

Unadopted Minutes of the BMFA North Eastern Area Meeting held on 1st February 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; Peterlee RMC; Hartlepool MFC; Cramlington & District MAC; Darlington & District MFC; Weardale MGA; Tynedale MFC; Novocastrians; Sunderland & District MAC; Terry Bailey (Fellow);

Apologies for Absence

Dave Riley (Novocastrians); Euan Galloway (Area 51); Gerard Gaynor (Area 51);

Corrections to Previous Minutes

None.

Adoption of Minutes

Proposed: Peter Franklin (Weardale MGA)
Seconded: Paul Breckon (Hartlepool MFC)

Matters Arising

The Chairman reported that he had tracked down another of the Area trophies, awarded for combat competitions which is in the care of Graham Ives.

The Secretary reported that he had spoken to Andy Symons (Club Support Officer) about why CAA Operator ID's couldn't be renewed at the same time as BMFA membership when using the "Bulk Renewal" option in the membership portal, but could be done if each member was renewed individually. The outcome is that the CAA will only accept renewals 28 days before the current registration expires so the option is only available in bulk renewal if the renewal "window" is open. The individual renewal option shouldn't work for the same reason, and he is going to look into why it does.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman had nothing to report that isn't covered elsewhere in the minutes, except to state that the last date booked at Albemarle Barracks was used although the weather on the day meant that only one flight was possible.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that the licence to use Albemarle Barracks had been renewed at the same cost as last year which was £610.00, this is made up of £400.00 for the licence, £150.00 plus VAT for the licence preparation (£180.00) and £30.00 commercial liability insurance. The invoice has been received and passed to the Treasurer for payment. Gary also attended the online Area Treasurers meeting on behalf of Tom, and before the meeting started received an update on progress with the creation of the fifteenth BMFA area (Scotland). The merger with the SAA (Scottish Aeromodellers Association) has stalled and is not expected to happen this year, in the meantime the Chairmen Secretaries and Delegates of all Scottish clubs currently affiliated to the BMFA via our area are being contacted for their thoughts on the proposed merger, a similar email will also be going to the members of the affiliated clubs.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer reported the current state of the Area finances and confirmed receipt of the invoice for the Albemarle Airfield Licence, the Secretary added that the balance of our Area funding should have been paid following the meeting of Area Treasurers. Tom responded saying that he had not yet received the latest bank statement but expected it would appear on it.

Delegates Report

The Area Delegate reported that he attended the Area Council meeting held via Zoom on 5th January where the voting strength of the meeting was 13, RAFMAA being the only non-attendee. The vote to elect four members of the Achievement Scheme Review Committee saw Chris Bradbury, John Harris, Joseph Kemp and Simon Wood elected, with Jonathan Land being the candidate to miss out. The proposal to ratify "Wales" as a new area replacing Mid-West was withdrawn for further debate after concerns were raised by clubs in North Wales that are currently part of the North West Area. The current state of negotiations with the SAA to create a fifteenth area "Scotland" were reported (A further update is in the secretary's report). Brian Seymour (South Midlands Area Delegate) was appointed as the Area Council representative on the awards committee. There was a discussion about why bulk emails sent by some area's were not being delivered and were instead being treat as spam/junk mail, it was agreed that the Club Support Officer, together with the North West, South East and Northern Area delegates would get together to investigate a way forward which may involve modest expenditure on additional software. Several areas had raised concerns over Area funding, the current and former Hon. Treasurers offered a solution which was to pay the full amount requested to the seven areas that had submitted the required pro-forma, and the standard £600.00 to those that didn't, with the proviso that these areas could apply for additional funding from what is left in the kitty. The proposal was carried unanimously, with the funds to be paid to areas within 10 working days. There were also discussions on rolling membership, changes to the draft area constitution and a long and lively debate about a request from North West Area to amend part of their area constitution, which due to the late hour was deferred to the Area Council Forum and will be concluded at the next Area Council meeting which should be on 4th May.

Flying Disciplines Officers Reports

Free Flight

Nothing to report.

