

Report pack for 2026 AGM – Issue 2

BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION EAST ANGLIA AREA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This last year was of course dominated by the long, hot summer, which on the face of it was lovely but actually had a detrimental effect on flying, I can't remember when events had to be cancelled due to it being too hot! Of course with the age profile of most club's members spiralling up the risks of weather exposure become even greater and sun stroke was at the very top of that! Unfortunately, at either side of the hot summer were days of strong winds, so all in all we've had a strange year. I, for one, have done less flying this year than I have over the last 10 years.

The other thing that the extremely dry summer brought with it was the risk of fire and controlling them in the light of the hose pipe ban. We all know what can happen when a Li-Po catches fire and the thoughts of that happening as a result of a crash landing in a parched field full of crops was something that I dreaded. Contingency plans of pre-filled buckets of water on flying fields to help contain fires was a first for me but it also prompted the investigation into Li-Po specific fire extinguishers, something I didn't know existed!

Unfortunately, we had a couple of injuries on a couple of flying fields, one of which was a completely bizarre, non-flying related accident, but all required hospital treatment and 2 resulted in the ambulance services being called. Again, these incidents highlighted the need to have clear, readily available location information which can be passed on to the emergency services and maybe even members having emergency 'apps' such as EchoSOS which automatically contact and pass details on. These incidents also tested the club's supplies of first aid, were they sufficient and were they the right sort?

A particular highlight of the year for me was the World Scale Championships at Buckminster. The standard of build of some of those models was truly amazing as was some of the flying, when I attended there was a very strong wind blowing in diagonally across the main runway which made taking off and landing somewhat challenging! The BMFA deserve all of the accolades they have received for putting together such a superbly organised and run event.

One downside of the year was the IT problem that temporarily closed down BMFA hosted websites for several weeks and in some cases caused a loss of substantial quantities of data. I know that this has been discussed and a plan put

forward to prevent a reoccurrence, a lot of time and effort has gone into the development of some of those websites, and we cannot allow all that hard work to be lost.

So that's it for another year and here's hoping for some better flying conditions next year.

Ron Gray

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
EAST ANGLIA AREA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026
SECRETARY'S REPORT**

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

The 2026 meetings have been made via the Zoom. The area has its own Zoom account available free to use by all Area clubs.

The area is going through a transition, and it has been very quiet year. As other officers, in their reports, will testify it's been a very strange year with respect to the weather, and we are all aware the weather dictates our activities. Remember that we can all take a lesson from said weather in that it pays no attention to criticism

Michael J Woodhouse

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
EAST ANGLIA AREA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026
COMPETITION SECRETARY'S REPORT**

2026 has been a year to remember, although not entirely for the reasons we had hoped. The season got off to a steady start, with conditions proving a tad breezy at times. Nevertheless, our regular stalwart flyers made the best of the conditions and were joined by visitors from other areas, helping to maintain the spirit of the season.

Unfortunately, flying activities came to a halt following the introduction of restrictions on access to a major part of the airfield, imposed to protect ground-nesting Stone-curlews.

Discussions with the RSPB have taken place, and a survey has been carried out to assess the situation. The findings indicated that movement across the airfield should be restricted to vehicles only, as people on foot can disturb nesting birds. The survey results have been submitted, and we are now awaiting a decision.

Although the restrictions have inevitably affected our activities this year, we remain hopeful that, subject to the introduction of appropriate measures, access can be reinstated for the 2027 season.

As a direct consequence of these restrictions, this year's Area Gala had to be cancelled. This was disappointing, but the protection of the wildlife and compliance with the necessary requirements must remain a priority. We had tried to play catch up however the weather has not been helpful!

We look forward to a more positive 2027 season and hope to welcome competitors and visitors back to the airfield.

Michael J Woodhouse

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
EAST ANGLIA AREA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026
DELEGATE'S REPORT**

Club of the Year – I have been on the judging panel for the COTY 2026. It was slightly disappointing that out of 800 clubs only 9 actually entered. We may need to review how we pitch this competition next year. However, the top few entries were of a very high standard and could all have been worthy winners.

Members survey – This was confirmed at Areas Council Sept 10th and will then be sent out with the next BMFA News.

Safety Review – Trend continues to be pilot error – and flying in adverse conditions is pilot error! The trend is up possibly due to greater awareness of the need to report incidents like flyaways. 62 reported incidents versus 20 in the previous 6 month period.

Scale World Champs – I attended and it was a fantastic success showing just one of the benefits of having our own national centre where we are not subject to the vagaries of the RAF e.g. Barkston Heath.

Remote pilot responsibilities 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.

Annual areas grant – reduced to £500 if area has plenty of cash - £6,000 or more and can't put up a really good case.

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.

Drone Soccer – BMFA have now bought some kit which is available for events. This is a new initiative that can be played by people with no previous experience and could be a good initiative to get people's attention.

Area meetings – All delegates reported that very few clubs attended area meetings. A special areas council is to be convened on 27th October to discuss

this issue and the related issue (below) of encouraging new members. The secretaries/chairs of the areas will be invited along with the delegate.

