

Northern Ireland Association of Aeromodellers

Northern Ireland Area Committee of the British Model Flying Association

Minutes of the 74th AREA GENERAL MEETING, 8pm on 13th February 2019 at The Swifts Football Club Dungannon

1. Attendance and Apologies:

Nineteen members from fourteen clubs attended the meeting and apologies were received from J.Small, Robert Wallace, P O'Kane and Andrew Wallace.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting

The minutes were accepted, proposed by The Northwest M.A.C. and seconded by Craigavon, and passed by the meeting

3. Matters Arising from the minutes

None

4. Officer's Reports

4.1 Chairmans Report

As usual at this time of year, flying activity, except Indoor, is compromised by the weather, and congratulations to those hardy individuals who are continuing to brave the cold and wind. I am very glad to be flying Indoor, both Free Flight and Radio, through these dark months. The evenings are already lengthening so things can only improve.

I thank the Committee for their continuing work on behalf of us all. It is much appreciated and very essential. The new BMFA Members system seems to be working, although as usual it gives Club Officials more work. It should help us to manage communications better in the long term, so can only be helpful. Better communications have been a priority for the Area and the NIAA since 1971, and they have helped keep everyone informed and enthused.

I read Area Minutes from the other 12 Areas regularly, and we continue to have attendance and reports from Officers and Clubs which are at least as comprehensive as any other Area. Not bad when we are probably the smallest in the UK! Thanks to everyone who takes the trouble to attend and contribute.

Maurice Doyle

4.2 Vice Chairman's Report:

Nothing to report since September 2018 meeting

Bill Scott

4.3 Treasurers Report:

The Treasurer told the meeting that we had changed banks and explained the procedures we went through, he also went through the transactions which are attached.

Peter Edmundson

4.4 Secretary's Report:

Nothing much to report from the last meeting which was the AGM, the relevant returns were made to BMFA HQ and ratification of ACEs' to the Area Coordinator. Before the last Council Meeting I was contacted by Maurice our Chairman that on the documentation for the meeting our delegate was shown as TBA "to be announced" so I checked my emails they were sent and my question which was do you require hard copies she said no the electronic version was fine. On the 24th January I received an email saying if our returns were not received by the end of January they would use last years details for the Officers Directory. I sent them again and also I phoned next day informed them that I had once again sent the returns. I then printed hard copies and posted them also The new online Go Portal which I intended to speak on has been added to the Agenda for discussion.

Terry Jones

4.5 Council Delegate Report:

At the AGM in November, the decision was taken to increase the Fees by a significant amount, after a long period of limited increases. This seemed to be accepted as necessary and was passed by a clear majority. It was very gratifying to attend the Prizegiving and collect, on behalf of Bob McIvor, the Arthur Mullet Trophy, well deserved for his very long service to the Area. I also collected the Lady Shelley Trophy for the Tailless event at the Free Flight Nationals. I hope both will be re-presented at tonight's Meeting.

At the Council Meeting in January it was reported that electronic membership was improving contact with individuals. At the last Areas Council Meeting, it was decided that an Area Bulletin would be issued between BMFA News publications. It would give information on Area activities and be sent by email to every BMFA Member. This should give all Members direct information on Area activities, a big improvement on the present when much depends on how effective Secretaries are in passing on BMFA news.

In response to the Gatwick Drone incident, BMFA had responded to the arrest of the Member, and were pleased to see the letter in the Daily Mail from an ordinary Member, setting out the case for our responsible flying.

At a Meeting re Drone legislation, a Civil Servant had raised the fatality from a flyaway, some years ago, as if this was relevant. The CAA representative at the meeting was so incensed at the misrepresentation implied by this that he is writing a response, setting out how safe Model Flying is

in comparison to Commercial and Light Aviation and other activities, which shows that it is many times safer than almost any comparable activity.

Maurice Doyle

4.6 Radio Control Power Secretary's Report:

No plans yet in regard to area aerobatics or scale competitions but as I have mentioned before to generate interest in these disciplines, a combined event over a weekend for these and other events, needs trying out, and the plan this year is put something in place in finding suitable venue hopefully for this year, if not then at least nail something down for next year

I have been contacted by the Jet Secretary of the MACI, to invite the area members who interested in both turbine and EDF jets to come along to a number of jet flyins due to be held this year.

