent flight electric.

He took on the job of Silent Flight Controller following attending several fixed wing Examiners workshops, organised by the PAS Controller in conjunction with his local Areas. From what he could tell there was not a great deal in place for silent flight and it did not seem to have the same support as power, which was very disappointing. He was very keen to take on the job when approached by the ASRC.

He referred back to his written report and reiterated that he was not very active between October and January because he was waiting for full ratification by Full Council. He basically took on the role in the interim in a 'caretaker' capacity. This gave him some time to get some figures together and speak to people.

He believes the lack of interest in the silent flight achievement scheme is basically because of a lack of awareness. The number of Examiners pushing the silent flight scheme forward is a lot less than power, which is also reflected in the comparison of test figures for Fixed Wing 'A' and 'B' and Silent Flight 'A' and 'B' passes. In order to try to gather some momentum in the Silent Flight scheme he proposed to encourage a Silent Flight training initiative along the same lines at the Fixed Wing and Helicopter Examiner workshops.

He has written to all Area AS Co-ordinators and has received a response from some of them however there is not much more to report on until he gets more feedback.

He appealed to the Delegates to inform their co-ordinators that he is keen to progress the Silent Flight achievement scheme and would be grateful for any support that areas can give him and the ASRC in general.

A971/02/08 (9) To receive an update from Midland Area regarding Midland Area Meetings conducted by email.

Alf Tunnicliffe addressed the meeting. He gave a brief résumé of the progress of the Midland Area experiment of conducting their meetings by email over the past two years, as granted by this Council when he attended two years ago to highlight their plight.

Considerable savings have been made, which means more money is available for other requirements. Everything is progressing well. They have the website and email contact sorted and is now looking at the publicity site of it to try and encourage the clubs. Unfortunately John Bridgett was unable to attend the meeting today to provide information on the website, which was the original plan.

It does not seem to have created any problems as far as the members of the Midland Area are concerned. They have two hundred clubs who are very happy. They have all the representatives that they need to cover the jobs required in the Area. However they only just managed a quorum meeting at their AGM.

They are keen to continue with conducting Area business in this way. However if it is not universally accepted and a change to the Area Constitution put forward, they hope this Council would be happy for Midland Area to carry on.

The Chairman commented that this is just an experimental exercise at this stage and we are nowhere near a constitutional change at the moment. We have also yet to receive a report from the South West Area who we granted permission to at the last meeting but unfortunately were unable to attend today.

The Technical Secretary commented that it will more than likely be an option in the future for Areas and it might not need too much change to the Constitution.

From the debate that ensued it was apparent that not everyone was in favour of conducting Area business by email. The Chairman commented that it was good to have such an interesting debate with such opposing views from people who are all striving to achieve the same goals.

The Chairman said he would put it back on the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime it would be advisable if other Areas are interested in going down the same route to discuss it with Midland Area.

***** **AGENDA ITEM NEXT AREA COUNCIL MEETING - to receive OFFICE MGR
a progress report of Midland Area and South West Area
experiment of conducting Area business by email.**

It was suggested Midland Area might benefit from putting a notice in BMFA News explaining what they are doing which would be the best way to try to attract the attention of the Clubs. Midland Area agreed this was a good idea and would put something together.

MIDLAND AREA

Midland Area offered to circulate information to the other Areas so that they can see what they have achieved so far and whether they would be interested in doing the same. The Chairman agreed that if it was necessary John Bridgett would be invited to attend the next meeting but only if there was anything further to add to what had already been presented today otherwise, we would review the situation again at the meeting in February 2009.

It was suggested by the Technical Secretary during discussion that it might be possible to extract information from the Club Affiliation Forms that can be used to integrate into the Midland Area website. Midland Area was advised to ask John Bridgett to liaise with the Technical Secretary on this matter.

A972/02/08 (10) To Receive reports from committees or co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.

a) Achievement Scheme Review Committee (ASRC)

The GTBA/JMA Joint Operating Code has still not been finalised and until it is the ASRC will not be pursuing a 'C' Certificate for Jet fliers.

RCPTC have referred a document from JMA to the ASRC for their opinions. Peter Christy explained that it refers to a proposal, which is highly speculative and in the very early stages at the moment, for a 'J' Certificate based on a similar idea to the 'B' Certificate. It is dependent on the Code of Practice being adopted, which hopefully will happen at the next Technical Council.

