

EAST ANGLIAN AREA BMFA
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23rd April at 19:45.
Meeting held via Zoom

Present – 7 members, 7 clubs

- Ron Gray – Chairman – South Norfolk
- Mike Woodhouse – Secretary/Treasurer – Vikings
- Alan Paul – Delegate/Web Master – Impington
- Andrew Green - Peterborough
- Mick Gill – BTRMAC
- Andrew Wing – Chelmsford
- Adrian Addison - Newmarket

Apologies for absence

- Mike Skillings – Kelling
- Gary Hughes – Mid Suffolk
- Graham Gooch - Norwich

Minutes of the previous meetings

- 15th January - proposed Mick Gill, seconded Alan Paul - Agreed.

Matters arising

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

Aviation Events Planning Discussion

- Ron Grey discussed upcoming aviation events, including a Gremlins competition arranged by the South Norfolk Club plus an experience day on May 17th to be held in conjunction with Jolly Junction Play Centre. Ron expressed hope that the event will become an annual tradition and grow in popularity, noting that last year's successful event. Another event upcoming is a static display at the Hethel Bombardier memorial museum in June.
- British Events – Clacton received an invitation to attend one of these events which are typically local country fairs. We think the idea is to have a free stand at the event to publicise model flying rather than an actual flying display. Details to be sent to all area clubs.
- Adrian Addison shared plans for upcoming events, including a fixed-wing event at Tiburon on May 18th.
- Mick Gill discussed a planned combined model and full-sized airfield event in September or October with the Suffolk Coastal Struts LAA Club, aimed at engaging younger audiences.

- The meeting also discussed an upcoming aerobatic training day and the challenges of scheduling events to avoid conflicts.

Feed-back from Area's council

- Informal BMFA “fun” records are ongoing and to be discussed at Areas Council in May.
- Remote pilot and club officer's responsibilities – It is the member who must ensure he operates legally and is a BMFA member with insurance. In the event of an uninsured member having an accident, it is the member that is liable not the club. Club officers are indemnified by the BMFA insurance against any claims. This has now been confirmed by the insurers and details are on the area website.
- Checking club members BMFA status, CAA renewals etc – this is something that clubs should do from time to time and chase up any lapsed members. Once a month or so is more than adequate.
- BMFA hosted websites – Andy Symons has offered 1-hour tutorials to clubs. The BMFA hosted websites are free and very easy to maintain.
- Last 6 months safety review – The form for uploading details of a mandatory occurrence has been simplified and streamlined after discussions between Ron Gray and Andy Symons. In summary, 100 occurrences were uploaded but only 10 made the cut as reportable incidents. All were fixed wing RC, 6 were loss of sight of the model for various reasons was the issue. 1 was wind too strong and 3 were said to be electronic failures. 5 of the 10 models were never recovered.

Area Financial Management

- A discussion focused on the financial situation of the area committee, noting that there is a surplus, however there are concerns about the large amount of money held by some areas. Efforts to reduce the allocation to areas and implement new processes requiring account submissions before allocations are now in hand. The discussion touched on clubs' understanding of the area committee's role, with the suggestion that a survey might be helpful to gauge awareness. Andrew Green questioning how many clubs are actually aware of the funds, it was noted that clubs often misunderstand the purpose of funding which is to support wider BMFA objectives rather than just club activities.

Area Chief Examiner

- Adrian Addison was formally approved as the area chief examiner for fixed-wing models.

Other matters

- Andrew Wing shared the insight that many club members view the BMFA as a remote organization focused on competitions rather than local flying activities. The conversation concluded with the recognition of the BMFA's behind-the-scenes work in protecting model flying.

8. Next meeting

- The next meeting - The Area meeting will be on Thursday 27th August 2026 by ZOOM.

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