SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.
(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the 71st Annual General Meeting held at the Jurys Inn Hinckley Island Hotel, A5 Watling Street, Hinckley, on 17th November 2018. These minutes are provisional until confirmed at the next AGM.

Present

Officers: Chairman Ian Pallister FSMAE
Vice-Chairman Peter Halman FSMAE
Honorary Secretary Mark Benns
Honorary Treasurer Keith Lomax FSMAE
Competition Secretary Jo Halman FSMAE
FAI Delegate Julie Fisher
Records Officer Simon Vaitkevicius

Fellows: M Colling, M Dilly, M Woodhouse, M Fantham, K Watson, A Weighell, R Gowler.

Clubs: Belfast MFC Pontefract & DAS
Birmingham MAC RNMAA
Blackstone MF Ramsey MAC
Blue Sky Aeromodellers Retford MFC
Bromsgrove MFC Richmond & DMAC
Calderdale & Kirkleses MAC Rossendale Valley MFC
Croydon & DMAC RAFMAA
Davidstow MFC Sharston MAC
Delta Haws MFC South Cheshire RC
Dewsbury & DMAC Pontefract & DAS
Exeter & DRCC RNMAA
Felbridge Flyers Radio MFC Ramsey MAC
Feltham & DMAC Rossendale Valley MFC
Flyin Fish MHFC RAFMAA
Gaer Park MFC SAM 1066
Grantham & DMAS Sharston MAC
Helipad MC South Cheshire RCS
Dewsbury & DMAC South Lincs Soarers
Ivinghoe Soaring Association South Norfolk MFC
Keighley & DMAC Teesside MFC
Leicester MAC Vikings FFG
Luton & DMAS Watton RMC
Midlands FFC Wharfedale & DA
North Norfolk Aeromodellers White Horse Model Club
Peterborough MFC Wimborne MAC

Proxy forms were received from the following Clubs and Fellows:
Calderdale MAC, RNMAA.

Ian Pallister FSMAE, BMFA Chairman welcomed everyone to the 71st AGM in our 96th year. He requested that all mobile phones are switched off. He advised those present of the procedures to adopt should they wish to speak or vote.
Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from the following:
David Varallo BMFA Technical Secretary, David Rudd Fellow, John Jones Fellow, Paul Masterman Fellow, Phil Durant Western Area Delegate, Beaufort MFC, Hale Hall MAC.

The Chairman reflected on the past year and paid tribute to some of the distinguished members who had died in the past twelve months, including Chris Moynihan his predecessor as Chairman, Tom Chambers Fellow and Ray Monks a very successful and prolific competitor. Obituaries can be found on the BMFA website.

281/11/18 (1) To receive the Minutes of the 70th Annual General Meeting held on 17th November 2017.
Corrections:
Page 1 – First line, replace “Barceló” with “Jurys Inn”.
Page 9 - Insurance update, 3rd paragraph first line – insert “on” and replace “a” with “the” after “Manny”.

London Area Delegate proposed that the Minutes of the 70th Annual General Meeting held on 18th November 2076, be accepted as a true record of that meeting
Seconded by Grantham & DMAS
Carried by a majority vote – there were 4 abstentions.

282/11/18 (2) To consider and adopt the Company Report up to 31st August 2018.
The Company Report had previously been circulated.
The Chairman provided the following summary and highlighted a few salient points. As spoken in italics.

The most disappointing aspect this year has been the fall in overall membership by about 800. This year, whilst renewals met the historic norm, and the number of member clubs has actually gone up, the lack of new joiners has reduced our membership by just under 1000. The reasons for this are not entirely clear. It may be that the surge in multi-rotor sales and associated short-term memberships over recent years masked an underlying downward trend and we are only seeing the real picture now that interest in drones has peaked. This is conjecture but the figures are a cause for concern and sustaining our numbers remains a top priority. Our new Go-Membership system should enable us to analyse members’ interests and trends more accurately. Paul Tallett has been working hard to raise our profile across various media platforms and has negotiated some significant partnerships with youth organisations. I’m sure he will cover these in his own brief PR report in a few minutes’ time. However, these are long-term investments to sow seeds for the future. In the short term it is at club level where recruiting new members is so important.
As the Financial Report and Accounts show, we are again looking to end the financial year within 1% of the budget this time on the wrong side of breaking even. Our budgeting has always been very tight in order to keep membership fees as low as possible and I commend our Honorary Treasurer on his accurate forecasting and Sian, our Accounts Manager, on her control of the figures. Individual budget holders have also played their part by reining in expenditure. However, next year is shaping up to being even more of a challenge and we shall be hearing from both Keith and Sian shortly when they present the accounts and the proposed budget.