The ASRC Chairman said they might discuss it at their meeting in April; however he very much doubts that they will consider the 'J' Certificate because we are now working on the 'C' Certificates.

The Technical Secretary pointed out that the concept of a Jet 'B' Certificate came forward about two years ago and was debated with the relevant parties at that time. The ASRC made it very clear that the appropriate Certificate would be a Jet 'C' and asked them to provide a properly ratified constituted code of practice which we would base the Jet 'C' on. They cannot progress it further until a Code of Practice is produced.

There were concerns that we are considering an advanced certificate for Jets when there is no basic certificate in place such as the 'A' and 'B' to cater for the very specific handling elements.

The Chairman suggested the Technical Secretary and himself speak with the JMA & GTBA when they have their meeting with them to discuss the Code of Practice, to ascertain what they believe are their requirements for an 'A', 'B' and 'C' Certificate for Jets, which can be reported on at the next meeting.

**CHAIRMAN
TECH SEC**

The ASRC Chairman expressed his disappointment that the Examiner Log book idea had been rejected by the Executive, mainly because of the prohibitive costs to produce them based on the information provided to the Executive at the time. The ASRC believe it is a good way to record the Examiners' activities and would be of great value when the Areas are considering their appointment of Chief Examiners.

The general consensus was that it is a good idea. The Chairman asked the ASRC Chairman and Andy Symons, utilising the skills of Gemma Sargeant to put something together to present to the Executive as an idea to consider producing them in-house.

**ASRC CHAIR
ANDY SYMONS**

b) Flight Challenge (SEE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER WRITTEN REPORT - APPENDIX M)

The Development Officer is currently in negotiations with Duxford to hold Flight Challenge at that venue again and is hopeful that it will take place there again this year, around the same date as last year.

There is money in the Flight Challenge account to fund the event this year and Full Council also agreed to additional funding if required.

c) Education

The Education Working Group Co-ordinator attended the British Aircraft Preservation Council event where he made some very interesting contacts.

He also attended the D&T Show and the ASE event. All of which ensure that we are kept well in focus with education organisations around the country.

He received a telephone call from the Education Department at Bombardier, owners of Short Brothers the oldest aircraft manufacturer in the World. They are celebrating their 100th year and have asked him to produce a special dart. The idea is to present one to every employee and also special school packs for Northern Ireland.

A973/02/08 (11) To receive reports from Area Committees.

******* Northern Area - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX B)**

Part of the report mentioned the sale of 40MHz toy ornithopters at one of the major supermarket chains. The Technical Secretary advised that there are certain frequencies on 40MHz that it is legal to use for anything as long as it is within 10mw erp and that includes aircraft.

In light of the information provided by the Technical Secretary Northern Area requested that the sentence referring to the sale of the toy ornithopters is removed.

OFFICE MGR

******* Mid West Area - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX C)**

******* London Area - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX D)**

London Area added that whilst browsing on the British Hang gliding and Parachuting Association (BHPA) website recently he noticed there were an astonishing number of reports of incidents with radio models on slope soaring sites. He suggested it might be time we re-issued or reminded people that we do have a code of practice.

The Chairman commented that we found from our experiences before when he was Chief Executive that it was not the model flyers in the majority of cases who were causing the problems. It is a rule of the air that it is up to both parties to take what avoiding action they believe is necessary.

The Development Officer advised that having trawled through the links on the BHPA website provided by London Area, he came away with the impression from the paragliding forums that in general they view model flyers in a very positive light.

They accepted that it was generally just the odd model flyer that is causing the problem and the same with the paraglide pilots. It is something that needs looking at but he does not feel it is a widespread cause for concern.

Western Area commented that there are a lot of pilots on the slope site that he uses who are sent by the local model shop, but they are not providing them with any information about frequency control or flight safety.

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

South East added that they are having difficulties getting a response from RAF Odiham for their request for additional dates and wondered if the RAFMAA Delegate might know of any reason why this might be.

RAFMAA advised that a new Station Commander has been appointed, which could be the reason. He offered assistance to South East.

***** **Midland Area - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX F)**

***** **RAFMAA Area - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX G)**

RAFMAA advised that confirmation for the dates for the Warbirds event had been received. The Technical Secretary asked if he could let him have the dates as soon as possible for publication in the events calendar.

