

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD.

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

Minutes of the Technical Council Meeting held on the 3rd March 2007 at Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrew's Road, Leicester LE2 8RE.

Provisional until confirmed at the next Technical Council Meeting.

PRESENT

Chris Bromley FSMAE	Chairman of the Meeting/Tech Sec
Jo Halman FSMAE	Vice Chairman of the Meeting/Comp Sec
Jim Andrews	FAI Delegate
John French	Records Officer
Gordon Warburton FSMAE	Scale Tech Comm Chairman
Chris Moynihan	R/C Silent Flight Tech Comm Representative
Clive Needham	R/C Silent Flight Tech Comm Chairman
Mike Proctor FSMAE	R/C Silent Flight Tech Comm Member
Mike Colling FSMAE	Indoor Tech Comm Representative
Steve Ogden	R/C Power Tech Comm Representative
Peter Christy	R/C Power Tech Comm Member/AHA Rep
Dave Clarkson	Free Flight Tech Comm Representative
Chris Barker	Control Line Tech Comm Representative
Peter Halman FSMAE	Control Line Tech Comm Member

In Attendance

Linda Harding Minute Taker / Office Manager

Visitors

Dave Lucas IMAC Representative

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Request for permission to be absent.
3. To verify the voting strength of the meeting.
4. Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Technical Council Meeting held on 21st October 2006.
5. Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 21st October 2006 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
6. To review the set agenda for the first meeting of a Technical Committee each year.
7. To appoint the current year representative to the Awards Committee.
8. To discuss the CIAM Agenda.
9. Nationals updates from the Power Nationals Co-ordinator and Technical Committees to include:
 - a) Discussion n any flightline problems.
 - b) Nationals results requirements.

10. To discuss multiple use of DE Licences for Single Airfields.
11. Proposal from R/C Power Technical Committee to discuss the issue of excessive smoke output from model engines, and its effect on the public image of model flying.
12. To receive any reports from Technical Committees.
13. To receive a report from the Competition Secretary to include:
 - a) The receipt and ratification of any contests for the FAI Calendar.
14. To receive any reports from Council Sub-committees or Elected Officers.
15. Any Other Business.
16. Date of next meeting.

MINUTES

TC532/03/07 (1) Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Mike Goldby Scale Tech Committee Representative.

TC533/03/07 (2) Request for permission to be absent.

There were no requests.

TC534/03/07 (3) To verify voting strength of the meeting.

There were 13 members eligible to vote at this meeting.

TC535/03/07 (4) Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Technical Council Meeting held on 21st October 2006.

Page 6

- **Seventh paragraph, last sentence** - Amend sentence to read "In her other role as CIAM Technical Secretary she said she would have a look at it to see if it could be changed."

Page 8

- **Fourth paragraph, last sentence** - Amend sentence to read "She requested that "plenary" be replaced with "first"."

Indoor Tech Committee proposed that the Minutes of the Technical Council Meeting held on the 21st October 2006 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Seconded by Silent Flight Tech Committee.

Vote: For: 8
 Ags: 0
 Abs: 5

Carried by a majority vote.

TC536/03/07 (5) Matters/Actions arising from the 21st October 2006 Technical Council that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.

ACTIONS / NOTES

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- **Second paragraph, heading Page 4 'After the Dart' booklet** - Mike Colling FSMAE, National Education Co-ordinator advised that he had passed on the completed document to the Development Officer, who now has it in hand.

- **Eighth paragraph, heading Team Selection Dates** - Chairman requested Tech Committees to contact him as soon as possible if they have any potential changes in mind to their Team selection procedures. He would negotiate initially with the office on their behalf to ascertain if it would be possible to accommodate their requests but nothing can be started until requests for changes come in.

TECH COMMS

Page 6

- **Eighth paragraph, 2.4 GHz** - Chairman reported that 100mw ERP transmissions were approved on December 8th 2006. From information he has received from various sources, the equipment is selling rapidly. We have not yet had any reports into the office of any significant problems.

He advised that he attended a meeting with OFCOM yesterday to seek clarification with regard to the impending introduction of a range of third-party modules to fit in mainstream transmitters such as Futaba, JR and Hi-Tech.

