

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on the 9th June 2007 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	East Anglia Area Delegate
Terry Rounce	London Area Chairman/ASRC Chairman
Martin Dilly FSMAE	London Area Delegate
George Maynard	Midland Area Delegate
Andy Symons	Northern Area Chairman Alternate
Phil Davis	Northern Area Delegate Alternate
John French	North East Area Chairman Alternate
Allan Weighell FSMAE	North East Area Delegate
David Lloyd-Jones	North West Area Delegate
Ian Self	South Midland Area Chairman Alternate
Peter Spurway	South Midland Area Delegate Alternate/ Power/SF Ach Scheme Controller
Keith Miller FSMAE	South East Area Delegate
Stuart Simpson	Southern Area Delegate
Nial Ball	Western Area Chairman Alternate
Phil Durant	Western Area Delegate
Robin Jones FSMAE	Mid West Area Delegate
Frank Buttery	South West Area Delegate Alternate
Howard Menary FSMAE	Northern Ireland Area Chairman
Mick Evans	RAFMAA Area Chairman

In Attendance

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 3rd February 2007.
- 4 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 3rd February 2007 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 5 To receive a proposal from Northern Area that Phil Davis, Membership Number 86526 be appointed Area Chief Examiner (Fixed Wing) for Northern Area.

- 6 To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.
 - a) Power
 - b) Silent Flight

- 7 a) To receive a proposal from Chris Bromley FSMAE Technical Secretary on behalf of the Achievement Scheme Review Committee, to accept and ratify the attached document concerning the selection and ratification of Chief Examiners, which is to replace the section currently in the Achievement Schemes section of the Member's Handbook.
 - b) To receive an update from Midland Area regarding conducting Area meetings by email.
 - c) Review of Area Council working practices.

- 8 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

- 9 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.)

- 10 To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.

- 11 To confirm date of next meeting.

- 12 Any Other Business.

MINUTES

A946/06/07 (1) Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from the following:

Stuart Marsden, PRO
 Mike Chignell, South West Area Delegate
 Elton Drew FSMAE, Western Area Chairman
 Peter Christy, South Midland Area Delegate
 John Thompson, Northern Area Chairman
 Chris Bromley FSMAE, North West Area Chairman
 Tom Jones, North East Area Chairman
 Bob Cutter, South East Area Delegate

A947/06/07 (2) Request for permission to be absent.

Permission was granted to the following:

Manny Williamson, Development Officer
 Gordon Warburton FSMAE, Northern Area Delegate
 Mike Colling FSMAE, Northern Ireland Area Delegate Alternate

Robin Jones FSMAE Western Area Delegate was appointed Vice-Chairman of the meeting.

A948/06/07 (3) Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 3rd February 2007.

Page 9

- Heading **A938/02/07 (11)** - Change "and" to "an".

RAFMAA Area Chairman proposed that the Minutes of the Areas Council Meeting held on 3rd February 2007 be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Seconded by North West Area Delegate

Vote: For: 16

Ags: 0

Abs: 4

Carried by a majority vote.

A949/06/07 (4) Matters/Actions Arising from the 3rd February 2007 Meeting which are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

ACTION / NOTES

Page 4

- **Matters arising, fourth paragraph, audio edition of Members Handbook** - Chairman advised that he believed Tech Sec was looking into the possibility of producing an audio edition of the Members Handbook. Unfortunately however he is not present to report on it.

Chairman would contact Tech Sec to ascertain if he had made any progress. If there is anything to report a post meeting note would be included in these minutes.

If Tech Sec has not been able to look into it Chairman suggested, as there might be some costs associated with it, that it would be worthwhile addressing it to Full Council in September.

East Anglia Area Delegate advised that he managed to produce a copy by using 'Text to Speech', which is a free utility from the internet.

CHAIRMAN

Chairman would speak with East Anglia Delegate and Tech Sec at some point outside of the meeting and if required will raise the matter at Full Council in September.

- **Seventh paragraph, GTBA/JMA Safety Code agreement** - London Area Delegate asked if there had been a resolution of the conflict between GTBA and JMA on safety.

Concerns were expressed of the length of time it is taking to resolve this safety matter.

In the minutes of the RCPTC meeting held at the end of March, when both parties attended, there was an action for JMA and GTBA to provide the Secretary of RCPTC with a core written set of rules. These would then be circulated to RCPTC members for appraisal after which the RCPTC Delegate would include a proposal to Full Council.

Unfortunately the RCPTC representative is not present today to report on the outcome.

Chairman advised that he would endeavour to speak with both Associations to try to ascertain if the matter is being resolved.

CHAIRMAN

Page 5

- Third paragraph, publication of contest dates in BMFA News - This matter was resolved at the last Council meeting.

- Eighth paragraph, promoting model flying to the more mature person - Chairman asked if Northern Area Chairman had produced the article for SAGA magazine. Northern Area Chairman alternate advised that he did not believe it had been done but he would speak to the Northern Area Chairman.

**NORTHERN
AREA CHAIR
ALT**

Page 6

- Third paragraph, Council Member's website material - London Area Delegate reported that the website now holds information on Council Members. However it probably requires an update for any new Delegates and he duly asked if there are any changes that he could be informed as soon as possible.

It was pointed out that information still exists on the website for the previous North West Area Delegate and also the late Vice-Chairman. Chairman asked the Office Manager to check it out with the CEO.

OFFICE MGR

It was pointed out that the appropriate route to enable changes to be made to Council members' listings on the web is, in the first instance, to inform London Area Delegate. He would then liaise with the webmaster.

ALL

One area that was highlighted is there can be several links that hold information on the same person and this is something that also needs to be considered when changes are made.

Page 8

- Second paragraph, re-ratification of Area ACE's - London Area Delegate asked if all the Areas had now submitted their ratifications for ACE's.

Achievement Scheme Controller confirmed that he had now received everything.

Page 11

- First paragraph, "The Pussycat" new addition to education kits - Mike Colling FSMAE was commended for the production of "The Pussycat". It is an excellent kit.

Chairman commented that a great deal of time and effort is expended by Mike Colling in the production of the education kits.

The 'Why Compete' booklet is now available from the office. Office Manager advised that a decision was taken to produce them in-house for the time being.

