

Unadopted Minutes of the BMFA North Eastern Area AGM held on 3rd December 2025 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 Outreach Co-ordinator: Euan Galloway (Area 51)
Y Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator: Gary Armstrong (Newcastle MFA)	

Clubs Represented (eligible to vote)

Newcastle MFA; Novocastrians; Tynedale MFC; Shildon MFC; SW Model Flyers; Area 51; Chester-le-Street RMC; Teesside MFC; Darlington & District MFC; NE Model Flyers; Peterlee RMC; Weardale MGA; Washington MFC.

Apologies for Absence

Yan Lockhart (Crook & District MFC); Ian Russell (auditor)

Corrections to Previous Minutes

None.

Adoption of Minutes

Proposed: Dave Riley (Novocastrians)
Seconded: Lez Scurfield (Tynedale MFC)

Matters Arising

None.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on events during the year, covering items such as attendance at area meetings, the use of Albemarle Barracks and ways we can increase use of the facilities on offer, competition successes and area events. Martin closed his report by thanking the Area officers for their support through the year and looked forward to improved weather for the coming year. The full report is appended to the end of these minutes.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary gave a short report on the current state of membership within the area, together with an update on meeting attendance, the area website and bulk mail facility and our continuing use of Albemarle Barracks. The full report is appended to the end of these minutes.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer presented the annual accounts for the financial year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. The accounts have been audited, and no issues were raised by the auditors.

Peter answered any questions on the accounts to the satisfaction of those present. The full report is appended at the end of these minutes.

Delegates Report

The Area Delegate gave a brief report on his activity through the year including attendance at all of the online Area Council meetings as well as the Society AGM. The full report is appended at the end of these minutes.

Outreach Coordinators Report

Euan Galloway provided a short report of his activities during the year. The full report is attached.

Achievement Scheme Coordinators Report.

Gary Armstrong gave a short report of activity within the Achievement scheme in the area. The full report is appended to these minutes.

Area Chief Examiners Reports.

Gary Armstrong submitted reports from all the Area Chief Examiners detailing their activities during the year. The full report is appended to these minutes.

Flying Disciplines Officers Reports

Free Flight

Nothing to report.

Radio Control

This year has been particularly quiet in terms of competition flying with our regular F3A Aerobatic competitors only able to attend a limited number of competitions. The only notable success was Gerhard Fehring (Tranwell Flyers and Northumbrian MAS) winning the FAI P25 class at the BMFA Nationals held at Buckminster on 6th/7th September. In Fun-Fly Martin and Mike Bell (both Hartlepool RMC) took part in the BMFA Nationals held at Buckminster with Martin placing 1st in Class 1, winning all five rounds in the process and Mike a disappointing 9th in Class 3.

Control Line

Control line in the North East still has healthy numbers in the competition side of the hobby, mainly in combat and aerobatics. Although I do hear reports of some sport flying continuing in the region, it does seem that overall, the fly for fun pilot numbers may have dwindled slightly. This is probably due to the lack of use of Albemarle during 2025, something we must rectify for 2026.

We were supposed to hold a vintage combat competition at Albermarle in April, but due to lack of entries we were forced to cancel this event. The lack of entries was due to competitors not willing to travel north, which is quite frustrating as we travel to the Southeast and Southwest to support their events. It was very disappointing to be totally omitted from the competition calendar this year by the combat flyers association committee, but after much unnecessary deliberation and unanswered questions we have managed to secure the 16th of August to hold a vintage combat competition again.

Our aerobatic flyers continue to compete regularly and return with good results. It's always nice to have to report their success at the monthly area meetings.

As usual we had good results at the control line National Championships held at Buckminster at the end of August. Graham Ives of the Novocastrians placed first in Vintage

combat, and Dave Riley placed first in F2E combat. The final of F2E was a repeat of last year's final, but the results were reversed this time. It was almost a clean sweep in F2E with Martin Johnson placing 4th.

Let's hope that the success of the Northeast pilots continues next year and that the weather gods will be kind for next season.

Indoor

No changes have been reported with Peterlee RMC and Washington MFC continuing to run regular indoor sessions which in the main are well supported, as was the first of two open events hosted by Shildon MFC and supported by the Area. Full details of indoor events are on the area website www.northeast.bmfa.uk

Auditors Report.

