

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
EAST ANGLIA AREA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020
CHAIRMAN & DELEGATE'S REPORT**

CHAIRMAN

This past year has seen a number of new appointments to the Area Committee including Paul Hoey (South Norfolk MFC) as Chairperson, Jason Channing (Stansted MFC) as Achievement Scheme coordinator, Steve Bowles (Vikings) as Competition Secretary and Alan Paul (Impington VCMAC) as website coordinator. At our AGM we thanked Mike Rieder (chairperson), Dave Oldfield (Competition Secretary) and Peter Jenkins (Webmaster) and Phil Gutteridge (Achievement Scheme coordinator)

The largely new committee is finding its feet and looking at alternative ways to engage and support clubs. Consideration is being given to a seminar approach to Area meetings and streamlining the business element. Due to the Covid 19 restrictions this approach has been successfully piloted using Zoom at an Area meeting when Andy Symons gave a very good overview of the BMFA's response to Covid 19 and other matters. The planned Committees conference had to be cancelled due to Covid 19.

Achievement Scheme

We are fortunate to have a good group of Area Chief Examiners and welcome Glenn Rackstraw to the team.

The Area Chief Examiner team held a Fixed Wing Achievement Scheme Instructor and Examiner Workshop in 2019, hosted by the Newmarket Club. Over 20 participants attended however it was notable that a number of participants were aspirant Fixed Wing A or B achievers rather than the target audience of current or prospective club instructors or examiners. Therefore, our coaching days are all the more relevant to this group.

Frustratingly plans for 2020 were thwarted by Covid 19 but further workshops are proposed for 2021 to support clubs and newcomers to model flying after the postponement of the 2020 events.

Free Flight

Free Flight activity remains a strong feature of the Area. In August 2019 an Area Gala at Sculthorpe was impacted by poor weather, however other events through the year continued. Mike Woodhouse, FSMAE, again organised the Free Flight Nationals at Barkston Heath at the end of May 2019.

The impact of Covid 19

The Area is grateful to the BMFA core staff team for their support and timely advice to clubs as well as the ASRC and Scale Technical Committee for their excellent Zoom seminars.

DELEGATE

Area Delegate I have attended 3 BMFA Council meetings and 1 Areas Council meeting, which have been held via ZOOM since March 2020. I also facilitated the BMFA Executive's Strategic Planning day which resulted in 7 strategic objectives being agreed. These are:

Protect Model Flying including advocacy with the Department for Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority

Retain and grow the membership with specific reference to:

- Making the BMFA relevant to members
- STEM and Education focus to recruit Juniors
- Preserve and improve member benefits

Restructure with specific reference to:

- Articles of Association to enable change
- Areas
- Back office functions and systems
- Reduce Bureaucracy and streamline Agendas

Celebration of 100 years of the SMAE/BMFA in 2022

Further Develop Buckminster

Business Continuity and succession planning

As a member of Areas Council which comprises the Delegates from all 14 BMFA Areas I have contributed to the member survey which has had a very high rate of return and will contribute to further developing the Association.

Let's hope that 2021 will be a better year for all.

Paul Hoey