Unfriendly clubs – It was reported that many clubs are not welcoming to new members especially beginners. A special area forum will be set up to debate how we improve this. When prospective new members are referred to clubs for trial flights, BMFA HQ may need a more robust follow up. It is understandable that some clubs might be quite insular for various reasons, but they should not turn people away but perhaps suggest other more willing clubs.

Loss of flying fields – We only had one in the area which was the Doddington MFC. They had been flying on an informal basis and paying rent to the RSPCA for 10 years. The RSPCA asked them to sign a formal agreement which had a 3 month notice clause and the minute the club signed the agreement; the RSPCA gave them 3 months' notice to quit with no reasons why. We have pointed them at another local club as an option and Andy has suggested that the BMFA hon solicitor could look at the contract. They have now found a new site at Fenland Country Park, March, by raising the issue on Radio Cambridgeshire.

Alan Paul

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
EAST ANGLIA AREA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026
ACHIEVEMENT SCHEME COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

Cross area examinations with the South Midland area are working very well and Charlie Cox helps cover the Kings Lynn area as he lives not too far away.

No nonstandard tests by club examiners have been reported to me

Also, I am in search for another two examiners. One to cover the North West Area and one to replace Linda Easter who is no longer an Area Examiner.

Jason Channing

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
EAST ANGLIA AREA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026
COMMUNICATION & WEBMASTERS REPORT**

I have kept the website up to date over the last year and it serves mainly as a useful repository for area documentation and events.

We were badly affected by the BMFA website outage in August which affected over 275 hosted BMFA websites. This has highlighted some weaknesses in the IT governance which are being addressed by BMFA HQ. At the September Areas Council, we recommended that the hosting of all BMFA websites including backups was outsourced and that the inhouse effort was directed at helping users set up and update their club websites (and the main BMFA website).

The area website has now been rebuilt and restocked with the last years documentation. I decided that it was not worth the effort to restore documents that were more than a year old.

We have sent out regular mass mailings to 290+ club chairs, secretaries and delegates covering meetings and events in our area.

Alan Paul

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
EAST ANGLIA AREA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026
OUTREACH OFFICERS REPORT**

The year has been difficult due to a range of personal issues which have defocused me from modelling and associated role responsibilities, for which I apologise.

Following volunteering for the role at last year's AGM, early on there were several attempts for Helen and I to meet and discuss key elements and expectations of the role, unfortunately we were unable to find mutually agreeable dates etc. Soon after, I became distracted with the personal issues mentioned and no further attempts, from either side, have been made. I have noted key elements of the role in the attached appendix, which I have only recently found and provides a clearer view of the roles and responsibilities.

For the past year my activities (as above) across EA have been minimal, I also feel that I perhaps might have received comms from central BMFA - i.e. be clearer of the role and how it integrates into the wider BMFA outreach activities including serving as a member of BMFA Outreach working group. As the EA Area Central Liaison contact for outreach, I have received no comms during year, the BMFA has a central online '**Club Outreach and Event support**' form - I do not know if any club has filed a form from East Anglia and I'm unsure if I am supposed to receive copies?

At a parochial level I have, with my own club, managed and run an event in August at a local airfield which involved a local 'full-size' flying club, their members, family and friends which aimed at information, education, 'have a go' buddy box sessions along with social interactions/BBQ (over 60 people attended). Feedback received from both my club members and the 'full-size' flying club was extremely positive (a similar event the previous year gained two new members (junior and senior) for our club.

I had also planned to run, at the same airfield, an event in September, with the intention of expanding the invites to a much larger audience including young people's organisations (e.g. Scouts, Guides, RAF Cadets etc). as well as more mature individuals eg. retirees, those currently engaged in model engineering activities e.g. Model Railways – (our club has recently enrolled members who are changing to model aircraft) The overall emphasis and objective of the event to introduce, interest and educate attendees in a range of model aircraft activities.

Unfortunately, this event had to be postponed, now with the intention of running over a weekend in May or June next year date tbc. I will almost certainly be asking other clubs/individuals if they want to take part, before the final design is agreed.

For the future (if I remain in role) I will try to build much closer ties with the National Outreach Rep to understand how the wider process is intended to operate and see how this can be made to work across the EA area; this will include developing a communication network with clubs and listening to their needs and feedback, aiming to build a team across EA Area clubs, to provide support and share outreach practices.

Mick Gill

APPENDIX

BMFA Area Outreach coordinator Roles and Responsibilities

- **Team Building:** Build and co-ordinate a local team to deliver outreach activities across the area.
- **Working Group Membership:** Serve as a member of the official BMFA Outreach Working Group.
- **Central Liaison:** Act as the primary point of contact between the BMFA Office and the regional area for outreach opportunities.
- **Club Support:** Encourage and guide affiliated clubs to host family fun-flying days and public outreach events.
- **Community Engagement:** Promote aeromodelling activities within local youth groups and community groups for older people.
- **Publicity & Reporting:** Publicize regional events and share event details and reports with the Outreach Director and the BMFA PR team

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
EAST ANGLIA AREA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026
DRONE OFFICERS REPORT**

As reported last year, we may have reached peak drone interest, with many drone flyers converting to fixed wing RC. However, much drone flying is by solo “lone wolf” operators who may be outside the reach of the BMFA – indeed may never have heard of us.