Only one of the Auditors was present at the meeting and reported that he had examined the accounts and everything was in order.

Election of Officers.

Vice Chairman : Brian Worrall
Proposed by Gary Armstrong (Newcastle MFA)
Seconded by Peter Franklin (Weardale MGA)
Unanimously elected to serve for two years.

Secretary : Gary Armstrong
Proposed by Peter Franklin (Weardale MGA)
Seconded by Dave Riley (Novocastrians)
Unanimously elected to serve for two years.

Outreach Coordinator : Euan Galloway
Proposed by Gerard Gaynor (Shildon MFC)
Seconded by Peter Franklin (Weardale MGA)

Unanimously elected to serve for two years.

Achievement Scheme Coordinator : Gary Armstrong
Proposed by Lez Scurfield (Tynedale MFC)
Seconded by Keith Jones (Washington MFC)

Unanimously elected to serve for two years.

Auditor : Keith Jones
Proposed by Gary Armstrong (Newcastle MFA)
Seconded by Lez Scurfield (Tynedale MFC)

Unanimously elected to serve for two years.

Ratification of Area Chief Examiners.

Gary Armstrong (ASC) reported that all of our Area Chief Examiners were willing to continue for another year. The five ACEs are Gary Armstrong, Bob Wasson, Brian Johnson, Peter Farnell and Yan Lockhart, they were proposed for re-ratification by Peter Franklin (Weardale MGA) and seconded by Lez Scurfield (Tynedale MFC) and approved unanimously.

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

The next AGM will take place at 8pm on Wednesday 2nd December 2026 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, Gary Armstrong, Area Secretary: garyarmstrong13@virginmedia.com or Martin Johnson, Area Chairman martinjohnson9531@gmail.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.

Chairman's AGM Report 2025

The Area continues to operate smoothly; meetings are relatively well attended and supported but it is always the same delegates and clubs that attend. My thanks go to those that do attend and report back to their clubs. I pose the question what can we do to improve attendance?

We, as an Area, sponsored a couple of clubs and events during the year: Shildon Model Flying Clubs Indoor event, which is becoming increasingly popular and offers the opportunity to have a go at both radio and control line, and the Novocastrian Vintage Control Line Combat event which is part of the series of National League competitions. We continue to obtain the Licence for Albemarle Barracks, even though the 'Military' didn't seem to want our money this year. I am disappointed by the uptake from clubs to use this wonderful facility, it is useable by a vast range of disciplines and offers little in the way of restrictions.

I asked at last year's AGM that we consider a dedicated Liaison officer, maybe an 'Events Officer' would be a better title, who could generate interest through advertised events e.g. Fun fly, Control Line, Pylon Racing, Jets, Large Models. Maybe we need to invest in some competitions to publicise the venue.

Finally, my thanks go to all the Officers of the Area, their dedication and continued support make my job relatively easy.

May 2026 bring some wonderful weather, light winds but most of all a healthy one.

BMFA NE Area Secretary's Report 2025.

Another year has passed and as in previous years it has been relatively uneventful. I've attended all of the monthly meetings where I've done my best to capture the flavour of the meetings in the minutes, which are then prepared and distributed to all of the clubs in the area via email to the club delegates and/or secretaries. As in previous years I've also handled the application for our licence to use Albemarle Barracks, the big change being that we now pay for the licence in two parts. The preparation fee goes to the DIO (Defence Infrastructure Organisation) whilst the licence fee goes direct to 3RHA (Royal Horse Artillery) the unit based at Albemarle. In addition to secretarial duties, I also maintain the area website, however I can only do this if clubs supply with material to add, be it event reports, photos or dates for the events pages.

The Area currently has 35 affiliated clubs and 8 youth groups, with a total of 910 senior members and 15 juniors, which is an increase across all categories and gives us 160 more members than we had last year.

Attendance at area meetings remains consistent although we would like to see more clubs in attendance so that we can better represent the views of all clubs in the area.

In closing I would like to thank the elected officers and delegates for their support over the last year and look forward to working with them again in 2026 if re-elected.

Gary Armstrong. (N.E Area Secretary)

BMFA NE Area Delegates Report 2025.

