SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2019

Reports for presentation to the AGM have been received from the following:

Chairman........................................................................... 4
Vice Chairman.................................................................... 4
Safety Review.................................................................... 5
Honorary Secretary............................................................ 5
Honorary Treasurer............................................................ 6
Competition Secretary....................................................... 7
Technical Secretary........................................................... 9
FAI Delegate...................................................................... 9
Records Officer...................................................................10
Royal Aero Club Delegate..................................................10
RNMAA............................................................................ 11
East Anglia Area...............................................................12
London Area......................................................................13
Midland Area.....................................................................13
Northern Area.................................................................14
North East Area..................................................................15
North West Area..............................................................15
South Midlands Area.........................................................16
South East Area...............................................................17
Southern Area....................................................................17
Western Area.....................................................................18
Mid West Area...................................................................19
South West Area..............................................................19
Northern Ireland Area......................................................20
RAFMAA..........................................................................21
Free Flight Technical Committee........................................22
R/C Silent Flight Technical Committee...............................22
Scale Technical Committee...............................................23
Indoor Technical Committee.............................................24
Control Line Technical Committee.....................................25
Chief Executive..................................................................25
Development Officer.........................................................27
Education Report.............................................................29
Club Support Officer.........................................................29
BMFA News Editor...........................................................30
Archivist..........................................................................31
CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT

This year has been dominated by the anticipated implementation of the Drone Regulation and Education Scheme (DRES). CAP1775 published by the CAA in April set out its proposals for the scheme which would see all types of model aircraft captured by the regulations and model flyers required to register and undertake on-line education and testing about drone safety rules by 30 November 2019. No recognition was offered for the existing membership management, safety culture and training given by the BMFA and other model aircraft associations despite such recognition being enshrined in the EASA regulations due to come into force in 2020. CAP1775 also sought feedback on a proposed annual registration charge of £16.50.

It was clear from the immediate response of the model flying community that the DRES scheme as proposed was likely to decimate model flying as the most accessible and affordable aviation pursuit, with older members threatening to give up their lifelong commitment and youngsters deterred from entry by disproportionate constraints and administration. BMFA members responded magnificently to the consultation, leaving the CAA and Government in no doubt over their strength of feeling and I commend our CEO, David Phipps, for repeatedly presenting a factual, logical and consistent case to the various Government departments and committees involved. At the end of this reporting period there are signs that common sense is beginning to prevail under the direction of a new Secretary of State for Transport.

Whatever the outcome, registration in some form will still be a legal requirement which may further impact membership numbers that have already fallen by 10% over the past 5 years. The £4 increase in membership subscriptions for 2019 was unwelcome but necessary to sustain our financial stability. With the baseline now re-set, and members facing a potential registration cost under the DRES, it is our intention to constrain any future rise in subscriptions to a more modest level. Encouragingly there has been no reduction in the number of registered clubs; supporting them to retain or increase their membership is the most effective way of sustaining our overall numbers. The ‘FlightFest’ initiative to showcase model flying at club level and offer hands-on experience to visitors proved very effective for those clubs that embraced it; this will be rolled out wider next year. The National Centre at Buckminster is also proving its value as an asset to the Society with a very full calendar of events and increased utilisation of all the facilities and camp site.

The threats we have faced over the past year have prompted much discussion on Social Media and, inevitably, some negative views that do not represent those of the vast majority of our members. Overall, it has been another successful year with many clubs remaining vibrant, supported by an increasingly effective Achievement Scheme. The new Membership Portal has also made their job much easier. A full range of contests have been held with better weather for our various annual Championships, and continued success in international competition including a junior Freestyle Helicopter World Champion. All of this made possible by a vast number of volunteers and our hard-working and long-suffering permanent staff.

Never before has our motto “United we Achieve” been more pertinent than in the current climate.

I commend this 2019 Annual Report to you.

Ian Pallister FSMAE
Chairman

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VICE CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT
Period: 1st September 2018 – 31st August 2019

During the last year, I have attended the September 2018 January 2019 and May 2019 council meetings. I also attended September 2018, January and May 2019 meetings of the BMFA Executive, the Buckminster Steering Group meetings and the 2018 Annual General Meeting. I was master of ceremonies for the 2018 BMFA Annual Prize-Giving and Dinner.

Due to my involvement in competing and helping to run the Control Line Speed competition at the 2019 Power Nationals, I organised an alternative date and venue for the Awards Committee meeting. We met on the 14th August at Chacksfield House where we had a productive meeting.
The safety review committee has been revised to include more representation from the sport flying community. There are now representatives from ASRC and Area Council on the committee, the committee will meet each October. It is hoped that the revised membership of this committee will lead to better communication with our members about safety issues and in time fewer accidents which should lead to a lower number of insurance claims.

I was proud to represent the United Kingdom at 2019 European Championships for Control Line models in Bulgaria. 2019 is 50 years since I first represented the UK at Championships.

I was a member of a Standards and Conduct Committee.

Peter Halman FSMAE
11th September 2019

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SAFETY REVIEW COMMITTEE

(See Vice Chairman Report above)

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HONORARY SECRETARY ANNUAL REPORT

It now comes as no surprise to me that 2019 has been as busy as the preceding years both in terms of my model flying and my responsibilities as Honorary Secretary of the BMFA.

In 2019 I will have chaired two Areas Council Meetings, attended all but one Executive meeting and Full Council meetings.

The Devon Sub area continues to be administered by myself and I am pleased to report that Sub Area continues to function in an appropriate manner. Communications are still sporadic with various local members and I still aim to find a committee for the Area to revert back to local control. I remain positive and ever hopeful that this may happen.

Latterly this year I have agreed to support and oversee a new ‘child and vulnerable adult protection policy’ and guidance document which will sit alongside our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

The Council Handbook has been revised again this year reflecting the latest Council amendments alongside some general tidying up, indexing etc.

Areas Council meetings continue to be held with positive overtones, both debates and a willingness to progress the Areas roles and responsibilities in an ever changing environment is wonderful to be party to. Many of the Areas are starting to work together. Without doubt at Council we all are witness to the openness and willingness to include neighbouring Areas in activities and initiatives. I also believe the new funding system will further enhance these relationships.

All Areas have their social and website communications far more up to speed which I believe is starting to make a positive difference. A new initiative for Areas, Technical Committees and Specialist Bodies focusing on Public relations is in place for early November 2019 with the aim to offer advice and guidance from Paul Tallett, Andy Symons and Chaired by myself.

This year the Areas voted overwhelmingly to revert to a new method of funding aimed at targeting the finite resources to the Areas rather than the arbitrary allowance that was formerly in place. As Executive of the Areas it was imperative to be able to understand the Area funding needs based from a clear structure to enable appropriate funding to be made available. The Year 1 funding trial is in place and will be developed through Areas Council over the forthcoming years.
On a couple of less positive notes all Areas still struggle to maintain and recruit volunteers to sit on their committees therefore we will be working ever closer to try and identify means by which we can improve upon and find a solution. Secondly this year I have been involved in a number of disputes between members where I have been required to mediate and resolve differences. Out of 32,000 members disputes are thankfully small in number, however the advent of easy communications has likely had a hand in the small increase witnessed year on year. As a realist I appreciate we humans cannot always agree with one another therefore I would ask that members take a step back and try to be more patient and tolerant of others, remembering why we fly model aircraft.

I am happy to report that the ASRC committee and its initiatives continue to evolve with new tutorial videos now coming on stream for all our budding members seeking achievements. To advance our members experience of the Achievement scheme I will be working a closer with the ASRC Committee moving forward to try and explore new and improved communication routes and to progress how Areas become more flexible and soften some of the ways and means members can take their tests. With Peter Willis and his committee at the helm we are committed to continually improving the scheme for our members into what is now an essential ingrained BMFA service.

Throughout the year I have been able to visit and contribute to a number of shows, Events, National Championships, a European Championships and continue to fully support the National Centre. I continue to enjoy my roles with the Free Flight Technical committee and Honorary Secretary and look forward to 2020, serving the BMFA and its members in our pursuit of exceptional and fun model flying.

Mark Benns
BMFA Honorary Secretary
September 2019

HONORARY TREASURER ANNUAL REPORT

Another year draws to a close. From a financial perspective it has been a good one for the Society. A significant factor in this is that, due to our financial year being three months later than the membership year, one quarter of the 2019 members’ subscriptions are taken in the closing financial years’ accounts, and therefore one quarter of the increase agreed at the 2018 Annual General Meeting, contributing almost £30,000 additional income. We were fortunate that the insurers were able to make a "profit share" rebate, and other savings that we made allowed the core activities of the Society to make a surplus.

The National Centre was also able to make a small surplus on day to day operations. The "fly in the ointment" was the Power Nationals, which due to a significant drop in numbers caused by the bad weather in August 2018 made a substantial loss, which did not affect the bottom line as we carry a reserve fund from previous surpluses on this event, but is now very depleted.

At the time of writing, we have just come home from the 2019 Power Nationals, and although numbers were up on 2018, they were still down on 2017 and as such I think that the event will struggle to break even.

The biggest concern affecting the Society as we look forwards is the impact that the government’s proposed Drone Registration scheme could have on our membership numbers. Whilst this will be discussed in detail in other officers’ parts of this Annual Report, from a financial perspective the Executive and Council will monitor this closely throughout next year, and if necessary will revisit the budget and consider if additional savings need to be made.

During the last year, I have attended all meetings of the Full Council and the Executive, together with one meeting of Areas Council. I was able to take part in the BMFA News Editor’s annual review and to meet with our accountant in person whilst he was doing out annual audit to discuss his work (normally this has only been possible by email).

