

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
EAST ANGLIA AREA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
21st November 2024**

General points

A link is provided below to those joining the ZOOM meeting, you will be able to join the zoom session from 7.30pm, please ensure you are online to enable a prompt start to the meeting at 7.45pm. Any training or setting up requests should be addressed to paul.hoey@bmfa.uk

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84829175757?pwd=OHVsSWpTZDBGZkRGVG RqQitabkFhZz09>

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Clubs Present
3. Minutes of the Previous AGM (1st December 2023)
4. Matter arising
5. Officers Reports
 - Chairman Paul Hoey
 - Vice Chairman Joe Kemp
 - Honorary Secretary/Treasurer Mike Woodhouse
 - Competition Secretary Steve Bowles
 - Alan Paul Delegate
 - Achievement Scheme Coordinator Jon Land
 - Communications & Webmaster (ex-officio) Alan Paul
 - Outreach John Copsey
 - Education Officer Vacant
 - BDF Vacant
7. Area accounts

8. Election of officers

- Chairman (1 year)
- Vice Chairman
- Treasurer
- Competition Secretary
- Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinator (1 Year)
- BDF Representative
- 1 auditor – Steve Bowles stands down

9. Ratification of examiners

10. Written proposals

- To M. J. Woodhouse, 12 Marston Lane, Eaton, Norwich, Norfolk, NR4 6LZ or e-mail MichaelWoodhouse1942@gmail.com

11. Date and venue for the 2025 AGM

- Confirm the dates for 2025 Area meetings.

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
EAST ANGLIA AREA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
23rd November 2023
On-line meeting commenced 20:15**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The chairman welcomed the members to the AGM.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Gary Hughes – Newmarket

Steve Bowles – Vikings and Competition Secretary

3. PRESENT

See attached schedule 17 members 14 clubs

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Proposed Graham Gooch. Seconded Vic Blackwood. Carried. Agreed by the members attending who were present at the previous AGM.
None against or abstentions

5. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

6. OFFICERS' REPORTS

Submitted reports

Chair/Delegate

Paul Hoey

Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Woodhouse

Competition Secretary

Steve Bowles

PRO

Vacant

Education Officer

Vacant

Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator

Jason Channing

Web Master

Alan Paul

The quality of the testing regime at the centre was questioned, the standards appear to be less stringent than those applied by the East Anglian Area.

The acceptance of the officers written reports en bloc was proposed Peter Jenkins. Seconded Graham Gooch. Carried.

7. **AREA ACCOUNTS**

The Area accounts were accepted. Proposed Joe Kemp. Seconded Vic Blackwood. Carried

8. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Chairman – Paul Hoey	Proposed John Copsey Seconded Mike
Woodhouse	
Council Delegate – Alan Paul	Proposed John Copsey Seconded Vic
Blackwood	
Secretary - Mike Woodhouse	Proposed Peter Jenkins Seconded Alan Paul
Outreach Coordinator – John Copsey	Proposed Alan Paul Seconded Tony Waters
Achievement Scheme Coordinator Woodhouse	Proposed Mike
– Jason Channing	Seconded David Billham
Steve Riley was also proposed for the post by Tom Wilkinson and seconded by Peter Jenkins the voting was 7 for Jason Channing, 2 for Steve Riley and 3 abstentions.	
BDF Representative	Vacant Seconded Garry Peacock
Auditor – Dave Oldfield	Proposed Tony Waters Seconded Peter Jenkins

9. **RATIFICATION OF EXAMINERS**

On the recommendation of the Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator, the list of examiners for 2024 is:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| • Jason Channing | Examiner 1945 |
| • Garry Peacock | Examiner 1495 |
| • Colin Bliss | Examiner 298 |
| • Graham Gooch | Examiner 1267 |
| • Linda Easter | Examiner 2341 |
| • Steve Riley | Examiner 2387 |
| • Neil Garnett | Examiner 2091 |
| • Greg Butterworth | Examiner 783 |
| • Jon Land | Examiner 2486 |
| • Glen Rackstraw | Examiner 2155 |

Proposed by Jason Channing Seconded Joe Kemp. All were ratified.

10. WRITTEN PROPOSALS

There were no written proposals.

11. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

21st November 2024. Meeting to be held on-line

The meeting ended at 21:40

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
EAST ANGLIA AREA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The past year for the East Anglia Area has been a steady one.

In May, Jason Channing stood down as our Area Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator after several years' service and has been succeeded by Jon Land. We are grateful to both for their promotion of the scheme.

