



British Model Flying Association

Southern Area www.sabmfa.org.uk

Minutes of AGM Meeting held on 3rd November 2021

Venue: - The Popham Conference room & Zoom

Start Time: 7.00 hrs. pm

Present: S Area Committee / Delegate
Tony Butterworth David Smith Tom Wood Terry Weeks Dave Burstow
James Hounslow Dave Newby Peter Bennett Ken Knox Alan Wallington
Peter Willis Peter Carter Wayne Broom Dave Durnford Ray Cox
Charles Havilan Peter Rondell

1.0 Apologies for absence

Roger Newman and Keith Miller.

2.0 Review and correction of Minutes of the S. Area AGM held 11th Nov 2020

Comments, none were made.

Proposed by David Smith Seconded by Dave Newby

3.0 Committee reports: -

3.1 Chairman's report (Tony Butterworth)

The past 12 months have been a busy period for the S/Area, although model-flying activities have been compromised due to Covid the area has been actively involved in organizing new shows and continuing to promote the BMFA. For my part I have completed the following activities –

Attended all Southern Area committee meetings during the year

Supported the Southern Area BMFA open webinar meeting

Organized meeting agendas and supported secretarial duties by compiling meeting minutes on several occasions.

Attended all Popham show planning meetings

Created project plans for the Popham show

Created management structure for Popham show and compiled list of roles and responsibilities.

Attended last year's BMFA AGM – meeting by Zoom

Attended numerous BMFA winter webinars

Attended Popham model show on Friday setup day and also on Saturday

Attended 2 model shows at Old Warden, and recently the Wickham indoor RC event.

As an area we can take some positives from this year in that the number of local club members attending area committee meetings has seen an increase, suggest the use of Zoom has encouraged this improvement. It is also encouraging that we received excellent support from several local modelers who volunteered to accept responsibilities for management tasks at the Popham show as well as aiding and supporting the whole planning

process (some 14 months long) prior to the event. Without this external support the show would have not been possible – it is also a positive sign that all these members have enrolled into supporting next year’s event showing that a positive team spirit exists and gives a sound foundation for future events. This year will probably be remembered for the success of the Popham show, however we should record that within the area there are still BMFA members with a collective skillset from Dorset. Newbury, Waltham Chase, and surrounding areas prepared to support area projects and help us make them happen. Likewise, the collective number of individual area team meetings held this year has been more than double that of any previous year, and all have been well attended. Another positive this year has been the development of our Facebook page and we thank James Hounslow for his support in helping develop this strategy to improve awareness of our activities.

Sadly, we have also experienced difficulty in encouraging new members to fulfil all posts on the area committee and this has meant that we do have individuals who are supporting more than one role. Many know that I do not prescribe to this as being a satisfactory solution. This has been an increasing trend over the past 3 years; prior to that we were always able to elect members from those that attended area meetings. It is important that the committee does contain the necessary skillsets to enable it to deliver sound decisions on topics debated and this is another area that is proving difficult to resolve. We also recognize that with the wish to adopt modern tools and software such technology brings new learning and maybe this has been another stumbling block in encouraging growth. That said when we are able to welcome and involve new members, they often appear to enjoy the challenge and add value to the committee and its purpose. The future success of the area committee depends on attracting new members, this year the Popham show project has encouraged club members to become involved and maybe such projects as this can become important vehicles in attracting new members. We have always been an area committee that tries to support clubs and make events happen rather than just holding meetings, this year’s successful Popham event appears to have spread the word considerably faster than our web site.

Finally, we are aware of the ongoing debate on how best to develop area committees for the future and it is our intention to become involved in this review. It does appear that next year we can expect more activity on this subject .

From a personal viewpoint this is my second term of office as chairman to the S/Area BMFA. My first term was in the late 70’s following on from my very good friend (and local legend) Don Eades of the Petersfield club and included the organizing of the Mini Nationals at Beaulieu Heath on 18-19th in June 1983. My second term started after the loss of Roger Bedford some 14 years ago. I am therefore looking for the opportunity to reduce my involvement and give the opportunity for someone with fresh ideas to join the committee in the near future, I will provide support if needed to any new member should this be necessary. Next year I hope that the power NATs will return, and I intend to support this again (with the team) as I have for many years now.