London Area Delegate suggested copies should be made available for the Power Nationals. Office Manager would arrange this.

**OFFICE
MGR**

Page 12

- Penultimate and final paragraph, Toyota advert and Top Gear programme - Unfortunately the Development Officer was not in attendance to answer the questions raised concerning the Toyota TV advert. It is now being repeated after a short break.

The TV programme coverage of the F3A element at the 2006 Power Nationals was also discussed. General consensus of opinion was it showed aeromodelling in a very positive light.

North West Area Delegate suggested it might be worthwhile approaching the same TV presenter to discuss if it would be possible to produce another programme on aeromodelling as a whole. Perhaps this is something we could ask the Development Officer to look into.

Chairman commented that the Development Officer did make contacts within the BBC as a result of his visit to Namibia to cover the Egg Race. He would be more interested to learn if there is any more progress on getting further developments with any of the broadcast media, instead of looking at one particular angle.

**DEVELOPMENT
OFFICER**

Page 13

- Fifth paragraph, meeting with PRO, CEO and Development Officer to discuss PR developments - A meeting was held and developments are in place. One area that is being developed is using the graphic skills of Gemma Sargeant, assistant to the Accounts Manager. She has already produced a very good portfolio for the magazine advertising and Nationals advertising.

This concluded Matters Arising.

A950/06/07 (5) To receive a proposal from Northern Area that Phil Davis, Membership Number 86526 be appointed Area Chief Examiner (Fixed Wing) for Northern Area.

Northern Area Chairman Alternate explained the background to the proposal for Chief Examiner.

Seconded by South Midland Area Delegate Alternate
Carried unanimously.

**NORTHERN
AREA CO-ORD
OFFICE MGR**

A951/06/07 (6) to receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.

Power/Silent Flight - Peter Spurway currently holds both positions.

Power

He expressed his dismay that it has been reported in some Area minutes, with regard to the appointment of Chief Examiners, that the Controller has a veto over the appointment. However there is support from some of the Areas and he is grateful for that.

With reference to the proposal being put forward today for the selection and ratification of Chief Examiners, he would like the meeting to consider the following points when they vote.

One of the changes is to remove the temporary appointment, which he fully endorses. He would like the meeting to appreciate some of his difficulties if he appoints somebody as a temporary Chief Examiner and Council later does not ratify them. This would cause immense amount of problems and he believes there is no need for the temporary appointment now.

The proposal is couched in vague terms as to who does what. He feels if we put those requirements on the Area Co-ordinator it will clarify the situation for everybody. It would give clear guidelines to the Co-ordinators as to what their job involves.

Chairman remarked that he is quite concerned if Areas are reporting that the AS Controller has a veto on the appointment of ACE's. The only people who have a veto is this Council. If it is reported anywhere that the AS Controller has a veto then he asked Areas to ensure that this is amended and made clear to their members that this is not the case.

ALL AREAS

AS Controller pointed out that he was very disappointed with Full Council's decision to close the forum. He found it a valuable resource for himself and the Achievement Scheme. He used to point this out in his letter to all the new Examiners and Chief Examiners and there was never a problem with it, apart from a situation that arose in the Southern Area which was resolved satisfactorily.

The new Examiner test forms are filtering through from Chief Examiners. The forms no longer require a signature from the Club Official as it now goes through the Area AS Co-ordinator. However some Chief Examiners do not seem to appear to know which Area they are from.

He implored Areas to request that their AS Co-ordinators remind them that the Area that appoints them are the Area they are working for.

The Examiner's workshops are going very well this year. One thing that has come across is that everybody seems to think there is a requirement for these workshops and the training. However the enthusiasm is obviously guided by the Area and all the clubs because it is the clubs who have to give up their flying fields for a period of time for the Achievement Scheme and there seems to be some reluctance. If anybody has any ideas how we can increase this enthusiasm he would be pleased to hear from them.

This is not the same for all Areas, some are more enthusiastic than others. One reason that was suggested was probably because of a lack of publicity. Chairman reminded everyone that there is provision in the BMFA News in every edition for important Area information if people want to use it.

ASRC Chairman said he believes we should give it more time to get it established.

Silent Flight

There has not been a great deal of activity within the Silent Flight sector. North East Area Chairman Alternate posed a question to the Controller whether he can think of any way to coerce the Silent Flight fraternity to take the Achievement Scheme more seriously.

ASRC Chairman commented that this is a recurring subject at the ASRC meetings and we are struggling to find an answer.

A952/06/07 (7) a) To receive a proposal from Chris Bromley FSMAE Technical Secretary on behalf of the Achievement Scheme Review Committee, to accept and ratify the document concerning the selection and ratification of Chief Examiners, which is to replace the section currently in the Achievement Scheme section of the Member's Handbook.

Chairman asked the ASRC Chairman to present the proposal. The proposal was put to this Council in February when it was generally accepted. A few comments and suggestions were put forward at that meeting which were discussed at the ASRC meeting soon after.

After looking at the responses they decided to submit the proposal in its original form. As 75% of the responses were positive they thought they would present it to this Council again as they did in February and it is commended for adoption today.

Northern Ireland Area Chairman asked the reason why the probationary period is being removed from the scheme. It is his belief it was introduced originally because of the delay in ratification of ACE's.

ASRC Chairman advised that the reason for the removal of the probationary period is because we now have better Chief Examiner coverage and many of whom are now prepared to travel. When the probationary period was put in place this was not the case.

AS Controller commented that as the document stands it does not mention the specific duties of the Area AS Co-ordinator.

He feels it would be very helpful if the wording in the second paragraph under the heading '**How an Area Appoints an Area Chief Examiner**' could be amended to include "**by the Area Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator**" after "**appropriate Scheme Controller is required**".

This would clarify the duties of the ASC as to what he should do with the appointment of a Chief Examiner.

South Midland Area Delegate Alternate proposed a change of wording to the proposal, second paragraph under the heading 'How an Area Appoints an Area Chief Examiner', to read as follows:

Before the presentation of a potential candidate to an Area meeting for ratification, a consultation with the appropriate Scheme Controller is required by the Area Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator so that the candidate's experience within the Achievement Scheme can be properly appraised by the Area.