I attended four shows with the BMFA Stand, three at Old Warden plus Wings and Wheels at North Weald. W&W continues to decline in terms of the numbers of traders, which I think is indicative of the overall decline in
our activities. These shows still give us the chance to meet with members, to understand their issues and hopefully to resolve some of them.

My involvement in the Power Nationals was as busy as ever - meeting with the Senior Air Traffic Controller on the Tuesday before the event and taking control of the camp gate to allow organisers to start setting up and hired infrastructure to be delivered, supporting Christine in her role as Camp Gate Manager, resolving issues as they arise, and of course managing all on-site financial activities during the event. Once it is all over, we then have to ensure that all infrastructure is removed, which takes another two days before handing the gate back to the airfield operators on Wednesday afternoon.

I had to spend considerable time this summer with an investigation and two meetings of the Standards and Conduct Committee - details of which are obviously confidential.

My report wouldn't be complete without giving my thanks to those people who have supported me in all of this - My wife (Christine) and family who not only join me in many of the activities but also put up with me when I need quiet time to work on things BMFA; the Accounts Department at Chacksfield House (Sian and Gemma) who do all of the day to day financial processing; and other members of the BMFA staff who are always there when support is needed (including Julie who gives up her August Bank Holiday to spend three days locked away counting money with me).

Keith Lomax FSMAE
Honorary Treasurer
September 2019

COMPETITION SECRETARY ANNUAL REPORT
Period: 1st September 2018 – 31st August 2019

During this reporting period, I attended all the statutory meetings at which the attendance of the Competition Secretary is required.

I also attended all the meetings of the National Centre Steering Group and of the Buckminster Hard Circles Working Group. I also attended the CIAM Plenary meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland in my role as FAI Alternate Delegate to support the FAI Delegate.

In September 2018, I was FAI Jury President for the GBR & ITA F2A-B-C-D World Cups held in Lugo.

In January, I held two Team Managers’ Briefing Meetings. These meetings are to ensure that all Team Managers are fully informed about their Championships and their duties and are aware of their obligations. Two meetings were necessary as not all the Team Managers were available on a single date.

In April I attended a meeting between some members of the Silent Flight Technical Committee and some members of BARCS.

On the international scene, I ran the two back-to-back F2A (Control Line Speed) World Cups held in Gran Canaria in April. (I shall again be the FAI Jury President for the GBR & ITA F2A-B-C-D World Cups to be held in Lugo, Italy, but these latter two fall just outside the reporting period of this report).

I am pleased to report that following the 2018 Annual Report and after a further bout of emails and drafts the Technical Secretary and I facilitated British Drone Racing Association (formerly BFPVRA)) rules for the BMFA Rule Book which became effective 1st January this year. It may now be possible to send a team to the 2019 “Drone” World Championships in December.

Following 2018, the fillable pdf entry forms for all the British National Championships is now an established procedure.
I re-designed the FAI Licences at the end of 2018 and have I am also pleased to report a significant increase in the number of FAI Licences issued. The re-design and the increase in submissions has meant three visits to the office to produce the licences.

Other than the Indoor Duration British National Championship that is scheduled for 6th, 7th & 8th September in London and thus falls outside this reporting period, all the 2019 British National Championships were completed with those held over the August Bank Holiday weekend enjoying unprecedented hot weather. I was particularly pleased to be able to attend the Scale Indoor Radio Control and the Scale Free Flight British National Championships and was honoured to present the prizes at both competitions.

Although we did not have very much success this year at FAI Championships, the F3N Freestyle Helicopter team were outstanding and for the first time the F3C Helicopter team included a Junior flier who took an individual bronze medal in his first Championship.

**F3N (Freestyle Helicopter) World Championship**

- **Individual Bronze:** Duncan Osbourn
- **Individual Junior Gold:** Aaron Cole
- **Team Silver:** Duncan Osbourn; Aaron Cole; Callum Henson; Dave Fisher
  (Team Manager: Julie Fisher)

**F3C (Helicopter) World Championship**

- **Individual Junior Bronze:** Scott Mayo

**F2A (Control Line Speed) European Championships**

- **Individual Bronze:** Paul Eisner

During this reporting period the United Kingdom, held eleven FAI World Cup competitions:

- F1A-B-C (Free Flight) x 2;
- F2A (CL Speed) hosted in Gran Canaria
- F2A-B-C-D hosted in Italy
- F3A (RC Aerobatics);
- F3F (RC Slope Soaring) x 2;
- F3K (RC Hand Launched Gliders);
- F5B (RC Electric Motor Glider);
- F5J (RC Electric Thermal Duration)
- F9U (Drone Racing)

At the annual BMFA Prizegiving Dinner in November 2018, I was pleased to help out the Master of Ceremonies by announcing the re-presentation of the World & European Championship medals to the 2018 winners and to introduce the 2018 BMFA competition trophy winners. I had the additional pleasure of helping the Vice-Chairman with the preparation & introduction of the very many 2018 BMFA awards.

I continue to work with the Records Officer and the Technical Secretary on related BMFA matters.

In general throughout the year I deal with competition queries relating to both national and international classes and many queries on an interesting variety of matters.

I look forward to continuing to serve the Society, its members and model flying to the best of my ability.

Mrs Jo Halman FSMAE  
BMFA Competition Secretary  
10th September 2019
Member's Handbook

Amendments to the radio frequencies section with an update on the 900 Mhz band and expanding the use of some of the other frequencies with some background explanations should be completed and the On-line edition of the Handbook updated by the end of October. No other work has been possible due to the deteriorating state of my wife’s health.

This what has led to my not standing for re-election this year as I just cannot devote the time to the job that it deserves.

Competition Rules

I am pleased to say that the 2019 edits to the competition rules were all completed by the end of January and were all up on the website in reasonable time.

I understand that Space and Silent Flight are both looking into thorough reviews of their rules for next year. Fun Fly have also some changes in the pipeline.

After the previous few years of trials and tribulations, I should like to take this opportunity to record my thanks to the British Drone Racing Association (BDRA) for their work in producing an agreed set of rules in time for inclusion in the 2019 R/C Power Rule Book.

My proposal to delegate the control of Section 2 of the Competition rules was approved by Full Council. This means less work for full Council and enables the Technical Council to ensure consistency across all the competition rules.

With the help of the Records Officer and the Competition Secretary, I have rewritten the Record Rules (Sections 2a and 2b of the General Rules) and will present these to the October meeting of the Technical Council for approval.

Other

I now understand that Andy Sephton has agreed to stand for election to the post of Technical Secretary. Assuming he is successful, I have agreed with him that I will help him all I can through the December/January peak load of Competition Rule updates. I also understand he is keen to get to grips with the Member’s Handbook.

David Varallo
BMFA Technical Secretary
August 2019

FAI DELEGATE ANNUAL REPORT
1st Sept, 2018 – 31st Aug, 2019

This is my second year as FAI Delegate. I attended the following meetings:

~ September 2018 Executive Meeting
~ September 2018 Full Council Meeting
~ October 2018 Technical Council Meeting
~ November 2018– AGM
~ January 2019 Executive Meeting
~ January 2019 Full Council Meeting
~ March 2019 Technical Council Meeting
~ May 2019 Executive Meeting
Prior to the 2019 CIAM Plenary Meeting, I co-ordinated the voting requirements for the Sporting Code rule change proposals from each of the BMFA Technical Committees and the RC Specialist Bodies.

In April 2019 I attended the CIAM Plenary Meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland. I, along with our FAI Alternate Delegate (Jo Halman), attended Technical meetings as requested by our Scale & Pylon Technical Committees. A full report on the CIAM Plenary meeting was presented to the May Full Council Meeting.

Julie Fisher
FAI Delegate
5th September 2019

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RECORDS OFFICER ANNUAL REPORT

The last 12 months have seen a slight increase in record attempts mainly in the areas of CL and FF with some other records being set in the areas of indoor FF and pylon. The record book has been updated to reflect the above and I am hoping in early 2020 to start a process of updating the format of the records book to allow for easier updating, moving away from the old MS word document to a properly structured form to allow for easier and quicker updates.

We have had fewer trophies adopted in 2018/19 than in previous years with the current trophy count being just under 160 with around 12 of them being out of circulation due to the technical committees owning them not running the contests. 2018/19 saw fewer trophies presented due to the bad weather that blighted the competition season. This coming year is already looking better. A replacement, more robust trophy was purchased in late 2018 to replace the Rodger Bedford trophy which was damaged in transit. The trophy maintenance bill will also be less in 2018/19 as most of the repairs have been completed and the focus will be on the wooden transport box repairs.

I have attended the FF nationals and Power and Silent Flight nationals over the last 12 months.

2019/20 will be a busy year for me and I look forward to continuing on with role over the next 12 months.

Simon Vaitkevicius
Records Officer

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RAeC DELEGATE ANNUAL REPORT

I represented the BMFA at the four Royal Aero Club Council meetings during the past year and on its Awards Committee as well as the Awards Evening.

The 2018 RAeC Awards Evening saw an RAeC Silver Medal going to Dave Phipps, RAeC Certificates of Merit to Malcolm Bird, Robert Mclvor and Mike Roach, and a re-presentation of the FAI Frank Ehling Diploma to John Jacomb. The guest was the newly-appointed aviation minister, Baroness Vere of Norbiton, who, a few weeks later, took a very different approach to airsport when giving evidence to the House of Commons Science & Technology Committee enquiry into the commercial and recreational use of drones. The evening made a small surplus.

