



# **British Model Flying Association Southern Area**

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

Minutes to be ratified at the 2021 AGM meeting

## **Minutes of the AGM meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Venue: - Held Via Zoom Meeting

Start Time: 6.30 hrs pm

<b>Present:</b>	<b>S Area Position:</b>	<b>Club(s):</b>
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
Richard Sharman	West Hampshire Opp's Support	BMFC.
James Hounslow	Visitor	SOUTH HANTS
HELIS		
Kenneth Knox	Visitor	CADMAC Delegate
& Border		
Ray Cox	Visitor	Popham Aero
modellers		
Alan Wallington	Visitor	Waltham Chase
Paul Newell	Visitor	Hornets MFC

### **1. Apologies for absence and welcome to any visitors**

Dave Burstow	ASC Co-Ord / Dorset Opp's support	Eagles
Roger Newman	Free flight Rep	Bournemouth
MAC		

### **2. review of previous AGM minutes dated 13th November 2019**

Comments, None Proposed by T. Weeks Seconded by D. Smith

### **3. Officers Reports in order as listed below**

#### **3.1 Chairman's Report – T Butterworth**

The year started under difficult circumstances with the previous AGM unable to elect a full set of officers for the area committee. Much work was completed in contacting all member clubs requesting support and enquiring as to their views ref the importance and contribution made by the Southern Area committee. This culminated in an open area meeting in February that saw a substantial number of club reps attending as well as a vote in favour of the area committee and the work we have

tried to complete. There were several key positives that were identified at this open meeting these being ---

- 1) An acknowledgement that the area committee did serve a useful purpose
- 2) The meeting identified members prepared to accept committee positions
- 3) Positive ideas were tabled on how to improve communications within the area between committee and member clubs
- 4) Support offered to help develop a Facebook page and develop links between various sites to increase awareness of the Southern Area BMFA web site.
- 5) Popham management attended the meeting and this introduction has fed the development of a closer relationship between the area committee and Popham with interesting objectives being pursued for the future

The overall meeting was a success however it did identify that more needed to be done within the area to improve communication and highlighting of area objectives. It was indeed sad to reflect that many at that open meeting had not visited our web site and were not aware of the many opportunities for support we have offered i.e. speakers for winter club meets - financial support for club events - procurement of trophies for open area club events - the inventory of hardware (marquees, banners, flight sims, support for risk reviews and event planning etc.) that were available without cost to member clubs for their own use etc. That said the support gained from this meeting did provide the necessary confidence to enable us to focus on moving forward again albeit with some new objectives in place.

The award of an increased area grant from central BMFA I feel justifies the considerable work that we have completed over past years in trying to grow the area. Our continual search to find airfields (locations) with willing owners prepared to help us - our links with local organisations public events to keep model flying in the public eye and working with other sectors to help develop partnerships (Bovington) that will hopefully grow is key to our survival . The Balsa Brain end of year social event (an event with some 33 year old heritage) has been cancelled this year but is planned to be held again in 2021. Up till now the cost of the majority of these development activities has been absorbed by individual committee members so the additional funds received will be of immense help moving forward.

The arrival of Covid in March however had a significant impact on our ability to move forward, much the same as our ability to enjoy our sport during the spring and summer months.

The arrival of social distancing obviously has affected us all, as well as the known negative factors it has driven the need to look for alternative processes and systems that will still support the operation of the area committee and also development of the objectives identified at the open meeting. Progress has been made on creation of the new area web site linking with central BMFA software and aiding reduction in area running costs - thanks to Terry Weeks. Development of the Facebook page is progressing to encourage awareness in a wider audience of the area committee and its benefits, and the adoption of Zoom software to organise area meetings has enabled area meetings to continue. I should add a vote of thanks to Tom Wood (our recently elected secretary) who has driven the successful implementation and management of these zoom meetings helping us all adapt.

The area committee (as advised previously) was able to fill the mandatory committee roles with elected personnel, and using zoom completed all necessary committee meetings. However we have found that many of our loyal attendees did not have access to zoom and therefore were unable to join in. Over many years we have consistently enjoyed committee meetings attended by representatives from local clubs, free flight, SAM 1066 - 35, indoor flyers etc. and this has been most beneficial in ensuring the views of all our modelling community are considered. My personal view is that this has been a big loss, without their attendance we are at risk of losing the input from a large and active contingency of the model flyers in our area. Today i do not have the answer to this issue but we need to find solutions to encourage their involvement again ASAP. There is also the factor that this break from what has been normality for Southern Area committee meetings over many years will probably last for at least another 5 months (total of 13 months) so attracting team members back into the fold will not be easy. Let's hope I am wrong.....

The loss of the Power Nats this year was expected but being one of my annual highlights (with the campsite team) was a sad miss. Many of the team that have regularly supported the Nats felt likewise, let's hope 2021 sees the return of this event.