The questions raised with OFCOM were pertinent to problems with CE markings and compliance with regulations etc. The answer was that each individual module has to be CE marked in it's own right which, of course, is the module manufacturer's responsibility.

If that module is for use in another manufacturer's transmitter then the legislation considers the ensuing combination to be an 'overall product' and the manufacturer of the module is also responsible for the CE compliance of this overall product. This effectively means the CE mark that becomes active when that module is plugged into an existing transmitter case is the responsibility of the module manufacturer, not the transmitter manufacturer.

He advised that a statement would be going out in BMFA News and, eventually, in the Member's Handbook. Our **responsibility** is to look after our member's interests and the reason we sought this clarification from OFCOM is to ensure that we can give the correct advice to any members thinking of using these or any other third party modules.

We will be advising our members to make sure that the manufacturer confirms that the equipment is compliant with all the regulations it is required to meet.

A problem might arise when third party modules are imported from Taiwan, and it is almost inevitable that they will be. If those modules do not have a proven 'overall product' compliance backed by the module manufacturer or initial importer into the EU then the onus of legal use will be on the user. Any user may be required to prove that the set was legal in the case of involvement in any incident.

Page 7

- **Fifth paragraph, Weston Trophy** - Scale advised Records Officer that he had today brought back the Weston Trophy to the office as there had been a mistake in the engraving of the recipient's name. Records Officer said he would arrange to have this rectified.

**RECORDS
OFFICER**

Page 12

- **TC521/10/06 Record Claims ratification** - Records Officer raised the question whether it is within the jurisdiction of this Council to ratify Record Claims. Tech Sec said he would seek clarification from Full Council

CHAIRMAN

AGENDA ITEM NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING - Request from Tech Council Chairman for clarification of ratification of British Record Claims.

OFFICE MGR

Page 12/13

- **Page 12 Item TC521/10/06 Ratify British Record Claims, b) R/C Electric Power Assisted Glider**
- **Page 13, second paragraph, clarification of the definitions for the above class.**

Comp Sec asked if clarification of the definitions for the R/C Electric Power Assisted Glider class had been sought.

SFTC

It was established that there are currently no rules in place for this record. The SFTC representatives asked that they be allowed to look at this record class with a view to clarifying the situation and the Chairman, with the meeting's general agreement, asked that they should do so. The Records Officer considered that this was not necessary.

**RECORDS
OFFICER**

A question was raised whether there could be more anomalies of this nature. A request was made by Control Line for the Records Officer to check the Records Book for any other anomalies. The Chairman said that he did not think that there were any more like this but that the whole of the UK records section requires revision, as requested by the October 2006 Tech Council meeting.

R/C Power asked Tech Sec if the Records Book had been updated as requested. Tech Sec advised that he is still awaiting information from the Records Officer on the new record claims since the last update in 2004, before he can finalise it.

This concluded matters arising.

TC537/03/07 (6) To review the set agenda for the first meeting of a Technical Committee each year.

Consensus was the set agenda works very well for Tech Committees.

The set agenda was reviewed. A minor change was agreed to include in Item 1(d) a provision to finalise voting strength.

Chairman pointed out that the reminder letter he sends out to Tech Committees in August should also be reviewed at the same time as the set agenda. Copies were made available for the meeting. **CHAIRMAN**

This was reviewed and agreed with a minor amendment. **CHAIRMAN**

Chairman advised that Comp Sec is currently undertaking the task of preparing templates to standardise Agenda's for Council Meetings.

Draft copies were made available of Tech Council March and October standardised Agenda's. These were reviewed and agreed with some minor amendments. **COMP SEC**

TC538/03/07 (7) To appoint the current year representative to the Awards Committee.

Tech Sec was nominated to fill this position.

Proposed by Scale TC.

Seconded by FAI Delegate.

Carried unanimously. **OFFICE MGR**

TC539/03/07 (8) To discuss the CIAM Agenda.

FAI Delegate commented that he sent out a memo to the relevant bodies in September 2006 requesting that as soon as they receive the Agenda they could let him have their views on how they would like him to vote. Unfortunately he has not received a direct response from anybody.

Several Tech Committee representatives then said that they had brought their comments directly to the meeting.