RAeC Bursaries for 2019 were awarded to Summer Fisher (RC 3D Helicopter), Phillip Langham (RC Funfly), Scott Mayo (RC F3C Helicopter) and Aaron Cole (Drone licence training). These are to enable young people under 24 to improve their flying standards and progress in their chosen discipline. The closing date for 2020 bursary applications will be 31 March 2020 and details are here: http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/.
The RAeC newsletter editor, Jude Wordsworth, needs a steady input of articles and photographs from member associations; contact jude@royalaeroclub.uk. A link to the newsletter is here: http://royalaeroclub.co.uk/news.php

It was decided not to fund a British delegate to future FAI Education Committee meetings, as meetings seem to do little other than judging the annual children’s painting contest, and discussing aerospace education within school systems that don’t apply to other nations.

On July 11th there were three consecutive RAeC meetings. The first was with the FAI secretary-general, Susanne Schödel, who is a German glider pilot and multiple record breaker, for her to hear firsthand from the RAeC, as one of the most active FAI members, of points that concern us with the way the latter operates. The FAI is responsible for 12 airsports and runs roughly 700 Class 1 (World and Continental Championships) and Class 2 (Open Internationals) annually. Costs vary depending on the discipline; some require quite large numbers of international judges who must be brought in from around the world, while others can manage with a small number of locally recruited timekeepers. The cost of insurance for FAI officials in case of injury can be high. The head office costs must include medals for Championships, plus processing world record claims, which average around 250 p.a. Of these, some 25% are incorrectly completed, with missing data. Susanne Schödel mentioned the UK as one of those usually accurate with this. Running the anti-doping programme is another expense. Proliferation of sub-disciplines is another challenge, but the sanction fee for the recent drone racing championships provided a vital 500,000 Swiss francs to offset the FAI’s expenses.

After that meeting the RAeC AGM took place. The chairman, David Monks, mentioned that this was the RAeC’s 118th year and welcomed Integro as a new sponsor for the awards evening, together with Breitling who continue. The club is in good financial shape, thanks to the numerous volunteers. The meeting took 8 minutes.

A normal Council meeting then followed. The support provided by RAeC Vice-Chairman and BMFA member Roger Hopkinson in connection with the negotiations on ‘drone’ legislation cannot be over-emphasised and it is at times of crisis like this that membership of a wider national body is so important. The same, of course, applies to BMFA clubs and their local Area committees. The BMFA is now a member of the General Aviation Alliance, which is currently involved in nine separate negotiations on behalf of airsports and airspace access.

Martin Dilly
RAeC Delegate

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RNMAA DELEGATE ANNUAL REPORT

In the last year there has been a significant increase in noise related issues at RNAS Merryfield despite the fact that the models, flying styles and operating positions/areas had not changed from the long standing operating procedures that had been previously been perfectly acceptable. Despite taking pro-active measures to further reduce jet noise (engine size limit, re-defined flying areas, shorter flying periods) the number of complaints actually increased and also included comment on prop noise. This has resulted in a total ban on Jet flying at the site in the New Year and scrutiny by Yeovilton Command. The complete turn-around in fortune was extremely frustrating, but at least we still had access to the airfield: the amendment to the ANO that came into effect on 13 March restricting flying in the vicinity of airfields had no overall effect on the remaining model flying at Naval Air Stations because it all took place with the permission of Station Ops/ATC anyway.

We then experienced a further problem in July when HMS Heron Gliding Club permanently re-located from Yeovilton to Merryfield. Joint gliding and model flying operations were not permitted and the Gliding Club was granted exclusive use of the airfield every weekend. However, subsequently in the Autumn the gliders were temporarily grounded and we have been able to regain use of Merryfield for model flying. The committee is working hard to establish a way forward for the next year, but nothing is easy and there are many problems to address.
All our members (and some Ilminster members too) are now signed up to the RNMAA Group Face Book page and this has proved invaluable in disseminating rapidly changing information quickly and efficiently.

Peter Disney  
Chairman RNMAA  
4 Nov 19

EAST ANGLIA AREA ANNUAL REPORT

1. The Area Committee
The Area has continued to hold regular meetings with stable attendance although greater participation will always be welcome.

Our new approach to providing a financial subsidy for clubs seeking to hold ‘one of’ or a series of events to promote engagement in our sport of aeromodelling is attracting applications. The Norwich club, for example, has been active in engaging with students at the Norwich Airport Aviation Academy and the Bury Club has also benefitted from funding.

A successful conference attended by over 20 Club Chairman or representatives was held InOctober, 2018 with inputs covering:

- An insight into the new BMFA membership portal by Andy Symons, BMFA Club Support Officer
- A presentation on how to improve and maintain club membership
- How Clubs can use social media to promote membership by Paul Tallett, BMFA Marketing and PR Consultant
- Data Protection guidance for clubs
- How to use the BMFA website platform for their Club

2. Achievement Scheme
Currently there are 8 Area Chief Examiners with the need to recruit more hence Graham Gooch, chairman of the Norwich Club is a welcome addition to the team. It is pleasing that 2 further potential Area Chief Instructors have been identified.

The Area Chief Examiner (ACE) team held 2 Fixed Wing Achievement Scheme Instructor and Examiner Workshops. Over 40 participants attended however it was notable there were a number of aspirant Fixed Wing A or B achievers participating pointing to a continuing need for both club instructors and examiners.

In 2019 a Fixed Wing A & B training and Assessment session is planned to specifically cover safety and setting up the model before testing delegates for the A & B in response to the need identified above.

3. Free Flight
Free Flight activity remains a strong feature of the Area. The two-day East Anglian Area Free Flight Gala was successful. The days before and after the gala were part of the hot summer, the Gala weekend was rather damp, cool and cloudy! Such is life. The BMFA Area free flight events were run in consultation with nature groups to minimise impact on the natural habitat, particularly where vulnerable species are concerned.

Mike Woodhouse, FSMAE, again organised the Free Flight Nationals at Barkston at the end of May.

4. Area Website
The area website [http://eastanglia.bmfa.org/](http://eastanglia.bmfa.org/) is increasingly being used as our primary means of communication both for general information and to specifically draw to the attention of club secretaries information posted on the corporate BMFA website. Encouragingly some Clubs have submitted profiles of their Club and their events but to be a comprehensive resource more clubs are being encouraged to submit information.
The functionality of the website has been improved by adding contact details for Area Committee Executive member or any ACE/ACI by clicking on a link. Finally to enable monitoring of the site we aim to add a visitor counter.

Paul Hoey
East Anglia Area Delegate.
Paul.hoey1@yahoo.co.uk

*LONDON AREA ANNUAL REPORT*

The London Area story for 2019 is much the same as for the past few years. A small number of clubs (around 15% of the Area’s clubs) bother to send a delegate to the bi-monthly meetings and it seems to be only those few clubs who have the initiative or interest to organise events and contests. It has always been the Area’s policy to make such events open to any BMFA member, as it is wasteful to expend a lot of organisational effort and then restrict entries to London Area members and thus limit the possible income.

The Area again supported several contests and events, including Croydon Club’s Wakefield Day and Coupe Europa, Bickley’s Open Day and the Robert Mahoney Memorial event at Middle Wallop.

It is the apparent insularity of many clubs and their total lack of interest in any sort of model flying outside their own flying site that is risking the future of our sport and leaving its protection and support in the London Area in the hands of a very few people.

The Area, together with help from the Southern Area and the invaluable support of Manny, manned the BMFA stand at the LMEE at Alexandra Place in January. Public attendance was considerably up on all three days compared with the previous couple of years, though there did seem to be rather fewer trade stands. The fact that Alexandra Palace will not be allowing any of the RC model flying that has attracted the public in the past, apparently because they think an electric indoor model weighing a few ounces is a hazard to the Alexandra Palace organ, makes one question their understanding of basic physics.

It is planned to hold 2020 London Area meetings shortly before Council meeting dates; the current system of holding them on the second Thursday in odd-numbered months, though easy to remember, doesn’t appear to produce any increase in attendees.

Dates will be announced on the London Area website, which will shortly have a new logo. The venue will remain Pedham Place Golf Centre, London Road, Swanley, Kent BR8 8PP, starting at 8.00 p.m

Martin Dilly
London Area Delegate 3-8-19

*MIDLAND AREA ANNUAL REPORT*

2019 Commenced with very little activity for the first half of the year, however, committee initiated several informal discussions relating to our potential activities for 2019/20.

Retford MFC ran an examiners workshop which was well attended and thanks must go to Chris Anderson for all his work to make the event a success.

In July we held our annual Midland Area Fly-in at National Flying Site, Buckminster when all area members were invited for a free fly-in and were requested to join in for a formal meeting in the hall, firstly to meet our Committee face to face and secondly play their part in formulating our potential activities and decisions as to area policy for the immediate future.
The meeting was a success and it was generally suggested that we resurrect our Midland Area Festival of Flight at Barkston sometime in June 2020, providing this is acceptable to the RAF at Cranwell.

In the past this event was extremely well supported nationally but fell by the wayside when the RAF only agreed to accept the Nationals.

The July meeting pre-empted our AGM Agenda which we will hold on line in December, 2019.

We will continue with our practical financial support to clubs for the foreseeable future.

The Midland Secretary has prepared the way for the proposed accounting schedule when it has been agreed by council.

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NORTHERN AREA ANNUAL REPORT

The area has an active and up to date web & Facebook presence, through the area website and Facebook group. This is managed and kept current by the area delegate.

