

Unadopted Minutes of the BMFA North Eastern Area Meeting held on 7th January 2026 at Burnmoor Cricket Club, Burnmoor, Co. Durham, DH4 6EX.



Officers Present

Y Chairman: Martin Johnson (Novocastrians)	Y Treasurer: Peter Franklin (Weardale MGA)
N Vice Chairman: Brian Worrall (Peterlee RMC)	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; Weardale MGA; Teesside MFC; Darlington & District MFC; Area 51; Shildon MFC; Crook & District MFC; Washington MFC

Apologies for Absence

Lez Scurfield (Tynedale MFC); Brian Worrall (Peterlee RMC & Vice Chairman); Dave Riley (Novocastrians); Michael Boulton (NE Model Flyers); Terence Sanderson (Chester-le-Street RMC)

Corrections to Previous Minutes

None.

Adoption of Minutes

Proposed: Keith Jones (Washington MFC)
Seconded: Ian Jones (Darlington & District MFC)

Matters Arising

Following last months meeting the Chairman reported that he had looked into the issue of CPR training and defibrillators. Martin advised that he had found a number of organisations that provide free CPR training, including the British heart Foundation, St. Johns Ambulance and the Red Cross. Should a club or organisation require someone to be certified to carry out CPR then the cost is approximately £100.00. Defibrillators can either be full or semi-automated with prices starting at around the £1000.00 mark. There was a discussion as to whether the area should arrange a CPR training session for interested clubs or members and whether the area should look to purchase a defibrillator for use at area events. Ideally each of the area's clubs should have their own defibrillator or at least be aware of where the nearest one to their flying site is located. It was agreed that the secretary would put together another area newsletter to go to all members to gauge interest in holding a CPR training session either online or at a central location and the matter would be discussed further at the February meeting.

Chairman's Report

Nothing to report.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary reminded delegates that any of their members that had not renewed their BMFA membership were no longer covered by insurance and cover would only resume once

they had paid either direct to the BMFA via the “Just Go” membership portal or to their club membership secretary. Gary also reported that he had been contacted by the DIO (defence Infrastructure Organisation) requesting an updated copy of our insurance cover, which was duly supplied. The licence to use Albemarle expires at the end of February and a request for an application form to renew it has been made. Club delegates were reminded that the deadline for area funding requests is the 31st of January, to date there have been two requests which will be discussed at the February meeting along with any others received. Delegates were also asked to ensure that if their club delegate or secretary had changed since the last area meeting the contact details were supplied to the Secretary so he could update the mailing list. Finally, Shildon MFC have supplied a report and photo's from their last indoor event which the area agreed to support and therefore if there were no objections (there were none) the support payment of £300.00 could be made by the treasurer.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer, Peter Franklin reported the current state of the area's finances with the second payment to Shildon MFC to be made following the meeting.

Delegates Report

The Delegate, Gary Armstrong reported on the agendas for the forthcoming Area Council and Board meetings. From the area council meeting the main items requiring votes were the election or re-election of four members of the Achievement Scheme Review Committee, the four members standing being Adrian Addison, John Collister, Kevin Watson and Charlie Cox. There were no objections to any of them, so Gary was instructed to vote in favour. The other topic which continues to rumble on is rolling membership and the alternative proposal from East Anglia for a pro-rata membership system. This was discussed at length on the area council forum and is unworkable with the “Just Go” membership portal.

The Board meeting agenda comprises mainly of ratification of areas, area chairmen, sub committees and specialist bodies. There is the one proposal from East Anglia for a pro-rata membership system which the four non-executive directors representing areas council have been directed to ensure that it is seconded but then vote against it. This means that under BMFA rules the proposal cannot be resubmitted for at least two years, whereas if it were withdrawn or not seconded it could be tweaked and submitted again.

Finally, the area support pro-forma is expected from the Finance Director in the next few days and will need to be returned before the deadline at the end of February. The Area officials will get together to finalise the amounts to be requested following the next area meeting.

Outreach Coordinators Report

Euan Galloway reported that he attended the area sponsored indoor event hosted by the Shildon club on the 14th of December at Newton Aycliffe, it was well supported from area clubs and refreshing to see several junior members either using simulators or flying small indoor models. Shildon club should be commended for their continued efforts to recruit new blood to our hobby .

Not much else apart from a telephone request for a contact in the Hexham club as the number on the BMFA is not working. The Secretary is to find an alternative contact and email it to Euan.

Achievement Scheme Coordinators Report

The delegates were reminded that if they have not done so their clubs need to ratify any or all of their club examiners that wish to continue in the role for another year. It does not

matter if an examiner is ratified by more than one club as long as they are ratified by someone.

Flying Disciplines Officers Reports

Free Flight

Nothing to report.

Radio Control

Nothing to report.

Control Line

Nothing to report.

Indoor

Keith Jones reported that Washington MFC indoor events at Nissan have restarted. 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

The question of Flyer ID numbers was raised with some confusion as to when they were required, particularly in regard to control line models. After consulting the current Article 16 authorisation the answer was not clear, so the chairman offered to contact Andy Symons (Club Support Officer) for clarification. For R/C disciplines anyone flying outdoors with models over 100g requires a Flyer ID, which they can get by taking the online BMFA RCC (Registration Competency Certificate) test, or the CAA DMARES (Drone & Model Aircraft Registration and Education System) test.

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

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th February 2026 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. 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. See Area website www.northeast.bmfa.uk for details	Dave Slassor daveslassor@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 07831970307