North West Area

At the last Indoor event organised by Keith Barker they had the best turnout they have ever had. However they did also see ten shock flyers in one slot. They made a presentation to Chris Bromley FSMAE for nineteen years of Chairmanship of North West Area, following his resignation.

The Eddie Riding Scale Free Flight Trophy at Woodvale is going ahead. Woodvale Rally Ltd is going ahead with the event. They also have a Scale Fly-In at RAF Shawbury during the summer.

Northern Ireland Area

They had their AGM in November. Again they had over fifty percent of clubs attend. They had a very active indoor season. Quite a few of the clubs have their own halls and are running indoor events. They also held their first formal Aerobatic indoor competition, which was very successful.

They have appointed a new PRO and one of the first things he did was get the Northern Ireland Area on the first page of the BMFA News.

***** **East Anglia Area - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX H)**

***** **South Midland Area - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX I)**
During recent email exchanges someone came up with a very bright idea. All clubs have a peg board and a suggestion has been made that we should put the SATNAV co-ordinates of the field on the peg board, so that should there be an accident requiring an ambulance to be called, you could immediately give them directions to the site.

Development Officer will include it in a Safety Special issue.

***** **Western Area - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX J)**

***** **North East Area - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX K)**

***** **Southern Area - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX L)**
Southern Area are hoping the presentation at Middle Wallop at the end of the month will generate some enthusiasm and hope that more people will come forward to fill the vacancies on the committee. Three of the stalwarts on the committee who have each done over ten years service have recently announced they would be retiring this year so unless they get some new people come forward there will probably not be a Southern Area next year.

A974/02/08 (12) To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.

***** **Development Officer - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX M)**
Points worth noting are the information on 2.4GHz. There has been some criticism of the BMFA stance on it, however we are in a very difficult position and his view and the view of our UKRCC representatives is that we are doing exactly the right thing at the moment, which is monitoring the situation very closely.

Technical Secretary

The Rule Books are well under way and most of them are published on the website. There is a slight delay on with producing the R/C Power Rule Book because he is waiting for information.

A venue has been found for the Silent Flight Nationals. It is four and a half miles North East of Barkston Heath and it is called Lodge Farm. The Silent Flight Technical Committee investigated it and believe it is perfect for their needs.

***** **PRO - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX N)**

Honorary Secretary

The Honorary Secretary congratulated the office staff on the excellent progress of membership processing and posting out for this time of the year, which the meeting endorsed.

He attended the annual CAA meeting in December with the Technical Secretary. There is nothing really to report except that they are very pleased with how things are going.

A major change that was put forward to the CAA by the Large Model Association and is an excellent idea, is that models over 80kg and jet models will now have to undergo over two hours of testing. It has also been agreed by the CAA that nominated test pilots are allowed to do the initial flight tests on an aircraft to get it to an airworthy state before it is handed over to the owner pilot, who then starts the process of the exemption certificate.

The Honorary Secretary emphasised that when you obtain an exemption certificate it applies to that model as flown by that named pilot and that named pilot only. If another pilot wants to fly it he has to go through the relevant checks to get him authorised and his own exemption certificate to fly it.

A975/02/08 (13) To confirm dates of Areas Council Meetings 2008.

The dates were confirmed as **7th June and 27th September 2008.**

The Chairman advised that he will be unable to attend the September meeting. The PRO will chair the meeting on his behalf.

A976/02/08 (14) Any Other Business.

Western Area

" It has come to the attention of the Western Area that the Toyota TV advertisement is again being shown on National TV. Can this committee confirm the BMFA position regarding this and similar future advertising campaigns?"

The Development Officer advised that when it was first aired in January 2007 he received a number of telephone calls and emails from disgruntled members. The point he made to those people at the time was that he could not see that there was a particularly wide-ranging negative impact for model flying.

However he did contact the Advertising Standards Agency to get their view on it and receive a letter back from them saying that there was no way they would uphold a complaint because they did not consider it as derogatory or dangerous.

He also wrote to Toyota to say that we had some concern expressed from some of our members on safety grounds and while there was nothing we could do directly to prevent the advert being shown, he did say that if they chose to make further adverts using model aircraft that they contact us and we would provide pilots and aircraft and hopefully portray them in a more positive light.

He also invited representatives of Toyota to join us at the Nationals, which they never did and said that the Nationals would make a very good sponsorship opportunity for Toyota.

There is nothing more we can do. His personal view is that it is very easy to get emotive about TV adverts but in this case in everyday realistic terms there is very little negative effect on model flying.

