

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
EAST ANGLIA AREA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021
CHAIRMAN & DELEGATE'S REPORT**

CHAIRMAN

Over the year the East Anglia Area has had to adapt to new ways of working. Area meetings held via Zoom have made them more accessible and participation increased when Ian Pallister, Mark Bennis or Andy Symons were guest speakers.

Looking to the future a challenge for the Area is increasing the number of volunteers engaged in Area events and in particular succession planning for committee posts to refresh the work of the Area.

Despite various covid lockdown restrictions flying has continued across the Area when permitted and the continued use of RAF Sculthorpe for Area events has been welcomed. The 2021 Area Gala, for a number of Free Flight classes, was well attended and, hosting the annual Bowden Contest and precision free flight event for the Stan Horne Trophy added to the diversity of events for competitors.

Whilst the early season Achievement Scheme workshop had low attendance the trend has been for Area Chief Examiners to be providing more support locally to clubs and individuals. Finally, a new pilots day for those wishing to develop their fixed wing aerobatics skills often as a precursor to the B Certificate.

In summary the Area has worked hard to make the most out of a difficult time and we look forward to opportunities in 2022 to celebrate the diversity of model flying during the BMFA centenary.

Finally, I am indebted to Mike Woodhouse (Secretary and Treasurer), Joseph Kemp (Vice Chairman), Jason Channing (Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator), Steve Bowles (Competition Secretary) and Alan Paul (webmaster) for their contribution to the work of the Area. My thanks gentlemen.

AREA DELEGATE

During 2021 I have attended all Full Council meetings (2 via zoom and 1 in person) and the 2 scheduled Areas Council meetings. However, meeting attendance does not reflect the work done.

I have been an active member of a small working group to review the purpose of Areas and to redraft the model Area Constitution and Guidance documents. This has involved preparing and presenting reports to Full Council and consultations with other Area Delegates. The driver for this work was the feedback from the 2020 Member Survey which clearly showed the purpose and visibility of Areas was not apparent or understood. The review has started from the ground up and will complete, all being well, in the new year.

Early in 2021 at the invitation of Ian Pallister, BMFA Chairman, I took over chairing the Association's Centenary Planning Group of which Joseph Kemp is

also a member working on a bespoke film project. We plan that in 2022 we will, through a number of events and projects, celebrate 100 years of the Association and make the most of the opportunity to showcase model flying now and into the future. The preparations are ramping up for a busy year which I hope as an area, clubs and individuals we will be part of.

Overall, this has been a busy year but I still managed to compete in 2 RC Scale competitions and the Area Gala which prove to be great opportunities to hear the views of members and share the joy of model flying across a range of disciplines.

Paul Hoey

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021
SECRETARY'S REPORT**

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

2021 The attendance at the meetings has been stable with a regular attendance of club representatives via the Zoom. The area has its own Zoom account available free to Area clubs.

Due family problems John Copsey has not been able to act as an auditor for the annual accounts. The chairman Paul Hoey has stepped into the role.

The budget for 2022/23 for the East Anglian Area has been submitted.

We have much of the year locked down and have operated through on-line facilities.

Michael J Woodhouse

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
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COMP SEC'S REPORT**

As a result of Covid restrictions in the early months of the year and the unavailability of Sculthorpe more latterly, only three Area Centralised competition and the Area Gala were able to be staged. Fortunately, on all five days the weather was eminently flyable.

Attendance at these events, whilst far from overwhelming , was at least consistent with recent years. The Area Gala (the running of which is largely in the capable hands of Michael Marshal and his wife Rosemary, to whom our grateful thanks) attracted a quality entry resulting in fly-offs in most classes.

Lest any area members feel aggrieved that we were unable to provide a venue for the final three competition Sundays, I would point out that use of MoD land has seventeen priorities of user - we are ranked at No.17!

With undimmed enthusiasm, we look forward a full season in 2022.

Stephen Bowles

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
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WEB MASTER'S REPORT**

The Area website continues to be a useful place to store documents and to list area activities on the calendar, but realistically it is not used that much by clubs or members on a day to day basis (unlike some club websites for example).

We will continue to keep it up to date and also use it as a long term storage for area documents such as minutes of meetings etc.

I have recently updated the whole site to make it cleaner and easier to maintain, so if any area officials want any changes or updates please let me know.

