

BMFA Scotland Area Members' Meeting

Tuesday 11th March 2025, via Zoom

1. Apologies for absence

Graham Donaldson (Aberdeen and District Soarers), Norrie Kerr, Murat Kece, Richard Street, Nigel Miscampbell (Glenluce and Galloway Flyers), Neil Grayson (KRMFC)

2. Club attendance and establishing voting strength

See Appendix 1 for attendance

3. Minutes of previous meeting held on Wednesday 20th November 2024

- a. The previous minutes had been missed by some members due to the location being at the end of the AGM minutes, other members had the emails going into their junk, whilst others were asked to register with Microsoft to view the minutes. Alison stated that BMFA HQ are aware of the issue and were trying to get it sorted.
- b. Alison read the minutes out, whilst Mark posted them into the chat line.

4. Matters arising from minutes:

- c. D. Bouchard re SAA Training and Testing now resolved.
- d. Andy Pirie resigned as Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator. Bill Anderson has stepped in.
- e. SAA has agreed to joint Training and Testing events.
- f. It was made clear that individual clubs are required to invite BMFA examiners formally to their field for testing, the BMFA examiners cannot "invite themselves". 4 clubs have said yes to a joint BMFA/SAA session. It was agreed that the offer of paying 50% of the day fee (£75) should be offered.
- g. Falkirk Club had got back to Alasdair Sutherland regards to a fly-in, stating that it would be raised with members at the AGM in November 2025.

Proposed: David Bouchard (East Fortune)

Seconded: Douglas Cowan (Warrix)

Minutes accepted by majority of members.

5. Reports from officers

a. Chairman, Alasdair Sutherland

The BMFA gazebo is available to any club that requires it. It is being housed at present at the Clyde Valley Flyers.

Alasdair asked to clubs to think about events that could be held to promote the BMFA in Scotland.

The ratification of examiners process had changed. Alasdair reminded clubs should contact the BMFA head office direct as they should not go through the Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator, Bill Anderson.

It was also noted that every year it is the club's duty to ratify their club's examiners so that the list at the BMFA can remain current.

b. Treasurer, Mark Christie

Nothing to report apart from balance sits at £3,159.96

c. Secretary, Alison Hicks

Alison stated that she was settling in to the post but there are still a few hiccups with technology or procedures. She is also hoping to get some help from Andy Symons regarding the Scottish Area webpages on the BMFA portal.

She noted that we had received the minuted of the board meeting of the SAME and these should be available on the website.

The previous minutes of the Scottish area have been archived at the BMFA. However, there is an issue with members access to these as it appears that you need to sign in to Microsoft. This has been raised with BMFA head office and is being resolved.

There has been a few enquiries about possible training and testing days and also one grant application.

Finally, Alison wanted to thank the rest of the committee for their help and assistance whilst she settles in.

d. Area Delegate to BMFA, Iain Nichol

Nothing to report, except Club of the Year was taking place tonight.

e. Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator, Bill Anderson

Bill noted that there are only 8 BMFA examiners distributed through the 26 BMFA affiliated clubs. No examiners within Fife.

He requested that Alasdair Sutherland write to the clubs requesting members who might wish to become examiners to come forward.

The BMFA would like 2 examiners per club, in an ideal world.

The new test forms are on the website.

Derek Allison and David Fisher are fixed wing examiners, both at Warrix.

f. Drone Representative, Michael Williamson

Nothing to report

g. Country Member Representative

Alasdair Sutherland proposed Ken Ward

Ken stated he was happy to step in as representative. He flies around Perth area and uses drones for photography and archaeology.

6. Elections for vacant posts

a. Vice-chairman – remained empty

b. Flying Disciplines Representative – remained empty

c. Country Member Representative

Ken was voted into the position by David Storey (Clyde Vally Flyers) and seconded by Mark McDowel (Ayr and District)

d. Outreach Officer – remained empty

There was a discussion about the BMFA Central Outreach Officer has a budget of £5,000 to raise awareness of model flying and to facilitate weight lifting competition.

This post would be a benefit to all clubs as it could generate new members amongst the younger generations in particular. Groups such as air cadets, school, universities etc should be encouraged to visit clubs. The BMFA Scottish Area funding could be available to aid cash flow of clubs and fund matched from the main BMFA outreach fund.