The area meetings are still generally poorly attended despite efforts to attract more attendees, with basically the same people and clubs represented at the meetings.

The area organised an area Fly-In, to encourage better links and communication between the Northern area clubs. The event was held on Sunday 14th July 2019, at Pontefract race course (PANDAS flying site). The event was deemed a success with a reasonable attendance. Discussions are ongoing, as to whether we organise a similar event in 2020 or a hold an event in May, to coincide with BMFA Flight Fest project, if that goes ahead again next year.

The area achievement scheme coordinator has been kept reasonably busy visiting clubs to assist with testing. Due to work commitments a planned achievement scheme event has not yet being held, although it is hoped something can be put together soon.

The area continues to hold regular indoor flying sessions in Leeds, on Saturday afternoons and currently organises regular flying at RAF Dishforth on a Sunday. The intention is to continue with the indoor flying events in 2019 /2020. The area provides financial support, to host these events.

The flying at RAF Dishforth is generally poorly attended and unless someone comes forward, to take over the organisation and running of these events for 2020, the area is unlikely to continue to support it. Many members support the event in principal and say it is important that it continues. However, none of them are prepared to run or help organise it. They do not attend the events either, despite their comments that it should continue, and it would be a shame to lose it.

Several area clubs continue to organise ad hoc indoor flying sessions and the area offers financial support to host these events. The events are open, to all Northern area club members to attend.

The area chairman and council delegate, together with Andy Symons & Paul Tallet, gave a demonstration and talk to a local air cadet unit about the BMFA and what it does. This was followed up by a visit to a local club flying site, to allow the cadets to fly actual aircraft, utilising the club training aircraft and buddy facilities. This event has generated further interest from local schools, who are interested in input as part of their education programmes.

Martin Lynn
Northern Area Delegate

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NORTH EAST AREA ANNUAL REPORT

Unfortunately, due to work and home pressures, I have not been able to commit to the role as I would have liked, and I’ve missed a couple of Meetings, hopefully this will improve in 2020. Who knows I may even get some flying done next year.

The North Eastern Area continues to meet the first Wednesday of every month, with an average of 10 clubs represented, down from previous years with about 5 observers, the area continues to have good relations with our local airfield, Albemarle, thanks to the hard work of our liaison Mr T Bailey FSMAE they even allow us weekend flexibility so we can choose the day that looks more favourable and currently are not holding us to the exact wording of the licence.

Our Education officer is working on several projects but finding the lack of discipline in some of the schools a little counterproductive.

The Achievement Scheme continues to run smoothly with no major issues reported, most test requests are being handled by club examiners, leaving the ACE’s to conduct the occasional Examiner test and to promote the scheme within their own local area.

The North East Area has a very small number of dedicated pilots competing in R/C competitions and Silent Flight all continue to compete successfully both at home and on the international scene.

Thomas Jones.
North Eastern Area Delegate

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NORTH WEST AREA ANNUAL REPORT

Since my last annual report there has been a number of changes in the NW Area. At the area AGM, I (Martyn Kinder) was appointed Chair, Andrew Ellison PRO, John Minchell Scale representative and Kevin Watson formally appointed as ASC as Wayne Pendleton had to stand down due to poor health.

There has been two new Area Organised events this year, a retro glider fly-in for pre-2000 slope and thermal soarers and an Aero-tow event held at a new location (private airstrip) in North Shropshire. The latter event was well supported and we hope to hold this event again next year. Unfortunately, the retro glider event had to be postponed due to poor weather but we are rescheduling for later this year.

The Area has sponsored two outdoor events (Blackpool Fly-in and Blackpool Scale).

We continue to support indoor events, the Rochdale indoor winter series and additionally (and thanks to the Indoor Technical Committee), we have also supported the Velodrome indoor fly-in. A welcome return after a break of 3 years. Unfortunately, attendance at these events has declined somewhat and we will be taking initiatives to reinvigorate and hopefully improve attendances.

Communications: We now have an active Area Facebook page which is populated with topical and relevant information that is of interest to NW Area members. During the ‘Call to Arms’ campaign, NW club Chairs and Secretaries were contacted on 3 separate occasions and asked to encourage their members to respond to the CAA Survey and also to engage their MP and also to write to Baroness Vere.

Sadly, attendance at Area Ordinary General Meetings is still generally poor with normally only a handful of clubs represented. We still believe that the way to address this is to make the area more relevant to the average sports flier who make up the bulk of the membership.

Achievement Scheme. Four further ACEs (13 total) have been appointed and the area is well covered and we now have an ACE available to cover all disciplines. There has been one Achievement Scheme roadshow held earlier this year, a workshop is currently in the planning phase and for the future it is planned to hold 2 workshops or roadshows per year. It is pleasing to see the ACEs actively involved with clubs helping members
prepare for their A or B tests and it is interesting and rewarding that clubs are starting to ask about Achievement scheme instructor testing. This is the first time for over 2 years which indicates that the hard work is starting to pay off. Longer term, I would like to see more club examiners appointed, this is in line with the ASRC objectives.

Looking forward, I believe that the NW Area has more to do to engage with the clubs in the area. This will be via timely and meaningful communications with the next perceived challenge being the CAA accreditation scheme due to be introduced later this year and organising events that are attractive to the ordinary member, either as a participant or spectator.

We plan to hold more sponsored events in 2020, mainly fly-in or light fun contest type events but also hopefully engage and work with the Free flight and Control Line communities, helping them raise their presence and hopefully attract more participants.

Martyn Kinder
BMFA NW Area Delegate

SOUTH MIDLANDS AREA ANNUAL REPORT

The South Midland Area has had another active year, with attendance at Area meetings typically attracting representatives from approximately 15 clubs, which equates to the representation of roughly a quarter of all clubs in the Area. The attendance at meetings remains strong, with useful debate and discussion, and we even have the occasional new club representatives attend our meetings. However, we are increasingly using e-mail for input and discussions on Area matters.

Thankfully in 2019 we have been able to fill all of the Area Committee positions, with just the one concession that the Chairman also fulfils the role of Area Delegate, a combination which we have found works pretty well.

Unfortunately, the Area hasn’t been able to run an Examiner/Instructor workshop this year, mostly due to family commitments on the part of our AS Co-ordinator, who has also indicated his desire to stand down from the role at the end of his current term. However, plans are in hand to run at least two workshops in 2020. This year there has been a notable increase in the number of requests for Achievement Scheme tests within the Area.

The Area has provided modest financial support to Area organised events.

Under the guidance of Jim Wright, a small team of members from a few Area Clubs, (Ivinghoe Soaring Association, Aylesbury and Leighton Buzzard) have continued to support the Cool Aeronautics events that are held at the Trenchard Museum in RAF Halton. Cool Aeronautics is a Royal Aeronautical Society program aimed at 9-11 year olds and typically has 6 ‘aero’ related activities. So far this year the team have supported 7 events, with another 4 planned before the end of the year. The events so far have already helped over 440 children to build and fly the BMFA Aerojet, but the total is likely to exceed 750 by the end of the year.

Our Area Education Officer, Brian Cooper, has also done some excellent work, introducing children from local sports facilities to RC flying on a buddy-box. He has also been doing the same at the Grenacres events during the summer, and is planning a repeat exercise for an event at Brigstock later this year.

The Area supports and continues to take a keen interest in the study looking into potential charitable status for either the Association and or the National Centre.

Jim Wright continues his work in support of the further developments at Buckminster. In addition, Brian Cooper, Mick Eames and Dick Whitehead have served as members on the ASRC and Duncan McClure has also fulfilled the role of AS Controller.
I would like to thank all the members of the Area Committee, and associated clubs, for their support and guidance in my endeavours, and I look forward to being able to represent them in the future.

Duncan McClure
South Midland Area Delegate

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SOUTH EAST AREA ANNUAL REPORT

The Area has been unable to fill the post of PRO for the past few years, and this year is no different. Saying this, the Area’s social media, website, emails and newsletter appear to be working well, keeping clubs and members up-to-date with what is going on in the Area.

The Area ran its indoor competition at the K2 Leisure Centre in February this year, with a change of day from Sunday to Saturday. The move to a Saturday appeared to add to the number of spectators we had. This seemed to be from parents of youngsters at K2 for other activities who saw the models flying and deciding to return with their children later in the day to have a better look and, as kids do, “Dad can I have one”, leading to the traders doing a roaring trade in ready to fly models. For the first time in a number of years the event broke even.

A number of flying events have been organised and run this year; Fun-Fly, Electric, Scale Fly-In and Scale competitions. All bar the Electric Fly-In the turnout was better than in previous years. We believe this is due to the information getting to members via the various media outlets we now use.

We did not run any Examiners Workshops this year due to the lack of take-up amongst examiners across the Area in previous years. We will review this in 2020.

After the success of the school enrichment day the Area ran at the Warden Park Academy in 2018, we were asked back this year, and to do it over two days this time. The days were made up of an introduction to the BMFA, an explanation of the different types of models, and flying disciplines covered by the BMFA. Then the students got the chance to build a BMFA Dart, trim it out, then fly it. Finally, back to the classroom for a Quiz and prize giving to the best students over the day. Over the two days over forty Darts were built and flown. It has proved very popular with the students, some joining the after-school club. We have been asked back in 2020.

The funding for Long Man and Ashdown Forest licences will have to change in 2020 due to the changes in the way Areas are Funded. The cost will now have to be borne by the people that fly on the sites.

We are still seeing more clubs represented at Area committee meetings than in previous years, which is very encouraging, and we would like this to continue.