Since my last report we now have more clarity on the impact of unmanned aircraft legislation on traditional model flying. Progress at each stage has been well publicised in BMFA News and on the Website so I don’t propose to go into detail at this juncture or to ask Dave Phipps to do so, other than to thank Dave for his globetrotting efforts to lobby effectively on our behalf. The ‘permission’ allowing certain categories to continue to be flown above 400 feet, and the ‘exemption’ for small FPV operation, were major achievements. However, we’re not out of the woods yet and work continues on several aspects including registration & pilot competency, age limits and potential exemptions for racing drones that only operate at low level.

The first full year of operation at the National Centre at Buckminster has been a resounding success with all flying disciplines making good use of both the flying site and the Events Building. The latter is now titled the Goldsmith Hangar to acknowledge the very generous bequest from Geoffrey Goldsmith. Similarly, the meeting room in the main building has now been named ‘the Moynihan Room’ and we were delighted to host Chris’s widow, Anne Marie, and the rest of the family at Buckminster last weekend to see the site. I must record our thanks to Manny Williamson, Andy Symons, our 2 part-time assistant managers Roy and Steve, and the army of volunteers who continue to develop the facilities and maintain the site in such good order.

The Chairman handed over to Manny Williamson to summarise the year at Buckminster and plans for the future in more detail. Manny gave a detailed but concise Power Point presentation and was applauded.

The return to RAF Barkston Heath for both the Free Flight and Power Nationals was most welcome and thanks must go to the Commandant and Officer Commanding Operations at Cranwell for allowing our use of the site. Both events were very successful although the well-forecasted heavy rain on the Sunday of the Power Nationals significantly reduced the income from spectators and negated much of the wider publicity given to the event this year. Unfortunately, it also had an effect on the number of trophies we will be presenting this evening.

There is now a new Wg Cdr Operations at Cranwell but she has already given positive signs that we would be welcome back next year. Although I have retired and am no longer the RAF Liaison Officer I shall be keeping a close eye on developments and assisting the new RAFLO as much as possible.

This year’s review of safety showed some worrying trends; the number of incidents which have resulted in insurance claims has risen as has the cost of many of those claims. The Vice-Chairman, who chairs the review, has noted that the competition element of the BMFA, where flying is tightly controlled by competition safety regulations, is not the target group who need to attend the safety review meeting. Most accidents occur at clubs so it is the representatives from Clubs via their Areas who should be involved. Therefore, in future the Safety Review will be conducted within the Areas Council rather than by Technical Committee representatives.

Our Honorary Secretary has had an exceptionally busy and productive year, in particular having re-energised the Areas Council and the effectiveness of
communication both within, and between, our Areas. He has also written a new BMFA Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy leaflet, which I comment to you, and conducted a long-overdue review of the Council Handbook, with further revisions in train to streamline our operations. The Achievement Scheme also continues to go from strength to strength under the dynamic ASR with tutorial videos and graphics being produced as well as the popular workshops held at the National Centre.

On the international competition stage we have seen success in two World Championships:

2018 F1D (Indoor Duration) World Championships

Team Bronze Medal:
Team Members:  Mark Benns, Tony Hebb, Hans Staartjes
Team Manager:  Jo Halman FSMAE

2018 F2A (Control Line Speed) World Championships

Individual Bronze:  Paul Eisner

Team Bronze:
Team Members:  Paul Eisner, Peter Halman FSMAE, Ken Morrissey FSMAE
Team Manager:  Val James

UK has hosted 12 FAI World Cup Competitions in 10 different disciplines.