He compared it to a similar instance in relation to the D'Agoustini Spitfire advert. The telephone did not stop ringing when it was first shown and the point he makes is that overall it was a positive thing because it brought people into model flying that otherwise had not given it a second thought. The Toyota advert can be viewed in a similar light and that there are people out there despite the fact they were seen crashing a model that perhaps thought it might be something they would like to have a go at.

London Area - Recommends more Council business should be done by email.

A few months ago he took the liberty of passing a set of minutes and agenda for a recent Council Meeting to a colleague of his who is a psychologist and who is also on an Executive Board of an International Professional Association. The feedback was that the Minutes were very extensive and very verbose. Also she could not understand why it required thirty-two people to decide the ratification of teams. He suggested this is something that could be done by circulating Council Members by email.

The Chairman commented that one of the first recommendations he made when he came into the organisation from the Airforce was to review how the BMFA records its minutes, which at the time was very strongly rejected. The Technical Secretary said we did try to cut them down but when we did it became very quickly apparent that there was no longer enough information.

The Chairman said he believes there is scope to reduce the content of the minutes. However he would rather it was presented as an agenda item for discussion.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 5.00pm.

CIRCULATION:

All Council Members	All Tech Committee Chairmen
SAA Delegate	Fellows (as requested)
All Area Chairmen	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

**Silent Flight Achievement Scheme
Report to Area Council - 02 February 2008**

Following my appointment as Silent Flight Controller at the Area Council meeting on 06 October 2007, and pending full ratification by Full Council on 12 January 2008, I have been primarily acting in a 'caretaker' capacity.

However, I have spent this time evaluating the current state of the SF Scheme. I have come to the conclusion that the low figures for silent flight 'A' and 'B' test passes probably stems more from a lack of awareness than from a general lack of interest. The figures for test passes for the period January 2007 – October 2007 are as follows:

Silent Flight 'A' (all disciplines)	14
Silent Flight 'B' (all disciplines)	5

These figures compare with fixed wing passes as follows:

'A' Fixed Wing	754
'B' Fixed Wing	146

To address the problem of a lack of awareness I propose to encourage a silent flight training initiative along the same lines as the Fixed Wing and Helicopter Examiners Workshops. To start the ball rolling the Frome model flying club have agreed to hold a SF (Electric) meeting at their flying site, near Bath, on Sunday 31 August 2008. I have written to all Area Co-ordinators asking for their support for this initiative which I will follow up in due course with a letter to all SF Examiners and Chief Examiners.

I cannot change the fortunes of the SF Achievement Scheme single handed so I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to all Area Coordinators, Examiners and Chief Examiners to contact me with any proposals they may have to encourage participation in the scheme.

I hope that in the future I will be able to report more positively to this Council.

Nial Ball (133120)
SF AS Controller

NORTHERN AREA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO COUNCIL 2ND FEB 2008

My apologies for not attending, but I am sure Andy Symons, our Secretary, will be an adequate substitute.

Thanks to the efforts of our Vice Chairman, Peter Hornby, the good news is that the Area now has the use of RAF Dishforth for twelve Sundays, and the first one, last week, was well attended despite the windy weather. The field is shared with the full size Gliding Club, also the Warfedale controline and Harrogate RC Clubs have limited access.

Indoor RC is going well at Garforth with **small** helis being popular, and more 2.4ghz than 35mhz, with a smattering of toys on 27mcs. This is a useful way of keeping the thumbs active particularly as my local Dewsbury field has been under water again. Unfortunately I could not get close to try my Coot flying boat. This morning it is snowing!

The proceeds of the Castle Howard event finally raised £750, which was shared equally between the RAF Benevolent Fund and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. The latter in memory of Brian Brown.

Preparations are under way for the coming season, with hopes of better weather.

John Thompson
Area Chairman
2nd Feb 2008

Ratified

MIDWEST AREA REPORT JANUARY 2008

There has been very little activity since our last report. Our AGM attendance was as poor as usual so we have decided to change our six different meeting places to two. One in the west of our area, and the other in the East.

Our first meeting is not until March so I have nothing to report. I know that plans are already in place to ensure that our Area has a full events calendar, including the very popular events at Charlton Park.