Radio Control

Nothing to Report

Control Line

Nothing to report.

Indoor

Indoor events hosted by Peterlee RMC at East Durham College are now from 11am to 1pm, both sessions in February have been cancelled as the hall is being used by the College, full details are on the area website. Events run by Washington MFC at the Nissan Sports Hall continue as normal.

Any Other Business

At the last meeting the Chairman asked clubs to submit requests for dates to host events at Albemarle Barracks, the following dates have been requested and at the moment are provisional only:

Sunday 26th February – Peterlee RMC, General Fly-in
Saturday 29th April – Control Line F2D Team Training
Sunday 30th April – Vintage Control Line Combat Comp' (reserve date)

Saturday 27th May – Control Line F2D Team Training
 Sunday 28th May – Vintage Control Line Combat Competition
 Sunday 11th June – Achievement Scheme Training & Testing Day.

Full details of all events are on the area website www.northeast.bmfa.uk

Meeting Postscript: Whilst preparing these minutes confirmation that these bookings have been approved by Albemarle was received.

Martin reported that he now has two provisional dates for demonstration events at Beamish Museum, these are 7th and 14th March, and are during the museum's "close season", and could lead to us becoming involved in some of their other events later in the year.

The secretary has received two requests for area support for events being hosted by affiliated clubs and open to all BMFA members. Eden Valley MAC have requested £350.00 towards catering for pilots attending their Aero Tow event, and fuel for the tug pilots, and Novocastrians have requested £462.00 towards catering and prizes for two Vintage control line combat competitions to be held at Albemarle. Following a short discussion Tom Walker (Sunderland & District MAC) proposed approving the request from Eden Valley MAC subject to receipt of advertising material for the area website, seconded by Paul Breckon (Hartlepool MAC), this was carried unanimously. Lez Scurfield (Tynedale MAC) proposed approval of the Novocastrians request, this was seconded by Tom Walker (Sunderland & District MAC) and carried unanimously. *(Note this request was for two comps, but the amount may be halved as only one of the dates is a reserve date and may not be used).*

The Secretary reported that the Teesside Model Show will take place this year at the clubs Redmarshall flying site on 3rd and 4th June 2023, run by the Large Model Association, any pilots wanting to take part will need to be LMA members as the show is being run under the LMA Article 16 Authorisation.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.0pm.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 1st March 2023 at Burnmoor Cricket Club, Burnmoor Co. Durham, DH4 6EX.

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.

Forthcoming Events

Date	Event	Contact
3 rd Sept 2022 Then 1 st & 3 rd Sat each month	Peterlee RMC Indoor Flying @ East Durham College 11am-1pm. Note February's events are Cancelled. See Area website www.northeast.bmfa.uk	bgworrall@tiscali.co.uk
10 th Sept 2022 Then 2 nd & 4 th Sat each month	Washington MFC Indoor Flying @ Nissan Sports Hall, Washington 2-4pm.	peterjwatson@blueyonder.co.uk
26 th Feb 2023	General R/C Fly- in hosted by Peterlee RMC at Albemarle Barracks. The sports field will also be available for Control line and light R/C	bgworrall@tiscali.co.uk
29 th April 2023	Control Line F2D Combat Team Training Session at Albemarle Barracks. The Airfield will be available for general R/C flying.	dmriley1975@gmail.com
30 th April 2023	Vintage Control Line Combat competition (reserve date) The Airfield will be available for general R/C flying.	dmriley1975@gmail.com
27 th May 2023	Control Line F2D Combat Team Training Session at Albemarle Barracks. The Airfield will be available for general R/C flying.	dmriley1975@gmail.com
28 th May 2023	Vintage Control Line Combat competition. The Airfield will be available for general R/C flying.	dmriley1975@gmail.com

11 th June 2023	BMFA Achievement Scheme Training & Testing Day. The sports field will be available for control line and light R/C models. Not there will be no other R/C flying on the main airfield other than those involved in taking or practising for A & B Tests.	garyarmstrong13@virginmedia.com
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