World Cup medals from the 2017 Season
Ian Kaynes FSMAE, Bronze Medal F1Q
Paul Eisner, Silver Medal, F2A
Peter Halman FSMAE, Bronze Medal F2A

FAI Award
Frank Ehling Diploma – John Jacomb, (promotion of aviation through use of models)

RAeC Awards in May –
3 Bronze Maurice Doyle, Ashley Hoyland & Ian Nelson BEM
2 Certificate of Merit Roger Newman, Bryan Spooner
Breitling Trophy Aaron Cole (second year)

It is disappointing that we were not able to ratify a GBR team for the first World Drone Racing Championships in China but there were sound reasons for this, primarily because the FPV Racing Association, the Specialist Body to formulate FPV Racing and Team, Selection rules, had not fulfilled its obligations to publish appropriate BMFA rules. As the GBR National Airsports Control organisation we also made it clear to the FAI that we believed it was wrong for them to authorise a World Championship for F3U drone racing when the rules for the class were still only provisional. This would not have been allowed for any other model class.

I spoke earlier on the excellent job that Paul Tallett, our PR Consultant, has done in stimulating and maintaining high levels of interest in our social media channels, and also developing enduring links with the trade and other external organisations.

The Chairman invited Paul Tallett to provide an update on his achievements this year and his aspirations for the future.

Paul Tallett gave a Power Point presentation and was applauded.
I started by outlining our membership issues, and managing the membership effectively and efficiently is probably the most important task of the BMFA. The clubs and their members are our lifeblood and it is vital that we look after their interests and provide a service that meets their need. The new Go-Membership system is the biggest change in this process probably for a generation. As memberships provide the majority of our income the membership system has a direct influence on our budget.

The Chairman invited Andy Symons and Phil Robinson from the system provided, Azolve, to give their presentations on the system.

Both Andy and Phil gave a Power Point presentation and were applauded.

Finally, on behalf of us all I must acknowledge the dedication and professionalism of our permanent staff in the Leicester office. Their loyalty and experience is second to none and, if you doubt that, you should have seen them, drenched to the skin in torrential rain whilst booking campers at this year's Nationals. I'm sure this wasn't in their terms of reference. They have also accommodated the additional workload of kit production for the education scheme, additional accounts management for the National Centre, and, most recently, migration of the membership management system. A big thank you from us all.

With no further questions the Chairman commended the Annual Report for adoption.

The Chairman proposed that the Company Report for 2018/2019 be adopted.

Seconded by Robin Gowler Fellow
Carried by a majority vote – there was 1 abstention.

283/11/18 (3) To consider and adopt the Accounts and Balance Sheet of the Society, for the year ended 31st March 2018.

The Honorary Treasurer referred to the two documents previously circulated: The Annual Report and Accounts which is the statutory accounts and is the official document representing our turnover and balance that is provided to Companies House; Supplementary Information which is a more detailed document but does not form part of the statutory accounts.

Page 4 of the Annual Report and Accounts shows a surplus for the year after taxation of £22,473.

The Honorary Treasurer handed over to the Accounts Manager to present a summary of the Accounts.

The Accounts Manager provided a very detailed Power Point presentation highlighting the key points from the accounts.

The meeting showed their appreciation of the Accounts Manager with a round of applause. The Honorary Treasurer personally thanked the Accounts Manager for all the hard work she has put in.

We received a written question from Mike Woodhouse FSMAE relating to bequests and donations totalling £87,000 which he believes is not shown correctly in the accounts where this money has been spent.

The Honorary Treasurer addressed the question and highlighted the relevant excerpts from the accounts; however, Mike Woodhouse FSMAE did not accept the explanation.
Questions raised from the floor as follows:

Peterborough MFC - Cash at bank at the end of March 2018 is £138,000 less than the previous year. The Honorary Treasurer provided a satisfactory explanation.

Grantham & DMAS - Clarification as to why the National Centre lease is described as a tangible fixed asset. The Honorary Treasurer provided a satisfactory explanation.

Wimborne MAC – From a transparency point of view should we not be allocating some of the salary costs to the running costs at the National Centre. It was explained that it is difficult to apportion costs as Manny Williamson is based at the National Centre, but a proportion of his time is spent dealing with general BMFA business. If it came to the stage where we had to employ a full-time manager, then those costs would be attributed to the site. The work of both Manny Williamson and Andy Symons at the site is within their existing terms of reference. It is a valid point and it is something that the National Centre Steering Group is constantly looking at. The next set of accounts will show the salary costs of the two part-time staff now employed at the National Centre.

