

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSOCIATION OF AEROMODELLERS

NORTHERN IRELAND AREA COMMITTEE OF THE BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 39th AREA GENERAL MEETING, at Dungannon Swifts Football Club on 19th September 2007

1 Attendance and Apologies

Apologies were received from Aidan Lafferty, Robert McCartney, Dennis McNeill Sam Phenix and Jim Taylor. 24 attendees represented 10 Clubs.

2 Minutes

Acceptance of the Minutes of the Meeting of 11 April 2007 was Proposed by NIMSA, Seconded by UMAC, and passed unanimously.

3 Officer's Reports

3.1 Chairman

The Chairman said how good it was to see everybody and welcomed the high attendance. He had not much to report, as his health has not been good this year, and he is recovering from a cataract operation. He was pleased that our attendance at Meetings is still the best of the Areas.

3.2 Vice-Chairman

No report.

3.3 Secretary

Information from the Sports Council continues to be received, and is available to anyone interested. It is now called Sport Northern Ireland. As it is not reported elsewhere, he noted that a British Record for Indoor F1L was achieved by Peter Watt of Mid Ards Club at North Weald near London and has been put forward to the Council for ratification. It was also noted that the flight from Ballycastle to Islay of 33 miles reported elsewhere is a record distance.

3.4 Treasurer

We are solvent, having received the BMFA grant of about £1,000 in June (this amount is related to the number of Clubs). The £50 contribution to the Sports Forum, the group representing the Governing Bodies of Sport, is due. We are part of the Air Sports Group along with Gliding, Microlights and so on. It was proposed by Dungannon, Seconded by UMAC, and passed unanimously that this should be paid.

3.5 Radio Control Power Secretary

Others reported the Aerobatic event at Newbuildings, which was attended by a flier from Letterkenny, where there are many Juniors active, and it was won by Phelim O'Neill. It was Judged by Matthew and Ken. The Fun-fly was run at Banbridge, where there were 9 entries, and it was won by Matthew Poots. The Scale was run at Newbuildings, and won by Jackie Drummond, flying an Me Komet. The David Matthews Pitts Propellor was won by Ross McKenzie. There were about 6 entries.

3.6 Radio Control Gliding Secretary

In a written report, which is much appreciated by the Secretary, he listed 6 events run this year, 3 Open/Electric, 2 100S and the Open Championships. Sam Phenix won the 100S Cup with Paul Freeman winning the Boyce Trophy for 100S and the Area Open Championships. There have been 9-11 entries with close competition. The Electric events have had to be curtailed by reducing the motor run by half to two thirds to keep the models in sight. The last Open/Electric event is on Sunday 30 Sept, and all are welcome.

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3.7 Control Line Secretary

The first event of the year was the Home International in May, held this year at Barkston Heath with the Free Flight Nats, which was run off just before the rain started for the weekend. Next was the Ulster Championships, which had good weather and a good attendance in June. We had a very well supported Fly in at Tommy Patton in August, with an American Magazine columnist, Allen Brickhaus, in attendance, and then the Irish Nats at Portaloise in August, again with increased entries. We look forward to our Fly in at Tommy Patton this Saturday and hope for a good turnout.

3.8 Council Delegate

He had been unable to attend, and had nothing to report, but there had not been any problems which affected the Area.

3.9 Public Relations Officer

No Officer, but at many events the BMFA Stand had been set up, e.g. the NDMRS Exhibition on 21/22 April at Bangor, and the Skybirds Rally at Mount Stewart on 12 May. This event is very well supported and the Static Exhibition was good, the Flying Displays led by Matthew Poots and Gordon McCrae also being excellent. The National Trust had sent a Thank You and has set the date for next year.

A flight between Ballycastle and Islay and back on 10 June by the Ballymoney Club was given wide coverage on TV and newspapers. The event was a fund raiser for the RNLI, and UMAC have made a donation. On a proposal by Omagh, Seconded by Langford, it was unanimously decided that the Area would make a donation of £100 to the RNLI through the Ballymoney Club.

At the Sentinus Young Innovators event on June 23 at the Odyssey, Rodney O'Neill led the event, plenty of information on the Education Programme was distributed to Teachers and many Darts were sold to the 150-200 pupils present.

At the Air Display at Portrush in September, John Pearson was interviewed on Causeway Radio, and there were huge crowds on the Saturday. The Council were very helpful, and the local Fire Station stored the models overnight. Spectators soon crowded round when a jet was started up.

Bombardier have been running Dart Workshops in Primary Schools, and these have been supported by Len Johnston and Rodney O'Neill of Belfast and others.

The Chairman thanked those who had promoted and supported these events.

3.10 Education Co-ordinator

As above

3.11 Newsheet Editor

No report

4 Jetmasters

A vote of thanks to Gordon McCrae for his efforts in the organization of Jetmasters and managing the Northern Ireland team was Proposed by Seven Towers, Seconded by Langford, and passed unanimously. Dave Wilshire from England said that it was great to see so many Northern Ireland fliers working hard to make the event a success.

Gordon presented a written report as Team Manger, outlining the progress made by the Team from March to June at different sites. He thanked those who provided the sites, the many fliers who supported their efforts and Lafarge who supplied uniforms.

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The practice paid off in July, when Stephen flew his Sea Vixen, Ian a new T45, Chris a new Hawk, Phelim his F15 and Matthew flew Gordon's L39. 14 out of 15 flights were made with no losses, and consistent flying placed the team 9th out of 26 countries flying. Gordon was very proud of their efforts, and would not have missed a tremendous experience.

