

# Northern Ireland Association of Aeromodellers

## Northern Ireland Area Committee of the British Model Flying Association

Minutes of the 66th AREA GENERAL MEETING, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at The Swifts Football Club Dungannon

# This is the First Draft

### 1. Attendance and Apologies:

The Chairman welcomed all present and informed the meeting that there were 19 members from 14 Clubs

#### Apologies:

Apologies were received from Jeffrey Small and Alistair Morgan from C.C.M.F.C. both of which have health issues Jeffrey has evening dialyses to do and Alistair has had a new hip fitted, we wish them both well, Apologies were also received from Robert Graham A.C.E., Jim O'Brien B.E.F.C., Rodney O'Neill B.M.F.C. and Phil Taylor of St Angelo all of which had previous commitments.

### 2. Minutes of Previous meeting

The minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 Area General Meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record of what took place Proposed by Robert Wallace C.C.M.F.C., seconded by Seamus O'Donnell of N.W.M.A.C. and passed by.

### 3. Matters Arising from the minutes

There was no business arising out of the minutes

### 4. Officer's Reports

#### 4.1 Chairmans Report

Welcome all, and thanks to all the other Officers for their support. The message in Terry's invitation is particularly helpful. We have a very commendable record for excellent attendance at Meetings, but there is no reason to be complacent. When you have taken the trouble to come here tonight, please take back to your Clubs anything you have learned and/or enjoyed, and pass on to anyone you meet from any Club not yet represented an invitation to come and join in.

We have a new Secretary for the BMFA, and he is trying to engender more participation and involvement in the Areas. Most are not working as well as could be desired, and one thing needed is more people willing to take on the work involved in the various posts on the

Committee. We currently have a full complement of officers, for the first time since the Area was formed, and this is a very welcome state of affairs. Again, there is good reason not to be complacent, and more volunteers will be welcome.

This starts in all Clubs, where in the past many fliers expect the organisation to run without their contribution. I have often thought that Clubs should ask Members to make a contribution, plus their Fee to make the organisation viable financially. The work done by volunteers is more critical than the money, essential though it may be, if the Club is to succeed. We need to find ways to motivate fliers to become organisers, and encourage them to enjoy the fun to be had in making things happen.

As a suggestion, can the Committee see its way to pass a motion that “all Clubs welcome Area Officers to their facilities on equal terms with their own Members”? This would seem to be a painless way of recognising the efforts made by Area Officers, at no cost to any Club. Another welcome development is that some people have been willing to approach suitable candidates for posts, and ask them would they be willing to stand. This is again a very good way of encouraging people to come forward, as there is an inherent implication that they have what it takes to carry out the work required.

The Queen’s University students are once again asking for our help, and we will be seeing them tomorrow to start this year’s programme. There will be a focus on efficient hinging and linkages for control surfaces, as these fairly rudimentary essentials have been unsafe in the past.

The weather has been unusually settled recently, since September in fact, so I hope everyone has taken advantage. Otherwise Indoor flying continues and is a great fillip in the short evenings. The Summer should be good!

Maurice Doyle

#### **4.2 Vice Chairman’s Report:**

Since the last Area Meeting, I’ve attended the BMFA AGM in Maurice’s place. This was held just outside Leicester and there was a fairly good turnout of people. The business of the AGM was conducted fairly quickly with little in the way of dispute. We were then given a presentation on the new BMFA centre, which looks extremely promising, although it does not have the acreage to be a replacement for Barkston Heath. The BMFA have been talking to other interested bodies to see if they would be able to utilise some of the space when not being used for model flying. Plans are fairly advanced and I believe the intention is to have it open to members by late Spring/early Summer.

**Bill Scott**

#### **4.3 Treasurers Report:**

Money paid out by the Treasurer since the Area Meeting on 12th October 2016.

|          |   |        |
|----------|---|--------|
| 9th Nov. | Expenses for Andy Symonds Presentation "BMFA Question and Answer Session" | 70.00  |
| 9th Nov  | Grant Aid to North Down MAC, Fencing Panels.                              | 125.00 |
| 19th Nov | NIMSA Area Thermal & Electric replica and engraving.                      | 16.50  |
| 19th Nov | Most Improved Flyer 2016, trophy engraving.                               | 8.00   |
| 14th Jan | Grant Aid to UMAC, Club Shelter   | 635.00 |
| 17th Jan | Grant Aid to Banbridge A C, Lawn mower                                    | 240.00 |

Expenses still to be paid:-

Area Meeting 12th October 2016

BMFA Presentation 13th September 2016

Area AGM 9th November 2016.