Those events I did attend were all well supported, showing the eagerness of model flyers to be able to escape the lockdown and return to those activities that we all look forward to every year. Old warden held its September event and Model air were able to comply with government requirements for social distancing in all areas including the car park area, swap meet, on the flying field and in the camp site.

This year I received 6 requests from local pilots wishing to complete the achievement scheme tests. To date 4 have been completed and 2 additional test are in process - Solent MFC should be congratulated on the way they supported their 4 club members for these tests, in the event Dave Burstow completed the test.

During this year on behalf of the Southern Area BMFA I have completed the following --

Attended 2020 London Model Engineering show on behalf of central BMFA  
Supported all area meeting either in person or by Zoom virtual attendance  
Supported development meetings at Popham again initially in person and latterly by Zoom.

Attended several model shows especially those at Old Warden where Covid secure regulations were in place and worked well

I am also booked in to attend the BMFA AGM zoom meeting

For the next year 2021 I wish to advise that I do reach a significant milestone (age wise ) and as such I hope to be away more than usual ( also trying to make up for the constraints that have reduced our ability to travel this year ). This will impact my time available so if anyone wishes to assume chairman's role then I am more than happy to assist with the changeover and will offer my full support. Succession planning is vital - however when it depends on volunteers it can also be difficult to achieve.

### **3.2 Vice Chairman's Report – D Smith**

I have participated in all Full Council meetings and all Areas Council meetings since the last AGM, most of which have been by Zoom, producing timely reports of the meetings to the Area Committee. I have also participated in all of the Area committee meetings, including the planning meetings for the 2021 Popham Model Show, and will participate in the BMFA AGM by Zoom on Saturday 14 November.

I assisted on the BMFA stand for all three days at the London Model Engineer Exhibition in January, including the Thursday set-up and Sunday take down, and provided helicopter models for the static display. Unfortunately, all the other events I had planned to take part in this year were cancelled due to Covid-19.

During February I worked with Sean Webb of Lee Bees MFC to correct the errors in the Area club list that were supposed to have been solved with the live facility on the new membership portal, and distributed the result to the elected officers to aid communication with Area clubs. I hope not to have to repeat this exercise in 2021.

When news of the MoD drone-jamming trials became available in early September I sent warnings to Area clubs that were likely to be affected, and made representation to the BMFA office about the short notice and lack of direct communication provided by the CAA. My post on the BMFA Area Council Forum on this issue was 'moderated' and never appeared; I have had no feedback or communication regarding this.

### **3.3 Hon Treasurers Report – T Weeks**

At the AGM each year we have to report the situation as at the 31st March 2020, being the end of the BMFA's financial year, our balance at this time was £3766.45 and this is what will be presented to the BMFA HO.

However, this year a new grant system was introduced for the areas, necessary due to some areas being less active and thus their annual grants were being added to an ever-increasing balance. We had to submit a budget for our intended activity / expenditure so as a result our grant was increased whereas other areas had theirs reduced. Our intention was to break even on the year but as you can imagine due to COVID our plans were severely disrupted. As a result, our current balance stands at £5522.51 as at the 7th November 2020 this takes into account all of the income and expenditure to date but remember the end of the financial year is March 2021 so things may change\*.

The planning for April 2021 until March 2022 is in place mirroring what we were going to do this year and if all goes well, we can achieve this by allowing our grant to reduce to around c£1000.00. (For information, our previous grants averaged £1500.00 increasing last year as mentioned above to £2290.00.)

\*The 2020 Free -Flight Gala. Peter Carter is in discussion with Abingdon and Bill Longley (SAM 35) to re-arrange this in early 2021, if it goes ahead before March 2021 this will affect the figures shown.

### **3.4 Hons Secretary's Report – T Wood**

As we come to the end of my first year as secretary for the SA BMFA, I have nothing much to report due to the many events being cancelled due to Covid-19. I have hosted several area meetings via zoom calls. I would like to thank all of the elected officers who have assisted me in my first year in this role, and I look forward to a more productive 2020.

### **3.5 Area delegates report – D Smith**

See 3.2

### **3.6 Silent flight report – T Weeks**

I attended the LMEE for the fifth year running staying in London to assist in all 4 days activities.

I had arranged a talk on eSoaring and gliding in general using a "PowerPoint" presentation, but due to COVID this was cancelled and is to be re-arranged when the situation improves.

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 held via Zoom took place on the 16th September to assess the progress so far and generally add more details. I have designed an initial Pilot's registration form and pilots wishing to take part are being added, the list is increasing promisingly. As we get closer to the event, I will be ringing all participants to enable me to put together an interesting and varied programme.

At the request of Duncan McClure I agreed to take a SF Slope B, and club examiner test for Jonathan Smith of the West Mendip Soaring Association, he was already a club examiner fixed wing and he wanted 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 very unlikely. I will be attending the Meadstead model show if arranged next year.

