

Unadopted Minutes of the BMFA North Eastern Area Meeting held on 3rd May 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; Area 51; Peterlee RMC; Hartlepool MFC; Darlington & District MFC; Teesside MFC; Novocastrians; Weardale MGA; Chester-le-Street RMC; Washington MFC; Tynedale MFC; Sunderland & District MAC.

Apologies for Absence

Lez Scurfield (Tynedale MFC)

Corrections to Previous Minutes

None.

Adoption of Minutes

Proposed: Keith Jones (Washington MFC)
Seconded: Terry Bailey (Chester-le-Street RMC)

Matters Arising

None.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that Beamish Museum had been in touch with a date of 1st/2nd July for the Area to put on a demonstration of control line flying together with a static display as part of their family "Stem" weekend. Unfortunately, this date clashes with a number of control line competitions so a volunteer to run the event is required as the Chairman and Dave Riley will not be available. The museum can provide two small marquees and a PA system if required. Martin also reported that he had been contacted by a member of one of our affiliated Scottish clubs asking why SAA members could no longer fly at Albemarle Barracks, the same person had posed the same question to Andy Symons at the BMFA. Martin had replied explaining that the licence to use Albemarle was issued to the BMFA and its members allowing them to operate under the terms of the BMFA "Article 16 Authorisation" and in order to take advantage of these permissions those flying at Albemarle have to be BMFA members. The member making the enquiry had also asked to see a copy of the licence, however both Andy Symons and the Area Secretary have responded saying that the licence is a confidential document and only available to those who have signed the document, (The Albemarle Commanding Officer, The Area Secretary, and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation). The delegates present agreed that the licence does not need to be seen by anyone flying at Albemarle. The Eden Valley MFC Aero-tow event advertising has been received and uploaded to the area website in accordance with our requirements for providing financial support for the event. Albemarle has been booked for 27th/28th May for F2D (combat) practice on the Saturday and a vintage control line combat competition on the Sunday, the airfield is available for radio control flying as long as someone is prepared to oversee operations. In ending his report Martin confirmed that he had had the Area Combat Shield returned to him by Graham Ives (last presented in 2010) and that he also had received another Area Trophy, originally presented for indoor model flying. He suggested that one of the clubs running indoor events might like to organise a competition for it when the indoor season resumes, and that the Area would be willing to offer some support.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that whilst uploading the minutes of the last Area meeting, he discovered that all of the previous month's minutes had disappeared from the website. Gary had spoken to Andy Symons for help, and it appears that the "plug in" on the website that the documents are uploaded to is now out of date and not being supported by the web host. Andy has promised to look into finding an alternative method to upload future minutes. Gary also reported that he planned to add an additional report to the agenda for future minutes, namely the "ASC Report" as this has not previously been included as a separate item but included in his secretary's report.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer reported the current state of the Area finances and outgoings since the last meeting. Area Support for the 2023/4 financial year has not shown up on the latest bank statement, the Secretary offered to ask about the delay at the Area Council meeting on 4th May. A receipt for Area support for the Vintage control line competition has been received but not yet paid out.

Delegates Report

The Area Delegate gave a report on the meeting held on 27th April to establish a new BMFA Area, known as BMFA Scotland. The outcome of the meeting was that those present were offered a chance to self-nominate for any of the positions on an interim area committee which will run the new area until a proper AGM can be held at the end of the year. In the event of more than one person volunteering for the same post, a vote will be organised with all BMFA members in Scotland being given a chance to vote. The nomination period will be open for seven days as will the voting period should one be required, there will be a further meeting on Thursday 25th May when the new committee will be announced, and the way forward discussed. Gary also reported that there will be a meeting of the Area Council on 4th May (via Zoom) where the main agenda items are the adoption of the 2023 issue 5 Area Constitution and guidance documents, and the creation of BMFA Wales (formerly Mid-West Area) following the end of the consultation process with those clubs affected by the changes. There is also a meeting of the BMFA Board (formerly the BMFA Council) on 9th May, there is nothing in the agenda which the four non-executive directors who represent the Areas Council at the board meeting require guidance on, as most of the meeting is taken up with officer's reports with no proposals requiring a vote by those present.

Achievement Scheme Controllers Report

The ASC reported that the new Achievement Scheme handbook and updated guidance notes for the various tests are now available on the achievement scheme website www.achievements.bmfa.org. The Achievement Scheme Review Committee are aware that there are still some minor differences between the various test documents, but rather than spend time fixing them they are undertaking a thorough review of all of the documents to standardise them and remove duplication with a view to having the whole process together with a single guidance document ready for implementation in 2024. Candidates taking A and B tests in any discipline will be required to demonstrate an understanding of the "SWEETS" acronym as well as a failsafe demo' prior to the start of the test.