Stuart Willis
South East Area Council Delegate

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SOUTHERN AREA ANNUAL REPORT

Since my last report I have attended all but one Full Council meeting, every Area Council meeting, and all but one Southern Area Committee meeting.

Sadly, I have to report that Roger Stanton, who wrote the Nostalgia Notebook section of BMFA News for 16 years and was a very active member of Firebirds MFC, died on 29 May. In addition, Stuart Simpson, who was our Area Delegate for more years than anyone can remember, became paraplegic after a fall at the end of 2018 and is now confined to a wheelchair.
Unfortunately, we may lose access to Middle Wallop airfield for model flying in 2020 due to relocation there of the Royal Navy Gliding Club.

Southern Area has had another busy year, despite the relatively poor weather that saw the cancellation of the Odiham Free Flight Gala and the Wimborne MFC Scale Competition. Our website has finally been updated. Filming for the ASRC training videos has been kindly hosted by Wimborne MFC.

As a result of cuts to Area funding our budget deficit for 2018-19 was £57.42, offset from a projected £190 by cancellation of an ASRC roadshow. Our projected budget deficit for 2019-20 is £200.41, again offset by cancellations noted above. None of our committee members claim expenses for Area duties.

Since the 2018 AGM report, Southern Area have attended or run the following:

**Open eSoaring Competition** Hosted by Alton Silent Fliers and run in conjunction with the BMFA eSoaring League.

**South West Model Shows, Bovington Tank Museum** Chesil MFC provided the SABMFA presence, including a flying display, at these shows in October 2018 and February 2019.

**Balsa Brain quiz night, 30 November** this annual quiz sees teams from Area clubs competing for the Balsa Brain Trophy. Raffle prizes were donated by Flitehook and Sussex Model Centre.

**London Model Engineer Exhibition 18-20 January** We again supported London Area to run the BMFA display, helping also with set-up on the Thursday afternoon and dismantling on Sunday.

**Flightfest - National Model Flying Month** Four Southern Area clubs hosted events at their club sites, while Chichester and District MAC (CADMAC) provided static displays at Tangmere Model Show and at the opening of Goodwood Flying School new HQ. As follow-ups to these events, CADMAC have engaged with local Cadets to run buddy-box sessions at their flying site and to run a static display at Tangmere Families Day, while Southern Area members from several clubs ran a flying display and hands-on flight simulator at Medstead RC Model Show in August.

**Wallop at War 27 May** We again provided a BMFA presence, this year as a Flightfest event, including a flying display, at this annual fixture at the Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop.

**Southern Area Gala 14 July** Held for the second year at Middle Wallop airfield by kind invitation of the airfield manager. Turnout of model flyers was disappointing, and we are unlikely to run a similar event again.

**Odiham Families day, 25 July** This event at RAF Odiham is for the members of the RAF and their families. Southern Area BMFA members are invited to put on a static display.

**Power Nationals** several Southern Area members attended to help at this event.

David Smith
Southern Area Delegate

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**WESTERN AREA ANNUAL REPORT**

The Area held their AGM last November and there were several changes to the committee. Phil Durant, who had been our Area Delegate retired from all his positions, which caused a few minor changes. I am now Area Delegate, Nick White is now treasure (in place of me), the rest of the committee remaining the same.

We have held two very successful workshops this year. Excellent attendance at both these events. The first being held at the Wessex Model Flying Club, Poulshot, Wiltshire in June; and the second at the Woodspring Wings Model Aircraft Club site in Somerset earlier this month. Excellent feedback from attendees.

John Stennard, once again takes pride of place. The Sir John Thomson Spirit of Aviation Initiative which our area supports, entered its fifth year. The new first year students, all in Year 9, took part in three all-day sessions in November 2018, March and May 2019. Learning from our experiences, John modify the programme as and when required. It is interesting that the ‘chuck glider challenge’ is extremely popular with the students. A pleasing result was yet again an improvement in the standard of the student’s aviation-based Power Point presentations. They now bring these installed on their own laptops which enabled a smoother presentation and easy use of video and sound tracks. The mature student from Rolls-Royce gave a particularly interesting talk and brought model turbine assembly ‘kits’ of parts. These were assembled as a timed challenge
and this was thoroughly enjoyed by the students. The May session this year was again held in Aerospace Bristol and as before, featured the BA Dreamliner simulator plus our range of model activities. The new venue also enables the students to view the Aerospace exhibits.

Free Flight (FF) in the Area has continued to decline partially from difficulty with access to Merryfield and also the increasing age of the majority. Access to Merryfield looked promising as our FF Competition Secretary had been able to find an acceptable MoD sponsor. However, a RAF Gliding Club has now taken up flying from the site, and it has become impossible to fly from this site. On a positive note, FF clubs in the area are working with other clubs in adjacent areas to organise events for future years.

John Harris
Area Delegate

**MID WEST AREA ANNUAL REPORT**

The Mid West area continues to maintain a dozen or more representatives from clubs attending each meeting and overall, 30 clubs are represented throughout the year at the different venues. Those clubs that are unable to attend the meetings keep connected via our area Facebook forum page, allowing topics to be discussed between meetings, which still works well.

We held a couple Examiner workshops throughout the year at the Gaer Park Model Flying Club and Newent & District Model Flying Club. The workshops are being well attended by examiners and general BMFA members alike.

The Area contributed towards three Fly In events spread across the area. The “Wings over Wales” was hosted by the Gaer Park MFC and was very well attended. Along with the BBQ and social get together, trophies were awarded for most entertaining flight, best scale flight and best scale model.

The North Cotswold MAC held their “Fly for Fun” BBQ and again had a good selection of visiting clubs.

The Chedworth Flying Club and the Cotswold Radio Control Society held a joint Fly In, but unfortunately the rain intervened.

In the far west, The Haverford west Model Club held their Open Fly In event although didn’t need any resource from the area.

Andrew Potts
(Mid-West Area Delegate)

**SOUTH WEST AREA ANNUAL REPORT (CORNWALL AND DEVON SUB-AREAS)**

There was a quiet start to the year in the South West with little activity to report: although not as bad as last year, poor weather curtailed winter flying activity (as in other Areas), but there were several decent days when club events were able to go ahead. In the New Year the Cornwall Sub Area meeting venue reverted to a previous location and initially saw the hoped-for increase in numbers attending meetings, but this then dropped off again over the Summer and representation at the last meeting only just achieved a quorum. Very disappointing because last year we were consistently achieving 80% club attendance rate: the issue will be addressed at the AGM planned for 3 December. With more interest shown by clubs at the beginning of the year, the decision to run a series of inter-club fun competitions in the summer (after a 2 year lay-off) was taken in an attempt to promote better inter-club liaison. These events have taken place and were generally very well received, hopefully interest will now continue. Overall general model aviation activity in the county was higher than in recent years. The Sub-Area now has a BMFA web site page and this immediately proved a popular and useful “tool” in spreading communication through the county.
A potential issue with nesting Peregrine Falcons at St Agnes head, which threatened to stop all slope soaring at the site (model and paragliders) was resolved following close liaison between CSSA and the NT Warden. There is a solid relationship between the club and NT and procedures are working well to safeguard the birds without impacting on leisure activities.

Indoor flying for the winter has commenced at Camborne (sponsored by Redruth and District MFC) and Tregorrick Park (Cornwall Vintage Aeromodellers). Hall hire fees have increased again and the break-even point raised. It is very much a case of “use it or lose it” and unless members support the event funds are not available to continue. Following the popularity of the last event, the Area is running another Swap Meet in November.

The Devon Sub-Area remains in suspension with routine administration being run from Chacksfield House.

Peter Disney  
South West (Cornwall and Devon Sub-Areas) Delegate  
4 Nov 19

NORTHERN IRELAND AREA ANNUAL REPORT

In my sixth year as Delegate, I attended the AGM, including the Prizegiving Dinner, on 17 November 2018, and the Council Meeting held in Leicester on 12 January and the Areas Council Meeting on 16 March 2019. Bill Scott, our Vice Chairman, kindly attended the Council Meeting held in Leicester on 11 May as my Alternate. At these Meetings I represented the Area’s views as required and briefed Bill accordingly for the Council Meeting.

I have reported back to the Northern Ireland Area Meetings held on 12 September and 14 November (AGM) 2018, 13 February and 10 April 2019, and have passed on to the Area Committee Officers, ACEs and Club Secretaries any information of relevance received from HQ and elsewhere.

During this period, I was also Chairman of the Area Committee and have been in regular contact with the Secretary, Treasurer and other Officers to keep up to date with Area events and activities, and have been very appreciative of the Committee’s efforts to benefit the Area in many activities. I have attended many events run by the Area and the Clubs and have been made very welcome.

The Area priority has been improved communications between the Clubs, and these have been enhanced by the advent of email and social media. The Website helps provide a reliable means of propagating the Calendar of events, and much else besides. As always, it is difficult to keep this up to date and comprehensive, but it is always improving.

Area Meetings continue to be very well attended. More than half of Area Clubs regularly send delegates, and our central location for Meetings helps encourage people to see that all have more or less equal journeys to attend.

We have been actively pursuing ASRC activities and hope to continue to expand the number of specific events and the number of fliers achieving their Certificates. This is a very long term process and we continue to encourage more experienced pilots to come forward as Examiners.

Area Clubs have been active on the PR front, the number of Displays, both inside and out steadily expanding, and several Charities have been supported in the process. Club swapmeets and Open Days have been well attended and successful despite poor weather this year. The number of sites for waterplanes continues to expand. Indoor flying helps keep activity going all year.

