

MINUTES

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on the 9th October 2021 at 12.30pm via Zoom
Provisional until confirmed at the next Area Council Meeting.

PRESENT

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Mark Bennis | Honorary Secretary / Meeting Chairman |
| Simon Vaitkevicius | Records Officer / Meeting Vice-Chairman |
| Paul Hoey | East Anglia Area Delegate |
| Steve Mason | Midland Area Delegate |
| Martin Dilly FSMAE | London Area Delegate |
| John McNamara | Northern Area Delegate |
| Martyn Kinder | North-West Area Delegate |
| Duncan McClure | South Midland Area Delegate/AS Controller |
| Stuart Willis | South East Area Delegate |
| David Burstow | Southern Area Delegate Alternate |
| John Harris | Western Area Delegate |
| Peter Disney | South West Area Delegate / RNMAA Del |
| Peter Edmondson | Northern Ireland Area Delegate Alternate |
| Ian Nelson BEM | RAFMAA Area Delegate |
| In Attendance | |
| Linda Harding | Minute Taker/Office Manager |
| Andy Symons | Club Support Officer / Webmaster |

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 30th January 2021.
Note: To be carried out online via the online Areas Council Forum
- 4 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 30th January 2021 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 5 To receive reports **via the online Areas Council Forum** from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.
 - a) Power
 - b) Silent Flight
 - c) Actions arising from the above reports.
- 6 Presentation Mag 7
The Areas reorganisation and constitution.

- 7 Full Council Strategic Review
Implications – general feedback / discussion
- 8 Presentation from Paul Hoey:
Update on the Centenary Planning specifically affecting Areas.
Delegates to discuss their role in maximising the opportunities it presents.
May's Flightfest
- 9 To receive reports **via the online Areas Council Forum** from Area Committees or Co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting, including the Achievement Scheme Review Committee.
 - a) Actions arising from the above reports.
- 10 To receive any reports **via the online Areas Council Forum** from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.
 - a) Actions arising from the above reports.
- 11 Area Council Funding
- 12 To confirm dates of Areas Council Meetings 2022.
- 13 Any Other Business.
Note: Items for Any Other Business must be handed to the Chairman of the Meeting or the Office Manager, by email mark.benns@btinternet.com / linda@bmfa.org before the meeting commences.

Duncan McClure (South Midland Area Delegate & AS Controller) was appointed as Vice-Chairman of the meeting.

The Chairman announced the sad news that Terry Rounce FSMAE had passed away. Terry was formerly Chairman of the ASRC and London Area Chairman. Martin Dilly FSMAE provided a more detailed insight into the work Terry did for the Association. He will be sadly missed.

MINUTES

A1270/10/21 (1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from the following:
Maurice Doyle, Northern Ireland Area Delegate
David Smith, Southern Area Delegate.
Andy Potts, Mid-West Area Delegate

A1271/10/21 (2) Request for permission to be absent.

There were none.

A1272/01/21 (3) Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 30th January 2021.

There were no corrections.

Proposed by the South-West Area Delegate
Seconded by the RAFMAA Delegate and carried unanimously.

A1273/10/21 (4) Matters/Actions arising from the meeting on 30th January 2021 that are not included on this Agenda.

ACTION / NOTES

Page 5

- A1264/01/21(9) Reports – Western Area reported the Chairman and Secretary were not receiving electronic communication from the office – The Western Area Delegate advised that this issue seems to have been resolved. The Chairman advised that new procedures will be introduced also, when communicating with Specialist Bodies to ensure they are fulfilling their duties in accordance with the ToR for Specialist Bodies.

This concluded Matters Arising.

A1274/10/21 (5) To receive reports (via the online Areas Council Forum) from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.

APPENDIX A Written Report

The AS Controller reiterated his concerns vis a vis the status of Devon and Cornwall divide going forward. Geoffrey Bell has been assisting with looking after the ACEs in Devon, but the committee is depleted. We don't have a mechanism to continue if we don't have a committee.

The Chairman commented that his aspiration is that if the Mag7 reorganisation of Areas is implemented, this will address the issue. The South-West Area Delegate commented that there is a groundswell of members within Cornwall and Devon who would be amenable to the Areas merging.

It was agreed the best way forward in the short-term would be to invite all members in Cornwall and Devon to a zoom meeting to discuss reconstituting as South-West Area.

- a *Actions arising from the above report.*
Chairman to coordinate with the Club Support Officer and the AS Controller to instigate a meeting.

David Burstow (Southern Area Delegate alternate) offered his assistance if required.

**CHAIRMAN /
AS CONT'LLR/
CSO**

A1275/10/21 (6) Presentation Mag 7

The Areas reorganisation and constitution.

Martyn Kinder (North-West Area Delegate) provided a progress report and guided the meeting through the process of how the Mag 7 arrived at the draft version of the Areas Constitution, which was uploaded to the Areas Council Forum.

The group have regular meetings and are working very well as a team. He hopes to get the 'Guide to Areas Constitution' document completed within the next few weeks.

Feedback and suggestions from Areas is very much welcomed and can be communicated by emailing Martyn at martyn@czd.org.uk We need the input to help flesh out how Areas should work and ultimately, through discussion at future Mag 7 meetings, produce workable documents to put forward for consideration at Areas Council.