3.2 Vice Chairman’s report (David Smith)

I have participated in all but one Full Council meetings and all but one 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 attend the BMFA AGM in Daventry on Saturday 20 November.

The BMFA Strategic Review has proposed some restructuring of the Full Council and some changes to how Areas operate, with a revised Area Constitution being developed and the

suggestion that Area Delegates will no longer be Directors of SMAE Ltd or have a seat on Full Council. It is proposed that Area representation at Full Council will be via a single Members' Director, elected from the Area Delegates by Areas Council.

At the start of the year, I again did validation work to correct the continuing errors in the Area club contact lists downloaded from the BMFA membership system and distributed the result to the elected officers to aid communication with Area clubs. I have continued to provide updates as required but had hoped not to have to repeat this exercise in 2021. Unfortunately, I am always on the back foot with this, as we get no notification from the BMFA (or from clubs) when club officials change, and club returns are often not filled in correctly at re-affiliation.

Peter Willis of Wimborne MAC has kindly kept me abreast of MoD drone-jamming trials and airspace restrictions posted on Skywise, which I have passed on to the potentially affected clubs.

I assisted at the Popham Model Show in August for all three days, including the Friday set-up and Sunday take down.

Next year (2022) is the centenary of the SMAE/BMFA and various events are planned to celebrate this. We will incorporate the centenary into our Wartime Wallop display on Saturday 23 April, and also into the Popham Model Show 2022 (proposed for the weekend of 20/21 August). I have been asked to help coordinate the helicopter section of the centenary exhibition July-September in the Goldsmith Hangar at Buckminster.

Flightfest will again be in May next year; clubs are encouraged to put on events to engage with the public to encourage more people into model flying, though these do not have to be solely in May.

3.3 Honorary Treasurer's report (Terry Weeks)

At the AGM each we have to report the situation as at the 31st March 2020 it 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 (to £2290.00) 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 balance of the last financial year stood at **£5414.61** as at the 31st March 2021 this took into account all of the income and expenditure to that date.

The planning for the year April 2021 until March 2022 was in place mirroring what we were going to do last year, but things remained ever changing. To date we have received no grant for the current year and have only spent £150.68. There may be some other expenditures between now and the 31st March, but I expect this to be minimal, so the end of year balance will be ***£5263.43**.

*The 2021 Free - Flight Gala. Peter Carter is in discussion with Odiham to sort out a date for this and re-arrange this for early 2022, if it goes ahead before March 2022 this will obviously affect the figures shown above.

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

A proposed budget to be agreed at the January meeting and then passed to both Keith Lomax and Ian Pallister.

Action Terry Weeks. (Prior to handover to Wayne)

3.4 Honorary Secretary's report (Tom Wood)

There has been a slow start to the flying year with Covid ruling out the first few months, however it has not stopped a reasonably successful season in my eyes. There have been

many shows and events that I have intended, filling up almost every weekend from mid-April to mid-September, including both Weston Park events, the Freestyle Masters competition, and the Southern Area's own show at Popham airfield. I have attended all of the southern area meetings throughout the year and have been pleased to see an increase over last year's turn outs. I have compiled the minutes for the majority of the area meetings (thank you to Terry and Tony for the assistance with the last two meeting minutes) and all accepted minutes have been sent to the BMFA head office.

Unfortunately, due to an increase of responsibilities in work, I have recently been struggling to keep up with my roles as the area secretary, and regrettably I feel like if I were to continue this role it would be detrimental to the area, and therefore I will be stepping down from my role. I have enjoyed my time working with the committee

3.5 Achievement scheme Co-ordinator's report (Dave Burstow)

A fractured year, due to lockdowns and other Covid restrictions on flying field attendance. Only a few events, shows or competitions were held, although I did go to the Woodspring Wings show.

