



British Model Flying Association Southern Area

southern.bmfa.uk

Minutes to be ratified at the 26th May meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on the 24th March 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.
Dave Burstow	ASC Co-Ord / Dorset Opp's support	Eagles
Roger Newman	Free flight Rep	Bournemouth
MAC		
Kim Barton	PRO officer	Solent MAC
Kenneth Knox	Visitor	CADMAC Delegate
& Border		
Ray Cox	Visitor	Popham Aero
modellers		
Alan Wallington	Visitor	Waltham Chase
Paul Newell	Visitor	Hornets MFC
Dave Newby	Visitor	NADMAS
Wayne Broom	Visitor	
Ron Gardner	Visitor	Romsey Electric
Flyers		
Alan Haskell	Visitor	Basingstoke
Model Aero Club		
Dave Durnford	Visitor	Alton MFC
Tim Kress	Visitor	CADMAC
Apologies:		
Keith Miller		Skylarks
Peter Carter		Aldershot Model Club
Simon Wood		BADMAC

Before the start of today's meeting can we extend a warm welcome to Kim Bristow who has offered to join this committee as PRO. Kim joined into the recently held Southern Area webinar and as a result felt inclined to offer her support in filling the PROs position on this committee. It has been a long time since we had a PRO so Kim's offer of help is received with much gratitude. It should also be recorded that our thanks are extended to Andy Symons and Mark Benns for helping organise the webinar which did attract some 80 plus views and was considered a successful evening by all , something which we can build on for the future

1) Southern Area Facebook Page.

James Hounslow working for NHS so has been busy due to Covid-19, re visit at the next meeting

2) Venues for future meeting.

Agreed use of Popham for next meetings next meeting to be held in the conference room at Popham airfield, with zoom for participants to join

3) Inter club contact.

David has done some more updating on the list to improve
Ken has been sent the updated contact list

4) Area Newsletter.

Tony's newsletter has been sent around by Ken and it was met with positive feedback. It has also highlighted a few issues with the communication chain from areas to club members via the club secretaries.

5) Website Metrics.

After looking at the stats for the number of views on the website from the today's meeting compared to the meeting in January, there has been a definite increase, meaning the additional steps that are being taken to improve awareness are working.

6) Area Meeting Attendance.

The information on how to access the meeting was distributed earlier and to all area clubs prior to the meeting, and as a result, the attendance of the meeting was improved overall.

7) Popham Air show Date Change.

Due to the Corona virus pandemic, the dates of the Popham Model Air Show where changed to a later date in August. These dates have now been adjusted on both the Southern Area BMFA website and the BMFA events calendar.

8) Contact with HQ.

The area returns have been submitted to the BMFA, however the meeting minutes have not been sent yet. Action for Tom

9) Webinar Consolidation.

The webinar held by Andy Symons and Mark Benns was a great success in helping to improve the communication between the Southern area and area clubs. From the webinar, the following questions were raised:

a) Should we plan to hold a second Southern Area webinar later in the year?

Positive response to the idea of a second webinar as it has been the best way we have found so far to aid in the communication with the local clubs and their members. No plans have been made yet, but there is a potential for the second webinar to be arranged for September time, after the flying season is well underway, and after the Popham event has taken place

b) Would holding a zoom based Balsa Bash Quiz be viable?

During the webinar, the idea of a 'Zoom' based balsa brain quiz was put forward, however after more discussion during today's meeting, it was decided that due to the social nature of the event, it is currently not viable until the corona virus restrictions ease.

c) Is there a possibility of holding an event at Abingdon airfield?

During the meeting, a poll was taken in which 41 out of the 80 participants said they would be willing to support a flying event held at RAF Abingdon, meaning that there is a potential for an event to be held there, further research into this is required. Such an event could possibly attract up to 100 pilots plus spectators.

Terry to contact Peter Carter and ask him to pass on the Abingdon contacts – Tony find out the possibilities of events/dates/prices.

Tony to contact Andy Symons regarding the people who showed interest in an Abingdon event during the webinar.

10) New potential sites for event

Ian Budgens has found a field for potential fly in location – for next year not this.

Investigate the possibility of holding an RC event there, Kim to contact Solent MAC to investigate the possibility to hold a smaller southern area event.

11) Popham Model Airshow

Meeting at Popham on the 10th April to assess the site and to draw out an event layout plan.

A second meeting to be planned after the face to face meeting to discuss and create a more final plan.

Possibility for control line flying at the Popham event, with practicing on site before hand?

12) Communicating with clubs

Emails to club contacts are not always reaching members. In order to fix this, so we are to include a note to say forward to club members.

Possibility of sending emails to small groups of people at a time to check receipt

A newsletter to be sent out in the coming weeks which will also have some questions on how the SABMFA can improve, to try and increase the communication to and from the member clubs.

13) Committee reports -

Chairman's report

The past few months have seen an increase in activities, many of which have proved to be of great benefit. I attended the Zoom SABMFA meeting on the 24th February and thanks go Andy Symonds and Mark Benns for organizing this meeting. The high numbers of attendees was a positive sign and we received valuable input from many of the attendees. On the 3rd March we held an intro meeting with our colleagues from the Dorset area with the key objective of establishing a consensus on the management structure to support the Popham show and to formally acknowledge names from individuals prepared to join the organizing team. This was again a successful review and enabled me to update several of the key documents related to the show. Today we now have

- 1) Management structure for the show with names allocated to many of the tasks
- 2) An events listing showing owners against many of the activities we hope to organize
- 3) A schedule under development to identify key activities and timescales for completion to ensure we achieve the desired plan end date.