There were no further questions.

The Honorary Treasurer proposed that the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the Society, for the year ended 31st March 2018 is accepted.

Seconded by Kath Watson FSMAE and BMFA Vice-President
Carried by a majority vote – there were 2 abstentions and 1 against

284/11/18 (4) To approve the Budget for the ensuing financial year, and to fix the subscriptions payable by the members in each category for 2020.

The Honorary Treasurer explained the background in relation to the preparation of the budget and guided the meeting through the proposed budget with the aid of a Power Point presentation.

A written question had been received from Mike Woodhouse FSMAE seeking information on whether we knew what the projected financial outrun is for the current financial year, bearing in mind the adverse effects of the loss of members, the bad weather at the Power Nationals and other factors.

The Honorary Treasurer accepted that it is a valid question and historically is not something we have done but have seriously considered and needs addressing. He explained how the budget figures were derived and based purely against the budget and best estimate, the forecast outrun for this year would be a loss of around £8000.

The Chairman commented that the issue is that our biggest income to the budget is membership. When we have a stable membership platform, we know how much money is going to come in to spend and as this year has shown it can have a big impact if we lose members and we have very few levers to pull in order to make savings because the areas of big expenditures are those that are not variable.
Questions from the floor:

Watton – Questioned whether we had considered digital publication of the BMFA News. The Chairman advised that this is something we consider every year. There are a number of reasons why we have not made the change yet but at the moment it is the only way we can guarantee that every member gets to see essential information that we need to put out and also in order to get advertising revenue we need a paper copy which brings in the extra revenue. The CEO pointed out that in terms of sending out the BMFA News electronically, we have never had a reliable database of members’ email addresses but hopefully with the deployment of the new system that is something we can start to address so it is something that becomes more possible in the future, but for the present time we don’t have a reliable means of communicating electronically to all our members.

With no further questions the Honorary Treasurer recommended to the meeting, based on the budget as presented of just under £30,000 surplus, an increase of £4 on the membership fees for 2020 and commended the formal proposal as follows:

The Honorary Treasurer proposed a £4 increase on the membership fees for 2020.

Seconded by Felbridge Flyers

The Chairman asked the meeting to bear in mind that the assumptions within the budget figures are that we would not receive the insurance rebate and the pessimistic assumption that our membership may continue to fall to 32,000. Neither of those may come to pass but by taking this prudent decision the Executive and the Council believe that we are effectively assuring ourselves against a significant shortfall at the end of the year.

A written proposal had been received prior to the meeting from Blackstone Model Flyers. The representative from the club addressed the meeting in support of a proposal that there should be no increase in membership fees for 2020.

Comments from the floor:

Peterborough MFC – The proposed increase of £4 on membership fees could possibly create a problem for the club in terms of loss of members. Peterborough Club are having to take a proactive approach and introduce ways of increasing club revenue and maybe this is something the BMFA should consider doing.

Croydon & DMFC – In relation to insurance benefits and legal protection for clubs he asked to be reminded of the name of the clubs involved in a legal wrangle some years ago that benefited from a very large sum in terms of legal funds. The Honorary Treasurer advised that the situation related to members of the committee of the Huddersfield Club who disbanded and formed a breakaway club which was the Blackstone Model Flyers. There could be no further discussion on the matter as there would be a breach of confidentiality.
Jurgen Heilig from the German Model Flying Association commented that the increase of £4 would bring the membership fee to a similar level in Germany. In terms of juniors, in order to attract the youngsters to the hobby they only charge 1 euro per month. If the number of juniors is very small it could be argued that the increase could subsidise the junior fee. The Honorary Treasurer commented that his objective has always been to reach a point where the junior fee is exactly half of the senior fee which has been achieved by the current budget. We recognise the initiative but don’t support it to the same level as in Germany. In comparison to other European countries our membership fees are quite low.

South Cheshire Club – Would it be possible for the Society going forward to look at monthly or quarterly subscriptions. The Chairman commented that it was an interesting suggestion but there could be unforeseen consequences; however, it is something we might consider.

