



# British Model Flying Association Southern Area

[southern.bmfa.uk](http://southern.bmfa.uk)

Minutes to be ratified at the next meeting

## Minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Venue: - Held Via Zoom Meeting

Start Time: 7.30 hrs pm

Present:	S Area Position:	Club(s):
Tony Butterworth	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
Richard Sharman	West Hampshire Opp's Support	BMFC.
<b>Apologies:</b>		
Dave Burstow	ASC Co-Ord / Dorset Opp's support	Eagles
Roger Newman	Free-flight Rep	Bournemouth MAC

Those listed above constitutes the elected officers for 2020.

### Reports

#### Chairman – Tony Butterworth

After attending the Popham face to face meeting on 8th July, I received 2 actions, and the results of which are as follows -

**Conflict with other events** - I can now report that old Warden dates for 2021 have been moved to back end of May, I have also been informed that other local shows in Dorset and Wiltshire held in May time have selected dates that do not conflict with the proposed dates for Popham, action closed

**Source display pilots to support the Popham show** -- I can report that I now have support promised from the following - **Ghost Squadron** - large scale models plus scale aero towing gliders (always provide a good show and will bring a large selection of models with possibly some 5-10 pilots); Will Gilliam and Wayne Broom who have supported the Southern Area for many years at RN Yeovilton shows (these guys will probably supply some 10-20 experienced show pilots); Paul Metcalfe who flies classic jets and large scale WW2 models. All these guys are well aware of the facilities at Popham and expressed a desire to help develop a local model show at this venue. I still have a potential GBRCAA pilot who may provide a display and also SAM 35 who are keen to help promote this event as well. To my mind this level of support should be more than adequate to enable planning to proceed to the next stage.

I have also received 2 requests for achievement scheme tests, initially one for completion of 4 A-test and also a request for a club examiner test. Solent MAC requested A-tests for 4 of their members, and after arranging dates, Dave Burstow attended their site on 5th September and completed 5 A-tests. Dave will provide more detail but he was very complimentary on Solent MACS approach to the test - so well done to this club.

The request for the club examiner involved a member of a local club who were unable to allow external visitors to their site which is on MOD land. Thankfully with support from Richard Sharman we were able to resolve this issue by providing a 6-month Beaulieu pass (reduced cost for 6 months) allowing the candidate to fly and complete the test at Beaulieu MFC. This was accepted by the candidate who is currently working away from home however on his return we are ready to

complete this test. I would like to thank Dave Burstow and Richard Sharman for their support on sorting the issues involved with these tests. Many clubs are making use of booking systems to schedule flying times in a Covid-secure manner, which makes it difficult to allocate spare time to take a test, however we found a solution.

We have seen Model shows starting again and I am aware that BMFA Buckminster has already held several events. Old Warden have organised 4 full size drive in air shows and Model air is planned for the 19th and 20th of September. Having attended 2 of the Old Warden events so far they seem to have the social distancing aspect under control and it will be interesting to view the Model air event where it is hoped to run F/flight - RC and control line events at the site over the weekend. They also plan to run a swap meet and bring /buy stalls - again under the discipline of Old Warden so will be interesting to see the procedures implemented on the day.

### **Vice Chairman/Area Delegate – David Smith**

Since the June meeting I have been active in commenting on the development of the Membership Questionnaire on the new Areas Council on-line forum, and also with discussions on the proposal to revise the layout of the Member's Handbook on the new Full Council on-line forum. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Areas Council Zoom EGM on 28 August to finalise the Membership Questionnaire, but did send in my vote to support the proposal.

I attended a face-to-face meeting at Popham on 8 July, with other members of this Committee, to discuss the outline plans for the Popham Gala being held over the weekend of 8/9 May 2021.

The Areas Council on-line questionnaire will be formally proposed at the Zoom meeting of Full Council on Saturday 19 September. A link to the questionnaire will be circulated to all members and made available on various public social media platforms. The responses to the questions, from both members and non-members, will inform the strategic review of the BMFA being carried out by the Executive (see the Chairman's article in the April BMFA News).

Once again this year the Autumn meeting of Areas Council on Saturday 10 October falls on the same weekend as the Association for Helicopter Aerosports Charmouth event. I will request permission from Mark Benns to be absent from the Areas Council meeting (which will probably be by Zoom) as Charmouth is a regular BMFA Specialist Body event. If Charmouth is cancelled I shall of course attend the Areas Council meeting.

If the London Model Engineer Exhibition goes ahead in January 2021 (no date yet advertised) I shall not be attending as part of the Southern Area support group as I regard the Covid-19 risk as too great.

BMFA Centenary 2022. A reminder that the BMFA Chairman has asked for members to submit ideas for celebrating this milestone, for consideration by the Executive.