Flying Disciplines Officers Reports

Free Flight

Nothing to report.

Radio Control

There are two GBRCAA (Great Britain Radio Control Aerobatic Association) competitions this month, the Association Championships on 13/14th May at BMFA Buckminster and a domestic competition at Skelbrooke on 21st May.

Control Line

At the 1st BMFA F2B (Stunt) Centralised Competition on 23rd April, Steve White (Novocastrians) was 1st and Barry Robinson (Shildon MFC) 2nd. The first Vintage Combat competition took place at Bristol on 16th April with Dave Riley (Novocastrians) placing 2nd. The F2D (combat) training day at Albemarle on 29th April was

blessed with good weather whilst the Vintage competition held the following day was cancelled due to rain. The next events will be another F2D Team training day on 27th May and a Vintage combat competition on 28th May, both at Albemarle Barracks. There are four pilots from NE Area clubs on the British Team for this year's Control Line European Championships to be held in Poland. In the past the area have supported those on the teams to the tune of £100.00 for a first appearance and £50.00 for a second, following a short discussion Dave Rile (Novocastrians) proposed that we pay £100.00 to each pilot, this was seconded by Keith Jones (Washington MFC) and carried unanimously.

Indoor

Indoor events hosted by Peterlee RMC at East Durham College finish on 6th May, with Washington MFC ending the following week (13th May). Full details of when sessions resume are on the area website www.northeast.bmfa.uk

Any Other Business

Gary Armstrong reported that interest in the Area Training and Testing Day was very poor with more Area Chief Examiners and club examiners planning to attend than test candidates, if the numbers don't improve by the end of the month, then the event may be postponed until later in the year in which case the booked date of 11th June will be free. If the event is postponed Gerard Gaynor offered to take over the date on behalf of Peterlee RMC. Gerard asked whether recording members names and BMFA numbers at Albemarle events was a breach of GDPR (data protection) rules. The matter was discussed, and the general consensus was that as long as no personal details are recorded then there wasn't an issue. It is up to the organiser of each event to decide how they want to check the membership status of those attending and whether or not to record details of having carried out the check. Any data recorded should be limited to name and BMFA number. A report of an incident at Albemarle was given by Dave Riley where an individual initially refused to comply with a request to show proof of BMFA membership, resulting in an unnecessary and heated debate between the two parties. Dave proposed that the individual be banned from attending future events at Albemarle, the proposal was immediately seconded by Terry Bailey (Fellow & Chester-le-Street delegate). At this point the Chairman declared that he felt that due to his friendship with Dave he should hand the meeting over to the Vice Chairman, Peter Franklin to avoid any impartiality issues. Peter took over and stated that he believed that we could not allow the proposal to go ahead as we were not following our own rules regarding disciplinary procedures. This was backed up by the Secretary, Gary Armstrong who stated that the correct procedure would be an initial verbal warning, followed by a written warning which would only be issued once the accused had had a chance to put his side of the argument at an area meeting, and then if further breaches occurred the matter could be taken further. There were a number of delegates who also voiced their opinion that this was the correct procedure to follow and an amendment to the proposal was put forward by Gerard Gaynor (Area 51) stating that a verbal warning be issued in accordance with the area disciplinary procedure, the proposal was seconded by Jeff Staines (Teesside MFC). The amendment was voted on first and carried unanimously, therefore the original proposal fell. The secretary is to issue a written verbal warning reminding the individual of the rules regarding flying at Albemarle and that it a condition of entry to the site and part of the licence requirements that BMFA cards should be carried at all times and produced when requested by the organiser, any Area official or members of the military. There was a question from a delegate about whether a club could ask its members for proof of having a valid CAA Operator ID, this is a matter for the club to decide and it is the individual members responsibility to ensure that they comply with the rules. There is a situation where a member could have proof of competence (a BMFA A or B issued before 1/1/2021, a CAA DMARES test pass and Flier ID, or a BMFA RCC Test pass) but only fly other peoples' models so are not an operator, or they are a junior member who cannot register as an operator due to their age.

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

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 7th June 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. Last Session 6 th May 2023. 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. Last Session 13 th May 2023 See Area website www.northeast.bmfa.uk .	peterjwatson@blueyonder.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	Glider Aero-Tow Event in memory of Stephen Wilson Hosted by Eden Valley MFC. Pilots briefing at 10am, Free entry for BMFA members, free refreshments. More Info on the Area website, www.northeast.bmfa.uk	Nick Powley. evmacsecretary@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. Note: there will be no other R/C flying on the main airfield other than those involved in taking or practising for A, B or C Tests.	garyarmstrong13@virginmedia.com