

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



Officers Present

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

Clubs Represented (eligible to vote)

Newcastle MFA; Weardale MGA; Peterlee RMC; Darlington & District MFC; NE Model Flyers; Tynedale MFC; Novocastrians; Washington MFC; Crook & District MFC.

Apologies for Absence

Terence Sanderson (Chester-le-Street RMC); Tom Walker (Sunderland & District MFC); Euan Galloway (Area 51 & Outreach Coordinator)

Corrections to Previous Minutes

None.

Adoption of Minutes

Proposed: Brian Worrall (Peterlee RMC)
Seconded: Peter Franklin (Weardale MGA)

Matters Arising

The Secretary, Gary Armstrong reported that the calendar on the area website has now been reinstated with the help of Andy Symons who created a work around to allow multiple events to be added quickly and easily. All area events can now be added to the various categories on the main BMFA events calendar as well as the area page, if clubs want their events advertised nationally, they just need to let us know when they submit dates for the Area calendar.

Chairman's Report

Nothing to report.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that there had been no further progress from the DIO (Defence Infrastructure Organisation) regarding the outstanding invoice for our Albemarle licence. The secretary of Shildon MFC has been in touch with dates for the two free indoor events they are running that the Area agreed to support back in February. The dates are 12th October and 14th December and have been added to the events calendar, Gary advised that he had forwarded the club a copy of the funding agreement document and was awaiting its signature and return. Gary also reported that he had already had emails from members regarding "Remote ID" for models and the potential impact for clubs and their members.

Remote ID is something that has been in the pipeline for a while and the impact for clubs and their members operating from official club sites will be minimal as it is expected that holders of "Article 16" Authorisations will be exempt from the requirements. Implementation for model fliers is not due until January 2028, only those purchasing new drones after 1st January 2026 will need to comply immediately and those flying older "legacy drones" will have until 2028. The only impact the new regs will have is that the minimum weight limit for models and drones to be exempt from their owners having to have an Operator ID will drop to 100g (unless fitted with a camera). The Area AGM is fast approaching and will take place on 3rd December with notification going out to all members at the end of the month, the posts up for election this year are Secretary, Vice-Chairman, Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinator, Outreach Co-Ordinator and one auditor (Ian Russell)

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer, Peter Franklin reported that the area's bank balance was unchanged from the previous month and confirmed that we are no longer being charged the £5.00 monthly account fee.

Delegates Report

The Delegate, Gary Armstrong gave a report on the recent Area Council meeting held via Zoom where the voting strength of the meeting was eleven. Area delegates were asked to remind their Area Treasurers that they needed to submit their latest year end accounts and an updated financial report showing the current state of their bank balance to the Finance and Members Directors following the area AGM so that they have an accurate picture when considering requests for area support for the following year. Updated details of how and when to apply for area support will be made available via the area council forum. The budget for area support was to be discussed at the next board meeting which was the week after area council met but it is likely to be similar to the previous year at around £25K.

The Club of the Year award received around 25 scoring entries and the winners will be ratified at the forthcoming board meetings and they are expected to be invited to the annual dinner to receive their trophy/certificates (although we know who won, the clubs have not yet been informed so their names are not being revealed). The Outreach director reported that there was plenty going on and that she was looking at further initiatives to improve what we have on offer including drone soccer and an improved offering for Air Cadets. The Achievement Scheme Coordinator reported that there had been an increase in interest in A,B, and C tests and a number of new examiner appointments all of which is good news following several quiet years, the next ASRC Review committee meeting is on 10th October where the use of SMART electronics in tests is one of the topics up for discussion.

The safety review committee meet again in October after which a summary of the causes of reportable incidents will be made available, to date there have been 38 reported incidents out of around 200 submissions. Finally, Chris Bradbury has volunteered to produce a revised guide on how to set up and maintain BMFA hosted club and area websites.

Outreach Coordinators Report

Euan Galloway submitted a short report via email in which he said that it had been a quiet month with only one enquiry from some Durham University students looking for guidance on launching model rockets which he referred to the BMFA and the Space Modelling section.

Achievement Scheme Coordinators Report

Nothing to report.

Flying Disciplines Officers Reports

Free Flight

Nothing to Report

Radio Control

At the BMFA F3A (Aerobatics) Nationals held at Buckminster on 6th/7th September, Gerhard Fehringer (Tranwell Model Flyers and Northumbrian MAS) placed 1st in the FAI P25 class, winning all five rounds to become BMFA Nationals Champion. The remaining competitions for 2025 are on the 5th of October at Ashbourne (BMFA Centralised and National League) and the season finale hosted by Phoenix MFC on 12th October.

Control Line

The control line competitions not flown at the BMFA Nationals have been re-arranged for the weekend of 18th/19th October 2025.

Indoor

Keith Jones reported that Washington MFC are hosting indoor sessions at Nissan in Washington on 4th and 25th October. Full details of indoor events hosted by Peterlee RMC, Washington MFC and Shildon MFC are on the area website www.northeast.bmfa.uk

Any Other Business

Yan Lockhart (Crook & District MFC), who is also one of our Area Chief Examiners reported that following an upsurge of interest in model helicopters he was available to offer help with set up and tuition. Anyone wanting to take up Yan's offer should contact the area secretary who will pass on the request.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

The next meeting will be at 8pm on Wednesday 5th November 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 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 from Sept to May	Peterlee RMC Indoor Flying @ East Durham College, 11am-1pm. Resumes 6th Sept' 2025. See Area website www.northeast.bmfa.uk for details.	Brian Worrall bgworrall06@gmail.com Tel 07443 915909
2 nd & 4 th Sat each month from Jan to May	Washington MFC Indoor Flying @ Nissan Sports Hall, Washington 2-4pm. Resumes Sept' 2025. See Area website www.northeast.bmfa.uk for details	Peter Watson peterjwatson@blueyonder.co.uk
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	Alastair Maxfield Maxfield_a_j@btinternet.com

	<p>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.</p> <p>Entry to the event is free, thanks to support from the BMFA North East Area. Any questions, please ask.</p>	
--	---	--