The webmaster also sends blind copy e-mails to club chairmen and secretaries with area information. These currently get sent to about 190 recipients based on a hybrid list compiled from a download of BMFA information plus amendments notified directly to the webmaster. Keeping this list accurate is a challenge, as quite often changes do not get notified to the BMFA.

Alan Paul

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
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ACHIEVEMENT SCHEME COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

As the area coordinator I have run one Area Examiner workshop that was held at Eric's Odd Bods in the earlier part of the year, although it was not greatly attended and was quite soon after the easing of restrictions from the government it was a good day with those that attended finding it of great benefit. Interestingly though is that one attendee travelled from Lincoln to attend.

The future of the workshops is changing, and the trend now is for the individual Area examiners to travel and attend individual clubs throughout the East Anglia area and for those that are doing this the clubs have found it very helpful. Whilst other examiners are continuing their good work at a more local area it is greatly needed. It is worth noting that Two Area examiners within this area have excelled at the challenge and the effort that they have put in is greatly appreciated especially by the clubs and people that they have helped. Also, worth noting as well that some of the examiners are doing their work quietly and although not vocal it is noted that they are doing their best to help with the achievement scheme as well.

For 2022 I foresee that more effort will be employed by myself to distribute the workload and make more use of the Examiners that are available to run more local less informal days.

Jason Channing

Proposed examiners for 2022

Jason Channing - Examiner 1945 BMFA 103014
Garry Peacock - Examiner 1495 BMFA 076014
Colin Bliss - Examiner 298 BMFA 80867
Graham Gooch - Examiner 1267 BMFA 080174
Steve White - Examiner 1249 BMFA 65455
Linda Easter - Examiner 2341 BMFA 172450
Steve Riley - Examiner 2387 BMFA 172603
Neil Garnett - Examiner 2091 BMFA 127797
Greg Butterworth - Examiner 783 BMFA 31315
Jon Land - Examiner 2486 BMFA 082690
Glen Rackstraw - Examiner 2155 BMFA 045179

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
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AREA CHIEF EXAMINERS ACES**

Jason Channing - Examiner 1945 BMFA 103014

I have helped assist with several C certificates this year and have travelled to many clubs helping with training and safety. At present I have 5 candidates that are working steadily towards their fixed wing B and look forward to continuing this next year.

Garry Peacock - Examiner 1495 BMFA 076014

I have as always been very pro-active in my encouragement for people to practise and prepare for their own achievements within the scheme. It has however been another fairly quiet year regarding tests taken with one B cert. A fairly new club examiner stood by to learn from this as well which was very worthwhile.

Colin Bliss - Examiner 298 BMFA 80867

OMG another year, where has that gone? It's been a strange year with not being able to fly the first third due to lock down, still managed to teach several fixed wing to A standard and pass and they already going from strength to strength. Also passed one guy recently for his helicopter A. Only managed to run one BBQ and fun fly day at my local club which considering the short notice was very well attended, had 18 entries and had 5 fun comps spot landing, climb and glide, dead stick landing, timed flight and bomb drop, everyone had a great time with no mishaps. Looking forward to a more normal 2022

Graham Gooch - Examiner 1267 BMFA 080174

Unfortunately, due to the continued Lockdowns / Restrictions during the early part of 2021, the second proposed "A-Way day" never got off the ground. However, the plan is to run the follow up during April 2022.

Following the sale of the Norwich International Airport Aviation Academy, the new Corporate owners no longer wish on the grounds of Health & Safety to allow young children onto their premises and have therefore stopped all events that gave the opportunity to show youngsters about Model Aircraft as well as flying demonstrations.

I ran a New Pilot Open Day (NPOD) at former RAF Coltishall during July which proved to be an overwhelming success. Following a demonstration flight by myself using the GBRCAA Clubman schedule, participants were allocated to a Mentor for the day who coached them through from basic setting up of their aircraft, to aircraft geometry and positioning for the various manoeuvres. At the end of the day, a Competition was held based on the new skills learnt throughout the day with Certificates being awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Modellers who have heard about this event have already registered interest for another event to be planned for next year.

I am now working with three of the NPOD attendees on achieving their BMFA "B" certificate as this is very close to the Clubman schedule.

I have not undertaken any other BMFA assessments this year or for proposed Club Examiners as there has not been anyone else ready to be assessed. However, I am aware that a significant number are traveling to BMFA Buckminster to gain their A or B achievements rather than use the Club Examiners.