The discussion continued, also considering the recent proposal to September Full Council meeting regarding implementing a new role of 'Members Director'.

A very lengthy and useful discussion ensued. In practical terms, there is clearly more grounding needed to be able to move forward.

The Chairman will arrange further online meetings as required, to discuss updates and developments on the Areas structure, so that he can feedback to the Executive Strategic Review meeting.

Summary of areas to focus on and actions where necessary.

- More checks and balances are required.
- Areas need to be more visible to members and it is crucial that Areas can function as a valuable tool for members and clubs.
- There is the general support for restructuring. How Areas and Technical Committees coordinate their feedback, and the Directorship, is still in abeyance.
- How do Areas have their representation at Directorate level?
- Areas were encouraged to use the much-improved communication channels instigated by the Club Support Officer and it has been a huge benefit for those Areas that have subscribed so far.

Post Meeting Notes:

The Mag7 continue to meet on a regular basis, the main focus being the Areas structure going forward. Martyn Kinder (North West Area & Mag7 Member) is collating Areas feedback to provide an update to Areas Council.

The Chairman called a meeting on 20th October 2021 to further discuss the Areas Structure and to consider the update provided by Martyn Kinder.

A1276/10/21 (7) Full Council Strategic Review

Implications – general feedback / discussion.

Mostly covered in the previous discussion.

The Chairman reiterated that it is important that Areas submit their comments and thoughts, and to use the Areas Council Forum for this, so that he can provide feedback to the Executive Strategy Meetings.

Post Meeting notes:

The Chairman called a meeting on 19th January 2022 to review the update on the Strategic Review presentation by the BMFA Chairman, at the Full Council Meeting on 8th January 2022.

A1277/10/21 (8) Presentation from Paul Hoey.

Update on the Centenary Planning specifically affecting Areas.

With the aid of screen-sharing, Paul Hoey (East Anglia Area Delegate & Chairman of the Centenary Group) provided a presentation, which is a follow-up to the presentation at the recent Full Council Meeting.

The real focus is encouraging Areas to support the Association in their Centenary Year. We can provide guidance and help so they in turn can encourage clubs to participate and enjoy the ethos of the Centenary celebrations.

Ultimately, the aim is to celebrate our heritage and re-engage past modellers and recruit newcomers. This comes down to clubs and how we engage them. We also want to promote a positive awareness of model flying.

The programme for celebration events at the National Centre is coming together nicely, as is the exhibition.

Next May has been designated as the flightfest month, but ultimately it will be ongoing every year. Hopefully it will kickstart with the Centenary year. We hope to get as many clubs as possible participating in some way. The core message from the planning group, is that it doesn't have to be a special event and it doesn't have to happen in May. We just want the clubs to participate in some way and brand it a Centenary event. The aim is to raise the profile of model flying and the BMFA/SMAE. It will be a simple, automated process to organise and promote events and there is nothing for clubs to be daunted by.

Funding for Centenary planning has been allocated but it is incumbent on Areas to submit their annual estimated budget, incorporating estimated funding for centenary events they are planning as soon as they can. We need to start looking at what funding will be required.

It was suggested it might be cost effective to obtain costings for the bulk purchase of corporate gazebos for Areas/Clubs use. Andy Symons will explore this further with Manny Williamson.

Andy Symons (Webmaster & Club Support Officer) is working on building the Centenary website and Areas will be able to submit proposed events for uploading to the website.

Cont/...

Some of the Areas are already actively involved in organising the model flying element at local shows taking place next year. Paul Hoey said it would be useful to know what events are planned. He will circulate a spreadsheet to Areas for them to populate, which will help to provide an overview of what is happening.

A1278/10/21 (9) To receive reports (via the online Areas Council Forum) from Area Committees or Co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting, including the Achievement Scheme Review Committee.

Most of the Areas submitted reports and they were uploaded to the Areas Council Forum.

APPENDICES B – M Written Reports from the following Areas:

East Anglia, London, Midland, Northern, North East, North West, South Midland, South East, Southern, South West, Northern Ireland, RAFMAA.

a Actions Arising from the Reports

The South West Area Delegate highlighted the Area's concern mentioned in his report, of the recent publication of a draft change to Dartmoor National Park byelaws, which will effectively ban model flying on the moor. The CEO is aware and will be dealing with it from a National Governing Body prospective, on behalf of the Dartmoor RC Slope Soaring Club.

There has been a strong input to the consultation process from local flyers. The consultation period started on 22nd September and will run for six weeks. The link will be uploaded to the Areas Council forum and everyone was encouraged to register their objections. The Chairman asked that this is done in a polite manner.

The South East Area Delegate offered to forward to the South West Area Delegate a copy of the agreement they have secured with the Conservators of Ashdown Forest, when they encountered similar issues. The South West Area Delegate was very grateful for this.

The Chairman reminded Delegates that these actions are a perfect example of what Areas can do for local clubs and why it is necessary to maintain the Areas structure. We should be spreading the word to clubs so that they are aware of the level of support we are able to provide.

A1279/10/21 (10) To receive any reports (via the online Areas Council Forum) from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.

There were no reports.