This may be an area ripe for recruitment to the BMFA if only we could reach them. There are 300,000 operators and less than 10% of these are BMFA members.

Alan Paul

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
EAST ANGLIA AREA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026
ACHIEVEMENT CHIEF EXAMINERS ACEs REPORTS**

Jason Channing Examiner number 1945

A busy year teaching and training with two visits to local schools. From the clubs I visit membership is looking promising and as usual returning members are increasing. One fixed wing club Examiner test was taken and passed to a very high standard and several members at different clubs are getting ready to pass their A fixed wing. The tests themselves I try and pass on to the Club examiners where possible.

Graham Gooch Examiner number 1267

It has certainly been an interesting period in so much as the club that I am still Chairman of has gained a few more members during the year. Two are coming back to the hobby following a very long layoff, two have switched clubs due to relocation and another two due to not being allowed to fly without an “A” certificate.

I am now working very closely with the latter two in order to bring them up to speed with what is required to obtain a pass. One of these two has requested several times to take the “A” test but gets so far through, then starts rolls and loops and wonders why that’s a failure and that is despite a thorough briefing beforehand and a demonstration flight.

Two of these new members are “B” holders so I am working with these with the view that either or both should become a club Examiner during the course of next year.

On a personal note, I have continued my interests in precision aerobatic flying with UKF3A, I have again won the Advanced (ex-Masters) National League championship for 2026

I look forward to retaining an ACE and ACI rating for 2027 but will certainly not be passing anyone who fall short of the required standards.

Colin Bliss Examiner number 298

Not much to report with the crazy hot summer not much activity. I noticed a distinct lack of flying this year. I’m not sure if it’s the changing world and people seem to be less interested in learning to take up model flying or people struggling with money so cutting back. I’m still helping with teaching and I’m currently teaching a 80 plus guy to fly a 70 Hirobo Freya he says it helps keeping him young

Greg Butterworth Examiner number 702

A very quiet examining year - down to a lack of requests which would always be dealt with as required but seemingly many decide to visit the national centre for testing and overlook the local network of examiners. I was lined up and scheduled to do a Scale 'C' test in September, however the candidate cancelled several weeks before as he had unfortunately written off the model with which he planned to do the test.

Aside from several club related 'A' and 'B' tests it's therefore been an easy year on the test front but happy to undertake any sent my way in 2027..

Neil Garnett Examiner number 2091

This year no workshops were attended or presentations given on aeromodelling or BMFA topics. No approved Instructors mentored or assessed with results. Tests taken with outcomes at Orwell Model Club who would like more examiners as due to people leaving therefore some further mentoring has been given. I have mentored a few people this year with fixed wing IC, jets and heli's. with tests taken during the year. I have Promoted the BMFA at various shows that I have flown at this year. I am a Team FCB member which actively promotes youngsters into the hobby which has been a great way to show young people and their families the stages in progression through the scheme. I have made no visits/presentations to other Clubs. I am 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.

Garry Peacock Examiner number 1495

As always, I'm pretty lucky to be involved with a super active club where they have been training many A and B candidates and so I have either put forward club examiners for me to keep a watchful eye over or carry out many tests myself too. I have been involved with helping a couple of C candidates who are just shy of where they need to be to pass but on-going support is always available and will continue to support the scheme in any way I can going forward.

Steve Riley Examiner number 2387

Good to hear from you Jason it's been a good year this year. What with testing the fixed wing B And the fixed wing A. Then doing the C scale. and C jet. I've had a good season. The flying has been good. And the weather excellent.

Adrian Addison Examiner number 2569

I had a good year, hosting a training and development day at Tibbenham where we passed three A certificates, one scale and one turbine C certificates and provided coaching for six B certificate candidates. Since then, further coaching and testing has been provided to three B certificate candidates who all passed successfully. As an instructor at events at Tibbenham, we have provided model flying and buddy box experiences to 12 adults and 18 scouts.

I look forward to more of the same in 2027 with perhaps a bit of a tour around East Anglian clubs to raise awareness of the achievement scheme and encourage participation.

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
EAST ANGLIA AREA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026
ACHIEVEMENT CHIEF EXAMINERS ACEs PROPOSED FOR 2027**

- Jason Channing 103014 (FW) & (H) ACE & ACI
- Steve Riley 172603 (FW) ACE & ACI
- Garry Peacock 076014 (FW) ACE & ACI
- Neil Garnett 127797 (FW) & (H) ACE & ACI
- Colin Bliss 80867 (FW) & (H) ACE
- Graham Gooch 80174 (FW) ACE & ACI
- Greg Butterworth 031315 (FW) & (H) ACE & ACI
- Adrian Addison 044350 (FW) & (H) ACE & ACI

Jason Channing