

Unadopted Minutes of the BMFA North Eastern Area Meeting held on 2nd July 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; Peterlee RMC; Novocastrians; Weardale MGA; Tynedale MFC; Chester-le-Street RMC.

Apologies for Absence

Paul Brekon, (Hartlepool MFC); Euan Galloway (Area 51 & Outreach Co-Ordinator); Ian Jones (Darlington & District MFC; Keith Jones (Washington MFC).

Corrections to Previous Minutes

None.

Adoption of Minutes

Proposed: Dave Riley (Novocastrians)
Seconded: Peter Franklin (Weardale MGA)

Matters Arising

None.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked the Vice Chairman, Brian Worrall for standing in for him last month. He reported that following last years AirProx incident at Buckminster all clubs that have permanent flying sites with "over 400ft flight permits" now have entries in the AIP (Aeronautical Information Publication) which is the equivalent of a permanent NOTAM (Notice to Airmen). Martin advised delegates that CAA Operator ID fees have now gone up to £11.79 and apply to new registrations and anyone whose renewal falls after 1st April 2025. Finally, delegates were asked to remind their club members that have had Flyer ID numbers issued based on a historical achievement (A or B cert' obtained prior to 01/01/2021) that have not passed the RCC (Registration Competency Certificate) or the LMA/CAA equivalents to take the RCC test before November in order for their Flyer ID to remain valid.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that he had still not received a response from Albemarle Barracks regarding the outstanding invoice for our licence and asked the Chairman if he could chase this up with his contacts at the camp. Gary also reminded delegates that reduced BMFA membership fees were now in operation with a further reduction due in September. He also

encouraged clubs to respond to the recent email from Andy Symons regarding “trial flights”, even if this is not something they can offer as the information collected is useful to update clubs contact details.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer, Peter Franklin gave an update of the current state of the area’s finances, he also reported that as of 1st July, HSBC are scrapping the £5.00 monthly charge applied to our account.

Delegates Report

The Delegate, Gary Armstrong reported that the agenda for the next area council meeting had not yet been published and that there was nothing new on the area council forum. Following publication of the minutes of the last Board meeting held in May there were a several items of interest. Firstly, the investigation of the former RAF Finningley site as a possible venue for future BMFA Nationals has been overtaken by the news that the site is to re-open as Doncaster/ Sheffield Airport. The BMFA Chairman is writing the Commanding Officer at RAF Cranwell to re-establish communication in the hope that it may lead to further use of Barkston Heath for BMFA events. The National Centre at Buckminster now has a new grass cutter and in addition to its usual income funds have been boosted by around £12000.00 in commission from the two auctions held early this year. The BMFA News and BDF News publications have been merged into a single issue with Chris Bradbury continuing as editor, Chris is also taking on the design of the magazine which will save the BMFA around £19K per year as this work used to be outsourced. Finally, the Military Aviation Authority are now listing permanent model flying sites with permits to operate above 400ft on their charts using the information published in the AIP and following recommendations made in the report into the AirProx report into the incident at Buckminster .

Outreach Coordinators Report

The Outreach Coordinator Euan Galloway submitted a short update via email in which he reported that he had been working with a group of drone fliers who were looking to set up a dedicated FPV (First Person View) racing club and had been assisting them with becoming BMFA/BDF members with a view to becoming an affiliated club. He had also been helping them search for a suitable flying site and had offered them the option of becoming members of the Area 51 club, but they prefer to become a stand-alone group.

Achievement Scheme Coordinators Report

Nothing to report.

Flying Disciplines Officers Reports

Free Flight

Nothing to report.

Radio Control

The UKF3A (Aerobatics) Championships took place alongside the UK leg of the F3A World Cup at Buckminster over the weekend of 7th/8th June, the only local competitor was Gerhard Fehringer (NMAS) who was second in the FAI P25 class. Forthcoming events are at Colmworth on 6th July, Tildesley on 13th July (BMFA Centralised) and Ashbourne on 20th July.

Control Line

On 21st/22nd June the CLAPA Championships (Control Line Aerobatic Pilots Association) took place at Buckminster where Barry Robinson (Shildon MFC) placed 2nd in F2B and 5th in Classic Stunt. The next control line competition will be a vintage combat event on 12th July at Buckminster.

Indoor

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

Gary Armstrong reported that members of the Northumbrian Model Aircraft Society had attended the recent Great North Fly-In at Eshott airfield in Northumberland with a display of large models. The event was hampered by bad weather to the north and south of the county which prevented some of the expected full-size visitors from attending, however the event was still a success, and the display was appreciated by both the organisers and visitors with plenty of positive comments. It was also a chance to hand out information about local clubs to interested visitors who wanted to see models in action and possibly become involved.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.26pm.

The next meeting will be at 8pm on Wednesday 6th August 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 bgworrall@tiscali.co.uk
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