



British Model Flying Association Southern Area

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Minutes to be ratified at the next meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st April 2020

Venue: - Minutes raised following a virtual accumulation of reports due to the COVID 19 restrictions.

Start Time: 7.30 hrs pm

| Contributors: | S Area Position: | Club(s): |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Tony Butterworth FSMAE | Chairman | Waltham Chase |
| David Smith | Vice Chairman / Area Delegate | Helipad |
| Tom Wood | Hon Secretary | BADMAC |
| Terry Weeks | Hon Treasurer / RC SF Rep / Web | ASF; Skylarks & MVSA |
| Dave Burstow | ASC Co-Ord / Dorset Op's support | Eagles |
| Roger Newman | Free flight Rep | Bournemouth MAC |

Apologies:

Richard Sharman West Hampshire Op's Support BMFC.

Those listed above constitutes the Committee for 2020.

1.0 The minutes of the 11th September were reviewed and accepted. Prop: Sec:

2.0 Officers reports:

Chairman: Currently all aeromodelling events to my knowledge have been cancelled to at least end of June. I am aware that many organisations are hoping to provide a small number of events later in the year however that all depends on government guidelines as and when released... Under such conditions we are limited to actions we can take however I suggest that the following are worthy of consideration --

1) The open meeting in January was very productive in that we did receive a positive reaction from many members clubs who previously we have had no contact with. The general atmosphere within the meeting was very positive and constructive with a willingness to help and support resolve current issues.

2) It was frustrating to record that the majority of members at that open meeting had not visited our web site or were aware of its existence.

3) The majority of attendees advised that they were not attracted by the events that we had organised and would rather visit there local club site. Part of their reluctance to attend was not knowing the venues we had chosen to hold the event and clarity on the sort of models that we were hoping would attend.

4) The support from Popham was not expected but has provided opportunities for the future - just when we have lost Middle Wallop to then have the opportunity to work with Popham is indeed a very positive step forward .

The January open meeting was also productive in providing new ideas on how to solve some of the problems that were recorded at the meeting, and we should also note the offers of help that were also submitted. It was also rewarding to welcome Tom onto our committee as secretary, great to have a younger member with no doubt some new ideas to help us improve.

Promoting Popham...

So perhaps (considering the comments above) we should use this down time to prepare for the future. Comment 3 above suggest we need to rethink our approach to attracting members to the events we organise and in that vein maybe in the coming months we introduce Popham as a venue and future model flying site to our members in the Southern Area on our web site. Maybe we could request some history of the airfield from Mike and get some pictures so that over the coming months we can add this to our web site and gradually ensure our readers receive a warm feeling about the venue and also about the interesting aircraft and facilities it offers. This way when eventually we do get a date and event sorted then any concerns over the venue will be resolved and hopefully everyone will be keen to visit the venue. Likewise maybe some pictures from the local club on the range of models that are flown at this venue would help - and the flying filed layout with clubhouse, all good promotional stuff. Would also like to give some credit to the local club at Popham who are working to develop modelling at this site.

I have visited Popham with other committee members to review options for a future event at this site, and received a very welcoming reception. I have offered to distribute promotional leaflets around my contacts for other events in the South so will follow this up later.

Communication....

The lack of awareness of our web site was followed by some ideas on improving communication. The idea for a WhatsApp group, even if only including one key member from each club was interesting. If we can find willing member in each club got to be worth a try. I am aware that when members do visit our web site they find it useful so it's just about that initial introduction. I know Dave was working on contacts list so worth pursuing in my mind.

Maybe in the coming months a newsletter sent round would help keep local clubs aware of what we are doing. Knowing that our web site does not reach all at present maybe an S/A newsletter would be positive move to keep all informed of what's going on and maybe encourage them to visit our web site. We know that David was challenging concern over the quality of the BMFA club data base at council meetings - are we aware of any progress on this matter. Club and member ratification should be complete by now so be good to know if we have an improved data base to work with, how can we check?? .

The increase in the annual budget granted for 2020 is a welcome improvement. However i suggest that it is important that we continue to show that we have used this grant in a productive manner rather than seeing our bank balance just inflate. Maybe with the lack of events we can expect to organise this year we can consider using some of this revenue to improve infrastructure and communications tools within the area. Possibly it's also time to hold an audit of all the hardware and items that we own and if we need repair and update work then let's create an action list and see if we can get the work completed. Likewise is there anything that we can add to our current inventory that will help us in the future.

General business in the BMFA is continuing and I have received notification of the proposed process to be used in the coming months while we resolve the virus issue. Please see note attached

Vice Chairman's report: I attended the BMFA AGM on 16 November, and Full Council on 11 January. I also helped to man the BMFA stand at the London Model Engineering Exhibition 16-19 January.

Following the poor attendance at the Area AGM Andy Symons (Club Support Officer) and I set up a survey of Southern Area clubs to gauge the level of support for the Area and encourage clubs to become more involved. We had 20 responses, though some of these were duplicates. There was strong support for the continued existence of the Area, and the good turn-out this evening is testament to that.

Area funding is changing for 2020, with an additional £5k being available, a 25% increase on 2019. We have made a strong case to increase our budget for 2020, and I am hopeful that we will be given what we have asked for. Some Areas with large reserves will see their grant cut to bring them in line with Areas like ours.

There is a lot of pressure from Areas Council to review the structure of the BMFA to bring the archaic structure into the 21st century and reduce some of the bureaucracy; hopefully I will have more detail of this after the next Full Council meeting in May.