A1280/10/21 (11) Area Council Funding

The Chairman confirmed that having discussed with the Honorary Treasurer, it has been agreed the same budget as the previous year will apply, moving forward. We understand that there will still be some residual from the previous two years because of Covid.

As not all Areas have submitted their budgets, the Chairman respectfully reminded Delegates to chase their Treasurers for a response. We need sufficient information to be able to project a forecast on what we need to spend, especially for the ensuing Centenary year.

AREAS

A1281/10/21 (12) To confirm dates of Areas Council Meetings 2022.

The Chairman thought it would be more beneficial to schedule an interim meeting to review Areas Structure and gather some feedback and ideas to support the Executive and provide some guidance in their decision-making process. If anyone has any ideas and thoughts they would like considered for discussion at the meeting, they can email the Chairman mark.benns@btinternet.com

The Committee agreed that it would be useful for a member of the Executive to be present at the discussion meeting and maybe even other meetings going forward, with the idea of working collectively to start thinking about how rules and responsibilities will change as a result of the Strategic Review.

The meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 20th October 2021 at 7pm. All Areas that can attend are welcome.

A1282/10/21 (13) Any Other Business.

Question from Northern Area Delegate reference Chacksfield House
– The Chairman confirmed that the plan is that within the next three years Chacksfield House will be disposed of; no exact decision has been made yet, but the likelihood is it will be sold, to avoid any ongoing risks and that the headquarters will move to the National Centre at Buckminster.

Club Support Officer/Webmaster

– Everyone will be aware that we have recently introduced a new membership type for drone flyers; BDF (British Drone Flyer). Our aim is to try and build up a community of drone flyers but to do this effectively we need the involvement of Areas, possibly to appoint a member of the Area as a drone representative and to some degree, to act as a mentor.

The type of member we are targeting will not necessarily be a member of a club, but the idea will be to arrange meet-ups at various locations locally to the specific Area and for them to be able to talk to like-minded people. Ideally, the Area drone representative would also act as a social media representative and promote the BDF membership as much as possible.

We have also opened an online pub called 'The Wobbly Gimbal' and the 'doors' will be open once a month. We are trying to get a community cohesion and getting people to realise that joining an Association is more than just the insurance.

Initially, we are asking Areas to scout for anyone who might fit the role. The CSO will be sending out an email to Areas outlining the necessary information.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4pm.

Achievement Scheme Controllers Report (v1.1)

As Both Scheme Controller and ASRC Rep. to Council, I have attended all of the ASRC, Full Council and Areas council meetings held this year.

With the lifting of lock-down restrictions, it's been a busy season for myself, the ASRC and the scheme in general, which is good to see. There has undoubtedly been a certain amount of 'making up for lost time', and members' interest in the various tests certainly remains high, probably as a result of the legislative changes over the last year or so, and an increasing awareness that being able to demonstrate 'competency' is generally a good thing.

Hopefully you are aware that the ASRC 'Training & Testing days' (piloted at Buckminster) have proven to be very popular, and as a result, the initiative is being promoted and rolled-out nationally with the help of Areas. The ASRC and I see these events as the natural progression / successors to our earlier Examiner and Instructor workshops, and they are certainly far more popular with members, simply because they are more relevant. These events should also help Areas establish 'regional centres' or whatever we want to call them.

As part of promoting the 'training & testing days', over the last few months I have organised and chaired two 'Zoom' meetings for Area co-ordinators, which have been well received and proven very productive. I see this as an excellent line of communication for the future. We can meet at relatively short notice, for zero cost, and can deal with topical matters in a timely and efficient manner, and more importantly, the Areas are involved in the process.

As I hope you will appreciate, much of the work of Scheme Controller takes place effectively 'behind the scenes' as it usually involves personal email and telephone communications. This generally means answering members' queries and questions, but also resolving any issues, anomalies or disputes. Whenever possible and where applicable, I endeavour to involve the relevant ASC and sometimes the Area chairman in the 'remediation' process, as I know some of you will be aware. I'd just like to take the opportunity to say thanks to those of you who have been able to help in such matters.

I have two notable if somewhat extreme examples that I'd like to share; the first being a recent case of an Examiner who was woefully out of date with legislative changes, which was brought to my attention by a telephone conversation from a candidate who, on questioning, was clearly far better informed than the examiner! It was this incident that subsequently prompted the action by the ASRC to make it compulsory for all examiners for 2022 and beyond to hold a current Registration Competency Certificate (RCC).

Another (very unusual) enquiry involved an individual who had apparently been charged a significant sum (several hundred pounds in total) for a variety of achievement scheme tests, by a 'bogus' training company, none of which were credited to him on the portal. The important word in the above sentence is 'apparently', as in spite of our best endeavours, neither myself, the Club Support Officer, or the ASRC were able to a) Identify the 'bogus' training company or indeed if it ever existed, or b) Identify if the complaint from the individual was genuine! Thanks need to go to Julie in the office for spotting an anomaly on the portal and flagging it up.

I will be mentioning that all scheme tests are free in my next article for BMFA News. Just in case anyone was thinking that things have gone seriously to pot(!) I should stress again that both of the above are extremely unusual and isolated cases. However, they do demonstrate some of the more 'interesting' things that can cross my desk... Thankfully, most of the cases I am called upon to deal with are simple issues of mis-interpretation/clarification of scheme rules, lost certificates, and occasional errors during the examiner re-ratification process.

