

EAST ANGLIAN AREA BMFA
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15th January at 19:45.
Meeting held via Zoom

Present – 10 members, 9 clubs

- Ron Gray – Chairman – South Norfolk
- Mike Woodhouse – Secretary/Treasurer – Vikings
- Jason Channing – Achievement Scheme Coordinator – Stanstead
- Mark Allen - Bury
- Alan Paul – Delegate/Web Master – Impington
- Mick Gill – BTRMAC
- Garry Hughes - Mid Suffolk
- Peter Jenkins – Bury
- Tony Waters - RADMAC
- Graham Gooch – Norwich

Apologies for absence

- Andy Green – Peterborough
- Alan Jackson - BTRMAC

Minutes of the previous meetings

- 28th August - proposed Alan Paul, seconded Gary Hughes - Agreed.
- 7th November - proposed Graham Gooch, seconded Mick Gill - Agreed

Matters arising

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

Chairman report

- The Chairman's main concern is 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. The Chairman reported that he had received queries regarding changes to Article 16 – see delegate report for details and action.

Delegate/Web master report

- Websites on Club finder – It would be useful if there was a hyperlink from the Club Finder to the actual club website. This will be raised at Area Council next week.
- New drone rules from 1st Jan 2026 – No real change for BMFA flyers. We must try to convey this to all members as there is a tendency to think the

worst. Even when Remote ID arrives in 2028, BMFA sites should be exempt.

- Club websites – We don't want to teach clubs how to suck eggs, but Chris Bradbury and Paul Tallett are going to review and update the BMFA PR guide for clubs. The main thing is to keep websites up to date, relevant and hopefully provide points of contact for help with BMFA hosted sites using "Wordpress". Ron Gray said that South Norfolk had successfully used ChatGPT to update their website.
- Website help had been given to the Grantham Club who were having problems with their club site and e-mail.
- Informal records – This has slipped a bit due to Andy's workload but will be chased up at the Area Council.

Treasurer report

- The Clacton Club had been awarded a grant of £300. Feedback from the club is still awaited. The chairman will be following up
- The £600 BMFA funding grant had been received

Achievement Scheme Coordinator report

- The Achievement Scheme Coordinator reported good activity from members in the King's Lynn area.

Outreach Officer report

- Mick Gill who is new in the post is now starting to get his ideas together but is still waiting for a response from Helen Jones the BMFA national officer.

Club Input

- Overall, some clubs had attracted new members. However, the overall position was following the national trend of a reduction of flyers joining clubs. It would seem overall that the Area BMFA club membership numbers are flat lining

Other Business

- A grant request had been received from Peter Jenkins and Mark Allen to run a series of NPOD events. The detailed request had been distributed for prior discussion. After a detailed explanation from Peter and Mark it was proposed by Alan Paul and seconded by Graham Gooch that a sum of £750 should be awarded. This was unanimously agreed by those present. It was noted that this sum was greater than the normal allocations and must be seen as a one-off allocation.

8. Next meeting

- The next meeting - The Area meeting will be on Thursday 23rd April 2026 by ZOOM.