

**Unadopted Minutes of the BMFA North Eastern Area Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Burnmoor Cricket Club, Burnmoor, Co. Durham, DH4 6EX.**



**Officers Present**

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

**Clubs Represented (eligible to vote)**

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

**Apologies for Absence**

Ian Jones (Darlington & District MFC); Lez Scurfield (Tynedale MFC); Peter Franklin (Weardale MGA); Yan Lockhart (Crook & District MFC).

**Corrections to Previous Minutes**

None.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Proposed: Keith Jones (Washington MFC)

Seconded: David Riley (Novocastrians)

**Matters Arising**

None.

**Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that despite several emails he had not received a reply from the events team at Beamish Open Air Museum regarding staging an event there this year. Martin is not going contact them again unless they reach out to us, he has offered to get involved with their STEM activities should they want the area to become involved, but again there has been no response.

Martin also reported that following his appeal at the last meeting, the mystery model had been identified as a rocket powered target drone.

**Secretary's Report**

The Secretary reported the death of former BMFA Chairman on 8<sup>th</sup> December last year which he only became aware of after the last Area meeting. Gary also reported that he had attended the Zoom Webinar hosted by Andy Symons on using the "bulk email" facility attached to the Area website, now that he knows how it works, he is planning to send a test email to the elected officers to make sure he's got it right before sending an introductory message to all area members. As advised by Andy the messages need to be kept short to make sure they are read, and ideally, they should be limited to two per month to keep within the numbers allowed by the BMFA's software licence. The application for the licence to use

Albemarle has been re-submitted via the DIO as this is the way the military want it done, despite the DIO being happy for us to send it direct to the CO at Albemarle as we have done for the last three years.

### **Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer reported the current state of the Area's finances and outlined payments and receipts since the last meeting.

### **Delegates Report**

The Area Delegate gave a report on the Area Council meeting held via Zoom on 11<sup>th</sup> January, where topics covered included the ratification of Charlie Cox, Kevin Watson, and Russ Bowey as members of the Achievement Scheme Review Committee, and of the committee as a whole. Gary also reported the ratification of the four non-executive directors who represent Areas Council at Board Meetings, they are Peter Disney (South West), Alan Belcher (Wales), Brian Seymour (South Midlands) and John MacNamara (Northern). Brian Seymour was also elected as the Area Council representative on the BMFA Awards Committee. The other items discussed were the arguments around the introduction of "rolling membership" and the pros and cons of its implementation, this topic has been visited before and the general consensus was that clubs needed to see a concrete proposal with reasoned arguments before they could be expected to give their views. There was a proposal from Andy Symons for a "Club of the Year" award, to be presented annually, and to be club specific rather than one of the existing awards which can be awarded to clubs or individuals. The proposal was moved to the Area Council forum for further discussion and will be revisited at the next meeting.

The meeting concluded with a short presentation from the Finance Director regarding Areas Funding, the budget for Areas has been cut to £15000.00 and Mike warned that Areas with substantial reserves may not get all that they ask for. All areas need to submit their funding requests by 24<sup>th</sup> February and include the financial report for the year ending March 2023. The next Areas Council meetings are scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 12 September but are subject to confirmation.

Gary also gave a short report on the Board Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024 via Zoom. Most of the agenda concerned the ratification of various officers, sub committees and technical committees, however there were a couple of items of interest. The Finance Director reported that he was not planning on doing anything regarding implementing rolling membership in the near future as he did not want to alienate clubs that are opposed to it given the current pressure on membership numbers. The 2024 Annual General Meeting which was previously reported as being online only, may now be a hybrid meeting possibly at Buckminster, the Chairman is currently looking at costs involved and will report at the next meeting. The GB F1D Indoor team came home from the European Championships in Romania with a silver medal, the bid to host the 2026 Scale World Championships has been submitted to CIAM with a decision due in April.

The final item of interest is the CAA refusing to issue a NOTAM for the National Centre at Buckminster despite the recommendation of the UK AirProx board following the incident at Buckminster reported last year.

### **Achievement Scheme Coordinators Report**

Following the last meeting the ASC reported that Yan Lockhart had now completed the helicopter "B" test flight demonstration to have the additional discipline added to his existing examiner status and the paperwork and formal proposal to appoint him as an Area Chief

Examiner have been sent to Duncan McClure for approval. Peter Farnell has had his ACE appointment confirmed and should be receiving his certificate in the next few days.

## **Flying Disciplines Officers Reports**

### **Free Flight**

Nothing to report.

### **Radio Control**

Nothing to report.

### **Control Line**

Nothing to Report.

### **Indoor**

Peterlee RMC indoor events have resumed but Brian Worrall reported that they have had to increase the price for attending pilots to £5.00. Full details of indoor events hosted by Peterlee RMC and Washington MFC are on the area website [www.northeast.bmfa.uk](http://www.northeast.bmfa.uk)

## **Any Other Business**

The Chairman reported that all of the requested dates for Albemarle Barracks have been confirmed and are on the Area website although some of the details need updating. Members were advised that the first two dates in February and March will see some military training activity taking place and were asked to be extra vigilant. The Brian Park Memorial event is open to all members and disciplines and is being run by Allan Brown, the exact details are still to be finalised, but it is expected that the Trophy will go to the member who flies the greatest number of different disciplines during the day.