On a personal note, I have continued with my pursuit of F3A precision Aerobatics. Following attendance at various Practice/Training days prior to and following Lockdown, I have been able to enter a number of GBRCAA run Competitions and achieved Intermediate League Champion this year.

Steve White - Examiner 1249 BMFA 65455

Discussed black wire corrosion after long COVID lockdowns during the early months of 2021. Continued buddy lead tuition for novices. A B Test for L.Davis F.W. Power, passed. Visit to Thurrock Model Flying Club for tuition and A and B Fixed Wing Power and Multi Rotor requirements for B, P, C. A Fixed Wing for P. Martin, passed. Found the biggest problem on-line is how out of date some club web sites are, this needs to be addressed as member's qualifications are sometimes not shown as up to date. A Test for M. Worts, Fixed Wing Power, passed.

Continued discussion with members regarding fail-safe set ups, particularly concentrating on members who bring a fresh model to the flying field to test fly. I like to ensure that they have set up the fail-safes in the correct manner.

Attended various zoom meeting during the year.

Numerous discussions with members regarding the tendency of scale aircraft to perform badly, i.e dropping a wing at low speed and also the value of aileron differential to compensate for inverse yaw.

Linda Easter - Examiner 2341 BMFA 172450

Having a slow start to the season we have gradually been getting back to as near normal as we can. We have managed to encourage a few new members to our Club, and I am currently instructing them towards there A certificate . One other member recently passed successfully and is enjoying flying solo at last.

Our numbers have increased from 31 to 40 although down from over 50 members prior to Covid 19

Two members are progressing well towards there B certificate and I am happy with how they are improving.

As always, my main aim is to promote a safe and happy flying club and I am confident this is what we have .

Steve Riley - Examiner 2387 BMFA 172603

My year has been quiet I've managed one B and one A in odd bods. And one C Scale along with your help. And a Club examiner. For Chelmsford. Looking forward to new season as we now have a very good little club, I also hope to hold a workshop for trainees next season if all goes well. I would like the chance to stand as an Area ACE next year.

Neil Garnett - Examiner 2091 BMFA 127797

No workshops Attended or Given this year.

Nothing specifically on presentations on Aeromodelling or BMFA topics.

Approved Instructors mentored were assessed with results for Raydon MC BMFA instructors

Club Examiners were mentored and assessed. Tests taken with outcomes Peter Ayriss managed to pass his Examiners Test for both Heli and Fixed Wing. He put on a very good example of training and flying ability and will make a great examiner

I have mentored Mentored/assessed students to a higher level, outside my Club with results for multiple people in various disciplines from heli's, fixed wing to jets. I setup a fortnightly training for the B test at Raydon MC (after lockdown). This again has proved very successful and popular. This is already agreed to continue next year.

Achievement Scheme tests taken during the year, in which discipline, with results. 2 people passed their B with the training at Raydon.

Due to Covid 19, no external activities e.g. talks to youth groups, scouts, ATC, adult groups etc.

Other activities promoting the BMFA or Achievement Scheme I try to visit multiple different clubs in promoting the BMFA and achievement scheme. This year has been no different and I have given my contact details out to many people, Various training and pointers have been given out.

Visits/presentations has not been limited to clubs but also events held locally. Any other relevant activities I seem to be flying regularly at the LMA & JMA events and meeting different people from all over the country and promoting the BMFA with other flyers and spectators.

Greg Butterworth - Examiner 783 BMFA 31315

I remain active both with general and aerobatic fixed wing F3a Aerobatics has been very quiet with monthly competitions failing to get off the ground until only the later months when clubs were able to open up to guests, I am sure that other disciplines have all been equally impacted.

I continue as treasurer for the UK Classic Aerobatic Association - our membership is stable and with about 60 members, and new-found BMFA specialist body status we concentrate on the flying for fun of pre "95 2m pattern style machines...with localist competitions in Royston and Watford these will certainly be repeated into 2022.

South Cambridge MFC experienced a large fall off in members at the end of 2018 and this continued into late 2019, Covid 19 did not help matters. Our new website and Facebook activity has however seen membership grow to a sustainable level of around 35 once more. The club is now full at that level

although we monitor on a case-by-case basis and I am pleased to have a good cohort of trainees now studying and practising hard for the Achievement schemes in both Fixed Wing and Helicopter. Our aim this year is to get a significant proportion of our membership through the A test as a minimum

The Royston club also reports an increase in membership and remains active on Nuthampstead airfield.