Accordingly, there was little Achievement Scheme (AS) activity, as individual ACE reports show. Some requests for information or testing were received, but most have not progressed. One exception was for a CE at the Fleet club, completed successfully by Peter Carter. All ACEs are willing to be ratified for 2022 except for Tony Warrilow, who has decided to stand down after 20 years' service in the role.

This leaves a bit of a gap in our line-up of ACEs, and the Committee may wish to consider appointing another. However, Tony lives near Wimborne in Dorset, so I could well cover his radius of operations for FW, given the low demand for ACE services.

I circulated a September Areas Council ASRC report I (with which I take some issue) to all ACEs for comment. Those who responded were adamant that they already make efforts to circulate around their local clubs and offer support and advice.

A signposting document was circulated with the S Area newsletter to help members and clubs with advice and contacts for the AS and is included on our website. This has not led to any significant response.

The BMFA continue to push the AS quite hard to develop B cert holders to CE level. My view is that most club members are not very interested in the AS beyond having an A cert to prove competence or as a club requirement for safe solo. We will see what comes out of the current review of Areas in terms of any systemic changes. I do feel that the operation of the AS should remain an area function and should not become an arm of the ASRC.

I stepped into the role of ASC 2 years ago following a sudden vacancy, but I do not propose to continue in the role for 2022. A vote of thanks went to Dave for all of his work.

Dave proposed some form of award be made to Tony Warrilow for his long-term efforts in an ACE role.

Action at the Jan Meeting

3.6 PRO / Social Media report (James Hounslow)

James reported having purchased the required software to allow him to interface the events calendar on the website to the Facebook page, he explained that the Facebook facility would become the lead and all entries to be passed to him for inclusion. To this end James requested permission to adapt the website to allow this change and this was agreed. Terry to pass all future events details to James for inclusion onto the facebook page and these would automatically update the website "Events" section. It was agreed that James should be paid the cost of the software by the S Area. (*£63.66 to be Paid*)

Action James

3.7 Web Masters report (Terry Weeks)

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 sites "Hits" are ever increasing and this year showing that many of you are beginning to visit the site on a regular basis, this last 12 months we have had 4260 visits 225 in the last month.

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

3.8 Council Delegate's report (David Smith)

Covered in David's report above.

3.9 Free Flight Competition Secretary's report (Roger Newman)

This year organised competition & sport flying has continued at Beaulieu & Area 8 of Salisbury Plain, with very occasional forays on Chobham Common for trimming purposes. Area meetings have been held at Beaulieu & Area 8, weather & conditions permitting. The majority of indoor meetings have been cancelled due to Covid -19 restrictions but have resumed this Autumn at Totton & Wickham, the former being underwritten by SABMFA. The season did finish on a modestly high note in October, with the traditional combined Croydon Club/SAM1066 meeting on Area 8, fortunately blessed by excellent weather & some really good flying.

Sports flying continued at Beaulieu & Area 8, albeit with ever diminishing participants & the former site further constrained by restrictions imposed by the Forestry Commission which now threaten the future of any sensible form of free flight at this site beyond this year.

The ranks of active flyers continue to reduce due to mortality issues & the problem of dispersal of good flyable models to those remaining occupies much time!

Donations of a significant quantity of modelling related books & mags, surplus to the SAM1066 David Baker Heritage Library, have been made to the BMFA Archive during the year,

Preliminary planning is in progress for several events in 2022, primarily on Area 8, but with possibilities of the use of RAF Odiham & RAF Colerne, the latter perhaps as a joint meeting with the South Bristol Club as a BMFA Centenary event.

The Southern Area Committee is thanked for its on-going support to the diminishing but still enthusiastic number of free flight devotees within the Area.

Peter Carter added to this by reporting that a few potential problems at Salisbury plain have now been resolved and all looks good for license renewal. The police have now been informed that the by-laws that were apparently being breached do not apply as the model flying activity is covered by the license.

