

Unadopted Minutes of the BMFA North Eastern Area AGM held on 6th December 2023 at Burnmoor Cricket Club, Burnmoor, Co. Durham, DH4 6EX.



Officers Present

Y Chairman: Martin Johnson (Novocastrians)	Y Treasurer: Tom Walker (Sunderland & DMAC)
Y Vice Chairman: Peter Franklin (Weardale MGA)	Y Delegate: Gary Armstrong (Newcastle MFA)
Y Secretary: Gary Armstrong (Newcastle MFA)	
Y Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator: Gary Armstrong (Newcastle MFA)	

Clubs Represented (eligible to vote)

Newcastle MFA; Tynedale MFC; Novocastrians; Weardale MGA; Washington MFC; Hartlepool MFC; Area 51; Peterlee RMC; Sunderland & District MAC; Terry Bailey (Fellow).

Apologies for Absence

Ian Jones (Darlington & District MFC); Nick Powley (Eden Valley MAC)

Corrections to Previous Minutes

None.

Adoption of Minutes

Proposed: David Riley (Novocastrians)
Seconded: Peter Franklin (Weardale MGA)

Matters Arising

None.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on events during the year, covering items such as attendance at area meetings, the creation of the new BMFA Scotland area, use of Albemarle Barracks, competition successes and the demonstration event at Beamish open air museum. Martin closed his report by thanking the Area officers for their support through the year and looked forward to improved weather for the coming year. The full report is appended to the end of these minutes.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary gave a short report on the current state of membership within the area, particularly following the loss half our affiliated clubs following the creation of BMFA Scotland. Gary also reported on his involvement with the initial set up of the new area and on the current state of play with regard to the application for a new licence to use Albemarle Barracks as well as efforts to keep the area website up to date. The full report is appended at the end of these minutes.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer presented the annual accounts for the financial year 1st April 2022 to 31st March 202. The accounts have been audited and no issues were raised by the auditors. Tom answered any questions on the accounts to the satisfaction of those present. The full report is appended at the end of these minutes.

Delegates Report

The Area Delegate gave a brief report on his attendance at all of the online and in person meetings he attended during the year as well as the Society AGM, including his involvement in the initial meetings to establish the new BMFA Scotland area. The full report is appended at the end of these minutes.

Flying Disciplines Officers Reports

Free Flight

Nothing to report.

Radio Control

This year has been particularly quiet in terms of competition flying with none of our regular F3A (aerobatics) pilots competing during the season, either due to other commitments or events being cancelled due to poor weather. In Fun-Fly Martin and Mike Bell (both Hartlepool RMC) took part in the BMFA Nationals with Martin placing 3rd in Class 1 and Mike 7th in Class 2.

Control Line

Competition wise, 2023 has been yet another successful year for Control line in the North East. We have one British champion in Steve White from the Novo's, this achievement is extra special as it is the 3rd time in a row that Steve has been champion. At the nationals the Novo's combat team came home with 5 trophies' out of the 15 available, which again is fantastic considering the size of the club. No champions in combat however, so maybe they need to try harder next year! In the Vintage combat league, the Novo's were placed 2nd, 6th, 7th, and 15th. The competition season however was hampered by bad weather and a total of 7 competitions were cancelled due to this.

Locally, Albemarle is continued to be used for sport and competition flying. There were 2 vintage league competitions booked, however one of them was unfortunately included in one of the 7 mentioned earlier. Albemarle was also used for F2D team practise on a few occasions as well which were well attended.

Looking forward to 2024, we already have two vintage league competitions booked at Albemarle, and hopefully there will be some more f2D training days. The control line nationals are back to a weekend at the end of August, so will hopefully attract a few more entries.

Indoor

No changes have been reported with Peterlee RMC and Washington MFC continuing to run regular indoor sessions. Full details of indoor events are on the area website www.northeast.bmfa.uk

Auditors Report.

The Auditors reported that they had examined the Area accounts, and everything was in order.

Achievement Scheme Coordinators Report.

Gary Armstrong gave a short report of activity within the Achievement scheme, in particular his involvement with setting up the scheme within the new BMFA Scotland area and unsuccessful efforts to run two Training and Testing days at Albemarle Barracks. He also outlined plans for a new approach to these events in 2024 based on feedback from potential candidates. The full report is appended to these minutes.

Area Chief Examiners Reports.

Gary Armstrong submitted a joint report from all the Area Chief Examiners detailing their activities during the year. The full report is appended to these minutes.

Election of Officers.

