

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSOCIATION OF AEROMODELLERS

NORTHERN IRELAND AREA COMMITTEE OF THE BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 40th AREA GENERAL MEETING, at Dungannon Swifts Football Club on 9th January 2008

1 Attendance and Apologies

Apologies were received from Annesley Anderson, Eric Brown, Adrian Chadwick, Matthew Poots and Ian Robb. 22 attendees represented 13 Clubs.

2 Minutes

Acceptance of the Minutes of the Meeting of 19 September 2007 was Proposed by North West, Seconded by Dungannon, and passed unanimously.

3 Officer's Reports

3.1 Chairman

The Chairman noted that there was nothing formal happening at this time of year, but he would be attending the first Council Meeting this weekend in his role as Delegate. He thanked everyone for the excellent attendance on a cold winter night.

3.2 Vice-Chairman

No report.

3.3 Secretary

He thanked Clubs for completing the Calendar for the new year.

3.4 Treasurer

Nothing to report. The Secretary confirmed that most trophies had been signed for at the AGM.

3.5 Radio Control Power Secretary

Prompted by a proposal by Matthew Poots, a discussion on how to improve Aerobatics events covered the merit of splitting the competition into two Classes, the appreciation of the efforts of the North West Club in running the event for many years, and the value of flying at Ballymoney or at two sites in future. It was decided that two Aerobatics events would be flown, at Ballymoney and Newbuildings, and there would be two classes. The results would aggregate both events.

3.6 Radio Control Gliding Secretary

There is a full Calendar for the year, with Slope, Thermal and Slope flying in that order. There are hopes for better weather.

3.7 Radio Controlled Jet Secretary

In a written Report, he noted that they are looking for runway for an annual Jet event. A NIjets website is started, and turbine oil is available. IJMC "Proposal for Change" has been released.

3.8 Control Line Secretary

We are looking forward to the new season with the usual events tabled. The Home International is in Scotland. The Fly-ins have been very well attended and visitors would be welcome.

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3.9 Council Delegate

He will be attending the first Council meeting this weekend

3.10 Public Relations Officer

In a very comprehensive 2 page written report, which was received with acclaim, he illustrated how Aeromodelling might be promoted, particularly through the Web. Some Clubs have good websites, some not, and he commended Sean Scully's Area website. Sections with latest news and on each discipline were suggested. He referred to the need to promote the sport to encourage sponsorship, and noted that some Clubs are very active in this area, commendably, but these individuals should be supported by the Committee and all Clubs.

Websites which could help with promotional offers are Outdoorni.com, where Beverley Pierson offered to update the Aeromodelling section, and Irelandlocal.com, which offered a package for each Club. He will compile a list of volunteers who would be willing to help with events with time and models. The BMFA Stand needs new photos, and a banner would be helpful (Rodney O'Neill presented the Belfast MFC banner for illustration), possibly provided by a sponsor. He thought the sport is very healthy, as illustrated by many notable activities in many areas, and asked for support to make it stronger by working together.

3.11 Education Co-ordinator

The Chairman reported that Tony Monaghan, Bombardier, is looking for Judges for his Schools competitions, which now feature the BMFA Dart.

3.12 Website Manager (Note change of title)

There was discussion about the website, and the points made by the PRO were noted for action. It was agreed that a printed Newsheet is not practical, because of the effort involved and the expense. A suggestion re better Public Relations was the creation of a Flier to be handed out at Exhibitions and Displays.

4 Calendar 2008

The Secretary reported that the Calendar had been distributed with only a few events still to be included, and there were no significant clashes. A query as to whether Letterkenny events should be included was answered in the affirmative, and it was also noted that MACI events would be passed on if and when available. The Calendar is now well filled.

5 Club Reports

5.1 Banbridge

This is quiet time of year, and the main event recently was the Indoor F3P event at Friends School, Lisburn. There was good turnout of young and old, the event was well run, and it was an excellent evening. Their Boxing Day event had seasonal weather, and members are now out flying as and when conditions permit.

5.2 Belfast

The Indoor events at Lisburn Leisureplex, having promoted Indoor so effectively, are not now enjoying the same level of support, and are in danger of losing viability. Rodney O'Neill has spelled this out in his Indoor Newsletter, so it is hoped that more will make the journey and support this venue.

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5.3 Dungannon

Recent weather has dampened activity, but Indoor continues apace. Richard Boyd is now a Display Pilot with Flightpark. Their website is now enjoying lots of traffic. They were very enthusiastic participants in the F3P event at Lisburn, and expected an even bigger turnout at the next one on 2 March at Dungannon Leisure Centre.

5.4 Craigavon

They have 35 members, and they are meeting the Council this week to confirm arrangements for the use of Kernan. All fliers must be Members of the Club, the Council will provide a Container for accommodation and will be surfacing the Football Pitch on which they fly.

5.5 East Antrim

They have 20 members, and look forward to better weather for the Summer flying on Saturdays and Wednesday nights.

5.6 Kestrels

In a written Report, renewals have been early this year, with 17 Senior and 1 Junior to date. Flying has braved the weather, flying continuously (14 flights!) to keep the batteries warm, and continuing Indoor on Sunday evenings to thaw out. They thanked Banbridge for the Boxing Day event and Dungannon for keeping Cookstown Indoor going.

5.7 Langford

They had 100% membership renewal by 31 December/1January.

5.8 Moira

The Chairman announced that this is a new Club formed, with a new site.

5.9 NIMSA

See Gliding Sec Report. The membership is similar to last year.

5.10 North Down

At the AGM on 6 December, the Committee were elected for the new year. There are 40 members, and it has been decided that membership will be closed. They held a Christmas Dinner on 21 December and are going well.

5.11 North West

They elected a new Committee in October, and hope this will bring fresh impetus. Flying goes on most weekends. They are planning 3 trips to Scotland and England, and an Open Day for the Public. The Runway will be resurfaced and an additional Runway provided.

5.12 Omagh

They are engaging in mud wrestling, such is the state of their site, and report a new member. Their Christmas Dinner had 22 Members and Wives attend. The Club Examiner has not yet had the courage to persuade anyone to take a Test.

5.13 Ulster

The AGM was well attended, with new blood on the Committee. They have 55 members, with most members expected to rejoin.

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AOB

Website The offer by David Ardis to run the website was declined with thanks.

BMFA AGM Notable statistics quoted at the AGM re Insurance were 10 strikes on cars, 6 strikes on people, and 3 on buildings. The incidence of car strikes emphasizes the need to comply with the Handbook and keep cars well away from flightlines.

Maurice Doyle
Secretary

Howard Menary
Chairman