There were a couple of suggestions from the floor to increase the fee to £40. The Chairman commented that we believe that £38 will allow us to build reserves to where we were before we took on the National Centre and it gives us a little bit of reserve and resilience. If we set the fees too high, we could frighten off too many people.

The Honorary Treasurer advised that from an accounting side if we were deliberately making profits then more of our income would be taxable.

Paul Tallett PR Consultant said he would not advise setting a fee of £40, having seen the response from members when the notification of the £4 increase and the reasons for it was published. It would send the wrong message out to our members.

The Honorary Secretary commented that it is important to remember that any surpluses we make go back in the pot to serve the members, we are not trying to make a massive amount of money.

Retford MFC – Suggested no increase in junior member fees.

The Chairman called a halt to the debate as there were several proposals to consider.

Although Blackstone Model Flyers had submitted a written proposal it required a seconder from this meeting.

Blackstone Model Flyers proposed that there is no increase on membership fees for 2020.

The proposal was not seconded therefore was defeated.

Retford MFC proposed an amendment to the original proposal that there is no increase on Junior Membership Fees.

Seconded by Robin Gowler FSMAE
Carried by a majority vote - there were 5 abstentions and 4 against.

Cont/…
The substantive proposal now reads:

**£4 increase on Senior membership fees to £38, Full Junior membership fees unchanged at £17, Family Partner membership fee increased by £2 to £25, Family Junior membership fee unchanged at £13.**

Seconded by Felbridge Flyers
Carried by a majority vote – there were 2 against

The membership fees for 2020 are set as follows:

- £38  Senior
- £17  Junior
- £25  Family Partner
- £13  Family Junior

Kath Watson FSMAE, Vice President proposed a vote of thanks to the Honorary Treasurer and Accounts Manager and the meeting showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

**285/11/18 (5) To appoint Paul Stephenson of Payne Walker as Auditor for the ensuing year and to authorise the fixing of his remuneration.**

The Honorary Treasurer proposed that Paul Stephenson be appointed as Society Auditor for the ensuing year at a remuneration of £3950 + VAT.

Seconded by RNMAA
Carried by a majority vote - there was 1 against.

**286/11/18 (6) To consider the Council’s recommendations for the election of Fellows of the Society of Model Aeronautical Engineers.**

There were two nominations as follows:

- Jim Wright
- Chris Moynihan (Posthumous)

Jim Wright was asked to leave the room. The Honorary Secretary read out the citations in support of the above recommendations.

Mark Benns Honorary Secretary proposed the posthumous election of Fellow of the Society of Model Aeronautical Engineers to Chris Moynihan.
Seconded by Croydon & DMAC and carried unanimously.
Would normally present certificate son paul and wife will attend dinner and presentation will be made by the President.

Mark Benns Honorary Secretary proposed the election of Fellow of the Society of Model Aeronautical Engineers to Jim Wright.
Seconded by Mike Woodhouse Fellow and carried unanimously.

Sir Michael Alcock, SMAE President presented Jim Wright with his award.
The Chairman advised that a new award scheme was introduced this year to recognize the vast amount of work and achievements at club level of those who take part in the Achievement Scheme. Council and Executive agreed to introduce a series of awards for those involved with the Achievement Scheme and the lucky recipients for 2018 will be presented for the first time this evening.

One of the recipients in this first year, Bill Michie was nominated for an Achievement Scheme Certificate of Merit but unfortunately he can’t be here to accept the award due to health issues. The East Anglia Area Delegate Paul Hoey was happy to collect the award on his behalf.

The Society President Sir Michael presented Paul with the award.

Paul Hoey read out a brief ‘thank you’ note from Bill Michie who was delighted with the award.

287/11/18 (7) To receive the results of the Nominations for Elected Officers and Technical Committees including the results of any elections.

The Honorary Secretary announced the results of the Nominations as follows:

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NOMINATIONS RECEIVED IN RESPECT OF ELECTED OFFICERS’ AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE POSTS.

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**NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTED OFFICERS’ POSTS - NO BALLOTS**

*CHAIRMAN          1 YEAR IAN PALLISTER
VICE-CHAIRMAN      2 YEARS PETER HALMAN FSMAE
COMPETITION SECRETARY 2 YEARS JO HALMAN FSMAE
RECORDS OFFICER    2 YEARS SIMON VAITKEVICIUS
*FAI GELEGATE      1 YEAR JULIE FISHER
HONORARY SECRETARY 2 YEARS MARK BENNS

*Co-opted at Full Council Meeting January 2018 until the AGM 17th November 2018.