Rather than included the details here, can I just refer you all to the recent ASRC report to Full Council, which contains further information relating to key developments in the scheme for this year and beyond.

I have had some preliminary discussions with the Hon. Sec. about the potential reinstatement of the South West Area (Devon & Cornwall). An Area committee is needed to revitalise the Scheme in the south west, as several ACEs have recently retired from the role, making it difficult to appoint new Club Examiners. I'd welcome the opportunity to discuss this during the meeting.

And finally, the ASRC and I are about to start the annual review of all scheme materials, which will include the necessary changes to the Achievement Scheme Handbook to capture some of the things mentioned above.

Duncan R McClure
Achievement Scheme Power and Silent Flight Controller
October 2021

PROVISIONAL

**British Model Flying Association
East Anglia Area**

Over the year the East Anglia Area has had to adapt to new ways of working. Area meetings held via Zoom have made them more accessible and participation increased when Ian Pallister, Mark Bennis or Andy Symons were guest speakers.

Looking to the future a challenge for the Area is increasing the number of volunteers engaged in Area events and in particular succession planning for committee posts to refresh the work of the Area.

Despite various covid lockdown restrictions flying has continued across the Area when permitted and the continued use of RAF Sculthorpe for Area events has been welcomed. The 2021 Area Gala, for a number of Free Flight classes, was well attended and, hosting the annual Bowden Contest and precision free flight event for the Stan Horne Trophy added to the diversity of events for competitors.

Whilst the early season Achievement Scheme workshop had low attendance the trend has been for Area Chief Examiners to be providing more support locally to clubs and individuals. Finally, a new pilots day for those wishing to develop their fixed wing aerobatics skills often as a precursor to the B Certificate.

In summary the Area has worked hard to make the most out of a difficult time and we look forward to opportunities in 2022 to celebrate the diversity of model flying during the BMFA centenary.

Paul Hoey
Area Delegate

London Area Report to Areas Council

Flying has been a bit sluggish in returning to pre-Covid levels and the recent fuel shortages in the London area have not helped. However, the Concord club has been very active in training new members and at last count passed four on their A certificates and two on B certificates, with a further three almost ready for testing.

Eynsford Helicopter club's scale and open day had 20 pilots flying and their three quad racing events attracted good numbers of competitors.

There is some concern at reports of a flyer who has been barred from some local clubs having obtained 'permission' from Croydon Council to fly gas turbine RC models from the Three Kings club control-line circle at the former Croydon Airport. The site is about 100 yards from a busy A23 road, Purley Way and not regarded as suitable for this. The person concerned is reported to have uttered threats against anyone who interfered.

Plans for centenary events will be discussed at the November Area meeting.

It has been confirmed that there will be no Model Engineering Exhibition at Alexandra Palace in 2022.

Martin Dilly

7-10-21

Midland Area Report

Emails are sent to all club Chairmen and Secretaries but response has been poor. Hopefully when we can direct emails to all individuals in the Area this will shake up the clubs to attend Area Meetings. Zoom was opened up to all clubs to use for their meetings and some actively used it but many seemed to be unsure about it. Hopefully this will improve over the winter months.

The Midland Area Fly-in at Buckminster was supported by 16 clubs and a great day was had by all that attended the event. Hopefully this will continue next year and grow. The event was sponsored by Optifuel and Elite Workwear UK.

Although this was a success, Buckminster is a problem to the Area. It is considered as being too far for clubs to travel for a day's flying, therefore some clubs did not pass the invitation onto their members (hopefully this will be sorted as mentioned earlier). Additionally, clubs are showing reluctance to engage in holding any Achievement Scheme test and examiner days because the apparent attitude is "why not go to Buckminster" as events are held there.

We Have an initiative being worked on to celebrate the centenary and when it is sorted, we will forward it to the centenary committee. We are trying to set up test days all around the region but clubs are asking 'what is in it for them?' Our aim is to try and get more examiners in clubs, ideally at least 3 in each club.

On a positive note, we loaned 2 Area Chief examiners to the Northern Region for one of their test days which went well.

Steve Mason

PRO

Northern Area Delegates Report

2012 has seen the model flying scene in the Northern area gradually beginning to return to a situation approaching normal. The Northern area held a meeting, via zoom on the evening of Wednesday the 6th of October. As well as the normal day to day running of the area, a good deal of time was spent discussing plans for the Centenary. We are hoping to hold Flight Fest again at Pontefract racecourse as in past years, but also to hold a second event at the Winterton Club site in North Lincolnshire. Both are pencilled in for the month of May.

We are also working on an exhibition of model aircraft over a weekend to be arranged at the Yorkshire Air Museum at Elvington, near York. We are also intending to contact other Museums in the area to see if we can gain some interest. We intend to contact the Royal Armouries in Leeds and the National Museum of Film and Science in Bradford. These events are very much in the early stages of planning but with only a few months to go before 2022 dawns, we are making a start.

We intend to make the best use of the opportunity of the Centenary to encourage members of the public to come and join in the sport of model flying.