The Jet Modellers Association of Ireland who are hosting the events would like also to have to one of two in Northern Ireland if any of the clubs are interested.

So I will be asking suitable clubs in the area if they would be willing to hold a jet flyin this year, which should hopefully attract some visitors from the jet flyers down south.

I have some dates for floatplane events at moorlough which are 31st March, May 26th, July 28th, September 29th

Seamus O'Donnell

4.7 Gliding Report:

Strange weather for Christmas and the New Year it was mild and the air was very bouyant Nigel Taylor and Andrew Wallace had some great flights at the Buzzards on Boxing Day and 8 Nimsa pilots turned out on New Year's Day at Mallusk

On the 3rd of January Nigel Taylor past his A test for E-soaring under the watchful eye of Terry Jones Looking forward to the new year Nimsa have decided to cut down on the competitive side of things and are having more fun flying days to try and promote gliding and possibly attract new members, they also have introduced a class were everyone fly's the same type of 2m model which 9 pilots have showed an interest in

There will be two aero-tow days, first one this year will be held at the buzzards and will be aerotow only and the 2nd will hopefully be held at the Causeway coast club with a round of E-soaring in the morning and aerotow in the afternoon

The Island Slope Rebels have their usual 3 dates for 2019, March, April and September they also are hoping to run an aerotow day in July

If anyone is interested in trying their hand at gliding come to any of the Nimsa fun days and there will plenty of help and advice available

Hopefully the winds will turn to the west at some point this year and we'll get to fly off the mountain

Andrew Wallace read by the Secretary

4.8 Control Line Secretary Report

The Ulster Championships in June will be the main focus of activity in the immediate future. Cold and wind have prevented any flying recently. It is to be hoped that last Summer's good weather will be repeated.

Maurice Doyle

4.9 Public Relations Officer's Report:

Included with the Webmasters report

4.10 Education Co-Ordinator:

Currently both Ards& Antrim Air Cadets have completed their trainers (Ards was converted to electric as they'll be flying with Bangor Electric) Omagh are still to start theirs and I may be looking for someone in that area to assist them as changes at work mean I now don't have as much time available as I used to.

Queens aerodynamics dept are again getting assistance from several members of the Area in their challenge, which I understand is again the US version rather than the BMFA Heavy lift? Again I can no longer get the time off during working hours to help with this, so appreciate the efforts of those who are helping.

The show season will soon be upon us, (first show is NDMRS 13-14 April). I hope to be there with the Area stand, but this year I DO NOT intend to man the stand with very little assistance. The reality of shows like this is that we need at least 4-5 people to commit to help each day. It is not possible to do with the same 2-3 people doing both days and getting no breaks during the day. Unless I get a commitment from people to attend I won't be going! The same applies to any other events we're invited to.

Bill Scott

4.11 Website Manager:

PRO &Webmaster's ReportFeb'19

There has been very little action on the pro front, I continue to try and use the website to promote our activities although this has been held up recently due to my laptop crashing and having to be restored to its default settings. I'm up and running again now so will do a bit of work on the website. The 2019 calendar is on line so send me your events and I'll get them uploaded.

Despite the rather negative publicity relating to 'Drones' following Gatwick and Heathrow our area does not seem to have been adversely affected by these events.

With new legislation on the way I would encourage everyone to make an effort to obtain at least an A or BP certificate in their chosen activity.

If I can be of any help to clubs in dealing with the public, or other authorities just contact me.

Thank you.

John Thick (PRO &Webmaster)

5. Achievement Scheme

The secretary Terry Jones who is also the Area Achievement Scheme Coordinator informed the meeting that he had been put forward by the Area at the AGM to become an Area Chief Examiner FW and that this has all been passed by the Achievement Scheme controller . Terry Jones then thanked the area and stated that as he was now retired he was available anytime to travel to any clubs to carry out test and that he was planning to arrange a test day again.

Terry Jones

6. Calendar.

The 2019 calendar is on the website please forward your events to info@niaeromodellers.org.uk for inclusion.

7. The BMFA Go Portal

The Secretary informed the meeting that this item had been added to the agenda by request from the clubs to discuss the new system.

