



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 27th January 2021

Venue: - Held Via Zoom Meeting

Start Time: 7.30 hrs pm

Present:	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
Richard Sharman	West Hampshire Opp's Support	BMFC.
Kenneth Knox	Visitor	CADMAC & Border
Ray Cox	Visitor	Popham Aero Modelers
Arabella Watts	Visitor	Popham Aero Modelers
Mike Pearson	Visitor	Popham Aero Modelers
Alan Wallington	Visitor	Waltham Chase
Paul Newell	Visitor	Hornets MFC
Dave Newby	Visitor	NADMAS
Apologies:		
Dave Burstow	ASC Co-Ord / Dorset Opp's support	Eagles
Roger Newman	Free flight Rep	Bournemouth MAC

1) Improving club database

Thanks to hard work from David and Shaun Webb, the database of club contacts has massively improved, and hopefully we can now get better communication throughout the area. This action is now closed

2) Southern Area FB

After the meeting last January, the need for an area Facebook page was identified. We now have one up and running, although there has been limited action due to the corona virus.

Currently the Facebook page and SABMFA website both have to be updated separately, and we should look into a way to make this process automatic to improve efficiency

Now the Facebook page has been up at running for a few months, we are interested to find out the effectiveness of it. We have recorded the available metrics during the meeting for both the Facebook page and the website and will check again in 2 months' time to see if there has been any improvement.

Action Terry Weeks

3) Meeting Venues

Once the Corona Virus has died down and we can hold face to face meetings again, having a more central location within the southern area would be beneficial. We have been offered the use of the meeting room at Popham airfield thanks to Mike Pearson. This action is now closed.

Zoom has been used to continue meetings during the Corona Virus pandemic. After noticing an increase in attendance, we are now going to create a full zoom account to continue using video calls, as both an alternative to face to face meetings during the current pandemic, but also to continue the video calls when normal meetings resume as to allow more people to attend that live further away. **Action Terry Weeks**

4) Interclub Contact

From past experience, we have found writing to clubs directly instead of publishing an update on the website/Facebook page gets a better response, especially with the new club database.

In order to improve communications from our end, we have temporarily added Ken Knox (on a temporary basis until May) as a communications officer for the committee, to pass important information on to all of the area clubs, such as any area newsletters, information and meeting times etc. To aid Ken in his tasks, the club database is to be shared with him. **Action for David Smith**

5) Area Newsletter

A newsletter is to be written to give an update of area activity, and information on the club website and Facebook page (**action Tony Butterworth**) and distributed to all area clubs (**action Ken Knox**)

6) Measuring Improvements

As mentioned in in point 4, measurements of improvements to be taken in 2 months to see the difference.

7) Increasing meeting participants

With the temporary appointment of Ken to assist with communication, all southern area club secretaries are to receive a notification 2 weeks before meetings. All zoom meetings to be pre-scheduled and have the meeting details available upon request. **Action for Terry Weeks**

8) SABMFA on Google

At last year's meeting, it was highlighted that google searching Southern area BMFA does not bring up the SABMFA website. With the introduction of the new BMFA powered website, this has now been rectified. This action is now closed

9) Beaulieu Model club

Over the last few months, the Beaulieu model flying club has been unfairly targeted by wildlife organizations trying to preserve the New Forest SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). This is a long ongoing process with Southern Area BMFA, BMFA and many other organisations getting involved to try and keep the flying site active.

10) Popham Air show

Due to the Corona Virus Pandemic, the show has now been delayed to the 21/22 of August. Many pilots have registered an interest in flying at this event, and they will all be contacted to inform of the changes. The date will also be changed on the website (**Action for Terry Weeks**). The advertisement in the BMFA calendar also needs to have the dates changed (**Action for Ray Cox**)

10) Article 16

With the new changes to the legalities of flying, it is important that all members are aware of it. In the previously mentioned newsletter to clubs, a small section about the new article 16 rules should be added to inform the secretaries.

11) Area Returns

Between the changing of secretaries, there has been a small confusion regarding the handling of area returns. To rectify this, a copy of last year's area returns is to be sent to Tom to use as a template (**Action Terry**). Area returns to be completed, including AGM minutes as a draft, and sent to Linda Harding (**Action Tom**)

12) Officer's reports

Chairman's report

Treasurer report

Area Delegate's Report

See Below:

13) AOB

CADMAC ask if there is any new information on child protection relevant, current guidance is out of date.