As an addendum to the ASC's report below, we agreed at our meeting that we would aim to hold 3 achievement scheme days in 2022, such has been the take up and positive feedback from the days that we held in 2021.

The Northern Area discussed topics pertaining to the BMFA survey and expressed a desire to see the full results of that survey. This is therefore a request for the BMFA to provide this information, either in its raw state or as a synopsis following analysis.

The following are reports from the officers of the Northern area:

Treasurers Report for meeting of BMFA Northern Area Committee 6th Oct 2021

The Accounts are currently out for Audit.

A full list of Income and Expenditure will be advised at our next meeting, probably alongside our AGM.

Current Account totals are as follows:

Accounts:-

| | | |
|---------|---|---------|
| Current | - | 3548.91 |
| Deposit | - | 4876.13 |
| Cash | - | 41.21 |
| Total | - | 8466.25 |

Northern Area ASC Report

As yet I've only one event to report on.

The Northern Area held the first achievement scheme day on the 21st August 2021 kindly hosted by the PANDA's flying club at their site on Pontefract Racecourse. The day was a resounding success considering the bad weather forecast. We had plenty of candidates turning up for A and B tests and at the end of the day we had 5 successes. The supplied breakfast and lunch was greatly appreciated by all especially the lunch break where many discussions took place under the gazebo sheltering from the rain. I have had quite a number of positive feedback messages from attendees some of whom have already booked for our next achievement scheme day on the 26th September. I have been asked if there will be more than 2 next year and this is something that we as an area are looking into to.

I feel the energy and expense is well justified in helping members attain their goals and promoting safe and legal flying.

Charlie Lee
Northern Area ASC.

BMFA Northern Area Committee, Officers Reports, October 2021.

The year has proved difficult for the Area to offer Education Support due to various restrictions and guidance to be followed as required by Government during the public control measures implemented to tackle COVID-19 in 2021.

An opportunity occurred during August 2021 for the BMFA Northern Area to attend the Large Model Association Elvington weekend, and as Education Office, I arranged for the Northern Area to attend over the two days with the BMFA show stand.

I also arranged an adjacent stand for my own club, the York Model Aircraft Society (YMAS) and both stands had a very good weekend in connecting with the public attending and taking the opportunity to promote the sport of Model Flying.

The BMFA stand was manned by Tim Haigh, Chairman Northern Area and Charlie Lee, Northern Area Achievement Scheme. Both reported a very successful weekend.

The York Model Aircraft Society also had a very successful weekend with public visiting the stand. Of those visiting, YMAS had about a dozen expressing a keen interest to join the club and around six of those have since visited and joined the club.

The stand was manned over the two days by YMAS members, Dougie I'Dell, Jon Edison, David Swales, Alan Davies, Paul Lewis and Robert Thompson.

Following attending, I wrote a letter of thanks to Paul Needham, LMA for inviting both groups to attend and gave him a report on our mutual success over their weekend meeting.

Paul was very pleased to support us both and has extended an invitation for Northern Area and YMAS to attend again next year.

On another note, I have been promoting the BMFA Achievement Scheme within YMAS and we have had a good response within the club.

A number of members have attended Pontefract to take A and B certificates and have been successful.

YMAS give their thanks to both BMFA Northern Area and PANDAS for providing the opportunity to take the tests and gain guidance and advice on the day of attending.

In looking forward to 2022, the BMFA Centenary year, I look forward to a wider opportunity to visit area clubs and groups and promote the further education opportunities that the Northern Area can assist with.

Robert Thompson, Education Officer.

Northern Area Chairman's Report

Despite the challenges that the modelling fraternity has had to face during the Covid 19 pandemic the green shoots of "some form of normality" seems to be happening within the various clubs across the area, with quite a few clubs holding events and trying to make the best of what remains of the season.

Northern Area is still serving its members and clubs in Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire. From the easing of the lockdown and covid restrictions the area has been involved in a few events trying to promote and support this great hobby of ours

One of the first on the calendar in July was the Northern area fly in held at Pontefract Racecourse. As usual the event was graciously hosted by the PANDA`S club without whose support the event would not have taken place and thanks must go to all those who got involved, came along and helped to make the event a success. It was the first time that the event incorporated a Swap-meet, which whilst not huge did perhaps attract a few extra people that would not have come along just for the fly –in, also it provides a good starting block for building on next year should the event be run again. Something which personally I hope takes place.

In August the area attended the Elvington LMA event and manned the BMFA tent. Whilst the weather decided not to play ball, the event was however an opportunity to be able to get to meet people and demystify the workings of the area. We were also to be able to provide support to members who stopped by to ask questions and have a chat. Thanks to those who helped out with the running of BMFA stand and assisted in the setting up and taking down after the show.

The Area also held a couple of Achievement scheme events, one in August and the other in September. Both events took on the format of training and testing days rather than the familiar seminar days. The focus was very much on the practical side of the achievement scheme and mirrored a format that seems to have been successfully used at the National Centre. Both candidates and instructors can come along and Take A or B tests in the required disciplines, it also provides a useful platform for the instructors/examiners to be able to get together over the lunch break and discuss any new legislation, & changes that are required from within the Achievements scheme to keep us compliant with Article 16 etc.