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NOMINATION FOR TECHNICAL COMMITTEE POSTS - NO BALLOTS

**CONTROL LINE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

NO NOMINATIONS RECEIVED
EXISTING COMMITTEE
Vernon Hunt

Note: There are five 1-year co-option vacancies on this Committee.

Cont/…
**INDOOR TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

2 YEARS  MEREDITH EVANS  
TONY HEBB  
HANS STAARTJES  

EXISTING COMMITTEE  
Mike Colling FSMAE  

*Note: There are two 1-year co-option vacancies on this Committee.*  

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**FREE FLIGHT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

2 YEARS  PHIL BALL  
2 YEARS  MARK BENNS  
2 YEARS  JOHN CARTER  

EXISTING COMMITTEE  
Ken Faux  
Mike Woodhouse FSMAE  

*Note: There is one 1-year co-option vacancy on this Committee*  

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**SCALE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

2 YEARS  ANDY SEPHTON  
2 YEARS  MIKE SOLLITT  

EXISTING COMMITTEE  
Chris Allen  
Stephen Kessel  
John Minchell  

*Note: There is one 1-year vacancy on this Committee*  

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Con't/…
SILENT FLIGHT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

2 YEARS ALAN FLOCKHART
2 YEARS MIKE PROCTOR FSMAE

EXISTING COMMITTEE
Jon Edison
Greg Lewis
Stephen Mettam

Note: There is one 1-year co-option vacancy on this Committee

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288/11/18 (8) To fix the date and venue of the 72nd Annual General Meeting of the Society of Model Aeronautical Engineers Ltd.

The Chairman proposed that the date of the Seventy-second Annual General Meeting of the Society of Model Aeronautical Engineers Ltd provisionally be held on the 16th November 2019 at the Mercure Daventry Court Hotel.

Seconded by White Horse MFC and carried unanimously.

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Insurance Update

The Chairman invited Chris Jones from Integro Broking Group to address the meeting.

Chris Jones gave a Power Point presentation covering the following:
- Changes in the last year – Insurance Premium Tax remains unaltered this year.
- The insurance market remains competitive with more consolidation by insurers.
- Insurance Renewal 2019 – Further stability provided by the Long-Term Agreement. The agreement maintains the rating of the main liability policy until the 2021 renewal.
- Clubs Cover – There have been claims on this policy, however, in view of the overall relationship the premium charged remains unchanged. There is no charge to the clubs for this cover.

Cont/…
Insurance Claims – We had an increase in claims in 2018 including but not limited to the following:
Members aircraft striking other members vehicles
Members aircraft striking other members aircraft on the ground
Club Equipment claims – frequency is low but tend to be relatively high value and result in a high loss ratio on the Club Equipment policy; however, this policy is subsidised to a degree by the other policies held by MS Amlin. Personal Accident claims are very infrequent but can be of relatively high value.

Personal Accident Cover – Claims service has vastly improved within the last 3 years. Aviva have removed the upper age limit on the policy of 85 years albeit with reduced policy benefits for members above this age. Additional improvement to cover in relation to hand injuries. Liaising with Insurers looking at options to potentially provide cover for Temporary Partial Disablement & Temporary total Disablement as the current cover is for Total Disablement only.

Member Travel Cover – Cover is available for individual members. Primary purpose of the trip must be model flying. Spouse and family can be added. Details are on the BMFA Website. Premiums per person per trip up to 74 years of age – Europe £27.50 / Rest of World £38.18.

The year ahead – Will continue to work closely with the BMFA to understand the requirements of any changes in legislation and ensure that the BMFA remain fully protected. Members of the team attended the National Championships and Integro aim to have a greater presence in 2019. Integro and the BMFA are in the second year of a three-year Sponsorship Agreement.

The Chairman thanked all of those present for making the effort to attend and wished those who were not staying for the Prize-Giving/Dinner a safe journey home.

The Chairman formally closed the meeting at 16.45pm

Linda Harding, Office Manager