A very lengthy debate ensued on the pros and cons of the new system with some clubs having no problems at all with it and some clubs having difficulty with it or found it wanting. It was decided that the clubs should contact the secretary and he would send a list of our problems with the system to the BMFA.

Action:- The Chairman tasked the Clubs to contact the secretary reference problems, the Secretary will then send the list to the BMFA

7. Club Reports

Banbridge Aeromodelling Club

Currently we have a total of 22 members 18 seniors and 4 juniors paid up for 2019. The new portal has been used by all current members to pay their dues to BMFA making life easier for the Treasurer and Secretary with all paid up by the second week in January. As far as club activity is concerned it has been fairly quiet but taking full advantage of breaks in the weather to get in a few flights. Our new club facilities has been put to the test on Boxing day and was not found wanting in any respect. On behalf of all of the members I would like to thank the area committee for the generous contribution to our very large project. I will end on that note and wish all clubs in the area a successful 2019.

Paul Harrison

Secretary

Bangor Electric Flying Club

Flying at Newtownards Airfield with 18 member which we share with full size aircraft, the weather hasn't been great through the Autumn and winter but some flying has been possible. Indoor flying has come to an end with Bangor Grammar School becoming unavailable, we thought we had a

chance of a large hangar at the Ulster Flying Club but this fell through.

We will have a stand in April at the North Down Model Railway Exhibition in Bangor and will also help Belfast Model Flying Club with their display and later in the year will have a static and flying display at The Ulster Flying Club open day

Jim O'Brien

Belfast Model Flying Club

Our indoor flying activities have continued with, general radio flying at Ashfield Girls High School, attendances are holding at a consistent level. Limited Indoor radio and Indoor duration Free Flight takes place every Tuesday/Wednesday mornings at Connswater Leisure Centre.

The winter weather has stopped all control line flying.

The club shall be taking part in April's North Down Model Railway Display. The display manager, Maurice Jess, has started to organise this year's flying display, to ensure that the high standard achieved last year is maintained.

Maurice Doyle and Pete Watt both went to the Free Flight Nationals at Barkston Heath, Maurice won the Tailless class, being presented with the Lady Shelley Trophy at the BMFA AGM.

Maurice Doyle, Peter Watt, Rodney O'Neill and Dorothy Robinson also attended the Indoor Nationals at RAF Shawbury

Pete Bradshaw read by Rodney O'Neill

The Buzzards Model Flying Club

The Buzzards have twenty three members two of which are Juniors, still flying at The Causeway Airfield which we share with the Micro Light Club with no problems at all. Over the winter months we are flying indoors in a church hall on Friday evenings and it is always well attended. Flying at the club has been hampered by the bad weather lately. A couple of weeks before Xmas we joined with the Micro lighters and all went to the Brown Trout Inn for a Xmas dinner and a good time was had by all, and the Sunday before Xmas we had a BBQ at the club site which was very enjoyable.

Several weeks ago two of the Micro light pilots were hurt in an accident on Landing and although both were injured they do not have life threatening injuries, one of them is Stuart Porter who is also in the Buzzards and the Father of our two juniors. Many of you will know the other pilot involved Stanley Millen who used to be an aero modeller.

We have started planning the trip to the Nationals this year in fact our bus is full already, and we are hoping for some good weather to get plenty of flying in. Our family Fly-in and family day will probably be in August but we can't set a date yet we have to consult with the micro lighters.

Terry Jones

Causeway Coast Model Flying Club

The 2018 season closed with our annual Club Lunch which was held this year in the Portrush Yacht Club clubhouse. Activity on the flightlines has been good, given the time of the year. Work is presently being undertaken on the runways to eradicate the worst of the humps and bumps that can

spell disaster for one's pride and joy. Such work is very dependant on weather and volunteers. Our events programme for this year is still under discussion and will be posted on the NIAA website accordingly. Early indications are that our membership numbers for 2019 may increase slightly.

Jeffrey Small, Chairman CCMFC read by Stanley McKeown

Craigavon Model Aircraft Club

Our flying afternoons, wed/sat & sun are still well supported despite the weather.

We're planning an open day around june/july when we will run our wot4 duration challenge again and hope to attract other clubs to have a go.

We're currently working on a control line model for the hobby king pulse jet which we hope to have ready for our summer events.