I am the S Area Webmaster and urge you all to view the site on a regular basis to keep abreast of what we are doing, the events calendar is yours to add events as and when required, just let me know. These events are also to be mirrored on our Facebook page.

The site address is: <https://southern.bmfa.uk/>

I hope next year sees the end of this terrible virus and allow us to get back to normal.

### **3.7 Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator Report – D Burstow**

A very quiet year. I took on the S Area ASC role following the 2019 AGM, and have provided some help and advice to clubs and members regarding the Achievement Scheme. I have facilitated one planned examiner test for Solent MAC, confirmed one CE test for Jersey MFC, and have a FW 'C' Aerobatic test pending. I was asked to examine 5 candidates for FW 'A' on one day at Solent MAC. Against my expectations all were competent and knowledgeable, and all passed. A well run and organised club.

### **3.8 Free Flight Report – R Newman**

This year organised competition & sport flying has taken place at Beaulieu & Area 8 of Salisbury Plain, with very occasional forays on Chobham Common for trimming purposes.

Four area meetings have been held at Beaulieu & Area 8, the first two of which were badly impacted by dire weather. The remainder being cancelled due to the effects of Covid-19 restrictions. Similarly, the majority of indoor meetings have been cancelled due to the same Covid-19 restrictions. The season did finish on a modestly high note in October, with a combined Croydon Club/SAM1066 meeting on Area 8, fortunately blessed by really good weather

Sports flying continues at Beaulieu & Area 8, albeit with ever diminishing participants & further constrained by restrictions imposed by the Forestry Commission regarding ground nesting birds..

It is hard to predict to whether more restrictions will evolve from much delayed impending changes to drone legislation (currently now forecast for release in December 2020) will impact free flight. These together with the ongoing Covid -19 situation do not bode well for the immediate future of free flight. .

The Southern Area Committee is thanked for its on-going support to the remaining free flight devotees within the Area.

### **3.9 Beaulieu Model Flying Club Report – R Sharman**

The year started well, with strong renewal application numbers in December 2019 and January 2020. The normal total of permits issued is around 300 making this one of the most popular flying sites in the south. Almost all permits are now applied for using the BMFC website which worked well with no reported problems. The bulk of permits issued is in the early part of the year up to Easter. The disciplines notified were R/C sport, Free Flight, Helis, MR and control line.

The first lockdown period brought flying to a halt. The Forestry locked access to the heath. There was little activity on the heath as the general public stayed away. Consequently there was a recurrence of some wildlife including ground nesting birds (Larks, Curlews, etc)

At the end of the first lockdown period the Forestry indicated that the heath would be opened, but in fact reversed that ruling when the Senior ecologist wanted to preserve the ground nesting. After much discussion and negotiation, limited access was allowed in July 2020 so that R/C restarted. The heath was finally fully opened in August 2020 and all disciplines resumed. Some successful flying was achieved by a wide variety of flyers. Two FF sessions were held as well.

The second lockdown has not so far resulted in closure, although the weather has mitigated against much activity.

We are having ongoing discussions with the Forestry about permissions for 2021, and it is expected that an attempt to enforce additional closures may be in the offing. When we know more we can report on the status.

#### 4. Election of Southern Area Committee for 2020/2021

Tony Butterworth	Chairman	Waltham Chase
David Smith	Vice Chairman	Heli Pad MC
Tom Wood	Hon. Secretary	BADMAC
Terry Weeks	Hon. Treasurer	ASF; Skylarks & MVSA
Dave Burstow	AS co-ordinator	Eagles
TBA	PRO	
David Smith	Area Delegate	Heli Pad MC
TBA	RC Comp Sec (Fixed Wing)	
Terry Weeks	RC Comp Sec (Silent Flight)	ASF; Skylarks & MVSA
Roger Newman	Free Flight Comp. Sec.	Bournemouth MAC
Richard Sharman	West Hampshire Operations Support	Beauileu

The remaining committee members were elected unopposed.

#### 5. Ratification of Southern Area Chief Examiners for 2020/2021

Their acceptance to be ACE's was unopposed by those present.

Those up for re-ratification are:

##### **(Block Acceptance by Committee)**

Terry Weeks SF	Ken Gale Heli	Matt Lodge Heli
Tony Butterworth FW & SF	Tony Warrilow FW	Peter Carter FW
Richard Sharman FW	Peter Rondell FW	David Burstow FW

Proposed T. Weeks                      Seconded D. Smith

#### 6. AOB

All members of southern area will receive invitations to area meetings, whether face-to-face or via zoom call.

#### 7. Next Meetings

##### 7.1. Next Area Meeting

Wednesday 27th January 2021 at the:- .

Venue: - TBD

Start Time 6.30 hrs

##### 7.2. Next S A AGM

Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at the:- .

Venue: - TBD

Start Time 6.30 hrs

There being no other business, the meeting closed at hrs. 09.15 pm