

Northern Ireland Association of Aeromodellers

Northern Ireland Area Committee of the British Model Flying Association

Minutes of the 71st AREA GENERAL MEETING, 11th April 2018 at The Swifts Football Club Dungannon

1. Attendance and Apologies:

Sixteen members present representin 9 clubs in the Area.

Apologies received from Ian Butler, Craig Kane. Jeffrey Small, Robert Wallace, Seamus O'Donnell and Leslie Ward.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and passed by the meeting.

3. Matters Arising from the minutes

None

4. Officer's Reports

4.1 Chairmans Report

Thank you all for coming along tonight, and the evenings are now longer and allow the opportunity to be out and fly. The weather has also abated and there have been a few calm days at last. There has not been much outdoor activity since January (plenty indoor), but we look forward to a good season. My thanks to the Committee for their efforts and there should be some significant progress on many fronts this year. The Calendar is filling up and there should be plenty of opportunity to visit other Clubs and swell the numbers to reward those who organise events for the benefit of us all.

Our attendance at Meetings continues to be exemplary and is the envy of other Areas.
Maurice Doyle

4.2 Vice Chairman's Report:

Nothing much since the February meeting. The Chairman did ask me to attend a BMFA meeting in his absence, but due to work commitments I was unable to do so.

I must admit to being extremely disheartened by the Area at the moment. A request for help for NDMRS at the end of this month via the Facebook page and also by emailing the club secretaries of the local clubs met with very little response apart from the usual people. In fact not one of the club secretaries emailed me back! If this lack of support continues throughout the remainder of this year, (as it has for many years now), I will have to seriously consider whether I want to continue as part of the committee come AGM time. It is NOT the Committees job to man displays, the Committee is responsible for organisation and co-ordination.

Bill Scott

4.3 Treasurers Report:

The Treasurer went through the attached financial report

4.4 Secretary's Report:

Nothing to report since last meeting

4.5 Council Delegate Report:

I was not able to attend the Council Meeting on 17 February because of a family bereavement, and emails from HQ have been u/s because of a change of software, now resolved, so communications have been poor recently. I have not heard of any significant problems and the usage of Buckminster Lodge is increasing steadily
Maurice Doyle

4.6 Radio Control Power Secretary's Report:

Nothing new to report from last meeting other than first of the splash in was held at moorlough.

Had hoped for some info on a possible venue for a multi discipline event but no confirmation as of yet but still could be on the cards for this year if not next. Problems down south with MACI losing their insurance cover for 2018 may help NIAA clubs gain new members, I know some more of the Letterkenny guys are for joining North West this year, so other border clubs may also gain a few. MACI are hoping to get it sorted but there present extension runs out on 15th April.
Seamus O'Donnell

4.7 Gliding Report:

We are now into April and hoping to see a bit of a change in the weather

On the 24th February Banbridge had their first E-soaring competition and had 5 pilots flying Nimsa kicked off the season on the 25th March with an open an electric round there was 6 pilots in each class, conditions good although still cold. The lift was hit or miss you either had it or got nothing

Paul Freeman took the honours in both classes with Keith Wilson finishing runner up last weekend the Island Slope Rebels had their fly in off Mt Lenister in Co.Wexford where they had a few French pilots who over this past couple of years have made this an annual trip. Bill Scott and John Pearson made the journey to Wexford and enjoyed a good weekends flying

Nimsa this year have introduced a 2m electric class and also is working with a 10 minute time slot.

Up and coming events

Sunday 15th April is another round of open and electric for Nimsa at the Belfast Playing Fields at Mallusk 10am start

29th April is the first of two Aero tow days at the Causeway Coast MFC there will be a round of electric flew in the morning due to noise restrictions and everybody is welcome

Andrew Wallace

4.8 Control Line Secretary Report

We have now had a couple of outdoor flying days, which have been very welcome, and a good season is in prospect if the weather allows.

Maurice Doyle

4.9 Public Relations Officer's Report:

Firstly, my apologies for not attending the meeting.

There is not much to report at present. The weather has done it's best to hamper most flying opportunities over the last few weeks and we can only hope that things are now on the turn for the better.

The images and video footage from the recent Splash-in at Moorlough were great and gave a good indication of the fun had at the event. Who would have thought you could knife-edge a Carbon Cub floatplane??

I am disappointed at the lack of contribution to the Area PR campaign from the majority of clubs. There is plenty of flying still taking place around the area and I have seen many images posted on social media by the Bangor and North Down clubs. I would ask that other clubs consider doing the same if they have the facility to do so. If you are unable to do this, you can send the images via email to me and I will ensure they are uploaded to the website/Facebook/Instagram pages.

