

**Unadopted Minutes of the BMFA North Eastern Area Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 at Burnmoor Cricket Club, Burnmoor, Co. Durham, DH4 6EX.**



**Officers Present**

<b>Y Chairman:</b> Martin Johnson (Novocastrians)	<b>Y Treasurer:</b> Peter Franklin (Weardale MGA)
<b>Y Vice Chairman:</b> Brian Worrall (Peterlee RMC)	<b>Y Delegate:</b> Gary Armstrong (Newcastle MFA)
<b>Y Secretary:</b> Gary Armstrong (Newcastle MFA)	<b>Y Outreach Co-ordinator:</b> Euan Galloway (Area 51)
<b>Y Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator:</b> Gary Armstrong (Newcastle MFA)	

**Clubs Represented (eligible to vote)**

Newcastle MFA; Peterlee RMC; Chester-le-Street RMC; Area 51; Shildon MFC; Washington MFC; Weardale MGA; Novocastrians.

**Apologies for Absence**

Lez Scurfield (Tynedale MFC); Ian Jones (Darlington & District MFC); Mick Boulton (NE Model Flyers); Dave Riley (Novocastrians)

**Corrections to Previous Minutes**

None.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Proposed: Keith Jones (Washington MFC)  
Seconded: Peter Franklin (Weardale MGA)

**Matters Arising**

None.

**Chairman's Report**

Nothing to report.

**Secretary's Report**

The Secretary reported that he had still not received a response from our contact at the DIO (Defence Infrastructure Organisation) regarding the outstanding invoice for our airfield licence and would be contacting her again in the coming days. Gary also confirmed that notification of the Area AGM had gone out to all club delegates and that he had updated the area clubs list on the area website together with a link to the "club finder" page on the BMFA website. Shildon MFC have their second free to enter indoor event on 14<sup>th</sup> December, which is supported by the area but have not yet signed the areas agreement document or supplied a report and photos from their first event in order for the Treasurer to release payment to them. Gerard Gaynor, the Shildon delegate explained that their secretary was new to the job and was still getting to grips with the role, Gerard subsequently signed the terms and conditions document following the meeting and was to chase up the event report and financial statement.

## **Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer, Peter Franklin reported that the area's bank balance was unchanged from the previous month, the expected outgoings are the financial support payments to Shildon MFC, the airfield licence for Albemarle and the buffet at next month's AGM.

## **Delegates Report**

The Delegate, Gary Armstrong gave a report on the recent Board meeting and the society AGM. From the board meeting the items of interest to the area were the co-option of Duncan McClure as society Vice Chairman until the 2026 AGM, to fill the post left vacant when Keith Lomax took up the position of Finance Director. The creation of a new membership class for Micro Drone Racers was approved with the fees set at £20.00 Senior and £10.00 Junior. The proposal to create a Technical Committee to represent drone flyers was withdrawn to allow more thought to be put into how it would be manned, the CEO asked the Technical Director to make this a priority. A number of awards were approved with Mark Benns being awarded a fellowship of the society in recognition of his long-term involvement on the free flight technical committee and work as a director of the society. A certificate of merit was awarded to Darlington club Chairman Neil Dixon for his work in promoting safety and the achievement scheme within his club, and the Ray Malmstrom trophy went to the LMA (Large Model Association) for over 40 years support for those flying large models. The new club of the year award went to Impington Village College MAC. From the society AGM the main items of interest were the approval of the Finance Directors report and annual accounts which showed that both the core activities and National Centre had made small profits. The figures could have been slightly better but the change to Xero accounting software had shown up some anomalies in the depreciation of assets which have now been corrected. Membership of the society has stabilised in part thanks to the LMA and SAA becoming Associate bodies. Membership fees for 2026 have seen a £2.00 increase for all senior membership classes, all other classes are unchanged, for those that need them the fees are £51.00 Senior, £32.00 Family partner, £20.00 Junior & Student, £15.00 Family Junior, and CAA Operator ID (due before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026) £11.79. The budget for Area Support for the year 2026/27 was set at £25000.00, the team development fund was re-instated and will be overseen by the Sporting Director and Technical Council and has an initial budget of £10000.00. There is also a budgeted amount of £40K for an additional staff member with the exact detail of the role to be announced in due course. All of the officers standing for re-election were elected unopposed. Finally, the Scale World Championships being held at Buckminster in 2026 have seen over 100 expressions of interest from competitors with 24 countries represented which is a major increase on previous events.

