



# ROYAL AIR FORCE MODEL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION

WAD/4081/16/PEd

RAF Waddington

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All RAFMAA Members

25 Oct 04

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE 54TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE MODEL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION HELD AT RAF HONINGTON ON 3 SEP 04

Present	Wg Cdr I Pallister Flt Lt C Eskdale WO I Nelson CT C Barker CT G Ellis Sgt M Paffett Mr C Waite Flt Lt F Lacey	Chairman       Secretary
Apologies	Gp Capt R McAlpine Cpl J O'Rourke	
Stations Represented	RAF Benson RAF Boscombe Down RAF Brize Norton RAF Coningsby RAF Cottesmore RAF Henlow RAF Honington	RAF Marham RAF Odiham RAF Waddington RAF Wittering RAF Wyton RNAS Yeolvilton
In Attendance	Robin Gowler – BMFA Chairman	

Item (a)	Decision (b)	Action (c)
1 Opening Remarks	The Chairman welcomed members to the AGM and announced the retirement earlier in the year of the President of RAFMAA, Gp Capt Akehurst. Gp Capt McAlpine had agreed to be the new President. The Chairman also welcomed honoured guests and competition judges to the event on behalf of the members.	
2 Previous Minutes	No comments were raised as to the accuracy of the minutes of the 53rd AGM; they were therefore accepted as a true record of the meeting.	
3 Matters Arising	There were no actions outstanding from the minutes of last year's AGM.	
4 Treasurer's Report	1. The Treasurer announced that fees were raised last year to stem the overall decline in funds and this had left the Association in a good financial state. Funds were down by £1100 due to the replacement of 2 laptops, but	

	<p>annual running costs had been accommodated within the increased membership fees. The Chairman stated to the members that the laptops were bought from the Association's funds as the Committee and RAF Sports Board felt that the Association had sufficient funds to purchase these items.</p> <p>2. Membership was slightly down on last year's overall figure of 177 with the current membership at 163. Funds were expected to remain balanced with the current membership numbers.</p> <p>3. It was normal to vote on maintaining or increasing membership fees, but this was withheld due to the proposal to take a vote on joining the BMFA with full membership for all RAFMAA members. The Committee's move to join the BMFA was due to our decreasing size and an increasing proportion of our members already taking full BMFA membership, together with erosion of the discount we receive for having our own insurance. There were 2 issues to be resolved, firstly the financial aspects of joining; full membership to BMFA would cost £24 as opposed to full RAFMAA membership for £18. However, there was a possibility of a discount for the first year from the BMFA. Secondly, the security issue of having Service personnel on a civilian database had abated due to the reduced security threat. It was proposed that the RAFMAA would become a BMFA Area within its own right and could then receive funding from the BMFA in the region of £600 per year for administration of the Area. Service members of the proposed BMFA, RAFMAA Area would be registered as Mr Name/BMFA No/Address with no rank as RAFMAA would manage individual club membership and keep specific details.</p> <p>4. The Chairman had been in talks with the BMFA Chairman, Robin Gowler, over the proposal. Mr Gowler then asked if he could address the Meeting and announced that he believed the proposal would be good for both Associations. The BMFA Council was next due to meet on 18 Sep 04 when it would discuss the special relationship between the two Associations and inform the Chairman of the way forward.</p> <p>5. The BMFA Chairman also stated that he believed there may be merit in widening the scheme to include the RNMAA and the ATC within the new Area. The Chairman offered to answer any questions the members had of the proposal and also clarified that individuals would only pay one BMFA membership, even if they were also members of a civilian club.</p> <p>6. A vote was taken on whether to mandate this proposal to the BMFA at their next Council meeting. This was proposed by WO Nelson, seconded by Gp Capt Montague and unanimously carried forward. The question of security would still have to be clarified and could still over ride this decision, in which case the Association would maintain its existing membership fees. The proposal if successful would take effect from 1 Jan 05. A successful proposal would also allow ex serving members of the RAF to join the BMFA as RAFMAA Associate members, rather than BMFA Country Members, which would boost our membership.</p>	
<p>5 Competition Secretary's Report</p>	<p>1. The Comp Sec delivered a summary of the year's competition activities, stating it had been a busy year for all flying disciplines. A brief summary was given of all the events, highlighting individual successes and competition highlights. In particular, Chris Barker was congratulated on becoming National Champion in ½A Team Race, an event which had long been sponsored by the RAFMAA but one which we had not won for many years.</p> <p>2. The competition year started in Nov 03 with the first Indoor event at RAF Digby; Slope 1 at RAF St Athan in Feb 04; Indoor 2 at RAF Digby in Apr 04; Slope 2 at RAF Valley in May 04; Thermal Event at RAF Honington in Jun 04 and the Main Championships at RAF Honington in Sep 04. Attendance at this year's Main Championships was down on last year's attendance of 44 to 36 this year. In addition to the competition calendar, the Association held 3 Fly-In events at RAF Cottesmore, Waddington and Wittering. Although the weather conditions were not</p>	