Unfortunately, I cannot share images without permission from the owner.

If you are having or participating in an event, please share some of the photos and if possible, provide a few lines to describe what is going on.

I am trying to do my best to promote the area but can't do so if I have nothing to work with.

Craig Kane

4.10 Education Co-Ordinator:

Little since Feb meeting. Two of the ATC squadrons with trainer aircraft are progressing with their builds (thanks to Ross McConnell at Grosvenor House and Richard Benko at Antrim), I'm still waiting on my security clearances to come through to allow me to get Omagh up & running, my first application was "lost".

I don't have the dates yet, but the next big event will be Sentinus (usually early June at Jordanstown) and I will be looking for help to man the display.

Bill Scott

4.11 Website Manager:

The website is running smoothly hopefully providing a useful platform to promote our activities with enthusiasts, local councils and the general public.

I've started to add sat-nav details to the calendar, when I can get them and will try to include a photo of the site entry, to help visitors find us.

These details are taken from google earth to get as near as possible to the site entry.

Since I don't get out to events much I would appreciate it if clubs could send me a brief report on their day, numbers, brief comments and a photo of the pits/carpark would be great.

Can I please ask clubs to let me know, on Fri/Sat if weekend events are changed or cancelled, so I can keep the calendar current?

I'd like to close by thanking all those who take the trouble to keep me informed.

John Thick (Webmaster)

5. Achievement Scheme

I have taken over this post purely to keep the admin in place, ideally the post should be occupied by an Area Chief Examiner. I aim to get a list of club examiners put together and if possible arrange an Achievement Day UMAC have already offered to host one at their site but it needs to be a Saturday.

6. Calendar.

The calendar is on the website and kept up to date by John Thick so keep him informed at info@niaeromodellers.org.uk both John and I get informed if you use that email.

7. Club Reports

BANBRIDGE AEROMODELLING CLUB

Flying at Banbridge has taken place between the showers and our strip has had its first cut of Spring. We have had our first competition of the year which was e-soaring on the 24th February with six competitors. Pylon racing, planned for the same day was postponed, but the mass flight of racers more than compensated. Our annual table sale took place in Dromore on 16th March, with a good turnout, thanks to those who bid during the Auction of some of Dennis McNeil's models. This raised £160 for Macmillan. Our first display of the season was cancelled due to poor weather on Easter Monday. However last week we had two displays for two days at the Maze during the GTINI Dubshed car show, with some very positive feedback. Thanks,
Iain Johnston

Bangor Electric Flying Club

Bangor Electric Flying Club are unable to attend the April Meeting so please enter our apologies.

The club is progressing plans for the NDMRS Exhibition and plans are in hand to get new BMFA qualified instructors and club examiners which hopefully will be complete by the end of April.

Jimmy O'Brien
BEFC Club Secretary's

BELFAST MODEL FLYING CLUB

Our indoor flying activities have continued with, general radio flying at Ashfield Girls High School, with a steady number of flyers taking part.

Other indoor flying also takes place at St Brides, sports hall, with a group of 7/8 flyers enjoying the evening.

Connswater leisure Centre.

The control line flyers in the club have been able to have a couple of good Saturdays flying, an opportunity to blow the winter cobwebs off.

The club members are well advanced in preparations for our flying display at the annual North Down Model Railway Society show, a practise afternoon at Ashfield Girls High School is planned to get the flying schedule perfected.

Peter Bradshaw.

Secretary BMFC.

BUZZARDS MODEL FLYING CLUB

The Buzzards has 21 members flying when ever the weather permits and looking forward to a long calm Summer. A lot of work has been done on the runway and hopefully we may get a Fly-In nearer the end of the season.

Causeway Coast Model Flying Club.

Winter flying has taken a bit of a knock recently due to the vagaries of the weather. Hopefully as the daylight hours increase so will attendance on the flight line. Our extended runway improves daily and soon will be part and parcel of our existing runway. Membership is up by one. Forth coming event are.....

- (1) Electric Aero Tow, April 29th.
- (2) Scale Weekend, 9th. & 10th. June.

Hope to see you all there.
Jeffrey Small,
Chairman, C.C.M.F.C.

CRAIGAVON MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB

1. Current membership is 14 seniors& 1 Junior who has recently achieved his FW A-cert. We are confident of achieving our usual quota of 20 members.

2. Our Club house is open for business on Club days with tea and coffee on tap, battery powered 12v and 240v 300w ac electric and a super ser.for those cold winter days.