CADMAC also ask what latest guidance for phones at the airfield is, BMFA guidance is both outdated and contradictory

Terry to contact Andy Symons for more information

14) Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on the 24th March, starting at 7.30PM on zoom

Once the zoom account has been made, a meeting will be organised (**Action for Terry**) and the meeting details are to be distributed (**action for Ken**)

Actions List

Record website analytics – Terry Weeks

Create Zoom account and schedule meetings – Terry Weeks

Send Ken club database – David Smith

Write area newsletter – Tony Butterworth

Distribute newsletter – Ken Knox

Change Popham dates on website – Terry Weeks

Change Popham dates with BMFA – Ray Cox

Send Tom last year's area returns – Terry Weeks

Send 2020's area returns to BMFA HQ - Tom

Reports

Chairman's Report – Tony

Spent some time reviewing our committee's progress over the past 12 months in implementing the recommendations for improvement identified at the open area meeting last March. After 2019 AGM we recall that we were unable to post a complete committee and hence the need for an open meeting to resolve these issues. My analysis suggests that to date we still have work to complete in implementing the suggestions identified. I would note that the quality of the club contact list has improved so it is now paramount that we focus on implementing regular updates to all our clubs within the area as well as inviting them to join in with current area meetings on Zoom .With 9 months remaining till this year's AGM encouraging improved club participation must be a major focus for the team and critical for the growth of the committee.

Supported Richard Sharman in opposing current threats to flying model aircraft at Beaulieu, encouraged support from BMFA in presenting opposition and identifying useful contacts that can assist in mounting a defence. Good progress has been made.

Have also joined in several of the BMFA webinars and have been impressed with this initiative. To my mind an excellent way to encourage participation and communication between likeminded modellers. Finally spent some time on the Popham project, creating a timeline activity chart to aid identification of progress as well as providing a forward view of the task yet to complete, should circulate for review shortly.

Treasurer's report - Terry

Please refer to the balance sheets provided for the meeting, it shows our current balance as at the 3rd January this takes into account the income and expenditure to date. I see little further activity taking place in the current financial year that ends on the 31st March 2021. The year to March 31st , 2022 is also shown, due to the change in the grant last year and little of the planned expenditure taking place this year our balance at the end of the year has obviously increased to the figure shown.

I have estimated and shown a budget for 2021 to give an idea of the likely position throughout the year as hopefully things get back to some form of normality. Estimates for the subsidy of 2 Bovington shows, the S Area Free-flight Gala, an Achievement Scheme Workshop and the Popham Model Show to name just a few. David has suggested the grant next year may be the same as this year, but I have made an estimation to show a reasonable balance, if the grant does remain the same this will increase.

Silent Flight & SA Committee Member Reports.

I have taken part in the Popham model show (8th & 9th May) meetings to discuss basic framework of the show and view the actual site, great possibilities. A follow up meeting is to be planned to assess progress so far, include a site visit and generally get down to some more details. The virus situation has delayed this meeting. The "Wartime Wallop" event at Middle Wallop, has been cancelled this year. I hope to be attending the 2021 Odiham Families day with Peter Carter to put on the usual static display that hopefully will go ahead this year. I will be attending the Meadstead model show if arranged this year. The S Area Esoaring dates for 2021 have been set and published both on our website and the main BMFA website, they are the 23rd May; 6th June; 25th July and finally the 5th September. I have continued to develop and update our website that to date has seen some 963 hits.

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

Skylarks, MVSA and Alton Silent Flyers are all continuing their activities whilst adhering to the recommended Government restrictions. All currently closed at the time of the meeting.

Area Delegate's Report – David Smith

There has been very little to report since the September meeting.

I attended a meeting at Popham Model Show on 16 September 2020, with other members of this Committee, to progress the plans for the Popham Model Show being held over the weekend of 8/9 May 2021. I attended a further planning meeting by Zoom on 29 November.

I attended Zoom meetings of BMFA Council on 19 September 2020 (only the latter part, due to temporary loss of internet connection) and 9 January 2021 and provided reports to this committee.

I attended the BMFA AGM, held as a Zoom webinar, on 14 November 2020 and provided a report to this committee.

The Autumn meeting of Areas Council on Saturday 10 October was cancelled, though I'm not sure why. The meeting has been rescheduled for Saturday 30 January to discuss the results of the Membership Survey and formulate a plan to address the issues raised.

The 2021 contact lists for Area clubs that I downloaded today from the BMFA website again contains errors, duplications, and omissions. I have corrected what I can by reference to club websites, but many do not now present a list of committee members. I have circulated a list of contact information for club Chairmen, Secretaries, and Delegates to the elected officers. I will raise the issue of accuracy of the Go membership downloads again at Areas Council later this month.

BMFA Centenary 2022. A working group has been formed, chaired by Jim Wright. They would like ideas form the membership for events to celebrate this milestone.

I have been asked by the ASRC to resurrect the helicopter version of 'A Flying Start', which was started as a project in 2004 but which never saw the light of day. Peter Willis of Wimborne MAC, who coordinated the fixed wing version, has offered his help with this.

Flying activity at both Helipad Model Club and Romsey Electric Flyers, when allowed by Covid-19 restrictions, was reduced due to many members staying away. There have been no issues at either club, despite the restricted space at the Romsey site.