The last twelve months have been much the same as the previous twelve, attendance at area meetings has remained consistent with the usual dozen or so clubs represented plus a handful of interested observers. Minutes are distributed by email to all club delegates and/or club secretaries using contact details from the “Just Go” membership portals Area pages, we have also sent our first area newsletter to all members using the bulk mail facility on the area website.

We continue to have a good relationship with the commanding officer and his staff at our local MOD establishment at Albemarle Barracks, thanks to the efforts of our chairman and airfield liaison officer, Martin Johnson. The airfield is used on a regular basis for general R/C flying and has hosted several F2d/F2e and Vintage control line combat centralised competitions, team training sessions, as well as offering practice facilities for F2b stunt. The value of having such a facility locally has resulted in the Area continuing to have several National champions and regular GBR team members in both combat and stunt disciplines.

The Achievement Scheme continues to run smoothly, thanks to the efforts of the area ASC and our small group of active Area Chief Examiners. Training and testing events have been mostly low-key affairs held on club sites and are growing in popularity with more planned in the months ahead.

The Area has provided financial support to several clubs in the area to support activities to attract new members or to allow existing members to try new disciplines such as indoor flying or control line flying. The Area has helped with promotion of an indoor static display in Lands Village Hall in County Durham where a few Area members provided demonstrations of Control line stunt and 3D helicopter flying. One of our newly affiliated clubs, Northumbrian MAS, who until this year were only affiliated to the Large Model Association were invited to put on a static display of models at the Great North Fly-in held at Eshott Airfield in Northumberland and were able to promote the hobby to interested visitors. Several of them were given details of local BMFA clubs offering trial flights with the hope that they will go on to become new members. Our newly appointed Outreach Coordinator has been working with several drone fliers both with one of the local universities and a group looking to set up an FPV drone racing club and has recruited them as BMFA/BDF members, he is also in contact with a couple of ATC squadrons to assist and advise with their modelling activities, hopefully there will be more to follow.

Moving forward the Area is looking to improve it's website and to encourage more clubs to become involved at area level, we can only get better if the local members tell us what it is they want us to do. The recent discussions on the Area Council Forum regarding area websites has given us some ideas as to what we need to do, but some additional guidance from those with more knowledge is always welcome.

As Area Delegate I've attended the Society AGM and both Area Council meetings and have kept up to date with various discussions on the area council forum and commented on behalf of the Area where required.

Gary Armstrong.

BMFA NE Area Delegate.

Outreach Coordinators Report

Well one year since I was elected to the position of outreach officer not quite knowing what I had got myself into. The year started with a busy period supporting and guiding a group of Durham University students through a BVLOS (beyond visual line of sight) data gathering UAV project, four of the team became country BMFA members . I enabled the group to secure a safe place to commence test flying after Albemarle was deemed unsuitable for BVLOS.

I have continued to reach out to our local Air Cadets but struggle to get anyone in command to commit a date when I can demo and try and get some of the cadets engaged in our excellent hobby .

Drone flyers both FPV and casual photographers have reached out to me this year regularly enquiring about local drone biased clubs and seeking clarification on rules, regs and obtaining BMFA/BDA insurance. This gives assurance they are not all law breaking.

One of the clubs I am involved in has welcomed at least two new younger members (under 30) wanting to learn and have become BMFA members with one achieving a B cert in his first six months of flying .

Durham university students reached out about Launching rockets and joining the BMFA for insurance purposes, not knowing much about rockets they were signposted to BMFA HQ. I have been looking at what other areas have done regarding recruiting / promoting especially the Northern area and think we should try and organise an open event promoted through social media. The main problem we have is locating a club that would be willing to host such an event as our area resource Albemarle requires BMFA membership and in my opinion is too far away to attract first time "Interested persons".

On a more positive note, area have continued supporting the Shildon Club to host a series of indoor events in Newton Aycliffe and after visiting last month I have come away really impressed with what they are trying to achieve .

Indoor events in public sports centres are a great way of getting more into model flying.

Moving forwards into 2026 can I again ask we reach out to all our 30 odd local clubs about using their club site for an open try and fly. We need to try and do more to encourage and promote model flying as the age demographic has changed dramatically since I started on a hillside in Leicestershire, the average age now is between 55-65 with newcomers at the far end of the age range.