Flying resumed at both Helipad Model Club and Romsey Electric Flyers as soon as lockdown was lifted. There have been no issues at either club, despite the restricted space at the Romsey site.

Indeed, Helipad has gained six new members since lockdown was lifted with a further two individuals having recently expressed an interest in joining.

### **Treasurer/Silent Flight Report**

Please refer to the balance sheets provided for tonight, it shows our current balance of £5522.51 as at the 31st August 2020 this takes into account the income and expenditure to date. You will note that the Ship Inn has failed to bank the cheque for the 29th January meeting, so I have deleted this from the accounts.

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 £1121.06. I have left some of the planned expenditure in red on the balance sheet, but the

situation is still fluid. Some of the shown expenditure may not occur but if for example the Free-Flight gala should be re-arranged before March 31st our expenditure could increase considerably. As things stand our average grant of £1529.00, increased to £2290.00 last year, could be reduced in 2021 to £964.00 to maintain the end of year balance achieved for the 2019/20 period. For future years this should rise again to £1990.00 to maintain our planned expenditure.

The 2020 Free-Flight Gala: Peter Carter in discussion with Abingdon and Bill Longley (SAM 35) to re-arrange this in early 2021.

I attended the initial Popham model show meeting on the 5th July to discuss basic framework of the show and view the actual site, great possibilities. A follow up meeting is planned for the 16th September to assess progress so far and generally get down to some more details. I have designed an initial Pilot's registration form and sent a copy to you all but so far only Ray has put forward any names to take part.

At the request of Duncan McClure I agreed to take a SF Slope B test for Jonathan Smith of the West Mendip Soaring Association, he is already a club examiner fixed wing and this will allow him to extend this to include S Flight examinations. When advising Jonathan of Popham, asking him to put the word around, this was met with a very enthusiastic response and he agreed to get several quality display pilots organised and let me know. (Large Jets and Helicopters were mentioned.)

The "Wartime Wallop" event at Middle Wallop, is set for the 31st May next year. I hope to be attending the 2021 Odiham Families day with Peter Carter to put on the usual static display, an event this year at present seems to be unlikely. I will be attending the Meadstead model show if arranged, again next year.

Skylarks, MVSA and Alton Silent Flyers are all continuing their activities whilst adhering to the recommended Government restrictions.

### **Free Flight Report – Roger Newman**

Once again, very little to report.

Permission to fly again has been received for Beaulieu & Area 8 of Salisbury Plain, effectively as from 1st August.

The FFTC has issued a guideline note in anticipation of competition flying recommencing. Currently the Crookham Gala & Croydon Coupe Day/SAM 1066 day are planned for 13th Sept & 17th Oct respectively, both events to be held on Area 8 of Salisbury Plain, dependent on the on-going Covid-19 situation. The 6th & 7th Area events are planned for both venues on 20th Sept & 11th Oct, likewise subject to possible Covid-19 restrictions.

A very modest amount of sport flying activity has taken place during the time since flying resumed.

### **1.0 Events**

There is a possibility to hold Southern Area events at RAF Odiham, but due to the nature of being an RAF site, more organisation needs to be made for entry of the public.

RAF Abingdon is also a potential site for holding SABMFA events in the future.

### **2.0 Popham**

The agenda for the meeting regarding the Popham air show has been distributed to those involved, and potential pilots for the show have been contacted.

### **3.0 Online presence**

The SABMFA Facebook page has been created and has the events that have been planned added, although many have since been cancelled due to Covid-19. Terry Weeks to contact James Hounslow regarding the collaboration between the website and Facebook page.

A newsletter is to be sent out to all member clubs to give an update based on the first half of 2020, making the presence of the Facebook page known, and to ask all clubs for a link to their websites in order to add them to the main SABMFA website.

#### **4.0 Indoor flying**

An email is to be sent to find out what the current plan for indoor flying will be for the 2020/2021 indoor flying season, and how it is affected by Covid-19.

#### **5.0 Encouraging local clubs to visit website**

To promote visits to the SABMFA Website, an email will be sent around to club secretaries, advertising the launch of the new Facebook page, and encouraging members to visit. Once the meeting at Popham has taken place, there will be more news spread advertising the event, and informing the Southern area about the event and how they can get involved

#### **6.0 Reports**

No matters arising

#### **7.0 Next Meeting – AGM**

The next meeting is the Southern Area AGM on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. Due to the current Corona virus situation, the meeting will be limited to the elected officers, and all clubs will be informed of the agenda before the meeting, and given a review after to keep them connected.

#### **AOB**

Nothing to report

**The next meeting to be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November via Zoom**