I would like to remind Clubs that Grant Aid can be requested at any time during the current year between AGM 2016 and Area Meeting September 2017. Requests for Aid will only be considered from Clubs who have been represented at 3 out of 4 Area Meetings, in the previous 12 months.

Any Club can Nominate a candidate for "Most Improved Flyer 2017" at any time during the year up to the September Area Meeting 2017.

The Club should define their evidence for Improvement within their Nomination. We require more than just a name.

The Area has the Trophy and we should award it each year to foster the advancement of our Sport.

**Robert McIvor**

#### **4.4 Secretary's Report:**

Nothing much to Report, had a massive computer failure late last year but as I back up most of my information to a separate hard drive I didn't lose much, unfortunately I had almost finished the AGM minutes and hadn't backed it up so I lost that, I have now recovered and re-sourced most of the information so will be completing AGM minutes in the near future. I had fortunately already made the returns to the BMFA before the crash.

John Thick has taken over the website and is on a steep learning curve and doing a great job, the Facebook page basically looks after itself with little work at all, since it started I think we have only had to block one user, a far eastern dodgy trader trying to sell stuff if I remember correctly.

Pleased to see that the BMFA Power Nationals will be on again this year over the August Bank Holiday weekend I for one will be there.

Contact between the Secretary and the Swifts social club manager has been Established so hopefully bookings for the room for the meetings will now go smoothly, and Thanks must go to Richard Boyd of the Dungannon Club for arranging this.

**Terry Jones**

#### **4.5 Council Delegate Report:**

I attended the Council Meeting in January and, on behalf of the Area, formally put forward the propose European Championships for Control Line in 2019. This was endorsed by the BMFA Council, and now it has to proceed to the CIAM, the part of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale which deals with Model Aircraft, for consideration.

Our attendance at Meetings is still exemplary and of note to virtually all other Areas. There is an Area Council Meeting on Saturday and ideas for improving the response to Area business is a major topic for the Meeting.

**Maurice Doyle**

#### **4.6 Radio Control Power Secretary's Report:**

No Aerobatics or scale event dates have been finalised yet but I do have a date of 17<sup>th</sup> September from North West made available for Area aerobatics competition.

Plan is to hold a Heli event again this year, unfortunately it got called off last year and wasn't held. On this point, to prevent events not taking place at all, I am proposing that all dates should include a backup date in case the first is called off due to weather etc rather than no event being held at all that year.

Following on from the success of last year, there will be a number of floatplane splash ins this year with four confirmed for Moor lough (dates in NWMAC report) and maybe one or two more at other locations,

I would like this year with numerous events being held to find a way of awarding some prizes and overall price for the floatplane trophy, maybe a simple system where each pilot can vote for best model, most flights, best crash etc.

#### **Irish Aviation Authority regulations update i.e. flying down south**

I attended the MACI AGM in Portlaoise last November and spoke to both the MACI chairman Kevin Manning and Liam Broderick who was the multirotor secretary and person dealing with the IAA on behalf of MACI.

At that meeting there still seemed to be grey areas in regard to visiting pilots, but I was given assurance that further contact would be made with me on the matter and after Christmas I got a call from Liam Broderick, who said that as it stands there are only two systems in place for NIAA members flying in Irish Airspace, first is that any NIAA member can now register models with IAA same way as MACI members are required to do and that will give them freedom to come and go and fly as much as they want without any further permission.

Other method is the visitor tag system which requires visiting pilots to notify MACI and be allocated a temporary number for the time they are there.

Disadvantages with this system is that they need to notify in advance, which is ok if going to a specific event, but no good for decision made night before or the same day. And the IAA have only allocated 25 visitor tags to the MACI?

I used the example at my other club Letterkenny MFC where we have regular visitors from NIAA clubs, with some coming most Saturdays and it would not be practical for someone to keep contacting him or whomever in the MACI to be allocated a tag each time.

As the situation with LMFC is unique he is to get back to me with a system that I as secretary of LMFC can administer these tags to regular visitors to LMFC.

If this then proved workable and easier for NIAA members we could put a similar system in place, so that an officer of the Area can look after our own so to speak, so a phone call or txt would be all that was needed.

