



# 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 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Venue: - Held Via Zoom Meeting

Start Time: 7.05 hrs pm

<b>Present:</b>	<b>S Area Position:</b>	<b>Club(s):</b>
Tony Butterworth FSMAE	Chairman	Waltham Chase David
David Smith	Vice Chairman/Area Delegate	Helipad
Tom Wood	Hon Secretary	BADMAC
Terry Weeks	Hon Treasurer/RC SF Rep Web	ASF; Skylarks & MVSA
Ray Cox	Visitor	Popham Aero modellers
Alan Wallington	Visitor	Waltham Chase
Dave Newby	Visitor	NADMAS
Dave Durnford	Visitor	Alton MFC
James Hounslow	Facebook editor	
Ken Knox	Visitor(part only due to technical hitch)	CADMAC

### **Apologies:**

Dave Burstow	ASC Co-Ord / Dorset Opp's support	Eagles
Kim Bristow	PRO (Resigned due to health)	Solent MAC
Mike Pearson	Visitor	Popham
Wayne Broom	Visitor	Dorset
Richard Sharman	West Hants Operations Support	Beaulieu
Roger Newman	Free Flight Representative	

### **Chairman's Report:**

Attended the Popham show on Friday evening during setup and also on Saturday during the afternoon. As a first event the overall impression was of a disciplined flightline, comprehensive mix of models being flown and a positive response from visitors attending the show. Met many local modellers and ex area committee members all who left with a positive impression of this first event. Was unable to attend the washup meeting held, however I have circulated my thoughts to all members. After almost 18 months of planning its rewarding to achieve this result, and also encouraging to be able to thank the team from Dorset - and support received from other non-Area committee members who have given their time to make this show happen.

Since the last area meeting have also attended several other flying events and shows, all have been well attended showing modellers enthusiasm to return to pre-covid activities and all applying sensible covid disciplines to ensure safety of all concerned. My last event was at Old Warden where both trade support and car booters were up in numbers as well as increase in camping numbers and daily attendees. I did manage to talk with several traders at Old Warden to enquire if they would consider supporting future events at Popham, the response in all cases was positive with several advising they would have attended this year's events if they had been invited. I have also received a request for support from a local F3A aerobatic competition pilot who has found himself without a venue to practice, you may recall recently the same situation occurred with a control line flyer. This does seem to be a recurring theme as facilities are lost. I am presently trying to help both parties find alternative venues. It is indeed positive news that Flitehook indoor events have been re-introduced ( there advert for these events advises support from Southern Area BMFA which is appreciated) and also welcome news from Rogers report that free flight appears to have gained some momentum, good news indeed.

**Tony Butterworth.**

### **Vice Chairman's Report:**

Not a lot to report since the last meeting, most of my activity being related to the Popham Model Show which I attended and helped out at 20-22 August. I subsequently attended the wash-up meeting at Popham on 31 August.

I've given my apologies for the BMFA Full Council meeting on 18 September as I am attending a family wedding; unfortunately, no deputy has come forward. The October Areas Council meeting falls on the same weekend as the AHA Charmouth meeting (9 October), Dave Burstow has agreed to deputise for this.

Helipad Model Club has attracted 10 new members this year, increasing the membership by 50%. We have a link with Hampshire County Council to allow their Asbestos Survey team to train drone pilots and practice their flying at our club site. We held a successful scale fly-in on 18 July. I've also attended scale helicopter fly-ins at Red Lodge Helicopters, the Heart of England Aeromodellers, Midland Helicopter Club and Eynsford Model Helicopter Club; it's good to see these events starting up again.

**David Smith.**

### **Secretaries Report:**

Tom said there was little to report and apologised for not issuing the minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> July promising to sort this and get them issued asap.

### **Treasurers Report:**

Since the last meeting our balance of £5305.39 has reduced to £5275.93\*, this due to the agreed purchase some "High Vis" vests for use at the Popham Air Show. Following the show, we requested that these be returned together with the lanyards, and I am pleased to say that most were returned for use next year. The total outlay for the Popham show was £138.68. This breaks down as £98.96 for the whiteboard & lanyards, £10.26 for the coloured stickers and lastly £29.46\* for the vests. *(So that all appears above board I have to advise that I have to use my own credit card for any transactions as the area account does not have a card facility, I then pay myself by bank transfer to cover these costs.)*