Robin Jones FSMAE
Mid West Area Delegate

Ratified

LONDON AREA DELEGATE'S REPORT – Feb. 2008

London Area supplied most of the personnel for the setting-up and manning of the BMFA stand at the London Model Engineering Exhibition. As usual the exhibition showed the advancing age profile of those attending, emphasizing the need for us to target an older audience for recruiting members, as well as the traditional youth market. I took the opportunity to contact one of the organisers to point out that an ad. in BMFA News would reach 36,000 potential visitors and she undertook to consider this next year. Unfortunately a few minutes before the show closed an idiot visitor decided the Perspex case holding the F1D model was a good place to sit his child, who then managed to damage one of the other models on display before being removed.

Area members will shortly start on their annual round of local schools, equipped with building boards, pins, PVA and scalpels. Cynics may suggest that Derby & Joan clubs might be usefully added to the circuit.

The Area's website is up and running, but there seem to be delays in actually getting the link to it from the London Area page on the BMF|A site. This seems to be a pattern that has been discouragingly familiar for several years.

Martin Dilly

London Area Delegate

1.2.08

Ratified

South East Area Report to Areas Council on 2.2.08

Just before Christmas we learned that Mike Kemp, a stalwart of the Vintage Free Flight movement who has CD'd our annual gala at RAF Odiham for many years, had passed away after being struck down with cancer. We had intended to make a presentation to Mike at this year's Odiham event in recognition of his past efforts but will instead be instituting the Mike Kemp Memorial Trophy to be awarded at the Odiham event annually in either the Vintage Wakefield or Mini Vintage classes which he specialised in. It is hoped this year to run the gala on April 13th.

As we sit around this table, final arrangements are being made for our annual Crawley Indoor Free Flight Championships which are due to take place at the K2 Leisure Centre in Crawley tomorrow, February 3rd. We are hoping that the bad weather forecasts will not prevent people from travelling to this event which will have the usual mix of competitions and sport flying.

Whilst on the subject of indoor flying, at a recent Area Meeting it was agreed that we would organise as an experiment, a second all day free flight indoor meeting at the start of the Winter season in November 2008. This will be carried out in co-operation with Tonbridge Gassers and Rubber Fanciers at their Tonbridge venue and will concentrate on the various indoor scale classes. However, there will also be sport flying and Hangar Rat and Butterfly mass launches which have proved popular at Crawley. We are also including a BMFA Dart competition for children, with hopefully some local media coverage and possibly Dart building sessions beforehand in conjunction with the regular Saturday evening TG & RF flying sessions.

Finally, it would seem that attendance at our Area Meetings is improving. At our January get together we were pleased to see all of the seats occupied in our admittedly small room, but we have not seen this before and can only hope that the new faces seen were not a "flash in the pan".

Keith Miller, Council Delegate

Midland Area Report Areas Council Meeting 02/02/08

With the New Year upon us Midland Area is particularly looking forward to activities promoting aeromodelling in 2008.

With the airfield licence approved for Festival of Flight at Barkston on Sunday, 8th June competitors and spectators alike are already in contact confirming their intention to make this event successful and we hope the weather gods think likewise.

There will be full participation from all branches of Control-line activity, R/C Scale, IMAC, Pylon and R/C Aerobatics so a good day looks in prospect.

Our case for doing business in our area via E Mail is on the current agenda and from interest expressed by other areas we hope to provide some consensus to continue, favourable to Areas Council and ultimately Full Council as we have found it beneficial thus far.

This year we have decided that as our 2007 Festival of Flight proceeds allow it would be opportune to plough some of these profits into aeromodelling, accordingly we will be providing support funding to Free Flight Technical Committee and C/L Tech Committee to assist with members expenses representing GB competitively overseas.

Our team of veteran Dart Builders will be available at the Nats and we look forward to this, we will also assist Eric Clark where possible on the BMFA News front.

Area club input has been.....quiet. Clubs wishing to publicise their local events should notify us for inclusion on our Area Website.

Alfred Tunncliffe for George Maynard, Chairman and Council Delegate.

AREA 14 (RAFMAA) REPORT TO AREAS COUNCIL – 2nd February 2008

A quiet period since the last report with little to share with the Areas Council at this time. The main activity underway at present is the organisation of the RAFMAA Warbirds 2008 event. We intend to hold the event at RAF Scampton once again, subject to the Station Commander's approval. The provisional dates are 12th and 13th April but are yet to be confirmed. The invite for pilots has attracted almost 70 responses and we will have to cap the numbers at this level. As in previous years the RAFMAA Warbirds is not open to the general public and we have declined sponsorship to maintain uniqueness. An excellent article appeared in the January 2008 issue of RC Model World based on the 2007 event.