5 Calendar 2008

Clubs were asked to put forward their dates for 2008 as soon as possible.

Indoor is now becoming an all year round activity, with flying in Lisburn, Bushmills, Cookstown, Broughshane, Cullybackey, Dromore and other places.

6 Club Reports

1 Banbridge

In a written report by Dennis McNeill, two members put a lot of effort into the Jetmasters, Trevor and Matthew Poots, along with many others, supporting the event. Matthew was 21st out of 38 and highest placed NI competitor. The Club has run 6 Competitions with three more planned. They included Funfly, Aerobatics, Pylon Racing and Slope Soaring, plus the Area Fun Fly. The latter had entries from other Clubs, but Banbridge took the first 3 places, Matthew being first.

Trevor and Matthew travelled to IMAC at Rhyl, along with Sean Scullion and Simon McNeill, Matthew and Simon being in Unlimited, the highest class. Matthew was 2nd and Simon 5th. Sean was 4th in Sportsman. Trevor and Matthew went to Langer where Matthew was 1st in Unlimited and 2nd in Freestyle. At Woodvale, Matthew was 1st and Sean 9th, Matthew being asked to fly on the Flightline on Sunday.

At the Nationals, Matthew was 2nd in Unlimited in IMAC, Simon 5th, and Sean 3rd in Sportsman. Matthew was 1st in Freestyle and Simon 7th. In Class 1 Funfly Simon was 1st, Matthew 2nd and Sean 9th, the first two separated by 0.9 of a point!

Other members attended these events as supporters and to enjoy the flying. A carload attended the Scottish Airshow in June. Simon McNeill flew on the Flightline. The Club also flew in many Displays, including the Bombardier Open Day, Delamont Country Park and a Church Fete. A presentation to the Rotary Club is imminent; the membership is good but there are only two Juniors. A Website is at banbridgeaeromodellongclub.org.uk, and the Club looks forward to the Indoor season.

2 Belfast

The Club is making good use of Tommy Patton Park, the season has been good, and we look forward to support from other Clubs at the Indoor in Lisburn.

3 Dungannon

They had their Splash-in on the first weekend in September, and their Open Day last Sunday. They were congratulated on the success of their Fly-in, the best in NI. There were 5 fliers from Letterkenny, some under 12, plus full size aircraft and many types of models. It was very windy. A Splash-in will be held at Eskragh on 6 October. North Down visited Eskragh over one weekend, and made the most of the opportunity. There is a small Caravan Park and they had their BBQ overlooking the lough.

Indoor continues at Cookstown on Thursday nights, and they have taken the Leisure Centre on occasion.

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4 Kestrels

In a written report, they have 37 members with 6 juniors. The grass strip has improved with the use of an electric fence, and they thanked Dungannon for help with the lawnmower. They thanked the hosts for the many events they have attended through the summer, and welcome any visitors to Kesh who may be passing through.

They have been flying evenings and weekends, the Jetmasters squad flying until 11PM in July. Indoor flying continues throughout the year.

5 Langford

At the Newtownards Air Show, a bird strike was a very unfortunate cause of the crash of a Hawk Turbine model. Two Club Members flew in the NI Jetmasters Team and others were helpers.

6 NIMSA

See Gliding Sec Report.

7 North Down

They have 37 members, and 5 Juniors. The Fly-in in on the last Saturday in August had 30 models, including a number of Jets, and they thanked their visitors. They thought the Enniskillen Splash-in was very good, and enjoyed their visits to Eskragh, thanking Dungannon for their hospitality.

They have been especially strong supporters of the Achievement Scheme, with 2 Examiners, 9A and 1B Fixed Wing Certificates, and 1A Helicopter Certificate. They are holding another Examination opportunity this Saturday, September 22.

8 Omagh

Numbers are down, back to the core, but they have visited Ballymena, Enniskillen and Dungannon. Their Auction will be on Friday week, 29 September.

9 Seven Towers

They are ticking over happily, with 2 Indoor sites and about 30 Members.

10 Ulster

The Club has 88 Members with 3 Juniors. They have had 2 Fly-ins, Easter Monday being good, August Bank Holiday being less well supported being the same weekend as North Down. The big event was the Jetmasters, where Phelim O'Neill flew and Raymond Jennings Judged. The organization was marvelous and the Club congratulates all involved.

The Skybirds event was very successful, and Castle Kennedy was well supported, They congratulated those who had become Examiners and obtained Certificates. Their Swopmeet will be on Saturday 27 October, and they thanked North Down, Dungannon and others who have supported their events.

AOB

Indoor. Annesley Anderson reported that one Hangar in the Maze might be available from the Aviation Society, but the rent would be £2,000. Eric Brown has seen a covered Football Pitch with Astroturf which is under construction in Magherafelt, and will see if it can be made available. It would be big enough to allow all disciplines to operate simultaneously.

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Area Scale Championships It was suggested that a larger venue for this event would encourage more participation. It was felt that this would not be a problem, the solution being to obtain the use of a suitable venue. The Ballymoney Club are to be approached on the matter.

Certificate of Merit The Chairman had great pleasure in announcing the award by BMFA of a Certificate of Merit to Malachy Finnegan for his work over many years on behalf of Ulster Model Aircraft Club.

Maurice Doyle
Secretary

Howard Menary
Chairman