Having attended both days (which were well attended) I can say that the general feedback from the candidates and instructors and examiners was very good. Once again it fell upon Pontefract club to be the hosts and thanks to all the volunteers who gave up their time and got involved to make the event a very good one. Thanks must go to the Northern area ASC co-ordinator Charlie Lee for proposing format, coordinating and running the event well.

As I come to rounding off my report, the great news is that area is just starting to hold the Trinity indoor flying meetings that we have held for the past few years. These events were curtailed by the pandemic so it's great to see them back on the calendar. Once again thanks to those who have been involved in making these events happen for our members.

That's all for now I hope to see you at one of the areas future events.

Tim Haigh

North East Area Report

COVID-19 ground our area to a halt, due to the age of most of our Area committee Zoom meetings would have been nearly impossible. We have not had any requests from clubs for assistance with hosting meetings, or any other problems. We have had 2 area meetings since the restrictions have been lifted, as we meet monthly. However, I missed the first one as it clashed with a club meeting. I did attend our latest Area meeting on Wednesday, Previous to covid we had an average of 15 to 18 attendees this meeting had 11. I presented the report on Full council and the power point presentation, for those present to report to their clubs and we will discuss again next month. I also reflected on the service some of our attendees have given the society.

- Chairman Terry Bailey about 65 years.
- Les Scurfield former delegate about 65 years.
- Treasurer Tom Walker 40 plus years.
- Alan Wieghell previous delegate 35 plus years.
- Secretary & ASC Gary Armstrong 35 plus.
- Myself delegate 20 years.

Which leads me nicely onto my self, after about 18 years, I've Sadly taken the decision that I will not be standing as delegate next year. I've thought about this for quite a while now, and basically carried on to keep an Area presence at council. Unfortunately, with added pressures in my personal and work life. I just feel the time required to fulfil the role isn't always available. Currently if I travel to Leicester to attend the meetings, I'm up at 6.30am and not back home till about 7.30pm. Meetings held on Zoom eases the time constraints a little being from 11am till about 5 pm, still most of the day. However, I feel that you miss out on a lot of the interaction. Prior to that I spend several evenings going over 20 plus documents, that's if they arrive before Friday morning, to allow me a chance to read them as I work till 10pm Friday evening. Then after the meeting I prepare my short report to present at the AREa again, done over several evenings and mornings and edited several times.

Added to this the new society restructuring process, of replacing Area Delegates for a Members Director, I feel our thoughts and opinions and input to council will be severely weakened and will only be put forward if that 1 person is in agreement with 14 others a very slight chance, also the thought process behind 14 people's opinions is reduced to 1, so a lot could be missed. That being said I agree that some change is needed to reduce the amount of unnecessary debate and the number of directors, do we really need a Delegate once this is actioned.

My final deciding point was the fact that for nearly 2 years, all through covid we had no meetings.

In the mean time stay safe and well.

Kind Regards

Tom Jones TMFC Chairman

BMFA North West Area Report

Feedback from a few local clubs indicate that, at a club level, flying is getting back to normal with typical pre Covid attendance levels. Most members seem happy to visit their own patch and meet up with club mates. However, without any concrete evidence, there seems to be a reluctance to travel out of their local area to attend other events. This may be a result of simply getting used to not travelling or possibly a fear due to Covid or perhaps for other economic or social reasons. This is worrying as unless events are supported, they may well disappear. I will be watching the winter indoor events and will review participation levels over the next 6 months.

From the NW Area, we have held the NW Area Sherlowe Aerotow with a second Aerotow to be held later this month. Thanks to John Minchell for organising this and liaising with the landowner. The NW Area Rochdale Indoor has been reinstated with the first of 6 planned events to be held later this month.

St Helens Indoor events are already underway but sadly we still do not have access to the RAF Shawbury sports hall due to Covid restrictions. The DIO will review the policy in the next year. Achievement Scheme. The NW Area is taking part in a trial for ACEs and ACIs to actively work with clubs to help members improve their flying and hopefully take and pass their A or B certificate. As my own club (South Cheshire RCS) is involved with this scheme, I can safely say that feedback has been very positive from our members. Many thanks to our ASC, Kevin Watson, for facilitating this.

The NW Area has made two grants of £250 each to local clubs (Blackpool & Fylde MFC and Oldham MAC) to assist with their respective projects.

On a personal note, I have made 3 club visits this summer. What is concerning was the feedback that we (BMFA/NW Area) were there to interfere or somehow 'police' their activities. I pointed out that I simply wanted to meet the members, introduce myself and perhaps help with any queries or concerns they may have. Once we got over that hurdle, the visits were very productive, and the clubs were pleased that I had taken the time to visit. I am keen to visit any other club in the Area.

Martyn Kinder
NW Area Delegate and Chairman.

BMFA South Midland Area Report

In spite of the pandemic, the South Midland Area has had a reasonably active second half of the year, although certain regular events have obviously not been possible. Attendance at Area meetings has been strong, particularly now that our meetings are held on 'Zoom'. Attendance at meetings generally represents approximately a third of the sixty or so South Midland Area clubs. However, good communications continues with all but a handful of the clubs within the area and they are aware of the 'Areas' process, should they wish or need to engage. A significant number of South Midland Area clubs are either youth groups and or small specialist groups with only a handful of members, which is almost certainly a contributory factor as to why these clubs aren't routinely represented at our meetings.