Seconded by North West Area Delegate

North West Area Delegate raised a point that it is difficult to properly appraise a candidate for ACE status because we only record details of the tests passed by the ACE. We do not have any record of the failures, which could amount to a lot of work by the Examiner.

ASRC Chairman advised that we are trying to address this and it was an initiative that was suggested to us by Andy Symons, Northern Area. The suggestion was to provide log books to Club Examiners to enable them to keep a log of their activities and we are currently in the process of obtaining prices.

As soon as they are available we will make sure that all Examiners are made aware.

East Anglia Area Delegate asked where the emphasis that the ACE status is an appointment, not a qualification, that the word "appointment" could be strengthened, such as making it a working job title or role.

Consensus of opinion was that the wording was adequate. Chairman said he believes we should be accepting the scheme into operation if we understand and agree that the document meets the requirements of the scheme in principle. Any minor tweaking required can be done at a later date.

We might get lost if we try to look at every word in isolation. Chairman thanked the ASRC for all the work they have put into the document and called for a vote.

Vote: For: 20
Ags: 0
Abs: 0

ALL

Carried unanimously

ASRC Chairman advised that the document is effective as of now.

7b) To receive an update from Midland Area regarding conducting Area meetings by email.

Chairman advised that this item should not have appeared on the agenda for this meeting, it was scheduled for the February 2008 meeting.

Midland Area Delegate gave a brief report on the statement that has been included in the Midland Area Report.

The main advantage is the saving on travelling costs. His own preference for most things is still telephone communication. He personally finds that most satisfactory for most things he has to deal with.

It does not seem to have made any difference to the response from the clubs in the Area, which is still very negative.

7c) Review of Area Council working practices.

Chairman said he believes the review of Area Council working practices is something that is long overdue. He is not saying change is needed but really wanted to judge what everyone believed the way we were doing things was right or wrong and what changes we should be making if any.

Chairman opened the debate and the following ideas were mooted.

- More frequent rotation of delegates. An environment which is more encouraging to new blood to bring in new ideas.

- Introduce youth element such as a Youth Area Delegate.

London Area Delegate advised that a document is available from the FAI Education Commission (CIEA), which is a paper from the USA that analyses the differing attitudes to things like authority, volunteering, education. There are six or eight different headings with four different age groups. It might be worth looking at.

Chairman asked London Area Delegate if he could provide him with a copy.

**LONDON AREA
DELEGATE**

South West Area were tasked with testing out the idea of seeking a youth delegate with the possibility of an invitation to Areas Council.

**SOUTH WEST
AREA DEL**

- Frequency of meetings, more than three or less than three. Alternatively introduce focus groups to deal with specific requirements.
- More effective use of electronic communication.
- Provide an organisation chart on the website of the BMFA structure and constitutional information with communication links.

London Area Delegate advised that an organisational chart was produced many years ago. He would try to find it and provide Chairman with a copy.

**LONDON AREA
DELEGATE**

South West Area Delegate Alternate also advised that he had produced a similar document. We could ask the Development Officer for a copy.

Chairman thanked everyone for their valuable input. He found it very interesting. He will mull over the ideas put forward with the possibility of further review at a later date.

A953/06/07 (8) To receive reports from Committees or co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.

******* a) Achievement Scheme Review Committee - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX B)**

ASRC Chairman highlighted some of the salient points in his report.

******* b) Flight Challenge - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX C)**

Chairman pointed out that most people are aware that Flight Challenge was originally going to take place on Friday 29th June but had to be brought forward to Saturday 23rd June because most schools found it difficult to get the children off on a weekday.

South West Area Delegate Alternate expressed concerns for the future of Flight Challenge in view of the loss of funding from BAE Systems. He believes we should not give up on it and we should make it known that we fully endorse Flight Challenge.

Chairman commented that it might be time to review the present content and consider introducing new ideas and challenges.

North West Area Delegate suggested that, in the event that we cannot secure funding, Schools could run their own competition that is observed and timed by a BMFA official and the results correlated into a winner. There would be no travel commitments or associated costs involved.

North East Area Delegate also pointed out that a postal competition had also been discussed previously at a Flight Challenge de-brief meeting.

Chairman commented that he believes the Development Officer would find these comments encouraging and the view that this Council fully supports a drive to ensure that a Challenge continues in some form or other.

c) Education

North West Area Delegate raised a point that his Area Education Co-ordinator had asked him to make because she is not receiving any communications from the office regarding Education.

Office Manager advised that there are no regular communications that we are required to send to Education Co-ordinators. However if they have any involvement with a particular event such as Flight Challenge, the Development Officer would be in contact with them.

General consensus is that some form of regeneration is necessary. It might be time for an Education meeting again to bring Education Co-ordinators together to discuss where they believe it should be going.

South West Area Delegate Alternate agreed to a request from the Chairman to liaise with the Development Officer to discuss the possibility of arranging a meeting. He might suggest to the Development Officer that a meeting could be co-ordinated with Flight Challenge debrief.

**SOUTH WEST
AREA DEL
ALTERNATE**

A954/06/07 (9) To receive reports from Area Committees.

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

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

East Anglia Area Delegate advised that a question was asked whilst he attended the Free Flight Nationals recently that during the day at Power Nationals there used to be building and help with Free Flight models and has been noted by it's absence.

North East Area Delegate advised that he used to co-ordinate it for many years but the availability of the hangar was always a deciding factor.

North West Area Delegate referred to a comment in the report regarding the publication of minutes on the website, which are either not published or difficult to find.

It was pointed out that there is a link to all Council minutes and agendas from the front page of the website.

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

In addition to the written report, Southern Area Delegate advised that they approached the Local Council from which they recently secured a grant for Royal Victoria Park Show, with a request to use the money for another show. They were informed by the Council that if the money was not being used for Royal Victoria Park Show it would have to be returned. Also if this did happen they could not apply for any further grants.

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

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

As a point of interest and to reinforce earlier comments from the AS Controller, when they ran a 'C' test training day last year it was advertised on the website forum in the Achievement Scheme section and two representatives travelled from North Devon to attend. We have lost a useful tool and a very good point of contact.