The proposal for Budgets for Areas is logical but very different from current practice. It is a very big step from always finding it difficult to encourage Clubs to decide on their activities for the incoming year, to requiring them to anticipate costs some time in advance for events which often materialise over weeks. It is to be hoped that the process will become more familiar as it beds down, and particularly that it does not demand too much
time from Area Officers. Trying to find and bring forward people prepared to work for the common good is always an uphill struggle.

Maurice Doyle 23 September 2019

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**RAFMAA AREA ANNUAL REPORT**

This year we celebrated our 70th Anniversary as an Association, being formed in October 1949. Our ties with the SMAE and the BMFA have always been strong and a high proportion of our senior ranks, have and still do, hold high office in the National body.

As always we have had a busy year with our members flying in international and national events. Additionally we have organised events around the country for our members to attend and compete where applicable. Our event calendar over the years has become set in format. This allows our serving members to plan ahead and book time off in their ever busy work schedule.

Our Warbird event at RAF Shawbury, ‘Shawbirds’; is becoming increasingly popular on the Warbird circuit as it is open to all. The event is organised by the RAF Shawbury Club who have superb facilities and flying site that is second to none. This year the Saturday was a wash out as Storm ‘Hannah’ hit the area. However, Sunday was very flyable and the pilots made up for the poor weather the previous day; using the full eight hours allocated.

Our two Slope Soaring events are held in September and March. It is fair to say that we do not have much success with good flying weather at these events as for most part of the weekends we are either becalmed or have torrential rain. However, in our March event this year, we did attain a Slope ‘A’ certificate and hopefully we have another couple of candidates for this coming season, weather permitting.

Continuing on an achievement thread; at the recent examiners and instructors weekend at Buckminster, one of our members, passed his helicopter A and B exams and is now working up to become a Helicopter Examiner. Our main achievement workshop is held at our annual championships and fly-in, at RAF Honington, where we have a captive audience. Unfortunately, due to weather extremes and a paucity of likely candidates, we were unable to hold training sessions this year.

Our four Indoor flying events during the winter months still prove to be a great success. We hold two at RAF Wyton and two at RAF Cosford, giving members from each side of the country a chance to attend. Over the years, these events have become a good testing ground for innovation; both in rubber-powered and RC electric powered foam models. In recent years we have seen an increase of rubber as the motive power giving our newer members experience in ‘retro’ aeromodelling.

The Association is still championing STEM events; volunteers have been busy this year at events around the country with our Drone Technology Hub (DTH). We have supported the Weston Park show and the Duxford ‘Race to the Line’ show plus a couple of RAF station STEM events.

Our Drone racers have had their course enhanced this year and we have introduced Wing FPV racing which was our Chairman’s Challenge for our Annual Championships. Drone racing is slowly attracting more pilots as the fast, high-tech discipline of the sport. Additionally, we have now gone Tri-Service with competitors from the Royal Navy and the Army coming to our Championships and sometimes daring to win events! Individually, our Drone racing pilots have competed at national events and have gained very credible places.

In International competition, the stalwarts from our ‘Circle of Friends’, Barker/Tricker have had success in F2C being placed as the best British Team at a recent event on the Continent. Furthermore, they gained high places at racing events at the BMFA Nationals. In F3C, Ian Emery is also achieving good results, flying in World Cup competitions in Belgium, Denmark and Holland attaining seventh, fifth and eighth places respectively. He also came third at the BMFA Nationals.
In support of enhancing the infrastructure at BMFA Buckminster; we made a contribution to fund the Control Line hard circle, with the full blessing of our members.

Finally, we were delighted that our previous Secretary, Alex Woods, was awarded a BMFA Honorary Membership at the 2018 BMFA AGM Dinner in recognition for his tireless work on our Committee. Alex has now been elevated as our PRO; a challenge that he will relish.

Ian Nelson
BMFA Delegate Area 14 (RAFMAA)

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**FREE FLIGHT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

The organisational team within the FFTC continues to remain relatively stable. Two retiring members are again seeking re-election (Ken Faux and Mike Woodhouse). Steve Philpott has put his name forward, Steve is a past member of the FFTC, there will be no election.

The numbers involved and enthusiasm within free flight remains reasonably healthy and competition activities have been steady. The biggest impact upon activity continues to be the availability of flying sites. Getting modellers to sign up to help also continues to be an issue.

The Liaison with SAM35 and the FFTC organisation is working well. Joint events are in operation and further are planned using the Buckminster Centre.

Only minor tidying rule changes for 2020 are planned. We are trying to maintain a steady ship. The only change will be to the team selection process to ensure that we fit the selection methods in the best way to suit current circumstances.

The Free Flight Nationals was successful in both terms of the contests held and in producing a positive financial result.

The free flight contest fund has fallen by £3K to £20k. This was not unexpected as the input of funds diminishes as numbers of participants fall and costs increase. The fund is in effect the free flight pension fund and was built for this purpose this reduction was foreseen.

Teams will be sent to the F1A, F1B, F1C World Championships in California in October. The FIE World Championships took place in August with a modest result.

Michael J. Woodhouse
September 2019

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**R/C SILENT FLIGHT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

I have attended all Council Meetings with the exception of the September meeting, which was caused by an unfortunate clash with other commitments.

In 2019, the number of major competitions attended by our members was less than in 2018 due to the fact that there is a continuing trend to only attend World Championships and forego attendance at European Championships.

The cost and effort to manage a Team for each of these events is a major activity for the various disciplines, and therefore is it becoming more 'normal' to only support the World Championships.

This does not mean however that other European events are ignored. On the contrary, attendance at Eurotour and World Cups are increasing, with F3K, F3F and F5J members attending many European events in France,
Spain, Portugal, Holland and the UK amongst the many locations now available on the Eurotour and World Cup Calendar.

The BMFA Silent Flight Nationals were again run at Buckminster, and like the Power Nationals, were blessed with excellent weather throughout the weekend. Disciplines flown were 2M eSoaring, 100", F3K, F5J and ‘Open’ eSoaring. An additional ‘guest’ event of ELG (Electric Launch Glider) based on BARCS rules was also run.

Future years may see a revision of events run, as additional classes are being added to the rule book, resulting in more events requiring airspace than can be accommodated in the time available at Buckminster over the Bank Holiday Weekend.

Several classes are becoming less prevalent as the popularity of launch methods moves towards the electric launch. F3B and F3J have had little or no following in 2019 as a result of that trend. Only 100” appears to defy the odds, being the only winch launch event currently catered for.

Hopefully, 2020 will continue to have a healthy attendance at Silent Flight Competitions, and UK pilots will begin to show off their skills at European and World events.

Jon Edison
SFTC

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SCALE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Scale Technical Committee was reformed in November 2018 with Andy Sephton as Chairman, Mike Stuart as Secretary, Steve Kessel as Treasurer, Mike Sollitt as PRO, John Minchell as Results Officer, and Chris Allen as Safety and Rules Officer. Bill Dennis, Brian Cordwell and John Copplestone were retained as ex-officio members to advise on Free Flight, Control Line and Helicopters respectively. Steve Jackson was co-opted to look after the Competition Calendar and John Carpenter was retained to advise on RC.

John Copplestone was not able to carry out his STC responsibilities and Bill Dennis resigned his position half way through the year. Replacements have not yet been found.

Radio Control Outdoors

In order to increase our chances at world championship events, Graham Kennedy was appointed as World Championship Team Trainer. He has been working closely with potential team members during this reporting period. The team for next years World Championships will be picked later this year.

Weekend competitions have been held regularly throughout the spring, Summer and Autumn months. The Calcutter Cup, an informal event between Scotland and the remainder of the UK, was won by Scotland. In an attempt to increase participation in BMFA Scale RC, Light Scale was introduced into the BMFA Scale RC programme this year. The maximum model weight for Light Scale is 5Kg, compared to 15Kg for the other Scale RC classes, which makes it less complex and less expensive. Whilst there has been a poor uptake for the event, it did produce three more entries at the main Nationals this year. The event will continue for at least another year in order to assess any long term benefits.

A successful Scale RC National Championships was held at the BMFA RC Nationals in August, with three events taking place, F4C, Stand-Off and Flying Only.

Radio Control Indoors

The Scale Indoor RC nationals in March were initially cancelled due to an administration hold up with the venue’s controlling authority. The event was successfully held in May with entries in both Scale and Flying Only. AeroModeller Editor, Andrew Boddington kindly donated a picture to be used as a prize for Flying only - the trophy will be accepted as an STC asset.
It is planned to hold next year’s Scale Indoor RC Nationals at Wolverhampton University Sports Centre during the same weekend as the Scale Indoor Free Flight Nationals.

Free Flight Outdoor

Informal events have been held throughout the year, in particular during the BMFA Free Flight Nationals. A successful National Championship was held at the BMFA RC Nationals with events for IC, CO2/Electric and Rubber powered models.

Free Flight Indoor

The Scale Free Flight Indoor Nationals were again held successfully at Wolverhampton University Sports Centre, Walsall in April with events for Peanut, Pistachio, CO2/Electric, Rubber and Kit Scale models.

Control Line

Following publicity in the aeromodelling media, there was a significant increase in entries for the Scale Control Line Nationals this year with successful events being held in Scale and Flying Only. The Competition took place at the BMFA RC Nationals in August.

Helicopter

There has been no known formal STC controlled scale events for helicopters during the reporting period.

Andy Sephton

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INDOOR TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Due to problems booking three days at the Sports Centre (TVA) at Datchet for the venue of the Indoor Duration Nationals this year, the venue has been changed to the Lee Valley Athletics Centre, Edmonton, London, and is actually being run on the date of the deadline for this report.

