

BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION SOUTH EAST

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
HELD 16th NOVEMBER 2011**

**PRESENT: BOB CUTTER – CHAIRMAN (FELBRIDGE FLYERS RMFC)
KEITH MILLER – VICE CHAIRMAN, TREASURER, COUNCIL DELEGATE
ALTERNATE, EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR, (TONBRIDGE RADIO FLYERS),
STEVE BROWN – SECRETARY (T.W.R.C.M.)
BOB HART – ACHIEVEMENT SCHEME CO-ORDINATOR (HASTINGS MFC &
WEALDON MFC) RICHARD PIDDUCK (CATERHAM AND DISTRICT MFC)
DAVID LAMBERT (EPSOM DOWNS MAC)
JOHN PRIVETT (EPSOM DOWNS MAC) JOHN ANDERSON (RIDDLESDOWN MFC)**

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE WERE RECEIVED FROM JOHN RICHARDSON, (MAIDSTONE FFG), ROGER MARPLES (EPSOM DOWNS MAC), ALLEN ELLIOTT, JOHN PHILLIPS, MICHAEL GREENSLADE.

2 Minutes of previous O.G.M. held on 21st September 2011 were read and approved. Proposed by Tonbridge and Seconded by EDMAC.

3 Matters Arising:

Keith Miller had spoken to David Phipps regarding the “phasing out” of cheques by the Banks and how, subsequently, Members would pay their renewal subscriptions. This was not seen as a major problem and the use of direct Debits was suggested as a solution.

4 Officers Reports:

Chairman	- Nothing to Report
Vice Chairman	- Report Attached
Treasurer	- Report Attached
Secretary	- Nothing to Report
Council Delegate Alternate	- Report Attached
Achievement Scheme Co-ord.	- Nothing to Report

5 Any Other Business

The date for the Crawley Indoor Meeting has been set for Sunday 5th February 2012. It is hoped that the Crookham Gala Event will not clash.

There is a possibility of the B.M.F.A. South East having a stand at the Brighton Model World show on February 24/26. This is mainly a model railway event, held annually at the Brighton Exhibition Centre and apparently not without a few drawbacks. Bob Hart mentioned that nearby parking is expensive, models and stand equipment would need to be carried some distance into the Exhibition Centre. Several people would be needed to do this to ensure items did not go missing. A flying demonstration had also been suggested. Keith Miller will approach the South East Club’s to establish how much interest there is in this event.

EDMAC asked if there had been any more progress on the Examiners Forum to standardise test requirements and procedures. Bob Hart had spoken to Peter Spurway regarding this. Peter Spurway favours an “in the field” rather than classroom based seminar so a suitable field would need to be found. This would be put to the South East Club’s to find out interest. It was mentioned by EDMAC that the Northern Area had already done this and it probably would be useful to talk to them first.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 25th January 2012 at 8.00pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

Vice Chairman's Report to South East Area meeting on 16.11.11

I attended our annual Towner thermal soaring Trophy at Leigh Park Farm on October 2nd as deputy for our Chairman, who was committed elsewhere.

Kevin Beale and Keith Wright have both retired from acting as CD and Scorer respectively for this event and I would like to place on record the Area Committee's grateful thanks for their dedicated support of this event over very many years. This year, the new CD was Simon Smith and yours truly cared for the scoring. The event was run off in beautiful weather for the time of year and to reflect the current trend catered for both ordinary gliders and electric powered ones. The event was won by well known flyer, Colin Paddon and a report appears in the current SEADOG.

I mentioned in my report to the AGM, the efforts of the organisers of Brighton Modelworld to arrange model flying at their 2012 show which had not been endorsed by us due to possible Health and Safety problems arising from a shared flying area. However, I have now heard from Steve Midson who runs his Midair Models stand at the show, that after his negotiations with the organisers, a dedicated flying area has now been arranged with full depth netting and crowd barriers. Steve is trying to get clubs interested in participating and also wonders if the South East Area might be able to operate a small stand with some of the BMFA merchandise. Perhaps we can discuss this matter further during Any Other Business.

Keith Miller, Vice Chairman

Treasurer's Report to SE Area meeting on 16.11.11

Since our last Area meeting on 21.9.11 there have been the following movements on our current account.

Income

Towner Trophy Receipts	£ 149.00
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Outpayments

Room Hire	£ 24.00
Towner Trophy field hire	75.00
Auditor's travel expense	13.05

The balances of our accounts as at close of business on 15.11.11 were as follows:-

Current Account	£2877.34
Deposit Account	£ 413.67

Keith Miller, Treasurer

Council Delegate Alternate's Report to SE Area Meeting on 16.11.11

I attended the Areas Council Meeting at Leicester on 24.9.11 and report as follows:

The Power Achievement Scheme Controller has received several calls from people concerned about the publicity in BMFA News regarding children who have passed their 'A' certificates. The concern is that this may cause problems in clubs because it has become a competition as to who can get the youngest person through the test. The consensus of Areas Council's opinion was that there is no undue concern with this and we should be encouraging safe flying standards.

The Silent Flight Achievement Scheme Controller had raised concern at the previous meeting that more needs to be done to promote the Silent Flight Achievement Scheme. He has now drafted a letter to predominantly silent flight clubs to draw their attention to the onus of responsibility on them to promote the SFAS and to seek their views as to what more could be done in this regard. It was nice to hear that an additional club Examiner in Silent Flight has been registered in the Sussex area.

The various Achievement Scheme amendments to the Members' Handbook listed in the Agenda (quoted in the recent Club Bulletin) were voted in unanimously.

On the subject of Education, RAFMAA suggested that if we do not do so already, it might be worthwhile adding private boarding schools to the Flight Challenge circulation. They are always looking for new ideas to keep their students occupied during the weekends and basically they have a captive audience. The BMFA Chairman commented that it is crucial that Areas and clubs approach schools personally to be in with a chance of getting them on board for the Flight Challenge – through the post is generally unproductive. There was also a suggestion from Northern Area that the BMFA produces posters to be put up in schools asking if there are staff members or parents interested in aeromodelling and if so to get in touch with us. The Education Working Group is to produce a discussion document on the way forward with the Flight Challenge. Northern Area also suggested that the Flight Challenge format be changed with the competition being held initially at the schools with a BMFA observer present so that the results can be correlated by Leicester office.

The BMFA Classified Ads website now offers commercial banner type advertising and a number of slots are available for forthcoming events. This facility is available for Areas (not clubs) to make use of.

RAFMAA intends to put up proposals for the following:- 1. To introduce a separate insurance classification of for park flyers. 2. Where a fee is being paid for flying instruction, the candidate must be tested for BMFA certification by an independent examiner, not the instructor who trained them.

The PAS Controller said that Area Chief Examiners should by now have the latest version of the Club Examiner's test form but if not received to contact him. He is hoping for feedback as to how the flybarless changes are working for the Heli 'A' and 'B' tests.

I also attended the Society AGM on November 12th and the main items of great interest were, firstly, the proposed increase of £1 to Senior subscriptions was increased to £2 following a motion from the floor. The voting for this was 1157 for, 879 against with 4 abstentions. Secondly, we have changed our insurance brokers which will produce an improved insurance package, including a maximum liability of £25 million instead of the £10million before. Full details will appear in BMFA News shortly.

Keith Miller