As explained at the last meeting even though the £5275.93 is higher than our usual end of year balance of c£3700.00 it was based on a planned expenditure over the year 20/21. As can be seen by the balance sheet this same expenditure is planned for the year 21/22 so we will need a grant of £751.06 to maintain the c£3700.00 base. As reported at the last meeting I have thus requested that we be given a grant of £751.06 to maintain this above level. Since the application I have not had so much as an acknowledgement of my request. *(For information this is less than half of the grant usually received.)*

### **Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinators Report:**

- No requests for examiner or other AS tests received since last report
- No update on outstanding items
- Unusually, no requests from clubs or members for advice on the Scheme – usually there are a few. Did the ASC advice notes go out with the Newsletter?
- I attended Woodspring Wings show 11/12 September, a good community-based event as usual, blessed with excellent weather.
- Committee members have been circulated by DS with a copy of the ASRC report to Areas Council. I have since had a Zoom meeting with Area ASCs and the Scheme Controller and will have more to say about this at the meeting.

**Dave Burstow**

### **Free-Flight Representatives Report:**

Sporadic flying continues at Beaulieu, so far without challenge or reported problems. This will continue for the remainder of 2021. Haven't thought about 2022 yet.

More use has been made of Salisbury Plain of late with successful meetings held for Southern Area Gala & alternative (to Barkston Heath) Nat's – latter over two consecutive weekends with surprisingly good attendances (typically in excess of 40 attendees daily). Two further meetings planned for end Sept/early Oct (Crookham Gala & Croydon Coupe / SAM 1066 Day) plus final Area meetings. Permission has been received for pretty well all weekends throughout the summer. First indoor meeting held at Totton on 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept with satisfactory attendance of 15 flyers, thus no subsidy was needed for this meeting (breakeven is 13 paying flyers). Enjoyable flying with FliteHook in attendance. We look forward to the remaining meetings scheduled for 2021 being equally successful. Adverts were forwarded to SABMFA, SAM1066 New Clarion, SAM 35 Speaks, Sticks & Tissue, Aeromodeller & BMFA. Only the latter organisation failed to react to an on-line request for placement of the events but has caught up with remaining 2021 events now listed on events calendar. Jim Wright (BMFA Fellow) aware & promised to follow up.

Short discussion held with Pete Carter regarding possibility of holding Southern Area Centenary Free Flight event at RAF Odiham in Spring 2021. He is reasonably optimistic & is following up with enquiries to the "new regime" at Odiham - will advise progress to me as & when.

Noted there is an aviation & model event at the Museum of Army Flying on 21<sup>st</sup> November from 10.00am to 3.00pm. Link is <https://armyflying.com/model-clubs-aircraft-enthusiasts-fair> Should SABMFA be there with a stand? Happy to attend & help if so. During the meeting It was agreed that we would take part.

**Roger Newman.**

### **Silent Flight Report:**

Having taken part in all the Popham model show meetings and the 4 days of the event, I have to say the show went on and was a great success. Several of us toured the line of the visiting public to find all were very happy. The traders on a similar vein were also very happy and said they would return to future shows but did make some suggestions as to how things could be improved, a note was made of these points. Several of the team had a shakedown meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August to discuss the successes and shortcomings that had been noted, minutes were taken for distribution to the organizing team of any subsequent shows.

I attended the 2021 Odiham Families Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> August with Peter Carter to put on the usual static display with several of the AMC & Popham Aeromodellers members.

I can only assume the event at Middle Wallop put on by the Army Museum planned for September did not go ahead.

The S Area Soaring events 2021 are now underway, and any results reports will follow as they progress.

I have continued to develop and update our website that to date has seen some 3971 hits, 764 since the last meeting.

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

Activity is increasing on all of my clubs now that they have re-opened, normal flying having been resumed.

### **Read and approve minutes from the Area meeting on the 28th July.**

It was noted that the minutes for this meeting had not yet been circulated, the secretary confirmed that currently he had yet to complete the draft but promised to complete ASAP . For tonight's meeting TB offered to draft minutes to relieve pressure from the secretary. The action to approve minutes from the 28th July remains outstanding and will be added to the next area meeting.