After a three year gap, the North West Area Indoor Free Flight Gala was once again run at the Manchester Velodrome, although the numbers participating were a little lower than in the past. Dave Whitehouse has managed to negotiate three ‘fly for fun’ events and a day for next years Gala at the Manchester Velodrome.

This years F1D World Championships were held at Tachov, Czech Republic, and the UK team of Mark Benns (8th), Hans Staartjes (11th) and Martin Judge (18th), put up a creditable fourth team place.

Next years World Championships will take place at Slanic, Romania. The first team trials will be held during the Indoor Duration Nationals and two more have been scheduled to be held at the TVA.

The ITC has been working on the rules for a Condenser Electric Class and should have the rules finalised this coming year.

The indoor community is suffering from the lack of affordable flying sites and if any member can offer suggestions please do not hesitate to let the ITC know.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Indoor Technical Committee for all their hard work over the last twelve months.

Mike Colling FSMAE

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CONTROL LINE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

In this year control-line has made full use of the National Flying Site at Buckminster. All C.L.T.C. meetings have been at the administration block, five meetings with F2D/F2E and Vintage combat and C.L.A.P.A. held four meetings and their Championships at the above site. It should be noted the amount of time and effort given to the site by the above in developing a better surface to fly on. All four disciplines were represented at the European Championships with a reasonable set of results. Paul Eisner a third in F2A, Mark Williams just missing out on a top fifteen fly off in F2B a fourth team prize in F2C and Mike Whillance a fourth individual in F2D Control-line was well represented at Weston Park and yet again I found it quite staggering the number of people that approached us not knowing or having not seen control-line before. In its second year, the British Italian World Cup in Lugo proved to be the most successful World Cup in Europe. The Nationals had the best weather I can remember with entry numbers similar to previous years. This is probably my third or fourth report with the same conclusion how do we find or encourage juniors? I guess every other branch of model flying has the same problem.

Vernon Hunt
C.L.T.C. Chairman

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The last year has been an exceptionally challenging one, with the BMFA leading the ongoing battle with national and international regulators to protect model flying from the imposition of new regulations aimed at ‘drones’.

This year saw the publication of the EU regulations for unmanned aircraft (which capture model flying). Thanks to our direct involvement in the creation of the regulations, the finished result is relatively sensible with minimal impact on model flying conducted within the framework of Associations. The bigger challenge has been trying to get our own Government and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to interpret the EU regulations correctly.

In April this year, the CAA published CAP1775 as a consultation on the charges for their Drone Registration & Education System (DRES), which appeared to close the door on what we had understood to be ongoing negotiations with the Department for Transport (DfT) and CAA. It was at that point that we launched our ‘call to action’ which resulted in a truly remarkable response from our members and the wider aviation community. The result was that the CAA got their biggest ever response to anything. This was supported by pressure from members MP’s, many of whom have provided fantastic support including several questions asked in Parliament.

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP (as Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for General Aviation) also provided fantastic support, submitting a joint ‘motion to regret’ to the then Aviation Minister in response to the heavy-handed implementation of Flight Restriction Zones around aerodromes in response to reported incidents at Gatwick over the festive period.

We were therefore fortunate when Grant Shapps was appointed Secretary of State for Transport which allowed him to make a direct intervention on our behalf and instruct the DfT/CAA to work with us to find a more acceptable way forward. At the time of writing this process is still ongoing, but I am optimistic that a more sensible outcome will be reached which I hope to report on at the AGM.

I must also pay tribute to our Special Advisers (Cliff Whittaker and Roger Hopkinson MBE) who have worked tirelessly in support of the BMFA in our battle with the DfT/CAA. I am delighted that their very significant efforts have been recognised with the awarding of Honorary Memberships.

The rate of regulatory change continues at an unprecedented rate and for much of the last year my primary focus has been to try and ensure that the model flying community is represented at the highest level and protected from the unintended consequences of regulations aimed at multi-rotor ‘drones’. This has been a significant drain on my time.
I have continued as Technical Officer for Unmanned Aircraft to Europe Air Sports (EAS) and attended their Conference in Lisbon in March where I gave an update on the progress of EU Regulations for unmanned aircraft.

In June, I was voted in for a second term as President of the European Model Flying Union (EMFU) which provides a co-ordinated voice in arguing to preserve the established rights of model flyers throughout Europe. The EMFU General Meeting took place in Gouda in and I was pleased to be supported by Ian Pallister FSMAE.

BMFA Buckminster has concluded its second full year of operation under the leadership of Manny Williamson - Development Officer & Centre Manager. I would like to record my thanks to Manny and his dedicated team of part time staff and volunteers who continue to do an outstanding job in making the National Centre something which the BMFA can be truly proud of. In addition to this, Manny has again managed a diverse range of projects including the Payload Challenge which was hosted at BMFA Buckminster and organising the ‘Showline’ at the Power Nationals.

Andy Symons has continued to lead our internet presence with his continued work as webmaster for the various BMFA Websites and administrator of our various Facebook pages. Andy has also continued to create a significant number of websites for affiliated clubs, Specialist Bodies and Technical Committees in addition to supporting our Clubs in a variety of ways as Club Support Officer and serving as Safety Co-Ordinator at the Power Nationals. However, a very significant focus for Andy this year was the implementation of our new GoMembership system (thanks also to Stuart Willis for his outstanding support) which has been extremely successful and subject to ongoing development.

Once again, the Annual Accounts were assessed as excellent by Paul Stephenson and I would like to thank our Accounts Manager – Sian Sargeant (along with her assistant Gemma Sargeant) for her hard work in dealing with our complex financial matters over the last year. In addition to her accounts work, Gemma Sargeant has continued to produce our advertising and promotional material including the excellent programme for the Power Nationals.

The Office Staff have worked hard on the multitude of varied tasks expected of them including processing memberships, production of BMFA Education Kits, dealing with our merchandise and trophy collection and providing administrative support for the various Nationals, International Teams, members insurance and the Achievement Scheme. The staff were also key to the successful implementation of the GoMembership System. Thanks to Office Manager – Linda Harding and her team of Helen Feaver, Julie Coe, Lisa McDade and Donna Cartwright.

On a personal note, I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation both to the Chairman and to the entire team at Chacksfield House and BMFA Buckminster for their help and support over the last year which has allowed me to focus most of my own efforts on battling with the DfT/CAA.

**Membership**

As this report is being prepared, our membership is around 2000 members down on the same period last year which is of course a major cause for concern. The increase in subs for 2019 coupled with the uncertainty over the DRES situation are perhaps the biggest factors in this reduction. However, the number of Clubs has remained strong. I hope that a sensible agreement with the DfT/CAA coupled with the efforts we are putting into PR (with events like Flight Fest) will yield a recovery in membership numbers in time.

**Insurance**

I am pleased to report that our insurance arrangements with Integro have continued to work very well. At the time of writing, the number of claims received for 2019 is less than in recent years and they continue to be dealt with efficiently and expeditiously.

We have continued to benefit from Integro’s ongoing sponsorship which has provided valuable support to the National Centre project and the Showline at the Nationals.
We hosted the Sports Team from Integro at BMFA Buckminster in July where they tried their hands at Control Line Carrier Deck. Sadly, none of them gained certificates!

The level of ongoing service provided by Tim Marshall and his excellent team at Integro coupled with their collective desire to work with us to make the insurance cover provided to BMFA members the best available is greatly appreciated. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Integro into 2020 and beyond.

BMFA NEWS

I would like to record my thanks to Pete Dodd, BMFA NEWS Editor for his continued efforts in maintaining the high standard we have come to expect for the publication.

Public Relations

Paul Tallett has done an excellent job in stimulating and maintaining high levels of interest in our social media channels and in maintaining enduring links with the trade and other external organisations.

Honorary Solicitor

Nick Marshall has provided advice and guidance to us on a variety of matters through the course of 2019 including the Special Resolution which will be presented to the AGM. We look forward to working with Nick again in 2020.

Computer Sub Committee

I would like to thank Stuart Willis and Andy Symons for their sterling efforts in delivering the GoMembership project and supporting its ongoing development.

R/C, C/L and Scale Nationals

As Co-ordinator of the 2019 Power Nationals, I would like to thank the established ‘NATS Team’ who once again rose to the challenge and helped me deliver a successful event (which benefitted from a beautiful weekend for a change!). It would be impossible to organise the Power Nationals without my established team and I would like to give particular thanks to Wayne Pendleton (Flightline Co-ordinator), Keith Lomax FSMAE (Treasury), Christine Lomax (Campgate), Pete Hadlow (Trade Secretary), Linda Harding (Daygate), Tony Butterworth FSMAE (Campsite), Tom Jones (Plant & Equipment), Andy Symons (Safety), Manny Williamson (Showline) and Mark Wigley (Roping).

Thanks, are also due to our Chairman Ian Pallister FSMAE (having retired from RAF Cranwell, Ian was drafted back in as RAF Liaison Officer at short notice) and to the staff from RAF Cranwell, RAF Barkston Heath and Ascent Flight Training as without their co-operation and support the Nationals simply would not happen.

Having recently been appointed as Nationals Co-ordinator once again, plans are already being made for 2020 and I look forward to working with the established team once again. We hope to be back at Barkston in 2020 for both the Free Flight and Power Nationals!

Dave Phipps
Chief Executive & Power Nationals Co-ordinator

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DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

2019 has again been a very busy year and of course a significant proportion of my activity is directed to the operation and further development of the National Centre.

