

Unadopted Minutes of the BMFA North Eastern Area Meeting held on 1st November 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; Novocastrians; Weardale MGA; Sunderland & District MAC; Washington MFC; Tynedale MFC; Area 51; Terry Bailey (Fellow).

Apologies for Absence

Ian Jones (Darlington & District MFC); Brian Worrall (Peterlee RMC).

Corrections to Previous Minutes

The cost of temporary signs for use at Albemarle Barracks sourced by the Chairman and reported under “matters arising” were incorrectly quoted, the prices quoted were for the individual elements of the signs not the completed items. The total cost of the signs was £81.74, and an example was on display during the meeting.

Adoption of Minutes

Proposed: Keith Jones (Washington MFC)
Seconded: Tom Walker (Sunderland & District MAC)

Matters Arising

None.

Chairman’s Report

The Chairman reported that he had received two requests to book Albemarle Barracks for control line competitions in 2024, the dates requested being 22nd/23rd June and 17th/18th August. These will be requested as soon as Albemarle open the diary for next year’s bookings.

Secretary’s Report

The Secretary reported that the revised proposal to create a temporary danger area to allow Apian Airspace to conduct drone delivery trials of medical supplies had been received by all those who responded to the original consultation. The main changes are that the proposed trial area is to be reduced in size by approximately 50% and has been moved inland from the coast to allow safe transit of Newcastle Airport’s controlled airspace by Microlight and Ultralight aircraft. There are also plans to design delivery routes to route around all known airfields and model flying sites. Albemarle Barracks and the Newcastle MFA site on the Town Moor remain in Newcastle’s Air Traffic control Zone and existing arrangements to allow model flying at these sites will remain in place. The Secretary is to circulate the

complete proposal document to all those clubs likely to be affected just in case they have been missed from the stakeholder list held by Apian Airspace.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer reported the current state of the Area's finances, the purchase of signs for Albemarle and the AGM Buffett and drinks are still to pay for.

Delegates Report

The Area Delegate gave a short report on the Board Meeting (formerly Full Council) held on 30th September. The main items of interest were the approval of the draft budget for 2023/24, cost cutting measures to be implemented including the sale of Chacksfield House, with office space rented from either the British Gliding Association or British Hang-gliding and Parachute Association, both of whom have offered space in the same building. The other items were the proposed fees for 2024, which subject to AGM approval will be £45.00 Senior, £20.00 Junior/Student, £30.00 Family Partner, £15.00 Family Junior, and £20.00 Non-Flying member. Gary also reported on an Air Prox incident at Buckminster involving the Red Arrows which was totally avoidable had the CAA agreed to issue a permanent NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) for the site when it was requested by the Chief Executive. Unfortunately, the CAA refused the request as Buckminster has a permanent entry in the AIP (Aeronautical Information Publication), however the military don't always refer to this publication resulting in the Red Arrows overflying Buckminster during a Jet Modellers Association event. Subsequent to the Chief Executive submitting details of the incident to the UK AirProx board and their investigation into the incident a NOTAM for Buckminster was duly issued. Finally the BMFA Scale Technical committee bid to host the World Championships in 2028 is progressing well with the bid requiring a few tweaks from the Finance and Sporting Directors before being formally submitted to the FAI/CIAM.

Achievement Scheme Controllers Report

The ASC reported that the new BMFA Scotland is up and running with five new Area Chief Examiners appointed, they have arranged a training and testing day later in the month which he may be invited to attend to assist the new Examiners get to grips with their new roles. Gary also reported that he had contacted our ACEs to find out how many are willing to continue in 2024 subject to ratification at the AGM, to date only one reply has been received.

Flying Disciplines Officers Reports

Free Flight

Nothing to report.

Radio Control

The final F3A competition of the year was the Season Finale hosted by the Phoenix club on 15th October, but no North East Area pilots took part. The 2024 season sees the introduction of two new schedules for FAI pilots known as P25 (Provisional) and F25 (Finals), most domestic comps will use the P25 schedule with the Nationals and Team Trials using both the P and F schedules.

Control Line

Nothing to Report.

Indoor

No changes have been reported. Full details of indoor events hosted by Peterlee RMC and Washington MFC are on the area website www.northeast.bmfa.uk

Any Other Business

He Chairman reported that he had not yet had a reply from Beamish Open Air Museum regarding an event there next year.

Gerard Gaynor requested the use of Albemarle Barracks on 26th November on behalf of Peterlee RMC. He also commented that had the previous booking been for the Saturday not the Sunday it would have been a much better flying day for both R/C and Control Line as the weather deteriorated on the Sunday and wasn't suitable for control line flying. There isn't a simple solution as the R/C flyers prefer a Sunday and this is also the day that Albemarle prefer us to use, we'll just have to hope the weather is kinder to us next year.

Gary Armstrong reported that he'd had a request from Andy Symons for clubs to submit details of their flying site locations to be held on a non-public database. This will help the BMFA when responding to requests for Airspace Changes (such as the current Apian Drone Trial) and as part of the current consultation process around Remote ID and Electronic Conspicuity. The link to submit details has been sent to all club Chairmen and Secretaries and all clubs are urged to respond.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

The next meeting will be the AGM at 8pm on Wednesday 6th December 2023 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.

Forthcoming Events

Date	Event	Contact
1 st & 3 rd Sat each month	Peterlee RMC Indoor Flying @ East Durham College 11am-1pm. Session's resume September 2nd, 2023. See Area website www.northeast.bmfa.uk for details.	bgworrall@tiscali.co.uk
2 nd & 4 th Sat each month	Washington MFC Indoor Flying @ Nissan Sports Hall, Washington 2-4pm. Session's resume September 2023 See Area website www.northeast.bmfa.uk . For details	peterjwatson@blueyonder.co.uk
26 th Nov 2023	General R/C Fly-in hosted by Peterlee RMC at Albemarle Barracks. Control line and light R/C classes will be flow on the sports field.	bgworrall@tiscali.co.uk