**Seamus O'Donnell**

#### **4.7 Gliding Report:**

Fairly quiet since the last meeting. Some slope soaring both by individuals and in groups. John, Wayne and myself had a cracking day above Ballygalley in Dec 16 climbing on to one of the slopes we rarely use and were met with immense lift, but absolutely perishing cold. There have been two rounds of NIMSA's Winter Electric Series with one round still to go. There is a full calendar of thermal events planned for the Summer and these are already up on the Area website. MACI glider section also has its' usual slope events planned for the year and details of these and the PSSA events on the Mainland can be found on the Events page of the NIMSA website. We're a friendly bunch, so if anyone fancies giving gliding a try, give me a call.

**Bill Scott**

#### **4. 8 Control Line Secretary's Report:**

Control Line continues to be on the minds of those who fly at Patton Park, but the weather has been cold enough even when it is fairly calm to deter much activity. Coffee at Sainsbury's is warm and inviting.

The European Control Line Championships for 2019 are progressing through the BMFA Council and on to the FAI. Belfast City Council continue to support the venture.

**Maurice Doyle**

#### **4.9 Public Relations Officer's Report:**

Following on from the AGM, my new position as PRO officer has been, some what of a quiet affair in relation to model flying, however with the new year now in full flow, I hope to get to grips with the new job and see if we can move the area forward within the terms of public relations.

The following information highlights the direction and plan of action for PRO in 2017.

1. Public relations is not just concerned with the interactions between the area and the public, yes it is important in the long- term process, however at present, I believe that the most important issue, is the relationship between the various clubs and members of the NIAA, therefore, I hope to visit most clubs within our area, not only to introduce myself as PRO officer to the many old members who by now know me, but also to the new members. I believe that, by talking and listening to members, their concerns,

ideas is the best way for me to get a better understanding of the member's needs and wants. To be blunt, I need the support of all the members to help me do my job as PRO, I know from past experience, that when the area members come together we can do great things.

## 2. Shows and events

There are a number of shows and events which I hope to attend for 2017:

18/2/2017 RAF cadets info day Omagh

11/3/2017 NIMA, NIAA will not be attending

09/10/11/ 4/2017 Glider Fest 2017 mount leinster

22/23/4/2017 Bangor Railway model show.

21/5/2017 flying in the French Scale glider slope competition Menez-Hom Brittany

Other events if available

Newcastle air show

Portrush air show

Ulster Aviation Soc show ???

Other events may be added

I hope to take a look at the areas information flyers, which needs to be updated

3. I have a few contacts, with the 'Irish TV' cable channel, having worked with them through my full- time job, maybe we could get an interest story on RC flying in N.I.?

**John Pearson**

### **4.10 Education Co-Ordinator:**

Fairly quiet through the Winter months, I am going to Omagh Air Cadets this Saturday (18/2/17) to talk to them about model flying and show a few models, plus let them try the simulator. My thanks in advance to John Pearson & Rodney Kee for agreeing to come along to this.

I put out a request through the Area Facebook page for volunteers to assist when we get enquiries local to them. I must admit to being pleasantly surprised by the good response. As always more volunteers are always welcome. You may never be called upon, but it means we have the option if something comes up in your Area. Up to now all of this work has been done by a very small group (<10), travelling all over NI.

I'm sure this is something JP will bring up, but the committee are aware that many clubs run/ take part in Open days/fetes, shows, but we never get asked for any of the promotional material which is held at my house. Please don't do these events purely for your own clubs and try and promote the Area too. I travel all over NI for work, so can usually get stuff to you or get someone to drop it off to you. NI is a small place and people travel from all over to go to shows etc and it would do the hobby good to have more recruits.

**Bill Scott**

### **4.11 Website Manager:**

**Having arranged full access to our website, I'm on a steep learning curve in HTTP web coding.**

I'm concentrating at the moment on standardising the site navigation and modifying the pages search engines find us with.

I'll get events on the calendar promptly and it would help Terry and me if you use the e-mail [info@niaeromodellers.org.uk](mailto:info@niaeromodellers.org.uk) to submit these. This should make future handovers easier as this address can easily be redirected.

If Clubs would like to submit more detailed info about events I'll try to get this included. My apologies to Omagh MFC, I've used their Sept. auction as a trial and stolen their last years flyer to do this you might like to check this out.

While there's a lot more I'd like to do with the site, my programing skills are limited at this stage so I'll keep it simple for now.

You'll have to bear with me if strange thing happen from time to time.

Thank you.

**John Thick** (Webmaster NIAA)

## **5. Achievement Scheme**

Robert Wallace of C.C.M.F.C and Chief Examiner informed the meeting that the club had agreed to host an Achievement Test Day along the same lines as Craigavon did last year and are planning to have at the end of June, once a date is set it will be forwarded to the Secretary and Website Manager it will be a Sunday.