	always ideal, these events were proving popular and being well attended.																									
6 Ratification of Honorary Members	<p>1. The Committee had only received one nomination for Honorary status this year; FS Bill Newson. The Chairman stated that FS Newson had been an active Committee member for several years and contributed to the Association over many years at station level, particularly in liaising for the Main Championships at West Raynham and Honington. Therefore, the Committee had approved his nomination.</p> <p>2. The presentation of Honorary certificates to Mr Keith Boseley and Mr George Bennett, held over from last year, would be carried out at the prize giving.</p>																									
7 Elections of Officials	<p>1. The Chairman reminded the meeting that each year all but 2 posts were subject to re-election, the exceptions being the posts of Chairman and Equipment Member. The Chairman informed the meeting that there was a vacancy for the Secretary's post but all the current members were willing to stand again for the forthcoming year although each post was open to nominations or volunteers.</p> <p>2. The Chairman gave a personal note of thanks to all those members who had held positions on the Committee during his time as Chairman as he was due to retire early from the Service. Wg Cdr M Evans would be taking over as the new Chairman. Particular thanks went to WO Nelson for his efforts in running the Main Championships over the past few years and Mr Colin Waite for his outstanding efforts with the RAFMAA website and the Newsletter. The Chairman was concerned that members were not getting full visibility of the Newsletter via the website and stated it would in future also be available on the MOD intranet.</p> <p>3. Flt Lt Childs had resigned from the position of Secretary due to forthcoming Service commitments. Flt Lt Lacey had volunteered to fill this post if a volunteer could be found to fill the Silent Flight Competition Secretary post. Cpl O'Rourke had informed the Committee he would be prepared to volunteer for the position of Silent Flight Competition Secretary, leaving a vacancy for Airmen's Rep/Trophy Sec.</p> <p>4. SAC Bellingham and SAC Wilson both wished to volunteer for the position of Airman's Representative. SAC Bellingham was proposed by Sgt Paffett, seconded by WO Nelson. SAC Wilson was proposed by Sgt Paffett and seconded by Chf Tech Ellis. A vote was taken and SAC Bellingham was voted in by 8 votes to 7. The remainder of posts were unchallenged and carried unanimously. The RAFMAA Committee for 2004/05 would be as follows:</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Chairman</td> <td>Wg Cdr M Evans</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Flt Lt F Lacey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>Flt Lt C Eskdale</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Competition Sec</td> <td>WO I Nelson.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Power Sec</td> <td>Chf Tech G Ellis.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Silent Flight Sec</td> <td>Cpl J O'Rourke</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indoor Sec</td> <td>Mr Phil Morgan.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Control Line Sec</td> <td>Chf Tech C Barker.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newsletter Editor</td> <td>Mr Colin Waite.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PRO/BMFA</td> <td>Sgt M Paffett.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Equipment Member</td> <td>Sqn Ldr Pete Beckett.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Airmen's Rep</td> <td>SAC P Bellingham</td> </tr> </table> <p>5. New TORs were to be signed by all the Committee members, with a copy to be retained by each individual committee member and a copy to the Chairman.</p>	Chairman	Wg Cdr M Evans	Secretary	Flt Lt F Lacey	Treasurer	Flt Lt C Eskdale	Competition Sec	WO I Nelson.	Power Sec	Chf Tech G Ellis.	Silent Flight Sec	Cpl J O'Rourke	Indoor Sec	Mr Phil Morgan.	Control Line Sec	Chf Tech C Barker.	Newsletter Editor	Mr Colin Waite.	PRO/BMFA	Sgt M Paffett.	Equipment Member	Sqn Ldr Pete Beckett.	Airmen's Rep	SAC P Bellingham	
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8 Any Other Business	<p>1. There was no other business from the members or committee.</p> <p>2. Gp Capt Montague on behalf of all the RAFMAA members gave a big thank you to the outgoing Chairman, Wg Cdr Pallister for all his efforts over the years as Chairman. Moreover, he thanked him for his wide participation and involvement in all aspects of the Association during his</p>																									

	<p>11 years in the post.</p> <p>3. The Chairman informed the membership that he had written to the new Dep Dir RAF Sports to again address the issue of funding, particularly for administration of the Association, and to ensure he was aware of our situation. The Chairman highlighted that he believed the appropriate APs and QRs made a distinction between funding for <i>administration</i> and <i>participation</i> in sport and that, whilst we would not receive Public funding for participation as long as we remained only a 'Recognised' sport, we should have a case to cover Committee expenses. He had also kept a 'foot in the door' over our possible return to fully 'Approved' status at some time in the future.</p> <p>4. When questioned over the suggestion about "jointery" with the RNMAA, as the RAFMAA used to have close ties with the RNMAA, the Chairman commented that he had written to the RNMAA Chairman 2 years ago but had received no reply. However, our new RAFMAA Chairman was based at Yeovilton and would be well placed to renew the approach.</p>	
<p>9 Next Meeting</p>	<p>1. The next AGM would be held at the 2005 Annual Main Championships and was expected to be at RAF Honington.</p> <p>2. There was no further business and the Chairman closed the meeting.</p>	

F R LACEY  
Flt Lt  
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