South West Area - No report.

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

******* Northern Ireland Area - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX J)**

Northern Ireland Area Chairman gave an open invitation to anyone wishing to come over to Northern Ireland to attend the World Jet Masters competition. They would be made very welcome.

Chairman remarked, in relation to the Seagate Young Innovators event mentioned in the report, that about eight years ago we were developing some links with the Young Engineers in this country, as part of the Flight Challenge. It seems to have dwindled off and might be something we need to look at reinventing again.

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

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

One point he added was that they have lost the club at RAF Benson. Ultimately the Station Commander has the last say and he has decided to shut it down because of conflict of flying at the weekends.

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

***** **South Midland Area - WRITTEN REPORT (APPENDIX N)**

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

London Area Delegate added a note in connection with the annual Science Week event at Dartford. This involved making paper aeroplanes and they had a rather clever electric paper aeroplane launcher, comprising a metal box with two power driven spring loaded rubber wheels and a slot.

It was very useful and probably worth thinking about if anybody wanted to do any glide tests or indoor tests for serious aircraft.

Chairman asked how they were getting on with Salisbury Plain. London Area Delegate advised that things are going very well at the moment. They are trying a new payment system for the training weekends, surprisingly at the suggestion of the DLA.

It is based on a charge per man-day use. This means they would not be wasting money for those weekends that are cancelled due to weather. At the end of the year they will inform the DLA how many turned up and they will be charged accordingly.

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

Northern Area Chairman alternate added a couple of points.

At last year's event at Castle Howard they had the presence of the Chairman and a couple of members from the York Club who enjoyed themselves so much they got in touch with Castle Howard and asked if they could have use of the field. Two weeks ago they held an event which went very well. The landowner himself was there and thoroughly enjoyed it and was highly impressed with the models.

Northern Area Delegate Alternate asked if we could record thanks to the CEO for his efforts in organising extra equipment for the shows such as the PA system, which made all the difference to the event.

North East Area Chairman alternate expressed his sadness to hear of the death of Derek Haviour, who was a stalwart for the Northern Area.

A955/06/07 (10) To receive reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.

There was a brief discussion regarding electronic mailing of Agendas and Minutes. For some reason during conversion of the doc file to pdf for the Agenda for this meeting it resulted in an extremely large file and some people were unable to download it.

In future, before sending, the Office Manager will make a point of checking the size of the file and it should not happen again.

North West Area Delegate asked the reason why it is necessary for the Agendas and Minutes to be produced in pdf format, as pdf format does not allow you to make notes in the action columns. Office Manager said she believed it was a Council decision.

Hon Secretary

Chairman, in his capacity as Hon Secretary spoke about the current situation regarding UAV's (Unmanned Air Vehicles). He briefed the meeting about a presentation he has been invited to give at the UAV International 2007 Conference in Paris later this month.

It will be a joint presentation on behalf of Europe Airsport and the BMFA.

The main aim of his presentation is to convey to them that if they want to fly unmanned air systems around in the sky, they must strive to be autonomous and not try to be subsumed under model aeroplane categorisation.

It is incredible to think what we have achieved over the years within the model flying fraternity and we are not going to allow anything to jeopardise it in the future.

There is quite a lot of UAV activity going on in the UK but it is all in segregated air space. There is a lot of commercial UAV activity and we have to defend our position of what we have achieved over a hundred years by drawing a line in the sand and saying that what we are doing is sport and recreational flying, they are not.

Hopefully he will be able to present a more detailed report to the September Full Council meeting on exactly what is happening in the UK and internationally.

A956/06/07 (11) To confirm date of next meeting.

This next meeting will take place on **6th October 2007**.

A957/06/07 (12) Any Other Business.

Mid-West revisited the point raised earlier in the AS Controller's report about the closure of the website forum. This prompted a discussion and North West Area Delegate suggested there is probably scope for an Achievement Scheme or Technical forum.

Chairman pointed out that there are other means to get answers to questions by contacting the office. North West Area Delegate commented that this is not actually pointed out on the website and he believes it should be if we want people to contact us.

Chairman also pointed out that there is now a facility specifically for Areas on our website, to post information and questions.

Chairman said he was not aware that the forum was being used to such a great extent for the Achievement Scheme. It might be necessary for this Council to have to look at what they believe their ideas are of what could be done and how it is controlled and whether it would be of benefit to us.

The right decision has been taken to stop the 'chat room', if there have been people who have been penalised by that who believe there is a good reason why that sort of information should still be there, he believes it is within this Council's remit to make a recommendation to Full Council.

If a proposal is put to this Council it would be given full discussion and any recommendation to Full Council should have detailed reasons why it is necessary. It should be made clear what is the purpose of it and what it is trying to do.

East Anglia Area Delegate raised the issue that the wording of the proposal raised from the floor at Full Council was very specific that the forum should be closed and it was then discussed 'in its current form' and decided that they did not want that.

He believes that forbade us to go back to the proposal for two years. Chairman advised that he should raise that point at Full Council.

East Anglia Area Delegate also posed the question whether proposals are allowed from the floor. Chairman advised that as a Director you can do this.

East Anglia Area Delegate said his feeling is that Full Council is supposed to be representing its members and if they see the agenda and it does not contain something and then after the event they find out something else was introduced, voted on and decided, it does not really engage them. He would defend the Director's right to introduce an item when he has to but would question when we actually have to. He wonders whether this is being abused.

Chairman advised that if it is something to do with the Constitution of the Association then it should be put to the membership through an Area and then up to Council. If it is a matter that is not involved in the direct Constitution of the Association then, as this Committee has done on occasions, it raises matters as the meeting progresses and they are dealt with. That is the way this Association has run since 1948 and he sees no reason at all in changing it. It works very well.

Chairman informed the meeting that prior to the start of the meeting he received an AOB item from Western Area to discuss the topic of the website. Western Area commented that in light of the discussion that has just taken place they withdraw their AOB item.

Chairman summarised from the comments he has heard today.

It seems there may be some aspects of what may have been carried on the chat room forum whose loss may have a detrimental affect on how we have operated in the past in the Areas Council in areas such as the Achievement Scheme.