Vice Chairman – Peter Franklin. Proposed by Keith Jones (Washington MFC)
Seconded by David Riley (Novocastrians)

Vote: 9 for, 0 against, 1 abstention.

Secretary – Gary Armstrong. Proposed by David Riley (Novocastrians)
Seconded by Peter Franklin (Weardale MGA)

Vote: 9 for, 0 against, 1 abstention.

Achievement Scheme Coordinator – Gary Armstrong.
Proposed by Peter Franklin (Weardale MGA)
Seconded by David Riley (Novocastrians)
Vote: 9 for, 0 against, 1 abstention.

Auditor – Ian Russell. Proposed by Keith Jones (Washington MFC)
Seconded by Lez Scurfield (Tynedale MFC)

Vote: 9 for, 0 against, 1 abstention.

Outreach Coordinator. Gerard Gaynor had been proposed for the role by his club Chairman, Euan Galloway, however having read the job description Gerard declined the nomination due to a lack of time to devote to the role. The role will be readvertised early in the new year in the hope that someone may be interested enough to take it on.

Ratification of Area Chief Examiners.

Gary Armstrong (ASC) reported that two of our existing Area Chief Examiners have decided to step down for health and personal reasons, leaving just himself, Brian Johnson, and Bob Wasson to be ratified for 2024. The three were proposed by Peter Franklin (Weardale MGA), and seconded by Brial Worrall (Peterlee RMC), and approved by majority vote (9 for, 0 against and 1 abstention)

Any Other Business

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

The next AGM will take place at 8pm on Wednesday 5th December 2024 at Burnmoor Cricket Club, Burnmoor Co. Durham, DH4 6EX, and will be followed by a normal monthly meeting.

Club Secretaries and PROs please note: if you have an event to publicise, give the details to either, Tom Jones, tom.jp11@gmail.com or Gary Armstrong, Area Secretary: garyarmstrong13@virginmedia.com

The details of your event can then be distributed with the Area minutes in Forthcoming Events* if there is sufficient time and posted on the Area web site and Facebook page.

Chairman's AGM Report 2023

Area Meetings.

I'm pleased that the area continues to be well supported by the clubs.

With the creation of the Scottish area, we lost a fair percentage of our clubs and membership, I hope that the BMFA will continue to support us to the same financial levels as previous.

Albemarle

Has been well used this year, averaging a booking per month. Weather has not been overly kind but many of the bookings have gone ahead regardless.

Only 2 clubs have booked the base for flying, Novocastrians and Peterlee. I would encourage other clubs to use the facility. It costs the area £800 for the license and at approx. £70 per use.

Events and Competitions

Only 2 clubs have asked for support for events; Novocastrian for 2 X Centralised Vintage combat events and Eden Valley for a glider Tow event. We have been happy to support these events but would encourage other clubs to have a go. I have been asked if we can do the same again for next year for the Vintage Combat centralised events.

Reminder if anyone would like to run area competitions, we have the Brian Park Memorial and Indoor trophies available.

Beamish Museum

After a successful demonstration and encouraging meeting Beamish Museum did come back with a date for the control line flying. Unfortunately, it clashed with a F2B and a vintage combat centralised event, so I had to decline. Hopefully next year may bring some success in this area.

Area Officials

In closing I'd like to thank the area officials for their support, Gary (secretary) for wearing his many hats, secretary, delegate, R/C delegate and Achievement Scheme coordinator and his knowledge keeping us all on the right track.

Tom, (treasurer) for keeping the accounts on the straight and narrow. Paying all the bills and fighting with the bank.

Peter, (vice chair) for covering my many holiday absences.

Hopefully next year we will be able to make use of global warming and the Mediterranean climate to fly every day, all competitions completed with membership of every club going from strength the strength. Merry Christmas to all and have a great 'New Year.'

BMFA NE Area Secretary's Report 2023.

2023 has been another quiet year for me as Area Secretary, the bulk of my work has been in preparation and distribution of Area minutes and the application for the licence to use Albemarle Barracks, as well as keeping the Area Website events page up to date. The one major change has been the loss of half of the affiliated clubs following the creation of a new

BMFA Area to represent clubs in Scotland, this involved me in a number of meetings in my other role as Achievement Scheme Coordinator to assist in setting up the Achievements Scheme in the new area.

The North East Area now has a total of 33 Affiliated clubs (as opposed to 66 in 2022) with 754 members, unfortunately I can't provide a detailed breakdown of the numbers as the information is not readily available via the membership portal.

Attendance levels at Area meeting remains steady, although we could always do with a few more clubs being represented. To this end there is now a bulk email facility on the Area website which allows us to contact all members in the Area and I intend to make use of this to try and generate more interest in attending meetings. The Areas Council also have some ideas in the pipeline to boost attendance at area meetings as there are much larger areas that fail to get the level of support that we enjoy.