I am saddened that Pete Willis has resigned his BMFA membership; his departure from the Southern Area Committee will leave a big hole, but I wish him well for the future. My thanks to Mark Benns, BMFA Hon Sec and Chairman of Areas Council, and to Andy Symons, for their strong support of the Area Committee over the past few months.

Secretary's report: Due to the poor weather and the corona virus outbreak, I have very little to report, however, I am pleased to introduce myself as the new secretary for the Southern Area BMFA, and look forward to working with the rest of the committee once the world turns back to normal.

Treasurer's / committee member's report:

Please refer to the balance sheets provided tonight, it shows our current balance of **£3786.45** as at the 31st March 2020 this takes into account the income and expenditure during the year to March 2020. This is an increase of £130.00 on the year instead of the anticipated loss of £58.42, this is due largely to the A/S Workshop planned not taking place and some expenses having been paid.

The year to March 31st, 2021 is also shown, due to the change in the grant this year, as advised by David in March, instead of an estimated loss on the year of £767.23 our assets will actually increase by £13.30, effectively breaking even. However, the move to Abingdon from Odiham is showing a loss of £317.00 but as SAM 35 has been invited to share the facility this loss is likely to be reduced. The expenses to be paid to the committee this year is a bit of an unknown quantity but it likely to be less than forecast not more. Our Annual loss would thus be reduced to around £450.00 or less.

Notes on the accounts:

1. As agreed from 2020 expenses will be paid to the officers of the committee, these will be paid by BACS following each meeting and the amount paid out shown on the accounts at the following meeting. I will also show the balance of expenses that are budgeted for, assuming all attend each of the Area meetings.

Committee member's report:

I attended the LMEE exhibition from the 16th to the 19th January inclusive at the Alexander Palace.

4 S. Area Esoaring competitions have been planned for 2020, again hosted by the Alton Silent Flyers at East Worldham, the dates being 24th May; 7th June; 26th July and the 6th September. **These now cancelled until further notice,**

Committee member's report cont'd:

I will attend the "Wartime Wallop" planning meeting at Middle Wallop, yet to be arranged, to assess what is required from the area, but already this is conformed to be both a static and flying display as in previous years, the date is the 25th May.

I will be attending the Odiham Families day this year with Peter Carter and several other invited modellers to put on a static display, the date has yet to be finalised due to the runway being re-surfaced.

I will also be attending the Popham Airshow on the 16 / 17th May; the Free-Flight Gala at Abingdon on the 12th July and the Meadstead model show run by the Modellbau UK model shop on the 1st & 2nd August.

Finally, I will be attending the 2020 Balsa Brain event: For the third year acting as Quiz Master.

All subject to any COVID 19 restrictions.

AS Co-ord report: Nothing to report. Very little (outdoor) flying going on, and no Achievement Scheme activity at present. Local events and a possible date for an Examiners' Workshop in abeyance awaiting virus developments.

3.0 Matters arising from the last minutes / Events planned:

3.1

3.2a Airshow at Popham 16th / 17th May.

3.2b S Area Free Flight Gala at Abingdon 12th July.

3.2c Meadstead Model Show 1st / 2nd August.

3.3 After asking us to add the Poster for the trundle to be added to the S Area Website they have decided not to supply the poster as “they want to keep it low profile”. As a result of this we have decided not to continue with the subsidy. The vast majority of external flyers are from the MVSA and the two clubs have arranged a special deal with each other to allow access to the MVSA sites.

3.4 Wartime Wallop attendance confirmed for the 25th May.

3.5 Balsa Brain date to be set, questions and answers please with photos.

4.0 Delegates reports:

4.1 **Free flight report.** Appalling weather in the early part of this year has contrived to decimate free flight activities in the Area. There have been two area meetings in early March, with a very sparse attendance at Beaulieu - both of which were subject to quite high winds & rain. Sport flying has been non-existent. Now with the coronavirus lockdown in place, it is unlikely that there will be any activity in the near future. Meetings up to & through July have already been cancelled or postponed. Hopefully the planned meeting at RAF Colerne for 9th August can go ahead, but it is still too early to be sure.

4.2 **Silent flight report.**

Four Southern Area Esoaring competitions have been planned for 2020, again hosted by the Alton Silent Flyers at East Worldham, the dates being 24th May; 7th June; 26th July and the 6th September. I will be giving a talk to the Petersfield club on Esoaring, now deferred to later in the year.

4.3 **Alton Silent Flyers, Skylarks and MVSA Club-delegate reports.**

Both the Skylarks and MVSA have decided to enforce a minimum “A” certificate requirement to fly solo at their sites. To this end I have taken 4 S/Flight “A” certificates at the Skylarks site and 12 S/Flight Slope “A” certificates at Butser Hill for the MVSA, a commendable decision by both clubs. The Alton Silent Flyers continue to thrive, their AGM took place on the 19th November.

5.0 Future Meeting venues / days:

Wednesdays was by far the preferred day from the survey replies.

Venues: Popham – AGM; Meetings and Balsa Brain?

Crown at Kingsclere – Meetings?

Other venues?

6.0 Any other business:

6.1 Subsidy for the purchase of a “Night Vapour” for WCA indoor training? (New c £80.00)
Agreed at Popham meeting £60.00 and paid.

The next meeting to be held on the 24th June at the At 7:30 pm

Attendees present: Virtual meeting only see top of minutes for contributors.