The FAI Delegate proceeded to guide the meeting through the CIAM Agenda, extrapolating relevant advice from members on the course of action, as guidance for his attendance at the forthcoming Plenary meeting.

TC549/03/07 (9) Nationals updates from the Power Nationals Co-ordinator and Technical Committees to include:

- a Discussion on any flightline problems
- b Nationals results requirements

Flightline

Helicopter – Helicopter were grateful for the grass being mown when they arrived on the Friday however it was not quite to their requirements. Chairman asked if Peter Christy could pace out the area for grass cutting and let him have the set measurements from the runway marker board and he will be able to get the grass mown correctly even if Heli is not able to be there when it is done on the Friday (for instance, if we get the airfield very early).

Control Line – Control Line advised that the **Team Race** tower had already been erected when they arrived, however it was in the wrong place.

They would prefer that the roping crew do not erect **the Team Race** tower.

They also asked if the Combat toilets could be positioned correctly this year.

Silent Flight - They had not heard anything further regarding Syerston and Spitalgate as possible venues for Silent Flight Nationals. Chairman advised that they should chase it up with the CEO.

Free Flight - Planning is almost complete. They have appointed Roy Wright again as the ground facilities manager and are confident he will do an excellent job as in previous years.

There will be a free barbecue for competitors on the Saturday evening, which will include a Hog Roast.

Indoor Scale - Indoor Scale Nationals will be taking place on 22nd April 2007 at Nottingham University. Entry form is on the Scale website and will be in the next BMFA News.

Scale Free Flight - The problems in 2005 were not repeated in 2006 and everything was fine. The Chairman said that he intended to have a marshal available on the line this year so the problems with R/C cars should not reoccur.

Results

Chairman reminded everyone that the Records Officer would require the one, two, three results within three days.

Records Officer mentioned that last year he prepared NCR results forms as a result of a request from Full Council for them to be checked before publishing in BMFA News.

He will be repeating the system this year and thanked everyone in anticipation of their co-operation again.

Chairman will require the full results within twenty-eight days for publication on the website.

T539/03/07 (10) To discuss multiple use of DE Licences for Single Airfields.

Comp Sec introduced this item and provided some background information citing RAF Cottesmore as an example.

Currently up to five disciplines use Cottesmore for model flying, each raising their own licence and each paying an administration fee for the licence plus the cost of use.

Comp Sec suggested it would save a considerable amount of money if only one licence was raised by the BMFA, on behalf of the disciplines, for the various dates throughout the year.

She has spoken with the CEO and in principle he cannot see a problem.

Consensus was this was an excellent suggestion. Comp Sec offered to act as co-ordinator and collate the dates from the disciplines to pass on to the CEO.

COMP SEC

Comp Sec asked Tech Committees to report this information to the relevant disciplines as soon as possible for feedback especially to the relevant disciplines who use Cottesmore to ensure they do not apply for a licence.

TECH COMMS

She would also investigate if there were other airfields to which we can apply the same procedure. Anyone interested in multiple use should contact Comp Sec in the first instance, she will then liase with the CEO.

TC542/03/07 (11) Proposal from R/C Power Technical Committee to discuss the issue of excessive smoke output from ic model engines, and its effect on the public image of model flying.

Peter Christy provided some background information and expressed his concerns about the perceived pollution problems. There appears to be two areas for concern; the sometimes excessive smoke from model exhausts due to burning fuel and the deliberate injection of smoke producing oils (especially diesel oil) into the exhaust system to produce large amounts of smoke for display purposes. He believes we should be starting to think of ways of tackling it now before it becomes a serious problem in the future.

A discussion ensued and the general feeling was that we should be putting measures in place to safeguard the future of model flying. Some of the hovering displays with smoke on at model shows lead to very significant amounts of partly burnt diesel smoke on and around the flightline and there have been reports of some people having breathing difficulties after being exposed.

Dave Lucas reported that the use of diesel injection of exhaust systems has been banned from all full-size flying displays. They are using an alternative, which is very expensive. There are no apparent hazards but it does still produce some smoke. He could not confirm who had introduced the ban.

Chairman said the first thing we would do is consult with the CAA and check out the regulations. He would discuss with the CEO what recommendations and guidance we should be giving to our members.