It would not be a wasted exercise if each of the Areas undertook a review. They were asked to discuss and provide information on any aspect of the work that this Committee does that they think could benefit from some form of forum.

It was reiterated by the Chairman that their comments should only address matters relating to Areas Council business.

The information gathered would be discussed at the next meeting. If we believe there is a requirement and we can substantiate it, we could consider putting a properly reasoned case to Full Council indicating why we need it and how any such forum could be effectively controlled.

ALL AREAS

Chairman set a deadline of 15th September, which is the next Full Council Meeting and requested that Areas hand their contribution to him at the meeting.

Chairman closed the meeting at 4.15pm.

CIRCULATION:

All Council Members
SAA Delegate
All Area Chairmen
All Area Secretaries
RNMAA Chairman
All Area AS Co-ordinators
PAS/SFAS Controller
Flying Site Adviser

All Tech Comm Chairmen
Fellows (as requested)
Club Bulletin
Office Manager
Accounts Manager
BMFA News Editor
Chief Executive
Development Officer

Report to Areas Council 9 June 2007

Having read many Areas minutes regarding the topic of appointment of ACE's I am very dismayed that this is being reported as the Controller having a veto over the appointment. This has never been the case and is certainly not required by me.

Support from many Areas - thank you.

All I ask is that this Council show some appreciation of the difficulties involved if someone was to be approved as a temporary ACE and the Council later did not ratify the candidate. As the main area of contention appears to be the temporary appointments there is not really any such requirement these days. Having re-read the ACE proposals before Council today, I think we are missing a trick with regard to Area Coordinator's duties. If the proposals clearly laid the system in the hands of the ASC it would be clearer for all concerned.

Extremely disappointed that Full Council took the decision to close the forum instead of doing the job properly. It was a valuable resource for the Achievement Scheme, now lost. The internet is not going to disappear, so its many benefits should be utilised not merely dismissed. If people have genuine concerns over the running of the organisation, their concerns should be addressed properly.

The new examiner test forms are filtering through from the Chief Examiners. I am very surprised that many do not know which Area they are working for. Generally this will be the Area that ratifies them each year.

Terry (Rounce) and I have been to two Examiners Workshops so far this year. They seem to be appreciated by those that attend. We have another in the East Anglia area tomorrow. If anyone has any ideas how to increase enthusiasm, I for one would be pleased to hear.

Peter Spurway
Controller RCPAS
Phone 01727 851223
Fax 01727 758645
Email rcpas@bmfa.org

ASRC Report to Areas Council 9 June 2007

Proposal to adopt document concerning selection and ratification of Chief Examiners.

When this proposal was put to you at the end of September last year the general consensus was that, you would like to take it away and make your opinions known before the Review Committee March meeting. I would like to thank you for your responses, particularly Southern Area, Midland Area, Northern Area and South East Area. On the whole they were generally in favour of the proposal and the Committee has decided to put it before you today unchanged from the original.

Southern want their candidate to be given a flying test, I can see nothing wrong with that. Phil raised the issue of the probationary period, we felt that coverage was now very good and almost all ACE's were prepared to travel if requested which left the probationary period redundant now. With regard to explaining the reasons for our actions Phil, that is what this meeting is for, we cannot put all our thinking and reasons for decisions into the proposal as it would go on an on and you would glaze over, we only put in the proposal that which will go into the rule book.

Helicopter Up and Away

In 2003 we were looking for someone to write the book. Len Bliss bless him put his head over the parapet and produced a document titled 'Into the hover and beyond', it consisted of ten A4 pages. We then tried very hard over the next two years trying to get a reaction from the heli flyers, very little happened. Next up was Malcolm Messiter in 2005, same reaction. I resolved to ask the Committee to adopt this version.

Meanwhile Malcolm had done a deal with Traplet to sell his version to them so we lost the opportunity because we dithered. Next time a member takes the time and trouble to respond to a request from us to produce a book on any subject I suggest we gratefully accept it and publish it, once published the criticisms will roll in both negative and positive and we will have grist for our mill.

I am in receipt of an admonishment from Steve Warren in the Southern Area. Steve complained that I had called the response 'poor' when referring to the adoption of the appointment of ACE's document. Upon reflection I could have called the response 'limited' or 'small but perfectly formed'. I ask today that the Southern Area Delegate convey my apologies to Steve Warren.

Terry Rounce
ASRC Chairman

CHILDREN'S FLIGHT CHALLENGE 2007.

AREAS COUNCIL REPORT 9TH JUNE 07

Preparations are well under way for the 2007 competition to take place at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford in Cambridgeshire on Saturday the 23rd of June.

The securing of Duxford as a venue for the Challenge appears to be a popular move with schools, the initial response and entry rate have been very good.

Currently, recorded entries are well above average for this event, however the high last minute drop out rate must be taken into account but it is expected that the final entry will compare well with that of previous years.

The management at Duxford appear to be very supportive of this competition and the Education Manager in particular is keen to work with the BMFA in the future.

Subsequent to my recent appeal for assistance at this event in the BMFA News, the response to date has been disappointing. Offers will be gratefully received, particularly those in the areas closer to the venue which keeps the costs minimal, however I do hope to see the "old hands" who have been involved with this event previously joining us on the day.

As some of you will already be aware 2007 is to be the last year that BAE Systems will provide financial backing for this event due to a change of focus in their activities. With this in mind some thought needs to be given to the future direction of this competition.

Manny Williamson
Development Officer

MIDWEST AREA REPORT JUNE 2007

The Mid-West Area carries on as usual with poorly attended meetings, and agendas that fail to attract most of the Clubs.

However, we are fortunate that we do have a few people that take sufficient interest to organize events that all BMFA members may attend and our programme is fairly full as usual.

The David Prosser event at Charlton Park at the end of this month appears to be attracting quite a lot of interest, so we hope to see plenty of Club fliers who are keen on Vintage and Scale models at this meeting.

The “Gathering of Rotary Eagles” meeting at the same venue in July is a popular event with scale helicopter fliers and usually attracts some serious models including many turbine powered machines. We also see some quite unusual rotary wing machines and a growing number of “vintage” helicopters.

