

Unadopted Minutes of the BMFA North Eastern Area Meeting held on 4th October 2023 at Burnmoor Cricket Club, Burnmoor, Co. Durham, DH4 6EX.



Officers Present

Y Chairman: Martin Johnson (Novocastrians)	Y Treasurer: Tom Walker (Sunderland & DMAC)
N 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; Cramlington & District MAC; Sunderland & District MAC; Washington MFC; Terry Bailey (Fellow).

Apologies for Absence

Peter Franklin (Weardale MGA & Vice Chairman); Ian Jones (Darlington & District MFC); Brian Worrall (Peterlee RMC); Gerard Gaynor (Area 51); David Riley (Novocastrians).

Corrections to Previous Minutes

None.

Adoption of Minutes

Proposed: Tom Walker (Sunderland & District MAC)

Seconded: Terry Bailey (Fellow)

Matters Arising

As reported last month Gerard Gaynor (Area 51) and the Chairman had obtained quotes for temporary signage to use at Albemarle Barracks to prevent attendees from driving on the active runway. The quote from Iain Nicol (via Gerard) was considered excessive at £315 for four signs including delivery, Martin Johnson had found alternatives on-line ranging from £9 to £15 each including suitable vinyl text. Following a short discussion Keith Jones (Washington MFC) proposed purchasing six double sided signs as per the Chairmans recommendation, this was seconded by Tom Walker (Sunderland & District MAC) and carried unanimously. The Chairman is to organise in time for the next meeting.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman confirmed he had booked Albemarle Barracks for Sunday 29th October on behalf of Peterlee RMC, this being the only date available during the month due to military activity on the airfield.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported the death of former BMFA Chairman Kath Watson FSMAE following a short illness, her funeral was held the day before the Area meeting (3rd October). A full obituary will be in the next edition of the BMFA News.

Further to the report of a proposal from Apian Airspace to create a large temporary danger area to allow a trial of drone deliveries to hospitals, doctors surgeries and medical centres,

all club secretaries and chairmen should have been contacted by Andy Symons (BMFA Club Support Officer) with details of the BMFA's response to the proposal and links to allow them to submit their own feedback if they hadn't already done so. The Secretary confirmed that as well as responding on behalf of his own clubs he had also submitted feedback on behalf of the Area to include details of our activities at Albemarle Barracks. Gary also reported that the Area Website now has the facility to send bulk emails to all members in the area and asked for ideas on how clubs and members would like to see this facility used. With the Area AGM due to take place in December delegates were reminded of the posts up for election, they are Vice Chairman, Secretary, Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator, Outreach Co-ordinator (currently vacant) and one Auditor (Ian Russell). If anyone is interested in any of the posts and wants more details of what is involved, they should contact the secretary.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer reported the current state of the Area's finances and confirmed that the replacement cheque issued to Eden Valley MAC had been cashed, along with all of the other outstanding cheques. With the AGM fast approaching Tom confirmed that there would be a buffet and one free drink for those attending.

Delegates Report

The Area Delegate gave a short report on the Areas Council meeting held on 14th September via Zoom. The voting strength of the meeting was 15, and Iain Nicol was welcomed to his first meeting as the delegate for BMFA Scotland. One of the main topics discussed was ways in which clubs could become more involved with their area and there was an offer from Andy Symons and Duncan McClure to host a Zoom webinar for members of each area to generate more interest in getting involved. If North East area members are interested in such an initiative, then the delegate is happy to arrange this with Andy and Duncan, but ideally it needs to be before our AGM, so we need to know at the next area meeting. Andy Symons also offered to host a Zoom webinar for area website administrators to enable them to make better use of what is available, Gary reported he would be happy to attend on behalf of the area as and when it is arranged.

The four non-executive directors to represent Areas Council at Board Meetings will be the South West, BMFA Wales, East Anglia and Northern area delegates.

The dates of the Area Council meetings in 2024 will be confirmed once the Board have confirmed the dates of their meetings.

The BMFA board met on 30th September, but no minutes have been published as yet and there was nothing on the agenda that required input from Areas Council.

Achievement Scheme Controllers Report

The ASC reported that there is a possibility of one of our current Area Chief Examiners standing down at the AGM, Gary didn't name the individual in case he has had a change of heart, but delegates were asked to have a think about possible alternatives. The ASC has a couple of names in mind for replacements should the need arise. Gary also reported that he may be travelling up to Scotland in the next few weeks to assist one of their new ACE's with his first examiner tests subject to receiving an invite from their Achievement Scheme Controller, or a request from Duncan McClure.

Flying Disciplines Officers Reports

Free Flight

Nothing to report.

Radio Control

The annual Triple Crown F3A Aerobatic competition took place on 9th/10th September at Cardington, Bedfordshire. The event was won by team Scotland, with England 2nd, Ireland 3rd and the International team 4th. Next year the event will be hosted by Scotland. There were no NE Area pilots competing at the BMFA Nationals held at Hurley over the weekend of 30th September/1st October. The final F3A competition of the year is the Season Finale to be hosted by the Phoenix club on 15th October where pilots will have the chance to fly the new P25 schedule which comes into effect from 1st January.

Control Line

The next control line competition is a Vintage League event at Buckminster on 8th October. The F2D Combat Team Trial was cancelled as there were only three entries. They will therefore be put forward for ratification as the GB team for next year's world championships to be held in the USA.

Indoor

Washington MFC indoor events at the Nissan sports club resumed on 9th September and continue on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month. Full details of indoor events hosted by Peterlee RMC and Washington MFC are on the area website www.northeast.bmfa.uk

Any Other Business

The Chairman reported that he had contacted Beamish Museum about holding another control line demonstration next year but has not yet had a reply.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

The next meeting will be at 8pm on Wednesday 1st November 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
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
29 th Oct 2024	General R/C Fly-in hosted by Peterlee RMC at Albemarle Barracks. Control line and light R/C classes will be flown on the sports field.	bgworrall@tiscali.co.uk