Peter Christy advised that F3C had submitted a Rule Change to CIAM setting upper limits for F3C in the future. He felt that the forthcoming CIAM Plenary Meeting would be a good opportunity to ascertain the views of other European organisations and asked Comp Sec if she could do this.

TC543/03/07 (12) To receive any reports from Technical Committees.

Control Line - Not a great deal has happened since the last meeting. Their first competition takes place on 1st April. F2C Season starts on 15th April. Control line reported that it is getting increasingly difficult to find suitable venues.

They only have two venues for FAI Speed and Team Race in the whole of the country, which is not adequate enough. They would welcome any suggestions of anywhere that would be suitable.

Silent Flight suggested RAF Swinderby. He would email the details to Comp Sec.

Silent Flight - All the leagues of the various FAI classes are scheduled and begin in April. There is a lot of activity going on in F3K. They have rapidly put a proposal together to run a league this year in anticipation of something happening in 2008.

They are getting quite anxious about the venue for the Silent Flight Nationals.

F5B league is very much on hold waiting for CIAM to decide on the number of cells to be used.

They are putting a sizeable article in QEFI with all the calendar dates and description of classes.

Indoor - The first meeting is scheduled for 11th March at Kelham Hall. They will also be holding a Technical Meeting there. Laurie Barr has managed to secure Cardington again for this year and he is in the process of buying large tarpaulins to do various repairs.

R/C Power - A meeting is scheduled for the end of the month.

Both GTBA and JMA Specialist Bodies have promised to attend the meeting and hopefully this will result in a set of common rules for operating Turbines.

Free Flight - Their first contest of the year is tomorrow. It will be the first contest run to the new combined power rules and it will be very interesting to see what models turn up. There has been a lot of discussion about people stating regenerated interest.

Chairman passed on thanks from Gerry Ferrer of the Timperley Club who complimented Chairman and the Free Flight Technical Committee for getting the rules out in good fashion.

Scale - The R/C Calendar is full for the year. Scale Free Flight Indoor is well in hand.

They were quite disappointed they could not get a team together for this year's championships in the Ukraine.

TC544/03/07 (13) To receive a report from the Competition Secretary to include a) the receipt and ratification of any contests for the FAI Calendar.

Comp Sec highlighted her concerns that on reading through the Rule Books that not all of the Technical Committees have their Team Selection procedures written down anywhere. She said it would be nice to see them all in the relevant places.

a) Receipt and ratification of any contests for the FAI Calendar.

None submitted.

TC545/03/07 (14) To receive any reports from Council Sub-committees or Elected Officers.

Tech Sec - Rule Books are finished and issued except for R/C Power and the Records Book, which are both in progress.

Comp Sec made a request of the Records Officer that passes the relevant information on to Tech Sec as soon as possible to allow for completion of the updated Records Book before the season begins properly.

**RECORDS
OFFICER**

Tech Sec said the Records Book is ready to go as soon as he receives the relevant information from the Records Officer.

FAI Delegate - He feels there is a lot of scope within our Association to achieve more British Records. He took this opportunity to urge Tech Committees to promote it.

TC546/03/07 (15) Any Other Business.

There was none.

TC547/03/07 (16) Date of next meeting.

This was confirmed as **20th October 2007.**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4.20pm.

Linda Harding
Office Manager
8th March 2007

Circulation:

Authorised to attend:

**The Chairman of the Meeting - Tech Sec
The Vice Chairman of the Meeting - Comp Sec
FAI Delegate / Records Officer
All Individual members of each Tech Committee
One representative from each Specialist Body**

Note - Those having voting rights are the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the meeting, the FAI Delegate, Records Officer and two members from each of the six Technical Committees.

The voting representatives of the Technical Committees can be any two members of the Committee; elected, co-opted or Specialist Body representative.

Copies to:

All Council Members	Accounts Manager
All Area Chairmen	Office Manager
All Area Secretaries	Development Officer / Chief Executive
Fellows (Selected)	Geoff Seabrook - SpaceCom
Club Bulletin	BMFA News Editor
RNMAA Chairman	R/CP & SF Achievement Scheme Controllers
Roger Bellingham - Flying Site Adviser	NW Area Treasurer

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