## **Outreach Coordinators Report**

Euan Galloway reported that he had been invited to attend the first Shildon MFC indoor event to see how they are encouraging more people to get involved in the hobby and as a result had recruited one new member as well as another from Albemarle who had visited on one of the SW Model Flyers flying days.

## **Achievement Scheme Coordinators Report**

The ASC, Gary Armstrong gave a short report on the most recent Achievement Scheme Review committee meeting. Of interest to clubs in the area was a reminder that those members who were given a CAA Flyer ID number based on a historical achievement (A or B Certificate passed before 01/01/2020) that have not yet taken and passed either the BMFA RCC (Registration Competency Certificate) or the CAA DMARES (Drone and Model Aircraft Registration and Education System) will need to do so before 30<sup>th</sup> November or they may find that their Flyer ID is rescinded. The other item of interest was the use of smart

electronics in models being used for achievement scheme tests. This was originally raised by a number of club and chief examiners from this area and resulted in the ASRC agreeing that the current guidance video on avionics is over ten years old and needs updating and will be a priority moving forward. The ASRC also reiterated the advice to examiners that they are entirely within their rights to refuse to conduct a test where there is any concern that the model may have smart electronics installed (Gyro Stabilisation etc.) or is not suitable for the test being undertaken. Gary also gave report on the latest Safety review Committee report which detailed those incidents reported via the BMFA "mandatory occurrence reporting" system that required onward submission to the CAA and AAIB. The incidents reported (26) make up around 10% of all submissions received. Most were the result of pilot actions either before or during flight leading to "fly aways", the most concerning aspect being that in 20 of the 26 cases the models were not recovered so there is no information available as to whether there was any third-party involvement.

### **Flying Disciplines Officers Reports**

#### **Free Flight**

Nothing to report.

#### **Radio Control**

There was no NE Area involvement at the final two aerobatic competitions of the year, the new season gets underway in March 2026 when the new P27 and F27 schedules will be in use.

#### **Control Line**

Nothing to report.

#### **Indoor**

Keith Jones reported that there are no Washington MFC indoor events at Nissan during November and December as the hall is unavailable, they will resume on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Full details of indoor events hosted by Peterlee RMC, Washington MFC and Shildon MFC are on the area website [www.northeast.bmfa.uk](http://www.northeast.bmfa.uk)

### **Any Other Business**

Euan Galloway (Area 51 and SW Flyers) reported that they are looking to hold an open fly-in in May next year at Albemarle Barracks and asked whether the Lutman Trophy was available should they run a low-key competition. It was explained that the Lutman Trophy was owned and held by the Lutman family (founders and owners of "The Model Shop, Newcastle) and was unlikely to be available. However, the area has a number of trophies that are not currently being used including the Brian Park Memorial trophy, the Chairman offered to look into what else may be available and advised Euan to submit a bid for event funding prior to the February meeting.

There will be a buffet following the AGM which takes place on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 at 8pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

**The next meeting will follow the Area AGM on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 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, the Area Chairman Martin Johnson [martinjohnson9531@gmail.com](mailto:martinjohnson9531@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 from Sept to May	Peterlee RMC Indoor Flying @ East Durham College, 11am-1pm. <b>Resumes</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sept' 2025</b> . See Area website <a href="http://www.northeast.bmfa.uk">www.northeast.bmfa.uk</a> for details.	Brian Worrall <a href="mailto:bgworrall06@gmail.com">bgworrall06@gmail.com</a> Tel 07443 915909
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sat each month from Jan to May	Washington MFC Indoor Flying @ Nissan Sports Hall, Washington 2-4pm. <b>Resumes Jan' 2026</b> See Area website <a href="http://www.northeast.bmfa.uk">www.northeast.bmfa.uk</a> for details	Peter Watson <a href="mailto:peterjwatson@blueyonder.co.uk">peterjwatson@blueyonder.co.uk</a>
14th Dec' 2025	Shildon MAC Open Day. On Sunday 12th October and 14th December Shildon MAC will be holding open days for North East Aeromodeller's at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre from 12.00 till 4.00pm. There will be a number of models available for people to use, under the instruction of qualified flyer's, to give them a taste of Indoor flying. Free Flight Rubber, Glider, Radio Control and Control line will be available, and demonstrations from Shildon club member's during the day will show what can be achieved. Entry to the event is free, thanks to support from the BMFA North East Area. Any questions, please ask.	Alastair Maxfield <a href="mailto:Maxfield_a_j@btinternet.com">Maxfield_a_j@btinternet.com</a>