The Committee have agreed to go ahead with the installation of a wind turbine to maintain our battery powered electrical supply.

Website – craigavonmodelaircraft.com

e-mail – secretary@craigavonmodelaircraft.com

John Thick (Secretary CMAC)

East Antrim Model Aircraft Club

Have 20 members most of which are retirees there are only about 4 that can only get out on Saturdays the rest of us can get out any day and usually do, the weather hasn't been too bad and we haven't had to fly indoors and as we are nearly through February it looks like we won't have to go indoors

Sam Phenix

Lambeg Model Aircraft Club

Nothing much to report we have 13 members 6 registered to the BMFA the rest with UMAC we used the portal this year and had no difficulties, but appreciate the problems other clubs have mentioned.

Leslie Ward

Northern Ireland Model Soaring Association

A marked reduction in competitive flying was agreed at the club AGM, to try and encourage some of our less competitive flyers back out. Having said that we do intend to have some light hearted comps to the new F3RES rules, same model, pilot skill wins. Hopefully this will encourage more people to fly and call a halt to the "Arms Race" of top class, expensive models being flown in club comps. The full calendar of events is on our club website and has been passed to the Area Webmaster.

Bill Scott

North Down Model Aircraft Club

Current membership stands at 28 which is about the same as it was at this time last year. Hopefully as the weather warms up a few more will rejoin.

Club members were shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of a long serving member, the late Mr Bill Shanks, who died on 4 December aged just short of 91 years. Bill turned up faithfully at the flying site every Saturday, looking very dapper in jacket, tie and polished shoes. He was an old school gentleman whose presence is now greatly missed on the flight line.

In December, club members enjoyed a very successful Christmas dinner function in a local hotel.

Flying has continued throughout the winter with surprisingly good turn outs on the milder days.

Some smart new aircraft have appeared and some alas have disappeared into the great graveyard of mangled wreckage. Congratulations to two of our members who recently gained their A certificates flying on one of the windiest days of the year.

Most recently a group of club volunteers armed with nothing more than shovels and rakes spread 17 tonnes of aggregate to improve the uneven surface of the entrance to our laneway. Hopefully this work will result in a smoother arrival for cars into our site.

Maintaining the tradition of a summer trip, a group of six or seven from the club plan to travel to the LMA Cosford Airshow in July.

Peter Moore

The Chairman expressed his sadness at the passing of Bill Shanks who had been his neighbour for over forty years.

Seven Towers Aeromodelling Club

Nothing much to report 28 members we used the portal, there are issues with it but it works

David Ardis

South Derry Model Flying Club

14 full members flying Saturdays at present couple of dates for this year there on the calendar.

Sam Kirkpatrick

Ulster Model Aircraft Club

2019 membership for UMAC currently stands at 36 with a number of members still to renew.

Attracting new members to the club continues to be of concern to the committee.

An ever increasing number of long serving members are in poor health and unable to fly.

The UMAC 2018 AGM saw a number of changes in the committee. Louis Rea continues as site manager, Peter Edmundson moves into Chairman, Dereck Stevenson moves to Secretary. We welcome Stephen Allen in to the committee as Safety Officer and David Murchie as nob-exec Committee member.

Many Members took advantage of the mild weather over the Christmas and New Year holiday period flying more frequently than would have been expected for this time of year.

The 2019 UMAC calendar will be set out in a committee meeting at the end of February. However the first event should be round 1 of the club fun fly competition on March 23rd TBC followed by the Fly in on Easter Monday.

Peter Edmundson

Any Other Business

Craig Kane informed the meeting that during his time as Public Relations Officer he had arranged with the BMFA for them to provide a Gazebo and two sail Flags and wondered did they arrive, Craig Kane explained that it had all been agreed with Dave Phips and Andy Symmons.

Action:- The Vice Chairman took on the task of contacting the BMFA about this.

Bob Mclvor being present at the meeting was deservedly presented by the Chairman Maurice Doyle with the **Arthur Mullet** trophy for his Service to the Area as Treasurer over his very long stay in office, and received a rapturous applause from the meeting.



There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at *****.

Next Meeting 10th April 8pm Dungannon Swifts FC Social Club.

Signed Chairman

Signed Secretary

DRAFT