We have a 2KW generator and flat screen TV with PC monitor interface, while discussions on the installation of a wind turbine and increased battery capacity are ongoing.

We have 24/7 access to the Council's on site disabled toilets and washroom facilities (Keys in Clubhouse).

3. Our council is continuing to maintain the site in good condition.

4. Our flying afternoons, wed/sat & sun have been well supported despite the weather.

5. We are running two events this year, A Club Scale day in June and an electric duration challenge in July details will be posted on the website shortly and will include the usual barbeque and refreshments.

Website – craigavonmodelaircraft.com

e-mail – secretary@craigavonmodelaircraft.com

John Thick (Secretary CMAAC)

Dungannon

Flying has been seriously limited at the club due to the bad weather. The plus side was members enjoyed the sale at the Banbridge club and purchased some new gear and planes to play with if the weather ever improves.

Kind regards
Richard Boyd
DMFC

East Antrim

Have lost their major flying site due to 18 Wind Turbines being erected and mysterious crashes following that, have moved to a new field which is a ten acre site.

NIMSA

Around 20 members. Flying has been limited so far this year due to the weather, with a couple of electric days at Doagh and an Open/Electric comp a few weeks back to open the thermal season. There is a full calendar of events on the clubs website, (now hosted FREE by the BMFA) and also on the Area website. Our Open day is scheduled for 27th May.

Bill Scott

Northwest Model Aircraft Club

Club held its first splash in at Moorlough on 25th March and apart from the odd shower the day went very well, next one is 13th May. Kinsella Open day on 26th May will also include a Bring & Buy like last year.

Seamus O'Donnell

NORTH ANTRIM MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB

From North antrim model aircraft club :

The club is now being run under new management /club officials since the start of 2018.

We are currently in the process of replacing the club house on site due to the previous hut suffering storm damage , that resulted in part of the roof being blown away , (it's not just models that fly here !)

Once we get the replacement on site and setup , we plan to run some events through the summer months that will incorporate as many aspects of model flying as we can , Fixed wing ,Gliding, Free flight, Heli's, Drones etc.

FPV drone racing will aim to be a priority, as there is a great demand for this but also a lack flying sites that cater for such a sport.

I would like to mention that everyone is more than welcome to come to fly with us whatever the discipline .

Hope to see you at the field

Regards, Peter O'Kane
Chairman
North Antrim Model Aircraft Club.

NORTH DOWN MODEL AIRCRAFT CLUB

The previous few months have been quiet in terms of flying as, in common with other clubs, model flying has been restricted by the seemingly relentless wet and windy weather experienced this winter. Access to the Kirkistown site has, at times, proved difficult due to the waterlogged state of the lanes and adjoining fields. Nevertheless a small number of enthusiasts have made the most of available opportunities and braved the conditions. It is especially encouraging to note the enthusiasm shown by several of our most recent recruits and the club's WhatsApp group continues to serve as a valuable means of communication.

Membership numbers are now at 31 including one family junior and hopefully a few more will join as soon as the temperatures climb. It is pleasing to note that most flyers have now got used to the presence of the wind turbine and have adjusted their flight circuits to avoid any mishaps.

South Derry M.F.C.

Flying on Saturday afternoons at present and Tuesday evening sessions start next week.
Sam Kirkpatrick

ST ANGELLO

Now that the hour has changed outdoor flying has now re-commenced although unfortunately as for all the club's represented here some decent summer weather would be nice!

Stephen Scott

UMAC

2018 Membership for UMAC presently stands at 46 with 3 juniors.

Due to weather conditions we made the decision to cancel the Easter Monday flyin & BBQ. We believe this was the right decision as there was persistent heavy rain with strong wind throughout the day. We plan to reschedule the event for Saturday May 12th when we hope for better weather. We again extend our invitation to everyone who would like to attend and

you are all very welcome.

In early March the club held Round one of two the UMAC funfly cup. The day was won by Stephen Farmer, in joint second was Ross McConnell and Peter Edmondson with Louis Rea 3rd. We were pleased to see a number of visitors there for the day.

The club has several static displays planed over the next few months, the next of which will be held at Camlough vintage car rally, hosted outside Ballinderry.

Unfortunately, Flying on Wednesday evenings has been foreseeably cancelled due to an ongoing car boot sale onsite. This is similar in setup to Sunday market which inhibits flying.

Peter Edmondson

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm

Next Meeting Wednesday 12th September 2018 8pm at the Swifts F.C. Dungannon

Signed Chairman

Signed Secretary

DRAFT