The changes to the Full Council Agendas and the use of 'Zoom' has definitely made engagement more attractive and easier, particularly in terms of saving travelling time and cost, and our intentions are to continue holding meetings using 'Zoom' in the foreseeable future, and maybe restrict round-the-table meetings to only once a year, probably just for the AGM, restrictions permitting.

Meetings generally produce useful and lively debate across a broad range of topics, with the strategic review and charitable status being of particular interest to members. Meetings generally conclude with a brief report from each of the club representatives, which provides a useful mechanism for clubs to share their experiences and an opportunity for them to pass on information on any issues, events or activities to the other clubs.

All Area committee positions are filled, with the exception of a webmaster, which we are struggling to fill, in spite of us having a nice new website set up for us by the Club Support Officer.

Inevitably some events this year have been affect by COVID 19, including our Examiner/Instructor Workshops, which for several years now have been established annual events. However, following the new initiative from the ASRC intended to encourage new examiner, we will in future be running 'Testing and Training' days and encouraging our Area Chief Examiners visiting clubs to conduct any tests that might be required, and generally make contact and 'spread the word' about the achievement scheme.

On an individual level, I have also been pleased to continue in the role of RC P&SF AS Controller. In this capacity I have attended all of the ASRC meetings, which have been mainly held on 'Zoom', including a series of weekly 'Zoom' presentations on a variety of Achievement Scheme related subjects and tests, which have been very well supported and received. I have also assisted the CEO and the Club Support Officer in the development and updating of the Registration Competency Certificate to align with our Article 16 Authorisation. In addition, on request, I have been continued to analyse data from the membership survey, to help fellow officers, to hopefully boost membership numbers in the future.

I would like to thank the Area Committee for its continued support and guidance in my endeavours, and I look forward to continuing to be able to make a valuable contribution on their behalf.

Duncan R McClure
South Midland Area Delegate

It was not until June that we were able to start running flying events, so our prestigious indoor competition at the K2 centre did not take place. The K2 centre required a £500 non-refundable deposit when booking the hall for the 2022 indoor competition, however, it was agreed by the Area that as we still do not know how things will pan out over the winter with regard to Covid and any restrictions that could be in place, it was decided not to proceed with the event in 2022. This is not a decision we took lightly as its the BMFA's centenary year. We hope that it will run in 2023.

The area sponsored the Junior CP Aero Jets Build and Fly Competition at the ModelAir Scale weekend at Old Warden in July. All the juniors and their parents thoroughly enjoyed themselves. ModelAir plan to continue the competition at future events as it was so well received.

The Long Man licence is now fully funded by the clubs that use the site, and a few people that purchase a subscription to the Area Licence. There is likely to be a shortfall on the funds for the Ashdown Forest licences. This is due to some of the competitions that are run on the Forest not running at the start of the year. The take -up of Ashdown Forest subscription to the Licence by BMFA members has been very good this year, despite the lockdowns at the start of the year. The cost is currently £10, and we will review this at the November Area meeting when we know the final figures.

The Area ran a very successfully Scale Competition at the Hastings Club in September after it was cancelled a couple of times due a flooded strip and date clash,

We have started to email all members in the Area with information regarding Areas activity as it was fairly obvious that Club Committees were not passing the information on to their members. This has been met with everything from 'why are you sending these out' to 'brilliant, keep it up'. We plan to continue sending out emails to all Area members with the option for anyone to opt out should they wish to. Facebook continues to be an effective way of getting information out to members. The Area Scale Competition post and pictures getting 9 shares, 208 engagements and 2761 people reached

Stuart Willis
South East Area Council Delegate.

Southern Area Report

We have again had a quiet year, although most Area clubs have managed to return to some semblance of normal operations. Most clubs are continuing to abide by safe Covid-19 rules, although a minority have abandoned track and trace as a significant number of their members have stopped complying. The Popham Model Show finally went ahead over the weekend of 21/22 August, as did the autumn model show at Bovington Tank Museum. The calendar for 2022 is starting to fill up though, with the expectation that activity will return to more or less normal levels.

Engagement with some local clubs has improved and we now have marginally better attendance at our Area meetings, though there is still a long way to go. The conference room at Popham Airfield will be our regular venue, together with access to Zoom for those who live further afield.

We continue to be frustrated by the faltering process for sorting out Area budgets, and the lack of response to our request for reimbursement of expenses incurred this year.

The progress on the Strategic Review was broadly welcomed at our Area meeting last night, though the wisdom of giving up an owned premises (Chacksfield House) and centralising to a leased one (Buckminster) was questioned. We would be interested to know what the future strategy is for the Buckminster lease, and what the plans are for the funds from the sale of Chacksfield House.

The text of the helicopter version of 'A Flying Start' has been finalised and agreed with the ASRC, and is awaiting the finalisation of the illustrations.