The progress and ongoing activity at the National Centre have been documented though my column in BMFA News and also through regular blogs on the Centre Facebook pages and dedicated website (the Late summer/Autumn Blog is just out)
Overall it has been another very positive year, bookings and use have again been strong which has led to a positive revenue stream meaning that the Centre is covering operating costs (there are still a number of events to go as I write this report).

Usage is increasing steadily and for 2019 pretty much every weekend from mid-March to mid November has been/is booked for a model flying event of one sort or another, some large, some lower key which has largely fitted in well with our stated aim of quiet activity every other weekend, the diverse range of activity we are accommodating at the Centre is very pleasing.

The overall profile of the Centre continues to increase and every event attracts a good number of first time visitors, the camping activity is also steadily increasing as members realise that it represents a good opportunity for a short model flying break in pleasant surroundings.

Event bookings are already strong for 2020 and as predicted in last year’s report the main challenge is accommodating all of the desired bookings for the year, there are only so many weekends.

My day to day workload remains divided between activities associated with the role of Development Officer and the general “estate management” and further development of the National Centre.

I continue to write a regular column for BMFA News which regularly runs to 2500 words, the aim is to cover a range of topical issues such as insurance and safety, despite writing the column for almost 15 years it still seems to receive positive feedback and I haven’t run out of material yet (although it often feels like it when I sit down to write each issue’s offering).

I have continued to support shows and events and also attend meetings as required, I also organised and ran the BMFA University and Schools Payload Challenge in June which successfully relocated to the National Centre in 2017, the competition goes from strength to strength and the 2020 Challenge has been launched. I again undertook the role of Flying Display Director for the Showline at the August Power Nationals, supported by a small team of excellent volunteers, the Showline was a considerable success, helped of course by the rather splendid weather, we carried out some 300 individual flights with only a couple of minor incidents.

The Nationals continues to be a key annual event and it will be interesting to see the final numbers for 2019, the weather was very much “on side” this year and it has to be hoped that this translates into a financial positive, if this isn’t the case then perhaps the future direction and format of the National Champs will require some consideration.

Looking at the wider world of model flying it has of course been a challenging year and it is fortunate indeed that we have such strong and reasoned representation through our CEO, whilst there is clearly still some way to go with the whole process, there looks to be some light at the end of the bureaucratic tunnel, however, time will tell.

It is of course rewarding to see the National Centre Project continuing to developing in accordance with the original plan and in some areas exceeding the forecasts and expectations. There continues to be strong support for the project and I would like to express my thanks to all those who have demonstrated their enthusiasm and support for the BMFA National Centre, to those who have donated, those who have purchased season tickets, those who have assisted and those who turn up at the centre every week to help create a facility and environment that can help to represent and promote UK model flying, thank you.

It is also extremely pleasing that the National Centre Volunteer Team have been nominated for an award in recognition of their commitment and hard work.

On a personal theme, it has been a busy year in terms of my own recreational activities and I have clocked up around 130 hours gliding with some 5000km of cross-country task flying.

My own model flying has mainly consisted of a small amount of DLG flying and some testing of E2K pylon models ready for the winter league series, I have also been doing a bit of buddy box training at the National Centre which has proven to be both challenging and rewarding.
In closing it is worth mentioning that an annual report can only ever give a flavour of the year’s activity and the range, quantity and scope of activity that we are involved in increases each year, it would be a long report indeed that fully detailed a year’s activity for BMFA staff members.

I would again like to thank all of those who have supported and assisted me throughout the year, and specifically I would like to thank my team of Buckminster volunteers without whom the National Centre would be a very different place, far less viable, and at times considerably less entertaining, I look forward to working with you all in 2020.

Manny Williamson
Development Officer
National Centre Manager

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EDUCATION REPORT

The roll of ‘Education’ in the BMFA this year has been two fold - the University and Schools Payload Challenge (the 25th year) and the promotion of ‘FlightFest’ by Paul Tallett.

The Challenge was run for the third time at the National Flying Site at Buckminster. The same Five Challenges were announced as last year, but we had no entrants in Challenge 2. However a record number of 32 teams attended the flying part of the Challenges. A full report of this most successful event was published in the August issue (No.155) of the BMFA News. Once again the event was run in partnership with the Royal Aeronautical Society.

The progress of ‘FlightFest' will be explained by Paul in his presentation. I hope it goes from strength to strength.

I am happy to report that kit sales from the Office are still very buoyant and relevant in this hi-tec world.

From a chance encounter at last years AGM, I have been carrying out experiments with the Groupner Vector RC units. This equipment is both cost effective and robust.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the large and growing number of members, non-members and affiliated clubs who have given their time and support to the Education Programme, without whom it could not happen.

Mike Colling, FSMAE

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CLUB SUPPORT OFFICER

This report covers September 2018 to August 2019, this has once again been an extremely busy year and I have attended all ASRC meetings throughout the year as well as some Area and Full council meetings where required.

The end of 2018 and start of 2019 was dominated by overseeing the introduction of the GoMembership membership portal for which I organised a number of workshops up and down the country which were very well received. On the whole the introduction has been a success with most happy with the extra functionality and ease of use. There are still some clubs that haven't moved over to using the portal which I have to say is a mistake as it is most definitely easier and more efficient than the older methods.

I once again was happy to take on the role of safety team leader at the Power Nationals in August, from a safety point of view the Nationals was “uneventful” and I would like to thank the team of marshalls and safety officers for their unflappable support once again.
There has been the usual run of club disputes which I have assisted with, most of which are trivial matters that have gotten out of hand but the can usually be smoothed over before things get too out of hand, don't forget that what we do we do for fun!

I have visited a number of club sites to assist with a variety of matters from noise and planning to site layout and licence arrangements. Currently we have a number of clubs going through the planning process and we have had a number of planning successes this year.

Noise related problems have once again affected a number of clubs and I have conducted a number of noise assessments over the course of the year, it is very much the norm now for a planning application to require a noise assessment. Noise is the major cause of loss of flying sites. If you can do anything to reduce the noise your club makes you should give it serious consideration.

I have conducted a number of club talks throughout the year and I am more than happy to come along to your club meetings to talk about any aspect of the BMFA, I have refined the format for my club talk over the past few years and generally the talk consists of an introduction to me and my role within the BMFA after which I tend to move straight to questions from the audience and an interactive discussion, this way we talk about what you want to talk about, I find this can fill 2 hours or more quite easily. However if you would prefer a more targeted talk/presentation on a specific topic I am of course happy to oblige. Do get in touch if you would like to book a visit, also why not open the evening up to any other clubs in the area?

DRES has been an enduring topic for talks this year with a number of recent talks being about little else. While DRES is an extra hurdle to the enjoyment of our sport it is in fact not that great a hurdle and we now all have a responsibility to ensure we are only putting positive messages out and ensuring that we make that point that the barriers to participation are actually minimal.

Once again work with the BMFA online presence has been continuing over the year, and at the time of writing I am in the process of a complete upgrade and redesign of our various websites.

I have assisted at the National Centre as and when required, the facility just gets better and better, the development officer and his team continue to do an amazing job and I am pleased to be in a position to assist as and when required.

I would like to thank the CEO, Development officer as well as Linda and all the ladies in the office for their assistance and support through the past year, it is a privilege to be part of an exceptional team.

Andy Symons
Club Support Officer

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BMFA NEWS EDITOR

In response to concerns about the burden of creeping overheads, I have set about reducing the cost of editorial contributions. This has been achieved in a number of ways including producing more picture-led features.

The magazine also benefits from excellent and regular cost-free contributions from our 'staff writers'. Hats off to Manny Williamson, Andy Symons and Duncan McClure for their sterling work.

Also Paul Tallett of Progression Marketing, who now handles the publication's advertising, has this year sourced a number of paid for ‘advertorials’ for the magazine.

The BMFA News has continued as a full colour 64-pager this year. As ever I thank all contributors for their enthusiastic and expert efforts. And of course, a big thank you to Kath Watson, Keith Lomax, Dave Phipps, and all at Head Office for their help and support over the year.
A big thank you, too, to design house DPS, especially Tess, for the excellent page layout work and to Mortons the printers for getting the magazine finished and out to readers.

I continue to be encouraged by enthusiastic feedback for the magazine and I hope the Council feels that the BMFA News provides a valuable digest for the Association’s members along with useful news and advice.

Pete Dodd
Editor, BMFA News

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ARCHIVIST

The archives are in good order at the National Flying Centre and can be viewed by appointment.

They go back as far as 1910 to the present day over 8,000 archives are stored: over 700 books, 12 boxes containing various items of memorabilia from members who have passed on such as Eddie Cosh, Norman Butcher, Laurie Barr, Ron Moulton and others.

We have currently 600 photographs in albums many still to be identified, also many photographs to be put into the albums. Over 200 programmes the earliest being the 1928 Norther Heights MFA Gala including Queens Cup.

SMAE Minutes from 1927 and many technical books. Official Journals dating back to 1927 and Newsletters from over twelve associated bodies and organisations. We have a huge collection of commercial magazines around 6,000 in some 150 boxes.

There are many badge, stickers and pennants and other items still to be archived and any offers of help will be appreciated.

The Association acknowledges the volunteers who have helped with the archives over the past eighteen years. Terry Watson and Eric Clark both Honorary Members, Doug Hunt, Norma and Jim Wright FSMAE and Martin Dilly FSMAE the latter who have also collected models such as the 1930 Warnford.

Our grateful thanks to all who have helped.

Kath Watson, FSMAE.
Vice President
Archivist

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