Proficiency testing carries on as usual with more people wishing to enable their flying abilities to be quantified. We have more Clubs taking an active interest in Child Protection issues and taking measures to ensure that their members are protected.

Robin Jones FSMAE
Mid West Area Delegate

East Anglia Area Delegates Report 9th June 2007

We recently ran a BMFA stand at the Rougham model show, a very successful event organized by the Bury Model Club.

The event was well attended by the public both Saturday and Sunday, and as best I could see an excellent display was put on, in spite of the strong winds.

The stand was very busy both days, and we had lots of positive feedback from the club, both over the weekend, and afterwards. They really appreciated having the Area's support, and being able to direct interested spectators, who were not local, to us to discuss the best way to get started. I very much hope that our area will run a BMFA stand at this show next year.

I would also be very keen to see us running more BMFA stands at local shows (Duxord springs to mind), and we're already involved providing manpower for the office run stand at Wings and Wheels.

I was lucky enough to attend the Free Flight Nationals recently, again to wave the flag and run a stand. I take my hat off to the hardy souls who braved 6 deg C temperatures, 20+ mph winds and driving rain, and got the flight line set up and flew models. I don't really understand how they did it (and I do question the why!) but it was certainly a real eye-opener for me. Took best part of a week to get the tent, sleeping bag etc dry mind afterwards!

Last year we ran a very successful Examiner's Day. The weather was unkind to say the least, but the day was very well received, and there was much clamoring for another. We are therefore running another such day on Sunday 10th June. The forecast looks better, so fingers crossed. It is also possible that we may squeeze a second day in this year, subject to confirmation, on 5th August.

At our last area meeting, concerns were expressed by some present at the state of our current Internet presence. It was felt to be hard to navigate, the search facility leaves a lot to be desired, and large amounts of outdated content is littered about. I gather we have now awarded a contract to have it upgraded, but I have grave concerns about how fairly the competitive tender process was organized. How can we claim a level playing field, when we pay our existing supplier to write a new specification, and then allow him to bid? The only surprise in the outcome would have been if he'd managed to lose! Council issued an instruction that the minutes of its meetings were to be published on the webpage. If they're there, I can't find them.

Nigel Barker
East Anglia Area Delegate

SOUTHERN AREA REPORT

Things have been a bit quiet and not a little subdued after the loss of our Chairman, Roger. It had been hoped that perhaps Doreen Palmer, our Vice-Chairperson would step into the position. However, this is not to be for although Doreen was a great help to Roger in all his activities whether at National or Area level, she feels she is not the person to replace him. It is obvious that Roger is a hard act to follow. To date we still have no chairman and there seems a great reluctance for anyone to come forward.

A decision was taken to donate £250 from the Area to Roger's designated charity - The Cancer Charity of the Royal Hampshire Hospital, the hospital where Roger spent so much of his time.

Tomorrow, 10th June a F/W examiners workshop has been organised, where hopefully examiners will judge A and B schedules with deliberate mistakes to see if they come to the same conclusions. This will be held near Yeovil. There is a similar workshop for helicopter examiners down at Poole on 24th June.

We have some of our regular events coming up shortly, mainly Electric Day and Silent Flight.

We have managed to secure a grant for the Royal Victoria Park Show at Southampton in August, so that it will be going ahead this year after much debate.

Stuart Simpson
Area Delegate

North Eastern Area report to Areas Council 9th June 2007.

Area business is going well with the usual good attendances. The Area Chairman, who is also Area PRO, is doing splendid work with the web site he set up last year.

The Teesside MFC has just completed its 3rd 2 day model show, this year incorporating a full-size element, impressing all who attended, more so by the fantastic weather.

A Northumberland school that affiliated to the BMFA as a youth group in March has already a dedicated weekly meeting in the gymnasium. When talking to the lead teacher it was clear they were going down the R/C path, so I indicated that they were missing a great deal by not going down the "build & fly" free flight route.

I should have kept my mouth shut! I got myself conscripted into doing a helicopter workshop and basic flight talk-in to 60 children. As it happened it was so successful they've asked for more of the same in the autumn term with the new influx.

St. Leonard's School, Durham, who've had some success in the flight challenge in the past few years have had to pull out of this years event.

The Local Education Authority require 3 weeks notice of a schools' intent on this sort of venture. Durham to Duxford is at least a four-hour journey (250miles), and the LEA will only allow a driver to operate for 6hours in any 24-hour period carrying children under 16. They also require a risk assessment from Duxford, which they do not have. We looked for accommodation, but Holiday Inns' policy means they will not provide rooms for children under 16. Halls of residence at 4 colleges in the Cambridge area has also failed to materialise due to conference booking etc.

So we had no option but to withdraw.

Allan Weighell FSMAE, North Eastern Area Delegate and Education Coordinator.

Area Council Meeting - 09 June 2007

Western Area Report

Committee

We are pleased to welcome John Stennard, of the Beaufort MAC, as the newly co-opted Area Education Coordinator. With the appointment of John the Western Area committee is virtually up to full strength with only the post of PRO remaining vacant. The duties of PRO are currently carried out by members of the Area Committee as and when required.

Fixed Wing Examiners Workshop

We continue our commitment to the promotion of the BMFA Achievement Scheme, and flying excellence in general, and held our 3rd 'Fixed Wing Examiners Workshop', hosted by the Bristol Radio Controlled MAC, on 25 March 2007. Despite the windy conditions the meeting was well supported and everyone commented that they had gained some insight from the meeting. We thank both Peter Spurway and Terry Rounce who travelled some distance to support the event. The Area have organised a second meeting for 2007 to be hosted by the Frome Model Flying Club on Sunday 15 July 2007. The club is central to the Area and it is hoped that some new faces will be encouraged to attend.

'C' Test Training

After the success of the 'C Test Training Day' last season we have again committed to holding an event later in the year. We have received an offer from the Beaufort MAC who will host the event. The meeting will be open to all pilots and not just those of the Western Area.

Western Area Centralised Free Flight Events

The Western Area Centralised free flight events are held at Merryfield Airfield near Ilminster, and principally attract entries from the South Bristol, Bristol and West and Cornish Vintage Association clubs, together with a number of visitors.

