



# 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 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Venue: - Meeting Held Via Zoom

Start Time: 7.00 hrs pm

### **Present:**

Tony Butterworth FSMAE  
David Smith  
Terry Weeks  
Wayne Broom  
Peter Bennett  
James Hounslow  
Ray Cox  
Alan Wallington  
Dave Newby  
Dave Durnford  
Ken Knox  
Dave Burstow  
Peter Willis  
Paul Mead

### **S Area Position:**

Chairman  
Vice Chairman/Area Delegate  
Hon Secretary/RC SF Rep Web  
Hon Treasurer  
ACS C-Ord  
Facebook editor  
Visitor  
Visitor  
Visitor  
Visitor  
Visitor  
ACE  
ACE  
Visitor

### **Club(s):**

Waltham Chase  
Helipad  
ASF; Skylarks & MVSA  
Chesil  
Lansdown  
South Hants Heli's  
Popham Aero modellers  
Waltham Chase  
NADMAS  
Alton MFC  
CADMAC  
Eagles  
Wimborne  
South Coast Heli' Club

### **Apologies:**

Roger Newman Free Flight Representative  
Mike Pearson Popham Airfield Manager

14 a great attendance, thank you all for your interest.

Tony welcomed the committee and thanked the new members for taking up their roles.

The minutes of the Area meetings on the 29<sup>th</sup> September and AGM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November were agreed as a true record. (Both had been available to read as usual on the website).

Proposed: Terry Weeks: All Agreed:

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

I attended the Popham model show planning meeting on the 24th November , helping to finalize rough draft targets for this year's show. I also attended Flitehook's indoor meeting on the 19th January at Totton just to view the facilities and meet the attendees .The hall was of a significant height, and it was good to see this event had attracted very good support with modelers from local plus Bournemouth and Chichester areas. Spoke with John who advised support was continuing to grow and covering cost, so the future looks healthy for this event. John did advise that business has decreased significantly over the past year for modelling goods, let's hope the arrival of spring will encourage additional activity. Also, on the 19th January I was invited to attend the first of the open meetings to discuss the BMFA strategic review progress. David has advised the proposed changes being considered, this was my first involvement in this review and the following are the points that I noted:

proposal for a revised BMFA structure was advised, this has been developed by the strategic review team after much consultation. The objective of the meeting was to introduce this structure to the area committee level and invite comments back from the floor.

The current focus is to continue with further reviews such that we arrive at a consensus on this proposed structure to enable the 2022 AGM to ratify and implement this proposal from 2023 onwards.

To provide clarity it was advised that the Executive directors are responsible for the overall running of the BMFA business, ensuring we operate effectively, within agreed budgets and maintain focus on critical issues to support growth in future years. The non-executive directors focus on key agreed projects (rather than overall business) to ensure strategic targets are achieved on time and to budget.

The outreach director is proposed with responsibilities that include identifying opportunities to improve awareness of our sport to the younger generation (ie. set up links with education departments - air training core and other likeminded organizations that may yield a new generation of aeromodellers for the future). I consider this position a positive addition to the current structure and one that with the right appointment would be a valuable asset to the organization.

Reducing the number of personnel at key meetings was identified as a key driver to the new structure; the implementation of LEAN principles has to be applauded. With improved meeting productivity (as a result of reduced attendees enabling a more focussed debate) it was considered that the frequency of meetings can therefore be decreased. Not only will this help encourage improved decision making it will also help reduce operating cost, another valuable benefit.

The meeting was well attended with 19 attendees including Ian Pallister and Mark Bennis.

This is still only at the consultation stage it was suggested this is not for general circulation.

This was discussed at length, see AOB for more on this.

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

Since my report to the Area AGM, I have attended the BMFA AGM in Daventry on 20 November and assisted on the Southern Area stand at the model show at the Museum of Army Flying the following day. I have participated in Zoom meetings to plan the Popham Model Show 2022 on 24 November, and BMFA Full Council on 8 January.

I participated in an Areas Council Zoom meeting on 19 January to hear how the proposal to restructure the BMFA would affect Areas. The Strategic Review has highlighted that Full Council has too many members to work efficiently, currently around 40, and the Executive also needs to be slimmed down. The proposal is that Area Delegates will no longer be Directors of the BMFA / SMAE Ltd., and Full Council will be disbanded in favour of a smaller Executive Council. There will be seven Executive Directors:

1. The Chief Executive
2. The Company Secretary (currently called the Hon Sec)
3. The Finance Director (currently called the Treasurer)
4. The Sporting Director (currently called the Competition Secretary)
5. The Technical Director (currently called the Technical Secretary)
6. The Outreach Director, responsible for recruitment and STEM activities
7. The Members Director, who will chair Areas Council

Alongside the Executive Directors will be four or five non-Executive Directors, three or four nominated by Areas Council plus the Achievement Scheme Director.

This structure is in line with current business models, the Executive Directors being tasked with the day-to-day running of the business while the non-Execs provide the scrutiny on behalf of, and in representation of, the membership. The Members Director will be responsible for producing reports of Executive meetings to Areas Council, and to Area Committees via Area Delegates.