With support of Andy Symons and the work of Alan Paul our website guru we can now direct e mail all BMFA members in the Area as well as encourage clubs to appoint a representative to attend Area meetings. This has seen a small uplift in attendance which is pleasing but there is much more to do to engage clubs.

Our small grants scheme has, for example, enabled the Impington Village College MAC to purchase several Tradflys to give to new junior members. Impington is active in engaging young people and their summer Friday evening drone racing sessions have been a contributory factor.

In answer to Helen Jones' (Outreach Director) request to Areas to appoint an Outreach representative to join a national working group John Copsey has stepped up. He has been a regular participant and keeps the Area in touch with the groups work.

Our Area Gala in July at RAF Sculthorpe was well attended, and it was pleasing to see several FF and RC sports flyers take the opportunity to fly on one of the UKs dwindling number of sites capable of hosting FF competitions. At the Gala we again hosted the Bowden Trophy with 6 competitors, a far cry from the halcyon days. But it is important to keep this historic event going until it can be held at a more central location and attract more participants.

In closing my thanks to all the volunteers at club and Area level who work on behalf of BMFA members to ensure that members can develop their skills, compete and enjoy model flying.

Paul Hoey

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
EAST ANGLIA AREA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024
SECRETARY'S REPORT**

This report will reference the areas not covered by other officer's reports.

2024 The meetings have been representatives via the Zoom. The area has its own Zoom account available free to Area clubs.

The area is now going through a transition and has thus it has been very quiet.

Michael Woodhouse

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
EAST ANGLIA AREA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024
COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Of the 12 days on which we had the use of Sculthorpe this year, only one could be described fairly as a “pleasant day for flying”. It was either cold, wet, rather too windy or a combination of all three. Is this attributable to climate change or just bad luck?

Nevertheless a dwindling band of stalwart flyers contrived to make the best of the conditions and were joined on several days by visitors from other areas (probably as a result of uncertainty of availability of Barkston Heath or North Luffenham) which added to the general atmosphere and competitiveness of the occasion.

This year's Area Gala attracted a decent turnout by contemporary standards and appears to be a firm “must go to” event in the season for many.

On a personal note , after a number of health scares over the past couple of years I have decided that I can no longer commit to spending 8-10 hour days on the flying field on a regular basis and must stand down as comp sec (a position I first took on 60 years ago, although there have been several worthy successors in the interim)

Stephen Bowles

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
EAST ANGLIA AREA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024
DELEGATE'S REPORT**

I have been the new area delegate since the beginning of the year and on the area committee for several years. This is my report for 2024.

- Several successful area events were held including a training and test day at Ramsey MFC in May and the area gala at Sculthorpe in August.
- The club of the year scheme was broadly supported but it was essential that clubs could self-nominate as they may have limited knowledge of other club's activities.
- There was little support for rolling membership, although it was noted that prospective members who joined outside the best times for subs reductions could either buy gift memberships or join BDF instead.
- There was a suggestion from the area that we ask some well-known YouTube creators who are also BMFA members to publicise the benefits of joining the BMFA and a model club – e.g. insurance, camaraderie, advice etc. There appears to be some reluctance to do this due to loss of control, but maybe we should be more relaxed about this.
- The CAA has about 200,000 operators registered. It was suggested that we should ask the CAA to contact these and suggest they join a drone or model flying organisation to get the benefits as per point 4.
- There was a strong feeling that to encourage membership, we need to keep the fees down and not have a repeat of last year's double whammy. High fees will deter the "casual" modellers.
- The mass mailing facility which we now have within the area websites is very useful for getting direct contact with members if it's not overused.
- Whilst members are worried about increased "drone restrictions" as evidenced by the tone of recent CAA surveys and the trends seen in the USA etc, they are reassured by the BMFAs efforts to keep a lid on this as far as possible.

Alan Paul

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
EAST ANGLIA AREA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025
ACHIEVEMENT SCHEME COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

Proposed examiners for 2025

Jason Channing	Examiner 1945
Garry Peacock	Examiner 1495
Colin Bliss	Examiner 298
Graham Gooch	Examiner 1267
Steve Riley	Examiner 2387
Neil Garnett	Examiner 2091
Greg Butterworth	Examiner 783
Jon Land	Examiner 2486
Glen Rackstraw	Examiner 2155

All have reported see next pages.