Since the last meeting I carried out 2 x BMFA Registered Club Examiner tests and also 1 x Fixed Wing A for Bangor Electric MFC. Well done to the candidates and I would also wish to thank NDMAC for the use of their flying strip.

**David McClean**

**NIAA Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinator**

## **6. European Control Line Championship Belfast 2019**

The Chairman informed that the meeting a lot of admin work is going on with the BMFA and when checks have been made they have to be submitted, at present things seem to be moving in the right direction. The events are Combat, Aerobatic, Speed and Team Racing.

The nucleus of the officials has already been compiled with many coming from the UK. The officials have to be accommodated but competitors provide for themselves.

If the application is successful it should be confirmed this year.

Approximately one hundred and fifty pilots from all over Europe will attend with some of the best flyers in the world

Belfast Council have underwritten £30,000 to the event.

The PRO said he would look more into grants and sponsorship.

The Chairman will keep the membership informed as things progress.

The Area will need to Support this Event.

## **7. Discounted Travel On Ferries**

The Vice Chairman informed the meeting that he had been in touch with the Sports Forum and is waiting for a reply.

## **8. Calendar**

Any events should be sent to [info@niaeromodellers.org.uk](mailto:info@niaeromodellers.org.uk) both the Secretary and Webmaster will receive them and they will be entered on the website calendar page. There is already a clash of dates on the 8<sup>th</sup> April, South Derry and the Causeway Coast have fly-ins on that day. The Secretary will mention this to the club secretaries.

## **9. Club Reports**

### **BANBRIDGE AEROMODELLING CLUB**

The post BAC AGM new-year started off with the boxing day fly-in, the weather was not great but we had a good turnout of members. There was plenty of flying in between the soup and freshly cooked bread rolls, some flights did not turn out as expected with a few documented for the crash of the year award.

Up to the end of January our paid up member count was up on this time last year, currently we are standing at 27 fully paid up which includes 2 juniors and 3 country members.

We have set a preliminary date for the area fun-fly on the 29<sup>th</sup> July, that said we would like to offer the chance for any club in the area to host and run the event.

Dates for the area calendar as follows:-

3<sup>rd</sup> March      Table sale and prize draw.      A flyer will be sent to all club secretaries.

29<sup>th</sup> July      Area Fun-fly.

26<sup>th</sup> December      Boxing day fly-in.

Can these be updated on NIAA website please.

### **Bangor Electric Flying Club**

*The award for the Most Improved Flyer in 2016 was gratefully received by Ross McConnell who continues to amaze us with his ability*

*Having lost the use of our established flying field at Ballymacormick Road, Bangor, due to a change of ownership the club has managed to secure access to Newtownards Airport thanks to The Ulster Flying Club. During spring / summer months the club can use the airport after 5.30pm on any evening when the airport officially closes and we share the excellent facility with occasional microlight pilots.. Recently UFC, supported by the CAA, have approved access to the airport on Sunday Afternoons although flying model aircraft in a mixed traffic environment imposes a number constraints on model pilots and as such this arrangement is seen as temporary until the club can find an alternative site of our own. The Sunday afternoon sessions are difficult for novice and less experienced flyers and this is having an impact on membership numbers which are holding up reasonably well considering. A strategy to find a new site is currently being developed to have a more focussed approach as previous casual/ ad-hoc attempts have not been very successful.*

*January 2017 saw the resumption of indoor flying sessions at Bangor Grammar School Sports Hall. We had no Indoor flying during Autumn/Winter 2016 due to the School increasing room hire costs beyond an affordable level for the small number of BEFC members. Following negotiations with the school about costs and by extending an invitation to the North Down Club to join us on a pre-paid basis we have managed to book two indoor sessions per month from January to April 2017 and this is working well but it is questionable if this can be repeated for Autumn/Winter 2017/18 and beyond.*

#### **BELFAST MODEL FLYING CLUB**

The Chairman stated that the control line report and European control line championship 2019 covered everything.

#### **BUZZARDS MODEL FLYING CLUB**

Terry Jones reported that although everyone had seen the Buzzards new site in the BMFA magazine and informed the meeting that the Buzzards have moved again. As there had been a couple of complaints about the other site which we could have got around the club decided that we didn't want to be somewhere that we were not welcome and that we thought we would always have some hassle. We had an offer from the Causeway Airfield to move in with them and become a club within a club, we took the offer packed our bags and moved. The site is superb two massive grass runways and our containers are on site and we are up and running.