7. Any other business

Mark Christie announced that he is stepping down as Treasurer and therefore a replacement will be needed.

Alex Kennedy (Warrix) asked about the number of members in Scotland. Alasdair Sutherland said there were around 800. The number is a little ambiguous due to the groupings – there are 388 whose main club is BMFA affiliated.

Mark Christie raised the budget spend. Funds spent as proposed.

Alasdair Sutherland broke down spending as per headings.

Elgin happy to host an event.

Iain Nichol asked what happens to any unspent funds at the end of the financial year. Alasdair Sutherland stated that any funds remaining will be offset from the next round of funding.

A general discussion was had about promoting the BMFA at the Ayr Airshow (5th and 6th September 2025). It was decided that the cost of a pitch and preparation required might be too much for this year but it should be looked into for next year. Douglas Cowan (Warrix) said he would try and find out who Alasdair Sutherland could contact. John Lang (Blackridge and District) shared a link about the Ayr Air show in the message tab.

Bill Anderson said that could the Angus club contact him directly about examining a member who wants to become an examiner. He said that it should be done on a separate weekend to the Training and Testing Weekend.

Bill Anderson also raised a concern about how the funding of an T and T event would be done with regards to the 50:50 split with the SAA if for example no BMFA members turn up on the day to be tested. Alasdair Sutherland stated he would look into the details.

8. Date of next meeting

24 June 2025

Mark Christie noted that in the Constitution these meetings should be aligned with area delegates meetings so that we can receive feedback for the area delegate and vote for the next area delegate items.

It was agreed to hold off proposing a September date.

Meeting closed at 8:40pm

Appendix 1: Attendees.

Name	Member of affiliated club?	Nominated club delegate?	Please enter the name of your club in full.
Iain Scott Bell	Yes	Yes	Angus
John Carson	Yes	Yes	Balbedie Aeromodelling Club
David Storey	Yes	Yes	Clyde Valley Flyers
Kenneth Ward	No	Yes	Country Member rep
Robert Tomlin	Yes	Yes	Dornoch MFC
David Bouchard	Yes	Yes	EAST FORTUNE AEROMODELLERS
Shaun Moat	Yes	Yes	Elgin Model Flying Club
John North	Yes	Yes	Inverurie and District Model Flying Club
Neil Grayson	Yes	Yes	Kinross Radio Model Flying Club
William Duvall	Yes	Yes	Livingston model flying club
Gerard gaynor	Yes	Yes	S W Model Flyers,
Iain Nicol	Yes	Yes	SW model flyers
Douglas Cowan	Yes	Yes	Warrix Flying Group
Mark McDowall	Yes	No	Ayr and District Model Flyers
Alex Mackie	Yes	No	Balbedie
John Lang	Yes	No	Blackridge & District Model Flying Club
Alison Hicks	Yes	No	Clyde Valley Flyers MAC
Alasdair Sutherland	Yes	No	Clyde Valley Flyers Model Aircraft Club
Chris Bodiam	Yes	No	Dallachy Aeromodellers
Thomas Smith	Yes	No	Dornoch model flying club
Robert Eadie	Yes	No	Elgin Model Flying Club
Mark Christie			Glenrothes/Balbedie
Eric Stephen	Yes	No	Inverurie
William Anderson	Yes	No	Livingston Model aircraft Club
Douglas Smith	Yes	No	MONTROSE MODEL AERO CLUB
Andy Rudden	Yes	No	S.W. Model Flyers
Alex Kennedy	Yes	No	WARRIX FLYING GROUP
Derrick Allison	Yes	No	Warrix Flying Group
Martin Clements	Yes	No	West Calder and District Model Flying Club
Ivor Robertson	Yes	No	West Calder Model Flying Club
Andrew Thomson	No		
Andy Symons	No		
Gary McFarlane	No		
Lawrence Shaw	No		
Michael Williamson	No		
Stephen O'Donnell	No		

apologies			
Graham Donaldson	Yes	No	Aberdeen & District Soarers
Nigel Miscampbell			Glenluce and Galloway
Neil Grayson			KRMFC
Murat Kece			
Norrie Kerr			
Richard Street			