Jon Land – Examiner 2486 BMFA 082690

I have examined 9 "A" certificate candidates of which 8 passed with 1 failure. Additionally, I have examined 3 "B" Certificate candidates; all of which were successful. Also 1 Successful "C" Scale Certificate.

The majority of candidates were members of the Ramsey Model Aero Club. The club has an excellent training scheme and provides ab-initio training for newcomers to the hobby. The level of candidates for examination was of a very high standard with the majority exceeding the "A" Certificate requirements. The 3 "B" test candidates were mentored by myself to achieve the required standard and I am currently mentoring a "C" Certificate (Acrobatics) candidate who will be prepared to take the test during the early part of 2022.

Prior to any test I always fly the "A" or "B" Schedule to demonstrate to the candidate what is required of their flying to achieve the necessary standard.

On a personal level have succeeded in passing both my Acrobatics and Scale "C" Certificates partially to improve my flying skills but also to provide me with credibility as an Area Chief Examiner.

Glen Rackstraw – Examiner 2155 BMFA 045179

Not a lot to report this year. I've been very busy managing all the improvements we have had done to our club site from improving the grass runway, buying a new mower and having paving put down. As club training officer I look after the trainees until a suitable trainer is available and we have had quite a few new starters this year. I also spend a lot of time with the three B candidates I have, making sure they practice the manoeuvres the way an examiner wants to see. No candidates have come forward to be tested as examiner this year. That's it, still looking to take my C scale test once I get the time.

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CONTROL LINE REPORT**

By now I think I am known as the "Control Line guy", so predictably this is mostly about aspects of the Control Line (CL) activity within the area. Firstly, having found myself dealing with Control Line going on over a larger area than via CLAPA and/or my own club (IVC MAC), I think that I can say. Control Line flying is fairly healthy across the area but appears to exist in pockets. This is probably because CL flying requires certain prerequisites like noise tolerance and odd shaped flying areas (compared to RC). In places that have these prerequisites CL flying is happening and even increasing.

It is still very much an "old man's discipline" with no more than a few youngsters avoiding being sucked into the "glamour" of RC flying, although there are exceptions. What youngsters there are, are mostly gravitating to 'Combat' which I guess is logical as it is an obvious high-octane spectacle even from casual observation.

Chairman Paul Hoey also noted an increase in CL activity and from that came a request to investigate what interest there would be in a 'Gala' specifically for CL flyers domiciled within the EAA. Funds possibly being available for a safe & well organised plan.

After some months of looking into this, several things became clear. The biggest issue is finding a suitable site to hold the event and I did not find the "perfect" place to hold one (yet). Basic requirements include noise tolerance, several acres of flat well trimmed grass, toilet facilities (I did say we are mainly old!). Plus, a location sited within reasonable travelling distance for members spread across an area from the Wash to the Thames Estuary and from east of the A1 to the North Sea. Stumps Cross RC club kindly offered their site, albeit only at specific weekends (when there is a Duxford event on). Whilst the site appears unsuitable at first appearance as it is sited in a natural bowl with high ground on all sides, it has no noise issues at all and has a mown grass area that could accommodate between 2 and 4 circles (depending on the situation with surrounding crops). Could be used as a starter for 10 (flyers that is). Grappling with likely numbers has been a headache, but we decided to start small and encourage growth in subsequent years. "Build it and they will come" is the (unlikely) mantra.

The main success was to give the event a name. E.A.G.L.E. which stands for East Anglia Gala for control Line Event.

Unfortunately, my wife's health problems have meant that I have had to withdraw from further work on this event for several months at least.

John Copsey.

East Anglian Area BMFA - Accounts 2020-21

(01/04/20 to 31/03/21)

2020		2021	2020		2021
	Expenditure			Income	
55.83	Secretary	53.48	1826.82	BMFA Support	1600.00
295.95	Room hire	0.00	1258.00	Airfield	387.00
1555.00	Airfield	625.00			
734.00	Mileage	(51.20)			
150.00	Achievement Scheme	0.00			
120.00	BMFC	0.00			
174.04	Surplus/Deficit for the year	1359.72			
3084.82		1987.00	3084.82		1987.00

Balance Sheet

9535.77	Surplus brought forward	9709.81	9709.81	Bank	11069.53
0.00	Creditors	0.00		Debtors	
174.04	Surplus/Deficit 2020-21	1359.72			
9709.81		11069.53	9709.81		11069.53