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024
ACHIEVEMENT CHIEF EXAMINERS ACEs**

Jon Land Examiner number 2486

A busy year supporting the Achievement Scheme. I continue to support the Achievement Scheme encouraging both established and new club members to take their A and B test. I always demonstrate the test to the student prior to taking any tests. The Ramsey MAC has a great training scheme with several competent instructors. I spend an inordinate amount of time at the club so I'm usually able to assess when students are ready for the tests. A Training Day was held at the Ramsey Model Aero Club on the 12 of May that had limited success. I carried out demonstrations of the A and B tests to club members. We have some younger people getting involved with the hobby which is encouraging.

I have completed the following successful test

- 6 A Tests
- 1 B Test
- 1 Scale C Test

Jason Channing Examiner number 1945

I have helped and assisted with several C certificates this year and have travelled to a few clubs to help with training and safety. At present I have 3 candidates that are working steadily towards their fixed wing B and 3 whom fly solo and are progressing towards the fixed wing A certificate. Where possible I continue to promote the BMFA and to help guide other members regarding legislation and the current law.

Steve Riley Examiner number 2387

This year has been very quiet. Only had three fixed wing "A" to do. So not a great deal to report. All the best in the role of coordinator and hopefully you might put some workshops on the calendar for next year. My club only has 30 members. So very little happens.

Graham Gooch Examiner number 1267

As with many BMFA affiliated clubs, the club that I am Chairman of continues to suffer with declining membership, so much so that we reached

our “break even” point, ie. the income from subscriptions would not be able to meet our outgoings for this year. Consequently, I have had to spend quite a bit of time this year looking at old club databases, contacting previous members, scout groups, ATC air cadet groups with a view of trying to secure additional members. I am now pleased to say that this work has proved dividends, and we now have acquired an additional 6 senior and one junior members. Of the above, 3 of the seniors and the junior are very keen to obtain at least their BMFA “A” test and I meet up with them quite regularly and am actively working with and mentoring them to build up confidence to be able to successfully pass the A test.

We only have 2 members left in the club who hold a “B” certificate. One is just not interested in moving forwards to become a club examiner and the other still sits on the fence not being sure he wants to encounter the politics when a candidate doesn’t meet the standard and fails a test. I am working with this one to continue to try to reassure him.

On a personal note, I have continued my interests in precision aerobatic flying with UKF3A (formally GBRCAA), I won the UKF3A Championships in May this year and the National League competition for 2024 in the schedule that I fly in. I have also been a member of a sub-Committee to introduce a new initiative “Improve your Flying”. This has been advertised via the BMFA classifieds for anyone wishing to come along to various venues, gain help from the mentors present to support them on how best they can improve on model setup, flying abilities and general skill set. Several of the attendees have gone on to achieve their BMFA “B” proficiency certificate either via their local club examiners or on one of the ASRC days at Buckminster.

I look forward to retaining an ACE and ACI rating for 2025 but will certainly not be passing anyone who fall short of the required standards.

Glen Rackstraw Examiner number 2155

My main time has been taken up with mentoring various people for their “B” cert. which is something I encourage all our A holders to aspire too. I should like to get involved with examining for the C cert next year, I hold a “C” in aerobatics and intend to take the “C” in scale, probably early next year. Towards which I have been flying my RV4 regularly. I believe Duncan requires anyone do a short course before examining any “C” but I have heard no more about this. Once I have taken the “C” scale myself, I shall look more into this.

I also had a visit too Buckminster last month to see what goes on and was impressed with the whole set up. More visits will be on my schedule for next year,

Garry Peacock Examiner number 1495

It's been a good year. Lots of promotion of the achievement scheme at my club and around the country mentoring for a and b certificates. I travel quite a log with my F3A flying and very often get chatting to local flyers interested in what we do, and the conversations very often lead to achievement scheme aims. I very much hope that my efforts promoting the scheme helps to improve overall pit discipline and flying abilities wherever and whenever I can. I always encourage our club examiners to carry out tests within my local area and would appreciate the opportunity to continue to do so.

Greg Butterworth Examiner number 702

Nothing much to report from myself for the eastern region this year as no requests have been made of me. I would very much like to be given some tests and always happy to do them - is it that people just don't come forward for them?

I remain active, most recently picking up the F3A addiction once more and entered the last 5 comps of the season getting back in earnest to the schedules and rather enjoying it this time round. I am always available and have done several tests around the South Midland area for which I am currently also treasurer.

I recently spent a day with a local club coaching their examiners and undertaking a variety of tests including more drones which seem to be still prevalent in some pockets around the clubs I frequent. As one of the only multi disciplined examiners and importantly helicopter/drone I am happy to undertake tests across the region if required.