We have managed to hold one slope and indoor event in our competition calendar with the next due in Mar and probably April respectively. We have also been in consultation with Ian Pallister, BMFA Scale Technical Committee member and RAFMAA member regarding the use of RAF Digby for BMFA Indoor events and UK team selection trials. I am pleased to say that we are very happy to support these initiatives and the Station are similarly happy to allow the use of their facilities. Some fine-tuning on compliance with Defence Estates regulations is underway but I do not anticipate any problems.

Our next RAFMAA (Area 14) Committee meeting is scheduled for 6th February 2008 and will be held at RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire.

Original Signed

Mick Evans
Wing Commander
Chairman

Report to Areas Council Meeting

2nd February 2008

There is very little to report today, other than the Eddie Riding Memorial Trophy for Free Flight Scale will be going ahead at the Woodvale Rally on the 2nd August 2008.

We are adding a new trophy this year for multi engined models, and this has been kindly donated by John Bridge, our commentator for the event, and has been well received by the Committee.

We managed to persuade Chris Bromley, our past Chairman of 20 odd years until his resignation at the 2007 North West Area AGM, to attend the January 2008 meeting, so that we could present him with a Futaba 2.4Ghz Radio Control outfit as a very large "thank you" to him for his excellent past service to the Area. We had heard he was contemplating the purchase of one of these - so it was quite fortuitous for us.

We must also thank Mike Beese, of Cheshire Model Supplies in Stockport, for providing this to the Area at the cost price to him.

Our Indoor events at Rochdale are going from strength to strength, and we had our best turn out yet at the January meeting of 43 registered flyers! This is an event that caters for both R/C and Free Flight models over a 6 hour flying session so there is plenty of flying time for all!

The RAF Shawbury outdoor Fun Fly scale only R/C event will go ahead again this year, but no date has actually been set, but it is likely to be in July as in previous years.

The Area meetings are not particularly well attended – only by the stalwarts, but it could be put down to there being no problems within the Area that need attention!

We are going to have a drive to encourage clubs to "talk to us" in the next month or so - even if only by email, so that we can see if there are any underlying problems that require attending to.

North West Area Delegate and Chairman

BMFA East Anglian **Area - Delegate's** report_ February 2008.

I feel somewhat ill-prepared to write a useful report, having been a club delegate to the Area for a little more than six months, and having been elected Area delegate as recently as November, 2007.

I asked my Area committee colleagues at our January meeting what *they* wished to be reported to this Areas Council , and they **seemed** a little surprised that a formal report was required.

Attendance at our Area meetings, has in my limited experience, been disappointingly low. It is rare to **see** as many as eight clubs out of the seventy or so in the Area being represented. I have been given the task of trying to determine the reasons for this apparent lack of interest. I feel that I cannot do this until I have been to at least my first Area Council, as I need to understand how it functions in real life.

At a recent meeting one bewildered club delegate asked what Area meetings were for, as he had been asked to attend by his club secretary out of the blue. It became apparent that he was perfectly able to find solutions to his own problems by calling Head Office, and that he was one of many who acted in such away. It **seems** not to have occurred to such members that whilst their actions may be expedient in the short term, the good of the Area at large is not well served , because useful information is not properly disseminated.

Naturally I would like to seek any advice from Area delegates who have encountered and found solutions to these problems.

The Area has been happy to fund meetings held by local clubs which have been of benefit to the Area at large, particularly the indoor events hosted by my own club. Such support is always welcome, even when in the long run clubs' finances have made such support unnecessary in the longer term.

During the last year a number of Examiners' Days were hosted by clubs in the Area, the purpose of which was to provide a practical workshop for examiners and to enable them all to examine to the same standard. It **seems** that the success of these days was a little mixed, and that the host clubs had reservations about the value of such workshops. Nevertheless, such work needs to be commended and encouraged, even if the format is still at present less refined than it needs to be.

