



British Model Flying Association Southern Area

southern.bmfa.uk

Minutes to be ratified at the next meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on the 29th January

Venue: - The Ship Inn, 41 Old Redbridge Road, Southampton, Hampshire. SO15 0NN

Start Time: 7.30 hrs pm

Apologies:

Martin Dance & Andy Warlow – Reading MAC;

Ron Gardner - Romsey Electric Flyers

Barry Lever – Southampton MAC

ACEs - Ken Gale & Pete Willis.

The meeting commenced with Tony Butterworth thanking everyone for taking the time to attend (22 attendees in all), he explained that this was a general fact-finding meeting following the AGM to both communicate to the area's clubs what the Area does and how it can help clubs as and when required. The Area also needed to fill the vacant positions on the committee.

A presentation followed to outline the area's activities and all attendees were all given a copy of the presentation to retain. (below are the relevant parts this.) It was hoped that the presentation would answer many of the questions that had arisen from the survey recently sent out to all clubs prior to the meeting.

Elected Officers:

- Chairman – Tony Butterworth
- Vice Chairman – David Smith
- Council Delegate – David Smith
- Treasurer – Terry Weeks
- Secretary – Tom Wood (co-opted at the meeting)
- Achievement Scheme Coordinator – Dave Burstow (temporary)
- Free Flight Secretary – Roger Newman
- RC silent flight coordinator – Terry Weeks
- **RC power flight coordinator – vacant**
- Dorset rep – Dave Burstow
- Beaulieu MFC link – Richard Sharman

Other flying discipline coordinators welcome (Indoor, multirotor / FPV, etc.)

Current Strategy – Tony Butterworth:

- Continue to support and develop all aeromodelling activity within our area.
- Improve communication with Area clubs
- Improve Area website. Club submissions always welcome. 100-150 hits per week
- Offer club visits to talk with club members and get feedback on key issues
- Organize events for local pilots – fly-ins, Balsa Brain quiz
- Area Newsletters – aim for 2 per year
- Provide hardware and financial support for clubs to organize events
- Provide a vehicle for local clubs to submit feedback to the BMFA
- Succession planning
- Social Media?

Annual Activities – Terry Weeks:

95% of the Area grant is spent on activities for local modelers

- License fees for airfields (Middle Wallop, Odiham, Trundle)
- Indoor flying subsidies
- Achievement Scheme – Examiners – workshops – club talks – local training sessions
- Hardware for loan – marquees, flight sim, generator, banners.
- Trophies and prizes for Area competitions – provided free to clubs
- Risk fund to cover an event not breaking even, e.g. through bad weather

Other activity

- Public relations: Display stands at National and Area shows
- Flightfest events
- From 2020 elected officers may claim basic travel expenses

Club Support activities – Terry Weeks.

Website

- Local events calendar
- Links to Area clubs
- List of club talks

Practical support

- Risk assessments – site layouts – insurance reviews for club events
- Direct support if you need information from BMFA
- If your club is experiencing problems – flying sites etc – we may be able to help
- Changes in legislation – need clarification – we can help
- Contacts for other local clubs – skills etc – we can help
- Got an idea for improvement – we can help

Links to central BMFA – David Smith.

The Council Delegate is the official link between Area Committee and the BMFA, he is a director of the BMFA

- Attends all Full Council and Area Council meetings (in Leicester)
- Presents the views of the Area Committee
- Provides feedback to the Area Committee on central BMFA issues
- Networks with delegates from other areas

The Area Committee

- Debates topics on the Council agendas prior to the meetings
- May request an agenda item to be included in Council meetings
- Can request assistance from BMFA central

A question and answer session followed notes of this were as follows:

General observations: Apart from the Committee.

Only 10 attendees had visited the new website;

Only 3 confirmed receipt of a newsletter;

Only 1 had attended a S A Event.

When considering what we have on offer to support clubs, none appeared to be aware that we were prepared to attend clubs to give talks, none were aware of the equipment available on loan, none were aware that we have a contingency fund to mitigate a loss made at an open event or that we were willing to provide trophies free of charge for clubs that run open events.

(Open events are those available to all S Area members, not just internal club events.)

Communications:

It soon became obvious that this was an area that needed much work or everything else would fail. As well as a Website a Facebook page is to be developed, the latter being a better tool for communications when linked to the website.

Actions:

1. First and foremost, get the database of email addresses of club officials and club websites updated from the top down, Dave Smith and Shaun Webb to sort this area and ensure that both the HO and SA databases are correct and maintained.
2. James Hounslow kindly offered to set up the Facebook facility.
3. Different venues to be located to hold area meetings to better serve what is a very large area, maybe the offer of using Popham facilities would be good as one of these, especially the AGM.
4. Following the meeting Keith Miller of Skylarks suggested we run a "Chairman & Secretaries" seminar to further enhance communications at club level, maybe inviting Andy Symons, again somewhere like Popham would be ideal for this. (These used to be run by HO years ago but have long since ceased.)

Events:

It was obvious that most were not up to date with our events calendar or have used it to promote their own events. A view was expressed that many potential flyers are put off from attending events by not having the confidence to fly amongst "strangers" or were not qualified to take part. Part of the problem here was poor advertising of the event in not making it clear it was for all to take part whatever the class of model to be flown or the qualification level of the pilot. This point was taken on board and will be corrected for future events.

Again, it was suggested that smaller Fly-In type events for all classes of models run locally would be more popular especially if combined with a bring-and-buy stand and a BBQ.

Area Committee:

There was a misunderstanding among the attendees about the operation of the Area Committee meetings, many were not aware all could attend without being invited, and that all attendees could participate. Tom Wood from the Bracknell club volunteered to be the Area Secretary and was co-opted onto the committee with thanks at the meeting. Details of all the officers of the committee and their roles are on the website.

In Conclusion:

The meeting opened with the slide presentation at 7:30pm and this was concluded at 8:10pm, the rest of the meeting by intention being an open question and answer session until around 10:15pm.

There were no negative comments at all during the meeting everyone showed a positive intention to help promote the area, many volunteering to participate in resolving many of the issues raised as in need improvement. We felt that the majority were not, just not aware of all our efforts, but were probably surprised at what they learned. Thus, we believe the meeting was very worthwhile and gives us a good foundation for future development of the area in 2020.