3.10 Radio Control Silent Flight Competition Secretary's report, (Terry Weeks)

The LME was cancelled early in 2021 so for the first time in 6 years we did not attend.

I have arranged a talk on Soaring and gliding in general using a "PowerPoint" presentation, but due to COVID this has been shelved, to be re-arranged when the situation improves.

I attended all the Popham model show meetings, and all 4 days covering the set up and breakdown of the show. I arranged the registration of the pilots and kept them all in touch with the planned arrangements. On the two show days I booked all the pilots in, checked their paperwork, and carried out the daily briefings. All in all, the work was very rewarding as the show was a great success.

The "Wartime Wallop" event at Middle Wallop, initially set for the 31st May 2021 was cancelled but I am pleased to report that I will be attending the Aircraft Enthusiasts and Model Show on the 21st November to man the S A BMFA stand.

I have also booked the S. Area to attend and provide a static & flying display at the Wartime Wallop event in 2022 on the 23rd April.

I attended the 2021 Odiham Families Day on the 14th August with Peter Carter to put on the usual static display, and again we did the hobby proud.

4.0 Election of the S. Area Committee Members for 2015/2016.

Note – strategy moving forward - The Southern area Committee is always looking to encourage new members and or welcome support from Model flyers in the area. To this end we should tailor tasks appropriately to encourage pilots to join us and become part of the team regardless of how much support they can offer, today we have to be flexible in this respect.

Tony Butterworth	Chairman	WCA
David Smith	Vice Chairman	Heli Pad MC
Terry Weeks	Hon. Secretary	Alton Silent Flyers
Wayne Broom	Hon. Treasurer	Chesil MFC
Peter Bennet	PAS co-ordinator	Lansdown MFC
James Hounslow	PRO / Social-Media	South Hants Heli's
David Smith	Area Delegate	Heli Pad MC
Terry Weeks	RC Comp Sec (Silent Flight)	Alton Silent Flyers
Roger Newman	Free Flight Comp. Sec.	Bournemouth
Terry Weeks	S Area Webmaster	Alton Silent Flyers

Area Return for 2022 will be completed and sent to BMFA. **Action T Weeks**

5.0 Ratification of Southern Area Chief Examiners for 2021/2022: -

Those re-ratified are:

Terry Weeks SF Ken Gale HELI & Multi-rotor Peter Rondel FW David Burstow FW
Matt Lodge Heli & Multi-rotor Tony Butterworth FW & SF Peter Carter FW
Richard Sharman FW Peter Bennett FW (subject to ratification by the AS controller)

Proposed: Tony Butterworth; Seconded: Dave Burstow and agreed by block vote.

A vote of thanks was proposed for Tony Warrilow having completed 20 years in the role.

6.0 AOB.

6.1 Events already planned / in progress:

21 st November 2021	The model enthusiasts show at Middle Wallop.
26 th January 2022	The S Area Committee Meeting.
23 rd April 2022	Wartime Wallop Static and Flying display.
20 th & 21 st August 2022	The Popham Model Show 2022.
11 th November 2022	The return of "Balsa Brain" the popular quiz night.
TBA	The S Area Free-Flight Gala at Odiham.
TBA	The next S Area Webinar.
TBA	4 round S Area ESoaring league
All will be detailed on the website	

6.2 S A Free Flight Gala at Odiham:

Peter Carter reported that he was working on the arrangements to run this long running event but initially things were slow due to the everchanging personnel. However, things have now improved and a good repertoire with the new station commander has meant things can now move forward hopefully in the early part of 2022.

7.0 Next meetings:

Date and time of the next Southern Area AGM: -

Wednesday 9th November 2022.

Venue: - The Popham Conference room & Zoom - **Start Time: 7.00 hrs. pm**

Date and time of the next Southern Area Committee meeting: -

Wednesday 26th January 2022.

Venue: - The Popham Conference room & Zoom - **Start Time: 7.00 hrs. pm**

Attachments:

1. All 2021 ACE reports are available to view via a request made to the secretary. To print them all here would unreasonably extend the minutes. Upon request they will be sent by email.