Three of the six events have been held so far this year; sadly the first event was a complete wash-out, with torrential rain and high winds all day preventing any flights. This was a big set back for the Bristol and West Club who were hoping to do well in the 'Plugge' event this year.

The second and third events were held in much better conditions, with between 40 and 50 people attending, and we look forward to continued good weather, high attendances and competitive results for the remaining three meetings.

Nial Ball

133120

Secretary, BMFA Western Area

For Chairman, BMFA Western Area

07 June 2007

Area Council Meeting 09/06/07 Item 9 Midland Area Report

Midland Area Committee is looking forward to hosting the 2007 Festival of Flight at Barkston on Sunday 10th June.

Initial and current interest is high with IMAC joining us this year and Pylon having the opportunity to practice before competing in the USA later this year. Some evidence of general public interest also. C/ L input is strong and will include Vintage T/R ..

We are still building up our overall area website which shows good lines of communication for those in need of enlightenment whilst Club/BMFA business remains quiet. Area AS Co-ordinator is processing several tests including 'E' and welcomes the proposal of 9th June to clarify the system of Chief Examiner's appointment. Basic business and discussion at Committee level is being handled successfully by E Mail .

We are indebted to Eric Clark for his most useful gift of his Gazebo to give us some protection should Barkston be inclement, it will be stored safely for future use. (Thanks Eric) Our education programme is on partial hold just now as schools battle to make sense of educational politics, risk assessment and child abuse. Nil Carburundum!!

Alf Tunnicliffe - Secretary Midland Area, for

George Maynard - Chairman & Council Delegate, Midland Area.

NORTHERN IRELAND REPORT TO AREA'S COUNCIL

June 07

The big news for this report is the forthcoming World Jet Masters competition that is taking place at St Angelo airport Enniskillen. The dates are 5th of July to the 14th. According to the Sub Committee who is responsible for the organisation and running of this event it already has the largest entry, both from the number of countries and the number of pilots of any WJM so far held. In figures, ninety five pilots and thirty one countries have registered. N. Ireland has entered a full team of six pilots. On the eleventh of July the organising committee have obtained the Lakeland Forum and a Dart day is being held. Many local school children are expected to attend and the BMFA stand will be present. Good PR

Again on the PR side, the area had a very successful day at the Mt. Stewart open day with around forty models on static display and flying demos running continuously from twelve noon to four in the afternoon. This coming weekend the Ballymoney club intend to fly from Ballycastle to Ilay carrying a miniature bottle of whisky and bring another miniature back from Ilay. This again will be in aid of the RNLI. You may recall from a previous report that they raised £1400 last year flying from Ballycastle to Rathlin and back. Sadly I will be sitting in Leicester and missing all the fun.

The area continues to have a strong relationship with Bombardier and this year again assisted with their Flight Experience Challenge. The winning schools receive £1000 pounds towards their budget and a trip to the Paris Air show. This year showed a considerable increase in the number of schools taking part.

The Seagate Young Innovators event is taking place at the Odyssey on June 12th. Schools from all over the province take part in this and the Area will have the BMFA stand manned as usual.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet a great number of teachers and hand out PR literature.

W H Menary, FSMAE, Area Chairman

Report to Areas Council

from

**North West Area
9th June 2007**

The Area is organizing a number of events during the year, and soon to come is the prestigious Eddie Riding Trophy at Woodvale for Free Flight Scale models.

This event has a new class this year, and due to the publicity in the press, the interest in it has been very high – approximately 50 people have asked me for rules, or bought plans, etc.

I doubt however that they will all arrive at the venue on the day – knowing the attrition rate in test flying free flight models – especially scale ones!

There are also two other events to take place – one is the successful RAF Shawbury fly-in in July, and the other is to be held in the Stoke on Trent area sometime later in the year.

In October, we will be starting the 7 monthly indoor meetings at Rochdale throughout the winter.

Attendances are still relatively low at Area meetings, despite encouragement being meted out to clubs in the Area – it seems they only wish to turn up if they have a problem that we might be able to solve – although it does not help our attendances, it is nice to know the clubs feel we can help in this way.

We are looking at a change of venue for the meetings as it is generally felt the present room has become a little tired in its' décor over the last 200 years!

We are looking at an Examiners seminar as an Area committee, but there appears to be little enthusiasm from the member clubs as to where and how to organise it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Jones', with a long horizontal line underneath it.

Royal Air Force Model Aircraft Association (Area 14) Report to Areas Council June 2007

The most significant activity for this period was the very successful RAFMAA Warbirds event. The event was held at RAF Scampton over the Easter weekend in April and attracted a large number of pilots and models. This year built on the success of the 2006 event and included a number of well known pilots and models. Being an ex-Lightning engineer, the highlight for me personally was the sight of Dave Johnson's mighty turbine powered Vulcan flying in loose formation with two scale turbine powered Lightnings. Set against the blue sky in the circuit, what could have been more appropriate or evocative over RAF Scampton, a previous base for the Vulcan Force. The diversity of models from WWI up to present day was exactly what this event is about and all who took part over the two days seemed to enjoy the opportunity to fly in a relaxed but disciplined way on a major airfield. We hope to hold our 3rd Warbirds at RAF Scampton at the same time next year. An article by Alex Whittaker is in the July edition of RCM&E.

The next major event in our calendar is our annual Fly-in at RAF Waddington. This is a RAFMAA Members only event and acts as a warm-up for the main RAFMAA Championships in September. We hope to have gliding, control line and R/C power (IC and electric) attending on 21st/22nd July.

We have recently received a number of requests from members of the public, who have no Service connection, to join RAFMAA. A number of these applicants plainly desire to have access to an airfield and vast expanses of Tarmac and sky. The RAFMAA Charter precludes membership without a Service connection unless there are special circumstances which bring a real benefit to the Association. The rules for operating Clubs on MoD property are complex, and we are reviewing our Charter once again to see what might be possible to change our membership categories as more and more contractors replace servicemen and women on Units, the RAF draw down in personnel continues and our Operational deployments remain high. This is not an easy nut for us to crack but I and the Executive Committee are working hard to come up with something which will reverse our recent decline in membership numbers.