Model flying is in my DNA with my dad Peter still flying in his late 80's and my son throwing the odd foamy off a hillside and personally I would want the hobby to continue in some form be it ARTF electric foamies or Tiny Whoop indoor FPV drones.

Achievement Scheme Coordinators Report 2025

This year the majority of my time has been taken up with answering questions regarding the issue of "Flier ID" numbers to members with historic achievements and the reasons why they also need to take and pass the BMFA RCC test for them to remain valid beyond the end of November 2025. I've also organised examiners for to conduct "A" tests for a couple of clubs that currently don't have their own examiners and have encouraged those clubs to actively look for members within their clubs that with help could be suitable examiner candidates. I've also in my dual roles as ASC and an ACE given one talk on the achievement scheme to one of our smaller clubs that are looking to improve flying and safety standards within their club.

Gary Armstrong (ASC NE Area)

Area Chief Examiners' Reports 2025

As in previous years I have contacted all our current Area Chief Examiners to request their annual reports and for confirmation of their willingness to continue for another year. All have responded with reports of their activities over the year and are all willing to continue for another year if re-ratified. The individual reports follow below.

Bob Wasson

It has been a relatively quiet year for BMFA (FW) testing with a father and son gaining their A Certificates shortly after joining DDMFC. And another longer standing DDMFC member gaining a well-deserved B (FW) Certificate. During the year, DDMFC also ran a number of

BMFA Test “open weeks” where potential candidates could pre-book a BMFA (FW) Examiner for training and/or testing purposes.

I have also been closely involved in conjunction with our ASC, Gary Armstrong, the Committee of DDMFC and contacts in other BMFA Areas in flagging up increasing concerns regarding attempts to use SMART electronics for BMFA (FW) A and B Tests.

Subsequent discussions in the ASRC Committee on 7th October 2025 resulted in helpful interim advice and a commitment to update the 10-year-old BMFA Video on Avionics.

Peter Farnell

2025 has been a busy year 6 A(FW) tests being carried out for new members to GMFC. Due to the large number of beginners, I was involved instruction / coaching duties as they approached their A tests. Two club instructors stood down during the year, and two replacements have taken on this role, which has required coaching on the A(FW) tests to avoid confusion for the trainees. Lastly, a couple of members are still keen on taking their B tests and some coaching has been provided for this.

Yan Lockhart

Another fairly quiet year on the ACE role. Nevertheless, I have continued the steady promotion of the scheme at Club level with coaching of potential proficiency certificate candidates. According to my main involvement in the RC helicopter discipline I am also trying to increase the area network and support and recently this led to a successful Heli A certificate candidate pass.

Looking forward to continuing in 2026.

Gary Armstrong

Like our other ACE's this has been a quiet year for me with only one successful B (FW) test being taken and passed following a period of intensive coaching for the candidate. Other than this I've given one club talk on the benefits and aims of the achievement scheme to one of our smaller clubs which hopefully will lead to a training & testing day sometime in the spring.

Brian Johnson.

As per last year my report is “nothing to report” primarily due to continue issues with our club field and a lack of interest in “flat field” silent flight disciplines.

Gary Armstrong. (CE792)

BMFA North East Area
01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025
Treasurer's Report

BALANCE							
HSBC Bank Account		Carried forward	£ 6,276.82	HSBC account balance		£ 5,843.82	
Petty Cash		Carried forward	£ -	Petty Cash		£ -	
				Unpresented Chq's		£ -	
		Total	£ 6,276.82			£ 5,843.82	Total
INCOME							
BMFA Area Support	2024		£ 1,160.00	EXPENDITURE			
				Albermarle Licence	24-25	£ 810.00	
				Burmoor Cricket Club		£ 121.00	
				AGM food etc.		£ 29.75	
				Club / Event support	Eden Glider	£ 200.00	
				Club / Event support	M.Johnson Combat	£ 200.00	
				Club / Event support	Shildon MFC	£ 200.00	
				Bank Charges		£ 61.60	
				Historical Error		-£ 29.35	
Total Income			£ 1,160.00	Total Expenditure		£ 1,593.00	
		TOTAL	£ 7,436.82				TOTAL
			£ 1,160.00				
			£ 1,593.00				
			-£ 433.00				

*Total income for year was
total expenditure was
giving us a gain of*