BMFA South Midland Area

Report to Areas Council for 2 February 2008

The first Area Committee meeting of the year was held on 2 January, with 14 people representing 12 different clubs present. At the Area's AGM in December last, 22 people took part, a recent high water mark for the Area's meetings. The high level of attendance at the AGM was particularly gratifying, as it gave many of us chance to participate in the presentation to Ron Moulton – who retired as our honorary president the previous year – of a memento in celebration of his many years of support to the Area. The memento, which was a scale model of the prototype Spitfire mounted on a glass-lidded plinth, had been immaculately constructed by our Treasurer, Chris Tompkins. Ron gracefully accepted the award, fondly recalling a number of past occasions in the Area's history. One of the meeting attendees had even managed to retrieve a photo from the Aeromodeller dating from around 1965 and showing Ron and several others on the Area Committee at the time.

John Shaw, our Competition Secretary and FACCT club delegate to the Area, announced that this year marks the 40th consecutive year that the FACCT club is organising its thermal soaring event, on 11 May, a record of which the club can be justly proud.

Clubs' end-of-year membership levels in 2007 were typically the same or slightly lower than at the same time in the previous year, though renewals already this year were reported as being at very good levels.

As do most of the BMFA membership, we imagined, club delegates hoped for better flying weather this year than last!

Ian Self – Secretary: BMFA South Midland Area.

28 January 2008

AREA REPORTS – AREA 10, WESTERN AREA

A quiet period since the last Area's meeting with not too many items to report.

At our area AGM in November those officers in post due for election were re-elected. Some other good news from the election of office, I am pleased to report that Keith Burt volunteered to take up the long vacant Area PRO position.

The area is pleased to report that we intend to continue with our successful Examiner and C certificate workshops. The dates are as follows:

Fixed Wing Examiners Workshop	18 th May 2008, 10 am BRCMAC Thornbury, Bristol
Silent Flight Electric Examiners Workshop	31 st August 2008, 10 am Frome MAC
C Certificate Workshop	19 th October 2008, Beaufort MAC Winterbourne, Bristol.

The area also hopes to support a GBR/CAA training day at the BRCMAC, Thornbury, Bristol, late September/early October. As with past events we welcome Area Chief Examiners, Club Examiners, candidates, or volunteer pilots etc from other areas. Please contact either the Area Secretary (Nial Ball) (secretary@bmfawestern.org.uk) or me (treasurer@bmfawestern.org.uk), or take a look at the area web site (www.bmfawestern.org.uk).

Yours faithfully

John Harris
Treasurer
BMFA Western Area
For
Elton Drew FSMAE (31346)
Chairman BMFA Western Area

North Eastern Area report to Areas Council 2nd February 2008

I personally thought I was due a break from Council business after 20 years, 4 as Vice Chairman, and 2 as PRO, how wrong I was.

At the Area AGM in December all positions were re-taken, but no candidate for Delegate came forward, so the incumbent Chairman volunteered, giving us the new problem as he would now hold 3 positions, Chairman, PRO and Delegate. Clearly this was not ideal so I volunteered to be co-opted to Area Chairman with the relief of having to drive to Leicester only half as much as I have in the past. Problem solved.

As an Area Committee we have, for past 8 years, run the "Geordie Nats" which was at its inception envisaged as a low profile event for all club members and guests in the North Eastern area. Unfortunately it is not as enthusiastically supported as in the past. It was suggested that the word "Nats" gave it a competition connotation and put people off. So at the preliminary clean-down meeting in January we voted to drop the title and call it the "Great North Fly-in". It works for the Great North Run, so we will have to wait and see if it works for us.

Allan Weighell FSMAE,
North Eastern Area Chairman.

Ratified

SOUTHERN AREA

The Area held its AGM in November which went the usual way, even though all the club's had been informed well beforehand. Around 12 members turned up, the outcome being that we still have 3 vacancies on the committee including a new chairman to replace Roger.

A week later we held our annual Balsa Brain quiz run on a pub quiz format, with mainly model and real aircraft questions. It was a great success with at least 50 attending from at about 10 different clubs. This was with them being charged £3 a head for a great plate of ploughman's nosh; even then a few members reckon it should be free. The sad reflection is that members are happy to turn out for social events but not for the AGM.

The committee announced before Christmas, by mail and email that there would be a presentation at Middle Wallop Air Museum on 29th February to try and create more interest in Area affairs. I think that the response can be put down as a success as out of 56 clubs, 22 agreed to attend, 3 refused with the rest not replying one way or the other, even though requested to reply on 3 occasions. The perk being free access to the museum for 2 hours before the meeting – when there will be a lock in. The committee members are expected to give a resume of their modelling and committee history on the day! I just hope this is a success, as hiring venues of this calibre does not come cheap.

