

BMFA Scotland Area Members' Meeting

Tuesday 24th June 2025, via Zoom

1. Apologies for absence:

Iain Nicoll, David Bouchard, Alex Kennedy

2. Club attendance and establishing voting strength:

Alasdair Sutherland, Clyde Valley Flyers and Glengarnock (Chair)

Alison Hicks, Clyde Valley Flyers (Secretary)

Mark Christie, Glenrothes Aeromodelling Club – Rep (Treasurer)

Bill Anderson, Livingston Model Aircraft Club (Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator)

Michael Williamson, (Drone Area Representative)

Nigel Miscampbell, Glenluce and Galloway – Rep

Alex Mackie, Balbedie Aeromodelling Club – Rep

Colin Mccann, Warrix Flying Club – Rep

Shaun Moat, Elgin Model Flying Club – Rep

Iain Bell, Angus Model Flying Club – Rep

Rob Tomlin, Dornoch Model Flying Club – Rep

Eric Peacock, Livingston Model Aircraft Club – Rep

Loman Browne and Robert Eadie, Elgin Model Flying Club,

Thomas Smith, Dornoch Flying Club,

Derrick Allison and Douglas Cowan, Warrix Flying Club,

Mark McDowall, Ayr and District Model Flyers

3. Minutes of previous meeting held on Tuesday 11th March 2025

Proposed: Iain Bell Angus Model Flying Club

Seconded: Mark Christie Glenrothes Aeromodelling Club

Minutes accepted by majority of members.

There were no matters arising.

4. Reports from officers

a. Chairman, Alasdair Sutherland

“After the March meeting I attended the Dumbarton Club Bring & Buy sale, that was well attended. I flew both days at the April waterplane meeting at Lochearnhead, and at the Angus club opening weekend Fly-in. Very impressed by the site, the facilities offered, and the keenness of the membership. I also managed one day at Lochearnhead in June. Another of my clubs, the Garnock Valley club in North Ayrshire, managed two great days of waterplane flying in ideal weather. And last weekend I had a good day out on the Saturday at the Cumbernauld Club’s midsummer Fly-in, with lots of models present, an entertaining bit of R/C combat flying and great food.

The Clyde Valley Flyers was involved yet again with Strathclyde University, and I was their test pilot. We had ninety students involved this year, designing and building fifteen tennis-ball carrying models, and we all had a lot of fun test flying the models and then competing. See the Area website for more details. I would encourage any other model club that can, to engage with a local University and get involved in the BMFA competition or anything similar.

Last month Alison our secretary and myself were coached in website management by Andy Symons and have been able to add some new content to the Area website. We hope that you found it of interest, and I encourage clubs, special interest groups and individuals to send interesting material that we can add to the website. A few photos and a bit of text is always welcome, but I can’t promise any artistic or flamboyant content.”

b. Treasurer, Mark Christie

Screen shared of accounts see Appendix 1, 2025 06 June Treasurers report for members meeting.

Additional to the report Mark detailed that the BMFA Central appears to have taken £50 from the grant twice, Mark disagrees with this and is in consultation with BMFA at present for a resolution.

Mark noted that BMFA Scotland Area received an anonymous donation of £51 on the 16th June.

We now have to pay bank charges of £4.25 per month

Mark ended by stating the Area has £4,345.98 in the bank and no cash.

c. Secretary, Alison Hicks

Alison said that the last 3 months had gone quick. Alasdair and herself have been using the website more and pushing ahead with updating the site. There had been not much correspondence. Her club, Clyde Valley Flyers, had hosted the University of Strathclyde Engineering Departments heavy lift competition. It is heartening to see such enthusiasm for model flying with the younger generation but out of eighty odd students none have returned to the field for trial flights outside of the course.

d. Area Delegate to BMFA, Iain Nichol

Not present and nothing to report.

e. Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator, Bill Anderson

Bill explained that he had been in discussions with Bob Nellis about Bob becoming the BMFA Area Chief Examiner for Fife and he has accepted.

At Caplaw T & T weekend we had Nick Reeves (Ayr and District Model Club) as Area examiner. We had 3 fixed wing A tests and an aerobatic C test.

Nick Reeves attended Warrix Club for a club examiner test fixed wing and also an A test.

Bill attended Livingston Club for a club examiner test fixed wing test and Bill noted that the new examiner was at the meeting, Eric Peacock.

So to date this year we have:

1 x Area Chief Examiner

2 x Club Examiners
1 x Aerobatic C test
4 x A test fixed wing

Still to do:

2 x Club examiners fixed wing at the Angus Club
1 x Club examiner Helicopter at the Burns Club
1 x A test fixed wing at Elgin, Loman Browne; who is also interested in becoming a club examiner too.