In closing I would like to thank the elected officers and delegates for their support over the last year and look forward to working with them again if re-elected.

Gary Armstrong. (N.E Area Secretary)

BMFA NE Area Delegates Report 2023.

As Area Delegate I've attended all of the online Area Council meetings held during the year, as well as the initial meetings to establish the new "BMFA Scotland" Area, and the Society AGM. A lot of the meetings have been fairly routine with discussions centred around providing guidance to the four non-executive directors who represent the Areas Council at Board meetings (formerly the Full Council). The one constant through all of the meetings has been the topic of how to encourage more involvement and improved attendance at area meetings. A number of initiatives have been suggested such as hybrid meetings, or less focus on formal business and more time for open discussion sessions, some of which have worked and some not. There are more ideas in the pipeline and if anything is of interest to us as an area then it will be reported and can be discussed to see if we think it will be of benefit. In closing I would like to thank the delegates for their support during the year and look forward to continuing to represent you for the rest of my two-year term.

Gary Armstrong. (N.E Area Delegate)

Achievement Scheme Coordinators Report 2023

This year the bulk of my work has been helping my opposite number in the new BMFA Scotland area get the scheme up and running, with me providing suggestions for Area Chief Examiner candidates and guidance on how tests should be conducted. To assist with this, I have been invited to attend two training and testing days in my dual roles as ASC and ACE, however poor weather forecasts for the chosen dates mean neither has taken place. Closer to home the Area planned to run a training and testing day at Albemarle Barracks, however the first attempt was cancelled due to a lack of potential candidates, the day was rearranged for later in the season in the hope that giving candidates more time to prepare would boost numbers. Unfortunately, this had the opposite effect with even less support for the second attempt, so this too was cancelled. Discussions with the Area Chief Examiners and potential candidates gave some potential reasons why the event was so poorly supported. The main one being that candidates felt uncomfortable taking the tests away from the familiar surroundings of their club sites. To this end I, along with the ACEs are planning to run some

training and testing sessions on club sites next season, all we need are clubs to invite us along. So, if your club is interested in hosting an event, please let me know. Finally with two of our ACEs standing down this year we are looking to replace them; I have a couple of people in mind who meet the requirements to take up the role and will be putting their names forward for consideration at the next area meeting.

Gary Armstrong (ASC NE Area)

Area Chief Examiners' Reports 2023

I have contacted all our current Area Chief Examiners to request their annual reports and for confirmation of their willingness to continue for another year. Unfortunately, this year two of our current ACE's have decided to stand down. Mike Swales has decided to step down for personal reasons whilst Jim Edwards is still suffering from "Long COVID" and has decided it's time for some new blood. Bob Wasson has been by far the busiest of the examiners although he reports that things have been noticeably quieter this year, primarily due to the success his club (Darlington & District MFC) have had in promoting the achievement scheme over the last few years. This has resulted in 100% of their flying members having passed the BMFA RCC test. Jim Edwards, Mike Swales and Brian Johnson reported very little activity with only some coaching and a couple of failed tests between them. As for myself I have done a fair bit of coaching within the clubs I'm in and have had one successful "A" and "B" test as well as helping a couple of members pass the RCC test. With the creation of the new BMFA Scotland Area I have been invited to attend a couple of training and testing sessions to assist their new examiners get to grips with how tests should be conducted, however the weather has intervened and neither event has taken place, whether they will still want my help next year remains to be seen.

Gary Armstrong. (CE792)

(Report Submitted on behalf of: Bob Wasson, Jim Edwards, Mike Swales, and Brian Johnson)

NORTH EAST AREA BMFA
INCOME + EXPENDITURE A/c 2022-2023

BANK CHARGES	61.20		
GLIDER TOW	300.00	AREA SUPPORT	2550.00
HOSPITALITY	30.50	LESS PROFIT	1488.30
AIRFIELD HIRE	610.00		
BURNMOOR FEES	60.00		
	<u>1061.70</u>		<u>1061.70</u>

BALANCE SHEET @ 31.3.2023

GENERAL FUND	4067.79	CASH IN HAND	0.00
PLUS PROFIT	<u>1488.30</u>	CASH IN BANK	<u>5556.09</u>
	<u>5556.09</u>		<u>5556.09</u>

J. Walker, TREASURER,

J. Russell (Auditor)
P. Rankin (Auditor)

G. Anthony (SECRETARY)

Paula Jones (CHAIR)