The Causeway Airfield is a Micro Light facility and we would like to Thank them for taking us on particular the complex manager Mark and two members who you will all know Ian Robb (ex Area Chairman) and Stuart Porter both micro light pilots and modellors.

Membership 20 Seniors. Nil Juniors

#### **Causeway Coast Model Flying Club.**

*The over indulgence of Christmas was brought to an end with a Fly In held on the day after Boxing Day. The un-natural mild weather last month encouraged more activity on the flight line than is the usual case for this time of the year. Membership for 2017 is up slightly from last year and we hope this trend continues as the year progresses. Plans are a foot for further fly-ins during 2017 and details will be circulated soon.*

*Jeffrey Small, Chairman C.C.M.F.C.*

### **CRAIGAVON MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB**

1. Current membership is 13 seniors & 1 Junior and that's a level we expect to improve on.
2. Our all weather flying site has suffered from the winter weather and compaction from the site works completed last year preventing drainage and requires some major maintenance. While council funds are stretched we have agreed a plan with the maintenance dept. to restore the essential pits and runways.
3. We are still waiting for planning approval for our clubhouse.
4. We're hoping to run a simple scale event at our site and a water plane fly-in at the lakes this summer, details to follow.

John added that he was trying to develop a simple format for the scale comp. with rules to suite the average flyer, to encourage participation.

The Chairman and Treasurer agreed that Clubs could set their own rules for these events.

Website – [craigavonmodelaircraft.com](http://craigavonmodelaircraft.com)

e-mail – [secretary@craigavonmodelaircraft.com](mailto:secretary@craigavonmodelaircraft.com)

*John Thick* (Secretary CMAC)

### **DUNNGANNON**

The membership of Dungannon MFC remains the same

Members are still flying at a site in Upper lands

We have had no further developments regarding a local site but the council are trying there best to help the club

Richard Boyd

### **EAST ANTRIM**

Continue to fly indoors, 23 members 1 junior

Sam Phenix

**Lambeg**

20 members flying indoors and good attendance.

L. Ward

**NIMSA**

Bill Scott reported that there were 19 members and the new season starts in April.

**Northwest Model Aircraft Club**

Not a lot to report, club would just like to thank the people who supported the events last year and offer welcome to anyone who wants to attend any this year or anytime throughout the year.

This years event dates are

Kinsella Open Day on 27<sup>th</sup> May

Area Aerobatics 17<sup>th</sup> September

Floatplane Fly-ins on

26<sup>th</sup> March

4<sup>th</sup> Jun

30<sup>th</sup> July

1<sup>st</sup> October

Looking forward to a good year.

Seamus O'Donnell

**NORTH DOWN MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB**

This is my first report as NDMAC club secretary, I would like to thank the outgoing club secretary George Elliot for his hard work and contribution to the club over the years he held office..

Current membership stands at 34 which includes 30 Full Members and 4 Honorary members. It is with sadness I have to report that Eddie Calvert a stalwart member of our club sadly passed away recently he will be sadly missed.

We continue to settle in and live with our new neighbour the wind turbine. A second runway which necessitated a lot of work to operate from is now available to use, we now have two hard runways to select to fly from depending on wind conditions and sun position. The pilots hut as been moved to a new position and wire barriers erected to protect the pit area, pilot stations are to be installed in the near future.

We have negotiated better terms to fly from Lough Cowie which will allow us to book the venue at much shorter notice than previous. Our first club event will hopefully be held on the weekend of the 11th/12<sup>th</sup> February . If this event is successful we may try to get permission to allow other clubs to attend future events.

The club is in the process of organising the traditional annual weekend away, returning to Weston Park Air Show as we did in 2016

Steve Ballam

### **ST ANGELLO**

Since our last report we have continued with our indoor flying which takes place in one of the Enniskillen Airport hangars. We have a steady amount of pilots who come down on a Monday night.

More than half of our club membership from 2016 have already renewed there membership for the 2017 season. So far this is 17 members. We hope to gain the rest when the outdoor season starts.

We hope to begin outdoor flying as soon as there is some daylight in the evenings.

Thanks

Stephen Scott  
Secretary  
Read by David McLean

### **UMAC**

Forty two paid up members and 3 new members. Events for the year are posted on the Calendar Pylon racing and fun flys, good turnout at the site on flying days.

Peter Edmunsen.

### **Ulster Model Aviators**

Low profile limited to ten members.

Robert McElroy

There being no further business the Chairman Thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 9.40pm

Next Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Signed Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Signed Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

SECOND DRAFT