There is a move within Southern Area to rejuvenate national scale helicopter competitions after about 15 years of no events. Glen Davis, Scale representative on the AHA Committee and a fellow club member, is coordinating this and organised a successful event at Buckminster in August at which Scale Technical Committee members Doug Hunt and Paul Rich provided help and judging expertise. However, we are hampered by the lack of a ratified FAI F4K Sporting Schedule. This has made our interaction with STC rather difficult, and we are restricted at present to competing in the RC4 Light Scale class. Glen and I have drafted a helicopter-friendly schedule and await developments.

On a more positive note, I was approached by the Centenary Committee to help with the helicopter section of the exhibition planned for the Goldsmith Hangar next summer. With some help from our FAI Delegate, and some egg-whiskers with old models and long memories, I am hoping we can showcase the UK involvement in the development of rotary wing model flying.

David Smith
Southern Area Delegate
30 September 2021

South West (Cornwall and Devon Sub-Areas) Report

Cornwall: Only one Sub Area meeting has been held since the start of COVID restrictions in March 2020 and that only made the minimum quorum to go ahead. No apologies were received from several Clubs or the Chairman/ACE. There is no interest in conducting meetings on Zoom, etc. In the last eighteen months, other than some 'thank you' messages and requests to be removed from the dist list, I have only had one return message to the Full and Areas Council meetings feed-back I send after every meeting and that was effectively a nil response, ie unable to suggest any ideas wrt Areas funding. All very frustrating.

Devon: Precipitated by Achievement Scheme examiner issues, there is a ground swell of interest developing in the county and intent to re-form the Sub Area. With the imminent changes to the Areas organisation it is now time to formally address the situation and move forward.

Of great concern is the recent publication of a draft change to Dartmoor National Park Bye-Laws which will effectively ban model flying on the moor. There has been a strong input to the consultation process from local flyers and the issue has been taken up by the CEO on behalf of Dartmoor RC Slope Soaring club.

Peter Disney

South West (Cornwall and Devon Sub-Areas) Delegate

9 Oct 21

Area 13 (Northern Ireland) Report

This year has been significantly affected by Covid restrictions. Clubs have generally limited their activities to their own Members, with few of our normal Fly-ins and other opportunities to meet people from other Clubs. The age and health profile of many Members means that they are more cautious and discourages them from meeting outsiders, which is totally counter to our normal approach.

Area Meetings have been held on Zoom, which is very successful for keeping essential functions up to date, and these have had very good support in trying times.

The Ards MFC put on Static and Flying Displays at an Open Day held by the Ulster Flying Club at Newtownards Airport and were very heartened by the response of the public who made enquiries from all over the Province.

The Northern Ireland Model Soaring Association continued with their Thermal Soaring events at Mallusk, this form of flying lending itself particularly well to Social Distancing.

The Ulster Model Aircraft Club ran a successful Swapmeet at Nutt's Corner on the Market Site, which is open but covered, ideal for our weather and minimum risk of Covid.

We understand that 833 Squadron ATC, based at Aldergrove, a Youth Group, have had an Examiner approved by the ASRC, which is welcome.

Many Clubs have been able to make improvements to their sites despite restrictions, and there are now opportunities to promote events more vigorously next year to help make up for lost opportunities recently. One interesting innovation was at the North Down Club site at Kirkistown, where their Farmer planted Maize, resulting in a crop up to 3 m high. The Club sensibly anticipated the problem if a model was lost in the crop, and purchased a camera Drone. This has already been used successfully to retrieve a wayward model.

The Achievement Scheme is very much a priority for the Area, but there has been very little opportunity to make progress in present circumstances. Next year should see more activity.

Our support for the Students in Queen's University, and our participation in the static and flying displays at the North Down Model Railway exhibition in Bangor have been lost for this year.

The Area is very appreciative of the funds received from HQ for our Monitors, PA System and table runners, which will enhance our PR activities when we have the chance!

Sad news is that the wife of Bob McIvor, our long time Treasurer, has died. The Area has sent its Condolences.

Maurice Doyle
Delegate
Area 13

Area 14 (RAFMAA) Area Report

As with all our other Areas we had a slow/late start to our year. Our first post-lockdown event was our 'Slope 2' held in the Devizes area in June. As is usual with RAFMAA Slope events, we had ever decreasing wind over the weekend. It did give our members a chance for a catch up and lots of stored banter to be released. Before the wind became a mere 'zephyr' we managed to get a couple of Zagi fun fly competitions in.

Our next event was the Annual Championships/Fly-In at RAF Honington, Suffolk. It turned out to be a great success with a good number of attendees. We were able to have our full timetable of events both flying and social. Again, we are indebted to the Station Commander and his team for hosting us. We look forward to going back Honington in 2022.

Events in the pipeline are our annual 'Warbirds over Shawbury' in early October and Slope 1 at the excellent Leek and Moorland area at the end of October.

Our Competition Secretary is already looking at our calendar for next year.

We are delighted to hear the rejuvenation of the RAF Marham Club. It had been dormant in the last few years due to new platforms taking over, COVID and the posting of key personnel in our modelling fraternity. It is credit to the current team that they have been able to work with the Station Management team to effect a successful conclusion.

This is probably the last report from me as RAFMAA BMFA delegate. As I reach my State Retirement age next year, it is time for some younger blood with a fresh outlook to take over.

Ian Nelson
Area 14 (RAFMAA) Delegate.