

EAST ANGLIAN AREA BMFA
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24th April 2025 at 19:45.
Meeting held via Zoom

Apologies for Absence

- Jason Channing - Achievement Scheme Coordinator
- Graham Gouch - Norwich

Present – 11 members

- Ron Gray – Chairman – South Norfolk
- Mike Woodhouse – Secretary/Treasurer – Vikings
- Alan Paul – Delegate/Web master – Impington
- Alan Jackson – BTRMAC
- Garry Hughes - Mid Suffolk
- David Bilham – Kelling
- Vic Blackwood – Bury
- Rob Wakes – Clacton
- Andy Green – Peterborough
- Mark Holmes – South Norfolk
- Tony Waters - RADMAC

Minutes of the previous meeting (5th September 2024)

- Proposed – David Bilham, seconded – Alan Jackson - Agreed.

Matters arising

- No specific matters arising, any points will be covered within the tabled agenda.

Chairman report

- Ron Gray, the Area's new Chairman expressed his thoughts on how he would like to see the Area develop. Ron's main concern is in what appears to be club insularity. All members and clubs would benefit from a closer contact by working within the network of local clubs who together could pool resources and expertise to enable joint activities. This sharing of ideas and resources would assist all those involved. The use of social media would benefit and remember that the BMFA can host, cost free, club web sites. The request by the Clacton club, which beyond the scope of the area had been put to the BMFA Head Office.

Delegate report

- There was a continuing angst that a rolling membership process would not be acceptable to most clubs. Collecting membership, even on a once-a-year

basis, fees is always a difficult task for clubs so spreading the collection across the year would simply increase the workload. Such a change could possibly cost the BMFA members and clubs. Remember that the club is actually the member. Discussions continue regarding possible options, such as a pro rata subscription which was being discussed. The meeting concurred with this opinion. The debate will continue.

- Membership numbers are holding up; however the numbers now embrace the SAA and there is possibility that the LMA would join the BMFA. The pool of possible members is draining.
- The club of the year idea, despite some club insularity, will proceed and the details and results will be announced in the BMFA News.
- It has been suggested that a scheme for clubs to create ad hoc record achievements be hosted by the BMFA. The concept was supported by the meeting, but this hosting must not impact on other BMFA activities. The meeting expressed concern that the idea could impact on the considerable workload already undertaken by Andy Symons.

Treasurer Report

- As the area has a substantial balance the budget for the year will be submitted requesting only the basic grant of £500 despite the fact that the overall BMFA national grant was, through a policy change, being increased from £15K to £25K. The Area delegate will enquire at the next Areas Council what the current overall national balance held by the Areas is. The last known figure being at the end of March 2023 held was circa £100K.
- It has noted that the £450 allocation to the Peterborough club had been paid. Andy Green thanked the meeting for the support and reminded those present were welcome to attend the clubs in-going programme of events.

Achievement Scheme Coordinator

- Steve Riley has had to stand down as Area Coordinator, Jason Channing volunteered to return to the post

Club Input

- Overall, some clubs had attracted some new members. However, overall position was following the national trend in a reduction of flyers joining clubs.

Other Business

- The South Norfolk Club presented a request for support for an “Experience Day”. The club’s idea is to provide a day to which those with an interest could come to flying session to gain “hands-on” experience to see if model flying was something that they wished to become involved with. The

meeting agreed that this was a worthwhile activity. A sum of £300 was proposed by Mike Woodhouse, seconded by Alan Paul and carried unanimously.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 28th August 2025 by ZOOM.

DRAFT