Bill noted how the Elgin Club have been in discussions with Bill about possible tests and examiners but due to their geographic position he has been trying to get members down to the Angus Club for training and testing.

East Fortune have been in touch about hosting a training and testing event.

Bill finished by congratulating all the flyers that have passed their tests at all the different awards and he also thanked all the examiners for their support.

f. Drone Representative, Michael Williamson

28th June Scottish FPV Championships at Glenrothes.

Grey Arrows Drone Club, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, are having a meet up on Monday 4th August.

FPV Drone Festival 8 – 10th August but no location stated yet. Michael wondered if we could have a BMFA presence at this event.

Michael also mentioned that there is a push by the government for remote IDs for drones and quadcopters by the end of the year. Alasdair said that information could be uploaded to the Area website/news items.

g. Country Member Representative

Not present and nothing to report.

5. Elections for vacant posts

Alasdair noted his disappointment that the three following posts are still not filled:

- h. Vice-chairman – remains empty
- i. Flying Disciplines Representative – remains empty
- j. Outreach Officer – remains empty

6. Zoom

When the BMFA Scotland Area was set up a couple of years ago BMFA HQ provided money for the Area committee to set up its own Zoom account for it and the Area affiliated clubs to make use of for meetings. Whilst the Area got up and running Andy Symons hosted the meetings for the Area via the BMFA Central Zoom account.

Alex Mackie, Balbedie, proposed setting up the Area Zoom account and Iain Bell, Angus, seconded the proposal. After a discussion followed about pros and cons of having a paid Area account; Mark pointed out that the money from Central which is ear marked for Zoom would be omitted from the budget if we do not pay for the Zoom account. At the close of the discussion all delegates agreed for the committee to purchase an Area Zoom account for the Area committee and all affiliated clubs to be able to use for their committee meetings.

7. Paying Fees to clubs for use of their fields for Training and Testing Days.

Alasdair explained that at the previous meeting in March the members had discussed and agreed to provide payments to clubs for use of their fields for training and testing days there had been no vote. Therefore, to enact the proposed payments a vote is required.

The proposal being presented by the Glenrothes club, Mark Christie is:

Where training and testing events are organised with the agreement of BMFA Scotland officers and the host club and attended by BMFA-approved examiners for the benefit of BMFA members in the Scotland region.

The host club will receive a donation from BMFA Scotland, which will not exceed £75 per day that their facility has booked for the event.

The fee will apply to standalone BMFA training and testing organised events, and joint events organised with the SAA.

Joint events will be split cost 50% with SAA. Again, not to exceed £75 per day in total.

The donation level will be reviewed annually by the officers. And be proposed to the membership should changes be required to the £75 per day cap.

Seconded by Elgin Flying Club, Shaun Moat.

Passed unanimously by voting members.

Mark Christie pointed out that last year, BMFA Scotland Area had £500 for supporting club events, which covers training and testing weekends and this had not been spent. This year, there is an additional £300 for Club events. The Area has committed to paying four training and testing days.

8. Fly-in Event

Alasdair raised the issue of a Fly-in event has still not taken place and there had been a budget of £500 granted to the Area for a fly-in. But it has been difficult to get a club and suitable site.

Iain Bell, Angus Club, provided a catch up with the problems that the club is having with noise complaints and planning permission, this has caused the club to pause their fly-in event offer of hosting.

Glenrothes Club, Mark Christie, proposed that the committee should go ahead and arrange a fly-in event. Either BMFA only or a joint one with the SAA if we can find a suitable venue and date.

Seconded by Angus Model Flying Club, Iain Bell.

Vote was carried by 6 voting members.

9. AOC.

Bill Anderson raised concerns about the lack of club representatives attending these Area meetings leading to decisions being made that may be contradictory to what clubs want.

Alasdair noted that Bill had sent communications to him about this but Alasdair said that it is up to the individual clubs to present a representative and if a club does not want to do that then its up to that club and its members. However, the committee will continue to urge clubs to contribute to the direction the Area takes by presenting a representative for the meetings.

Eric Peacock said he only sporadically gets emails; some members attending the meeting did not receive the email announcing the agenda for the meeting. Alison was going to check whether certain members emails are actually on the distribution list and she will talk to Head Office.

Access to the minutes was also raised by Dornoch Model Flying Club's Rob Tomlin as they are not attached to emails as was previously done. Alison noted that now the minutes will be housed on the BMFA Scotland site and in the BMFA archives. A link to the minutes will be provided on the emails sent out regarding meetings and the recipients can then access and download the minutes if they want to. It was agreed that a copy of the minutes would be sent to club secretaries.

Mark McDowall raised the possibility of men's shed might be a good source of new members and he would check this out before the next meeting.

Next meeting agreed: Tuesday 23rd September 2025, 7pm via Zoom.

Meeting closed 8:20pm.

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