

EAST ANGLIAN AREA BMFA
Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 28th August 2025 at 19:45.
Meeting held via Zoom

Apologies for Absence

- No apologies

Present – 11 members

- Ron Gray – Chairman – South Norfolk
- Mike Woodhouse – Secretary/Treasurer – Vikings
- Alan Paul – Delegate/Web master – Stumps Cross
- Alan Jackson – BTRMAC
- Garry Hughes - Mid Suffolk
- Mike Gibbins – Kelling
- Vic Blackwood – Bury
- Sam Ayres – Clacton
- Graham Gooch – Norwich
- John Copsy – Impington
- Paul Cutler - Dunmow

Minutes of the previous meeting (1th April 2025)

- Proposed – Vic Blackwood, seconded – Alan Paul - Agreed.

Matters arising

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

Chairman report

- The Chairman'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. It would appear that as the core membership ages many a content to part of the social aspect of our pastime as much as the actual flying of models.

Delegate/Web master report

- Rolling membership is already in place with over 10% of members on rolling renewals, many club officials are still very much against this citing additional workload to check memberships. Membership secretaries worry about missing members who have forgotten to renew their BMFA

membership. A lot of clubs support their members by doing BMFA, club and CAA renewals for them. Whilst existing memberships will still renew on 1st Jan annually, the number of rolling memberships will increase as new members join. Clubs would universally prefer a pro rata system for new members and retain the 1st January renewal. Subsequent to this meeting the Chairman and Secretary discussed preparing a proposal council regarding establishing a pro rata system

- Related to rolling membership there is a worry from clubs about the liability of club officials if a member forgot to renew their BMFA membership. Club officials and the clubs are insured against claims from the public as a result of the actions of their members. An assurance has now been given by the BMFA that club officers are not liable
- Regarding the club of the year about 20 clubs have already applied. Changes have been made to the entry form to make it easier to use. The first review of submissions is on 2nd Sept.
- The Informal records idea has been soft launched with the application form now on the main BMFA website. The idea is for simple records to be set with the object of getting clubs and members to try to beat them.
- As well as the simulator trailer, the BMFA has a few standalone PC simulators, some gazebos and large flags for events. If required these can be booked through the BMFA office
- When people come to see clubs in action, they are always very interested in having a go, but very few actually go on to join clubs. The main success in recruiting new members seems to be from those who are already interested and contact clubs via club websites.
- Trial Flights now go to Andy Symons at the BMFA who farms them out to club secs. We need to be very welcoming to people who want a trial flight. Impington have had 3 requests for trial flights over the summer and the BMFA have had over 50 requests.
- Some clubs are resistant to drones. A drone flyer recently joined Impington and remarked that 3 other local clubs had turned him down. One ignored him, one was rude, and one politely said that their members don't like drones!! This is a shame as cross fertilisation of disciplines is a good thing.
- Area funding for 2026 is likely to be a total of £25,000. With a basic grant of £600 per area if areas have funds of £5,000 or over. Grants should only be made when areas produce their accounts and put up a good case.
- As many clubs have out of date websites the areas council is planning to give some generic advice and suggestions.
- The Area distribution list has been updated with a BMFA download without removing any names previously added or made at a club's request. The area has a list 297 e-mail addresses.

Secretary Report

- The Secretary reminded officers of the requirement to submit their annual reports.
- Papers for the BMFA AGM were now being distributed, it is noted that there are no elections for Executive Officers.
- The request by the Clacton club for funding, which in overall concept was beyond the scope of the area had been supported by a grant of £300.

Treasurer Report

- The area has a substantial balance so for the year 2026/27 had only requested the basic grant of £600. The funding is now awaited. As required the Area submitted accounts for the year 2024/25. It is understood that some areas have requested grants but not submitted accounts. This shows a lack of financial control and as such should be a bar against the further allocation of BMFA funds.

Achievement Scheme Coordinator

- There is no report from the Achievement Scheme Coordinator

Club Input

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

Other Business

- No other business was tabled

8. Next meeting

- The next meeting - The Area AGM will be on Thursday 6th November 2025 by ZOOM.