It is not all gloom, as I have just heard that Tony Butterworth who delivered the eulogy at Roger's funeral and ran the campsite at the Nationals has agreed to be co-opted as chairman for the year. We also have a co-option for the competition secretary. Tony was chairman of the Area around 20 years ago, and he had us meeting once a month, I just hope that he has forgotten that!

The other Area events are taking shape, so the next few months should be interesting.

Southern Area Delegate

AREAS COUNCIL 02-02-2008

Development Officer Report

The “quiet period” over Christmas proved to be very short lived and the office ladies have been flat out with the processing of memberships and club affiliations. It is pleasing to note that membership numbers are currently running at 25,822 against 24,292 at this time last year.

It is also worthy of note that that memberships are completely up to date and are operating on a 5 day turnaround, again well ahead of the game for the time of year.

My time as always is focussed on assisting members, with the telephone and Email requiring non stop attention. In general terms there is no pattern to calls for assistance or advice and there is no knowing what will arrive next.

The use of radio equipment on the 2.4GHz band continues to generate a large number of enquiries and recent articles in BMFA News on aftermarket modules and grey import sets have generated a fair amount of correspondence.

Some safety concerns have been raised by members in relation to 6EX and TM-7 Futaba sets and modules and I have been looking in to this matter in detail. I have spoken at considerable length with Colin Strauss of Ripmax and others in order to establish the best advice to our members. To date the BMFA has published a statement produced by Ripmax on the Website and in the BMFA News. I am constantly monitoring this situation and will report any further developments.

At this time Ripmax have put a number of measures in place to address the situation in the short term and I am assured that they are looking at possible longer term solutions to the problem. Colin has promised to contact me as soon as there are further developments to report.

A safety issue has also been highlighted in relation to some Spektrum receivers relating to low voltage operation and re-set times although at this time there have been no official reports on this matter.

My aim is to organise the release of a BMFA Safety Bulletin alerting members to both of these issues and pointing users of the particular equipment concerned to the Website of the importer for the latest information updates.

The BMFA stand made a very successful visit to the London Model Engineering Exhibition at Alexandra Palace. The stand and flying area were kept busy for all three days of the show and I would like to express my thanks to the London Area for the support and assistance provided for this event. As ever I am keen that we maintain a presence at events that are outside of the usual aeromodelling show.

Preparations for the 2008 Heavy Lift Challenge are well underway. Some significant changes to the competition format are already proving popular with the teams entered.

The competition will take place on the 7th and 8th of June at Elvington Airfield near York. RSA have again committed sponsorship funding for this event.

Thought is being given to the 2008 Children's Flight Challenge and negotiations are currently taking place in order to secure a suitable venue. BAE systems had already stated that 2007 would be their final year of partnership for this event so alternative methods of funding are being investigated as well as some moves towards a new long term partnership for the competition and the Education Program.

Preparations are well underway for the first BMFA Chairman's Conference to be held at the Husbands Bosworth Gliding Centre in March. The concept of this event is to provide club chairmen with the tools to tackle what can sometimes be a difficult job. It should provide a worthwhile talking shop as well as the various presentations and speakers planned for the day.

Manny Williamson
Development Officer

Ratified

PRO Report to Areas Council - 2nd February 2008

Taking on my new role of PRO, I have given a lot of thought to how I can best help the BMFA. We already have an effective advertising and press procedure in place, so I see little point in disturbing that. Our presence at shows is also well organised, but sometimes lacks local support. I will therefore be focusing on getting areas involved in shows local to them, and also visiting shows where this already happens, with a view to "upping our game". I have found that there are a lot of people up and down the country who are prepared to help, if they feel their efforts will achieve something, and be appreciated. So, I will be looking to further the whole stand ethos set by Manny and David, and doing my best to see that those who help have a positive experience.

I was delighted to attend the Model Show at Alexandra Palace, and see us marketing to predominantly non-model fliers. Of course we should continue to attend shows where most people who visit the stands are already members, but we must also look to talking to potential members in other aspects of modelling and aerospots.

If you spot a PR opportunity - maybe the local press is showing an interest in your club, or you are approached by someone wanting models flown for whatever purpose - please do let me know. We won't be looking to interfere, but simply to make sure that we get as much mileage as possible for the good of all aeromodellers. Bad news spreads fast, but we all have to work hard to spread the good news!

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Ratified

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