### **Committee member reports:**

All reports were read and accepted by the meeting:-

### **Actions from previous meetings --**

a) **Update on Facebook page:** James Hounslow advised the following, the Facebook page is live and gradually collecting regular visits with today 37 members following progress. The content on the facebook page is currently mirroring the content from the S/Area web page however we now have started to increase updates on the Facebook page, and it has been noted that when updates appear then this does attract increased activity, potentially 150 new visitors have been seen on various occasions. James advised that he is also focussing on improving links between our Facebook page and other third-party groups. This can be expected to yield further increases when fully developed. Contact has also been made with the central BMFA Facebook page and agreements are in place to share our link-data. James advised he would have liked to have made further progress but pressure from the day job has limited time available, the meeting however commented that progress has been made and we are improving, so James was to be thanked for his efforts in ensuring this improvement continues. In order to improve the effectiveness of the Facebook page we need to ensure that the news reported is current and future based, to that end all committee members were requested to ensure that James is included in all future updates and kept abreast of future activities .

c) **Hold a second area webinar:** The first area webinar held at the beginning of the year was deemed a success, offering the ability to all local clubs to participate and air their views. If we are to hold such an event during the coming winter then it needs to advertise progress and encourage participation with new topics on the agenda, the following were deemed worthy of consideration:-

Progress on web page and facebook for S/Area

Popham Model show -- report of 2020 event - include plans for 2021 event - encourage area club participation.

BMFA centenary next year - what can we do locally - invite ideas.

Winter indoor events.

Encourage new members to join the area committee.

d) **Abingdon:** This facility remains currently the best opportunity for the S/Area to hold an open meeting covering multiple classes for model flying. We know that our free flight members have visited the site and agreed its suitability, and we have a management contact at the site who is positive about our using this facility. It was agreed that we should hold this topic on the agenda and monitor the Covid situation during the winter period and if we see confidence in current improvements then consider organising a flying meeting at Abingdon in 2022.

It was also noted that Odiham is becoming more receptive to model flying events thanks to the efforts of Peter Carter who is part of the site user committee - a positive move indeed.

f) **Popham show report:** Wash up meeting has been held and conclusions have been circulated - all parties confident that the success of this first trial event gives confidence to expect future growth. Popham management have identified their desire to hold a second show in 2022, identifying areas where improvement is necessary. The Southern Area management team and supporters worked well together and for a first venture into a show of this size it was a positive result. It was noted that the end-to-end schedule for the 2021 was in excess of 12 months, accepting that in the initial stages progress was slow while we identified resources necessary. Now the groundwork has been completed much of this can be cut and pasted into the schedule for the 2022 event, but there will be additional activities necessary to aid the improvements required. With a proposed dates of August 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> 2022 for the next event it was generally agreed that a start-up planning meeting for the 2022 event would need to be held before the end of November at the latest so that clear targets can be set before year end for the next show. Terry Weeks took the action to talk with Popham and arrange a kick-off meeting in October if possible.

g) **Youth development:** No progress, we note that Popham is receptive to helping this initiative, leave on agenda for further discussion

h) **BMFA centenary celebrations next year:** Central BMFA is promoting the area to help celebrate this achievement, we need to start collecting ideas for the S/Area, maybe part of next year's Popham show?

i) Have notes on drone bill been added to the area web site, this action needed to be checked. Terry promised an answer with next 10 days. (After the meeting Terry added the details to the web-site.)

k. **Web Site performance:** Terry reported that we are seeing a gradual increase in visitors to the S/Area web page and hoped that with the Facebook developments we can continue this growth. We do however need to be kept informed of local club activity so that we can report local activity of interest. To that end Terry requested more local news and updates on any winter activities that local clubs are arranging.

#### **AGM preparation:**

Suggestion to send round newsletter informing-inviting all clubs of the date and time of the area AGM and to invite applications for post within the committee.

Currently the committee invites applications for the following positions for 2022: Skills sets required are.

Secretarial skills, someone to help originate minutes from meetings, set agendas for subsequent meetings and manage actions and help us improve communication.

Achievements scheme co-ordinator - to act as liaison between the Southern Area committee and the Achievement scheme central committee . works with area examiners and ACES to encourage and represent area views on this subject .

PRO, to help improve awareness in the community of BMFA activities -- attend and help us at local events, vacant due to Kim's resignation - health problems.

Chairman and or meeting management activities support.

This area promotes a team activity culture - where all members support each other. What matters is not that we have all definitive titles with experienced individuals in every position BUT that we have the skills within the group to ensure that someone has the experience to enable us to tackle the challenges and together we help each other achieve the targets we set. The most important ingredient is to attract individuals who want to make a difference and want model flying to continue and improve in our local area.

It was noted that Peter Bennett offered to join the area committee, Peter has supported the development of the Popham show this year and with other fellow members from the Dorset area his contribution has been welcomed. We would like to thank Peter for his offer of support and also his offer to help improve and develop the committee for the future .

**The next meeting is the AGM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 at 7:00 pm.**