It is also worthy of note that resulting from these reviews we now have additional tools available to help us communicate with our area clubs and member pilots. Having the ability to communicate directly with fellow model flyers in our area will be a great asset, enabling us to ensure that we can receive input directly from the flyers themselves. Hopefully this will mean we can identify those

activities that the membership are interested in supporting, and also we can focus on those issues that the membership feels are important.

A welcome is extended to Kim Bristow who attended the 24th February webinar and offered her support as PRO. I would also like to thank Ken Knox for his offer to help us distribute newsletters for the next 3 months as an additional initiative to encourage support at area meetings in the future.

Lastly I continue to attend the Tuesday evening BMFA webinars which I find both productive and entertaining in providing an overview of some of the many disciplines within our sport, the audience is often worldwide which shows the appeal these meetings offer – an excellent initiative

Secretaries Report

Whilst there has been very little going on in terms of flying, there has been a few zoom calls that I have attended, the first on the 24th of February to talk about the upcoming Popham event, in which we ultimately decided to postpone until August, and then the Southern Area Webinar, where we had an informative presentation from Andy Symons and Mark Benns on the purpose of the areas, and talked to many members of the southern area about their views on it.

Area delegates report

I attended an Areas Council Zoom meeting on 11 March to hear the findings of the working group reviewing the role of the BMFA Areas. This follows on from the membership survey in the autumn of 2020 which found that most members have no idea of what the Areas do, or even which one they are in. Various proposals to change the Area structure have been put forward, which I shared with the elected officers and collated their thoughts for the working group, but no firm decisions have yet been made.

I attended SABMFA Zoom meetings on 24 February and 3 March to discuss the plans for the Popham show on 21/22 August and was a panellist on the SABMFA webinar on Thursday 4 March. I have been busy validating the Area club contact list, though a few inaccuracies are still popping up. There are eleven clubs still without a nominated Delegate to the Area Committee.

I have submitted a (hopefully final) draft of the helicopter version of 'A Flying Start' to the ASRC, the aim being to publish it soon to follow up on the recently released Helicopter A & BPC video guidance.

Treasurer/Silent Flight report

I suggested at the last meeting that I expected no further expenditure in the financial year ending 31st March 2021, and this has been the case, so our year-end balance remains at £5414.61. This seems exceptionally high compared to previous years, but this is due to the lack of activity this year.

The planned expenditure for the year 2021/2022 is the same as that initially planned for 2020/2021 so this would normally have reduced the balance to a similar level to that of the previous years. However, BMFA HQ are as I understand it are reducing the grants to areas so we may in fact be showing a loss at the end of year of £526.84.

I have taken part in the Popham model show (21st & 22nd August) meetings to discuss basic framework of the show and intend to attend the site visit planned for the 12th of April.

I was a member of the panel for the S Area Webinar run recently and thought this was great success. Thanks to Andy Symons I am now able to email every member in the southern area via a "widget" added to the website. I have as agreed at the last meeting opened a zoom account for the S Area, this will allow us to invite every club delegate to all future S A meetings so from now on our communications will be vastly improved. This is the first meeting that the facility has been used. 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. I have been in contact with The Middle Wallop Museum and there is now an incredibly good chance that we will be asked to attend a show in the autumn. The S Area Soaring dates now confirmed for 2021 they 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 1821 hits, 878 since the last meeting.

Free-Flight report

Covid 18 restrictions still continue to affect all activities; the 1st & 2nd Area meetings have been cancelled, as has the scheduled Croydon/SAM1066 Wakefield Day on Easter Saturday on Salisbury Plain. As of now, it is not known whether the Free Flight Nationals will go ahead over the weekend of May Bank Holiday, it seems very unlikely & there is talk of trying to reschedule the event for later in the year. On the positive side, sport flying can resume at Beaulieu as from 29th March with a max of 6 people until at least the 17th May, when a further relaxation will allow up to 30 people this will permit Area events to continue.

Looking further ahead, a SAM1066 Cagnarata Day (models up to 250 grams) has been arranged in conjunction with the kind collaboration of South Bristol Club at RAF Colerne, sports flyers will be welcome. The date is set for 25th July & is provisional on the basis of the total relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions on June 21st.

At present Area 8 of Salisbury Plain remains unavailable due to MoD / Covid-19 restrictions with no information regarding any relaxation to resume weekend flying activities, subject to MoD permission.

It is noted that the Air Traffic & Unmanned Aircraft Bill will receive its 3rd reading in the House of Commons on 22nd March. Once approved, as is likely, it will become law shortly thereafter – empowering the Police to ground unmanned aircraft, to stop & search vehicles, to obtain a warrant to search property & to introduce fixed penalties for offences.

Achievement scheme co-ordinator's report

Due to the lack of flying, there is nothing to report on the achievement scheme.

Future meetings to include PRO report

For future meetings, reports will be read at the beginning of meeting instead of at the end, and to be attached to the agenda when it's sent out so all attendees can see.

14) AOB

Basingstoke Electric Fly in has had the dates set for the first weekend in September, all Southern Area members are invited.

The next meeting will be held on the 26th May at Popham at 19:30 with a Zoom facility.