As mentioned above, our main Championships will take place in September at RAF Honington in Suffolk and we are hopeful for a good turnout in all major disciplines. Our AGM takes place during the four day event and we will be trying to secure a speaker for one of the evenings. Last year we were very fortunate to have the company of Neil Tidy of Laser Engines who provided an excellent talk. More on the Championships in the next Report.



M A EVANS
Wing Commander
RAFMAA Chairman

South East Area Report to Areas Council on 9.6.07

The day after the last Areas Council Meeting we held our annual Crawley Indoor event which luckily had no clash with an outdoor free flight meeting this year and the good attendance generated enabled us to achieve a small financial surplus.

Our own outdoor free flight gala was run at RAF Odiham on May 20th, ably CD'd by SAM35 guru, Mike Kemp. This was a celebration of 60 years of free flight at Odiham (not 40 years as quoted in our last report) and the weather proved to be idyllic for a change, resulting in a most successful meeting.

In our last report we mentioned that we were in the throes of arranging for some of the late Harold J Towner's memorabilia to be transferred to the BMFA archives under the jurisdiction of Kath Watson FSMAE. Since then the Towner family have been giving much thought to this situation. There are apparently legal difficulties in transferring control of the many Towner plans and it is felt that the models are in too sorry a condition to be shown, so a current aeromodelling member of the family is to commence restoring them. Whether they will subsequently be able to be included in the BMFA archive remains to be seen.

Our Education Co-ordinator has been busy with two days in March at the usual annual Science week of the Dartford Girls Grammar School in company with his London Area counterpart and others. Then, details were received of Flight Challenge entries including two South East schools, so visits were made to each in order to familiarise them with the running of the competition and give tips on building and trimming the models. One of the schools, in Gillingham, was so impressed by the visit that they are organising a school gliding day (before Duxford) and have asked our Ed Co-ord back to oversee and demonstrate with some of his models.

After the Flight Challenge later this month, which will be attended by our Area Chairman and Education Co-ordinator, the latter is booked to do four days at a school in Ealing for children with learning difficulties, again with members of London area. However, being now in his 81st year, he is not sure he can stand the pace!

In an addendum to our last report, it was mentioned that as part of their Centenary celebrations, a local Air Scout troop was to visit one of our club's flying sites where they would get flights in a microlite and, as a side benefit, the club would give them buddy box experience on the models. Unfortunately, parascending was also added to the list of activities, and it was thought that this would make it too dangerous to fly the models at the same time, so arrangements are to be made for the scouts to make a special visit when only the model flying will take place.

Arrangements are well in hand for our Area Scale Day using the Bickley club site on July 1st and our thermal soaring extravaganza, the Towner Trophy, in late September .

Area meetings continue to be poorly supported and we are looking forward to hearing with interest, the results of the Midland Area experiment on conducting these meetings by email.

Keith Miller FSMAE, Council Delegate

BMFA South Midland Area

Report to Areas Council for 9 June 2007

The South Midland Area held its second Area Committee meeting of 2007 on 1 May, and it was attended by 16 people representing 12 clubs from the Area.

The Area's activities are predominantly those of reviewing, at its meetings, the agenda for upcoming BMFA Council meetings. There seems to be little momentum within the Area for establishing Area events, though the regular meetings do act as a vehicle for clubs to compare notes and experiences. The Area, although not holding its own events, does sponsor glider competitions held by one of the clubs, FACCT, and control line competitions organised by the Chiltern Flyers and Milton Keynes Modellers clubs.

Apart from reviewing Council agendas and sharing experiences, the other major activity taking place at Area meetings is the review and raising of proposals to put before Council. In this activity, we've been quite productive in the last couple of years, and are pleased to have instigated, as well as supported, a number of initiatives within the BMFA.

At the latest meeting, the attendees did discuss whether we should conduct more of our business electronically – by email and telephone - rather than gathering to meet face-to-face. We decided very quickly that we felt we gained far more from our current approach than adopting a more remote style. Without face-to-face meetings, it was felt that the Area could easily become moribund. However, we are keen to understand and learn whether others' moves in the direction of managing Area business remotely are successful and whether we could fruitfully adopt some measure of change.

Ian Self – Secretary: BMFA South Midland Area.

LONDON AREA REPORT – JUNE 2007

The fact that there are no major items to report concerning the Area presumably means that all is going reasonably well.

The chairman, Terry Rounce spoke at an Area meeting of the importance of maintenance and thorough checks of RC aircraft, engines, batteries and chargers.

Area members Terry Rounce, Malcolm Wood and Martin Dilly were again involved with the model flying element of the annual Science Week at a girls' school at Dartford, together with SE Area's Keith Miller.

The Area was tasked with running the two-day London Gala on Area 8 on Salisbury Plain over the May Bank Holiday. This involved seventeen events, and without the help of a Western Area colleague would have been too much for Martin Dilly, the sole London Area CD.

There was a suggestion at an Area meeting that an achievement scheme for control-line might be useful during negotiations with local authorities. The CLTC may care to give this some thought.

Martin Dilly
Area Delegate

4.6.07

BMFA Northern Area Chairman's Report to Council June 2007

It is with sadness we have to report the death of Derek Haviour at Easter due to an accident with a ladder. Derek served on the Committee for many years as Member and Vice Chairman.

The Area is running smoothly thanks to the efforts of the main Officers, and Andy Symons has kept the Website up to date.

Despite the generous prizes on offer the Area Photographic Competition has had little support so we have extended the deadline to October 31st to give entrants more opportunities for that winning shot at the summer shows.

Our winter indoor RC flying at Garforth showed a tendency to Helicopters being the most popular model, although these need more supervision than fixed wing.

The preparations for our attendance at The Real Aeroplane Co's 'International Fly-In Brighton on July 14/15' are well advanced with a good cross section of models promised for demo flying. This is a first for us and should be an interesting weekend. Brighton was used in some of the filming of 'Flyboys' which has just been released.

There is a change to the Rufforth Show on August 12/13th as it is being run by the LMA and thanks must go to them for providing us with a good size space for our Stand. After the hugely successful Fly-In at Castle Howard last year we are looking forward to an even better one on Sept 15/16, application forms can be downloaded from the Website www.na-bmfa.org

All we need now is some good weather.

John Thompson 6th June 2007