Linda Easter Examiner number 2341

I am afraid that due to a continuous back problem I will not be seeking re-election as an area chief examiner next year due to the limited amount of time I am able to visit the flying site. I feel that I would like to give that opportunity to someone else who can put in more time and effort than I have recently.

I have very much enjoyed assisting and promoting the Achievement Scheme and would like to continue as a club examiner only for the foreseeable future.

Colin Bliss Examiner number 298

Yet another flying season comes to an end. I've been relatively busy promoting the achievement scheme and have been very active helping fliers and showing them, the various elements required for both the A and B in planes and helicopters the weather has been awful with many windy days at my local club we have run several fun comps and fly ins

Neil Garnett Examiner number 2091

No Workshops Attended or Given this year or presentations on either Aeromodelling or BMFA topics attended or given

Approved Instructors mentored for Raydon MC BMFA and Orwell MC BMFA. The Orwell Model Club would like more examiners due to people leaving. In addition, I have mentored a few people this year with fixed wing IC, jets and helis.

Achievement Scheme tests taken during the year.

- 1 Fixed Wing A, passed
- 2 Fixed Wing B, both passed
- 1 Fixed Wing A, failed
- 1 Heli B, passed

I have Promoted the BMFA at the LMA shows I have flown at. I also try to visit different clubs to promote the BMFA and achievement scheme. I have given my contact details out including various training and pointers.

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024
COMMUNICATIONS & WEB MASTER'S REPORT**

The website has been kept up to date with all Area documentation. It is a very useful repository for this, but probably not a highly viewed website, although we try to get as many events uploaded as possible.

The master list of Area officials has been kept up to date as far as possible and is used for e-mailing meeting information and minutes etc. We can also now send mass e-mails to all Area members if the requirement arises. We do try not to spam our members unnecessarily, but it can be useful for getting important messages across.

Alan Paul

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
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OUTREACH REPORT**

In case you are unaware, I have been put forward to become club chairman at the upcoming AGM in November. John Wynn is now club President for the sad reasons you will be aware of.

Anything that has happened over the summer to improve membership numbers of the BMFA, has not happened via the Outreach project. The meeting planned for September was cancelled because Helen couldn't get a Quorum. That meeting is now set for October 24th. on Zoom. We will see how that goes. I said to Helen over a year ago that not much would happen in the summer because we are all doing other things and that is how it has been.

I had a long telephone conversation with Helen towards the end of September. I stressed that I thought that this project was very important, and we were essentially “marketing” the BMFA. I said that professional people should be employed who are experienced in marketing techniques but needs to be very closely handled to avoid it becoming a circus. I haven't had any feedback from that, but I have noticed that Andy is now using the official BMFA Facebook page (I am only aware of Facebook) to encourage clubs to engage in arranging trial flights etc. etc. and I think that is an excellent move, which I support very much. It also seems to be well supported.

It is not all bad news though, IVC MAC now has 107 members of whom 18 are juniors (imagine those figures across the country!). Importantly, several of these juniors have made the transition to other disciplines (especially Free Flight you will be pleased to hear). Credit for this goes to people like Alan Paul and John Clarke who really work hard at it.

We attribute this success to some fairly simple factors:-

- Having a good website, which really shows the club in all it's different aspects. Lots of pictures of existing juniors.
- Reaching out to the public via activities like the Girton Fete.
- Keeping club fees low, especially for juniors.

- Creating a welcoming atmosphere for juniors with indoor and outdoor drone facilities. (despite still not being 100% popular with the 'traditionists').
- Offering free rubber models is really working well.
- We have also had many new adult members, which adds to the mix and helps the club show off areromodelling in all its forms.
- The biggest thing of all is the “enthusiasm” that Alan, John and also a bit from me put into the club.

John Copsey

Accounts 2023-2024

East Anglian Area BMFA - Accounts 2023-24					
(01/04/23 to 31/03/24)					
2023		2024	2023		2024
	Expenditure			Income	
4.63	Secretary	-	2,000.00	BMFA Support	600.00
507.70	Room hire	-	837.00	Airfield	1,008.00
1,684.00	Airfield	960.00			
47.60	Mileage	-			
222.28	Achievement Scheme	-			
143.88	Zoom	119.90			
-	Website	-			
-	NPOD	-			
232.20	"100"	-			
(5.29)	Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	528.10			
2,837.00		1,608.00	2,837.00		1,608.00
Balance Sheet					
10,858.15	Surplus brought forward	10,852.86	10,852.86	Bank	11,380.96
-	Creditors	-		Debtors	-
(5.29)	Surplus/Deficit 2022-23	528.10			
10,852.86		11,380.96	10,852.86		11,380.96