Following the last meeting three clubs submitted requests for Area funding for events they are running, one of the requests was received after the closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> January and before being discussed a vote on whether or not it should be allowed was taken. Euan Galloway (Area 51) proposed that we accept the request, it was seconded by Gary Armstrong (Newcastle MFA) and carried, 9 for, 0 against and 1 abstention. The three clubs were Novocastrians who requested £442.00 to run two control line competition and training weekends, Eden Valley MAC who asked for £400.00 towards tug pilot expenses and refreshments for their aero-tow event and Shildon MAC who asked for £600.00 towards Hall Hire and advertising for three indoor competitions. Following a short discussion and taking with him into consideration the report from the BMFA Finance Director included in the Delegates report the Chairman Martin Johnson (Tynedale MFC) proposed that we pay £200.00 to each club, this was seconded by Keith Jones (Washington MFC) and carried unanimously.

Gerard Gaynor (Shildon MAC) reported that during the Albemarle event held on 7<sup>th</sup> January he had spotted a family walking down the active runway and on approaching them to advise of what was going on discovered that it was the new Commanding Officer. During their conversation Gerard had mentioned problems with communication with the guardroom and was assured that the staff there should be able to deal with all enquiries straight away. This led to the Chairman raising another matter, where a member had contacted the barracks contrary to the rules in place which state that all contact should be through himself as Airfield Liaison Officer or if he's unavailable the Area Secretary. There followed an at times heated debate about what had happened and the reasons for it, however the general consensus was that the member concerned was in the wrong and that the Area needed to take some action. The Chairman proposed that a verbal warning be sent to the individual in the form of an email reminding him of the rules regarding use of Albemarle, this was seconded by Keith Jones and carried with 9 for, 0 against and 1 abstention. Euan Galloway (Area 51) as the members club Chairman offered to have a quiet word with him. It was

suggested that the Chairman and Secretary should arrange a meeting with the new Commanding Officer once the new licence has been approved to discuss our use of the airfield and any changes we can make to the way in which we operate.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

**The next meeting will be at 8pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 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](mailto:tom.jp11@gmail.com) or Gary Armstrong, Area Secretary: [garyarmstrong13@virginmedia.com](mailto: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**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Contact</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat each month	Peterlee RMC Indoor Flying @ East Durham College 11am-1pm. See Area website <a href="http://www.northeast.bmfa.uk">www.northeast.bmfa.uk</a> for details.	bgworrall@tiscali.co.uk
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sat each month	Washington MFC Indoor Flying @ Nissan Sports Hall, Washington 2-4pm. See Area website <a href="http://www.northeast.bmfa.uk">www.northeast.bmfa.uk</a> for details	peterjwatson@blueyonder.co.uk
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2024	Sildon MAC Indoor Model Flying @ Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre 12.00-4.00pm	Barry Robinson barry1@talktalk.net
10 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	General R/C Flying at Albemarle Barracks hosted by Area 51 with control line, free flight, and light R/C on the sports field.	gerardgaynor@talktalk.net
7 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	General R/C Flying at Albemarle Barracks hosted by Peterlee RMC with control line, free flight, and light R/C on the sports field.	bgworrall@tiscali.co.uk
28 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Sildon MAC Indoor Model Flying @ Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre 12.00-4.00pm	Barry Robinson barry1@talktalk.net
12 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Sildon MAC Indoor Model Flying @ Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre 12.00-4.00pm	Sildon MAC Indoor Model Flying @ Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre 12.00-4.00pm
12 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	General R/C Flying at Albemarle Barracks hosted by Area 51 with control line, free flight, and light R/C on the sports field.	gerardgaynor@talktalk.net
16 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Sildon MAC Indoor Model Flying @ Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre 12.00-4.00pm	Barry Robinson barry1@talktalk.net
22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2024	GBR F2D Combat National Team Practice Session	dmriley1975@gmail.com
23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	Vintage League Centralised Combat Competition. The runway will also be available for general R/C flying.	dmriley1975@gmail.com
14 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Brian Park Memorial Trophy – <b>further details to follow</b>	Allan Brown allan.030@btinternet.com

21 <sup>st</sup> July 2024	Shildon MAC Indoor Model Flying @ Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre 12.00- 4.00pm	Barry Robinson barry1@talktalk.net
11 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	Shildon MAC Indoor Model Flying @ Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre 12.00- 4.00pm	Barry Robinson barry1@talktalk.net
17 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2024	GBR F2D Combat National Team Practice Session	dmriley1975@gmail.com
18 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2024	Vintage League Centralised Combat Competition. The runway will also be available for general R/C flying.	dmriley1975@gmail.com
8 <sup>th</sup> Sept' 2024	Shildon MAC Indoor Model Flying @ Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre 12.00- 4.00pm	Barry Robinson barry1@talktalk.net
13 <sup>th</sup> Oct' 2024	Shildon MAC Indoor Model Flying @ Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre 12.00- 4.00pm	Barry Robinson barry1@talktalk.net
10 <sup>th</sup> Nov' 2024	Shildon MAC Indoor Model Flying @ Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre 12.00- 4.00pm	Barry Robinson barry1@talktalk.net
15 <sup>th</sup> Dec' 2024	Shildon MAC Indoor Model Flying @ Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre 12.00- 4.00pm	Barry Robinson barry1@talktalk.net