The working group that is looking at the future structure and operation of the Areas has still to produce a report. Unfortunately, a diary oversight has meant that there is no Area Council yet scheduled for the early part of this year. Again, see AOB for more on this.

### **Secretaries Report:**

Terry reported that he had written and distributed the AGM minutes, posted the draft onto the website, and emailed them to BMFA HO.

Completed the Area Returns and Examiners Ratification forms to HO, this had initially not been actioned by HO, but David kindly corrected this so all is now well and shown correctly on the "Go-Membership" platform.

I attended the Aircraft Enthusiasts Fair and Model Show on the 21<sup>st</sup> November at Middle Wallop with David Smith, Peter Bennett, Roger Newman and Ken Gale to generally fly-the-flag for the Southern Area, this was well attended. The display of Models and the Flight Simulator created much interest.

I have liaised with Peter Carter regarding the S Area F-Flight Gala and found this to be progressing. I have contacted Joe Faretra at the Middle Wallop Museum and been advised that the likely date for the "Wartime Wallop" event will be in September. Terry has confirmed our interest in taking part with both flying and static displays.

Prepared a draft agenda for this meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

At the AGM a change of roles was agreed in that I would take over the role of Secretary and Wayne Broom appointed as the new Treasurer. We are still in the position of transferring the roles due to the following.

The HSBC our current bank announced it was to start charging £5.00 per month (£60.00 pa) for maintaining the account, so a change of bank was sought to avoid this. The Metro Bank was approached, and their "Community Account" met the bill in that no charges would be applied. I wanted to sort this out before passing over the reins to Wayne. I can now report that the switch is underway and should all be completed by the 7<sup>th</sup> February. Wayne has visited the bank with me to confirm his details and provide the necessary sample signature, I thought it only fair that we pay his expenses of £40.00 for the round trip to Basingstoke and have to advise that at least one further charge of £5.00 will be applied by the HSBC before the account is finally closed.

(The Metro Bank believe it or not was recommended by one of the HSBC staff!)

We have finally received the 2021 grant from BMFA HO of £1351.00 so the balance is £6381.37.

(This assumes that the 2021 Zoom account of c£119.90 and that the January bank charges are paid before the switch takes place.)

The planning for the year April 2022 until March 2023 is in place mirroring what we were going to do last year, this has to be discussed / amended as required before submission to Keith Lomax to justify this year's grant.

**Action: Terry to send the draft proposals for consideration and all agreed to reply by the 9<sup>th</sup> February so that a final plan be consolidated for HO when requested.**

The 2021 Free - Flight Gala. Peter Carter is in discussion with Odiham to sort out a date for this and re-arrange this during 2022, it is not likely to go ahead before March 2022 so this will not affect the figures shown.

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

I attended the Aircraft Enthusiasts Fair and Model Show on the 21<sup>st</sup> November at Middle Wallop with Terry Weeks David Smith, Roger Newman and Ken Gale to generally fly-the-flag for the Southern Area, this was well attended. The display of Models and the Flight Simulator created much

interest to all visitors and myself as this was the first outing with the Southern Area to which I did enjoy.

I have participated in the meeting to plan the Popham Model Show 2022 on 24 November. Received some calls of interest from the Backdown model flying club and Chesil model flying club Regarding the new RCC online test.

I would like to say thank you to Dave Burstow for forwarding relevant information on from the BMFA ACE Ratifications from Duncan McClure. And for offering to help me. I have attached a list for all to see.

With all the changes going on within the BMFA office I'm guessing that things will take some time to change over, ie. contact names and phone numbers on web site.

I will be retaking my BMFA examiners test ASAP. Long story lol.

### **Free Flight Report:**

Sporadic flying continues at Beaulieu, so far without challenge or reported problems. The BMFC had received zero response from the FC at the end of Dec 2021, thus we continue as per the back end of last year albeit there has been very little flying activity.

The BMFA have confirmed availability of Salisbury Plain Area 8 for 2022, good news indeed. Permits can now be obtained on-line - £20 for the season (weekends only) flying subject to Ops Control confirmation each weekend. A combined Croydon Wakefield Day/SAM1066 Day has been set for 18<sup>th</sup> April (Easter Monday) but has yet to be confirmed. The Crookham Gala is scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> Sept with emphasis on the Combined Power event & Dixielander entries – see attached ad (Terry – for SABMFA website please) & supported by SABMFA. A full list of free flight events for the year will be emailed to Terry for website inclusion within the next 2/3 weeks.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Indoor Winter Season meeting at Totton has now been held. All to date have been successful in both attendance & financial viability.

A date of 24<sup>th</sup> July has been agreed to hold a Cagnarata Day at RAF Colerne, run by SAM1066 in conjunction with South Bristol. The licence has already been obtained.

Support & models have been offered for the BMFA Centenary exhibition at Buckminster later this year. A chapter has been written (on the Vintage Scene) for Martin Dilly who is authoring & editing a celebratory book on free flight for the BMFA Centenary.

The modelling estate of the late Lindsey Smith has been very generously donated to SAM1066 by his family. Realisation of this bequest over time has the potential to give much welcomed financial stability to SAM1066 for the foreseeable future.

Otherwise, as expected, a quiet time of year for free flight.

### **Silent Flight Report:**

Little to report other than the dates for the 4 national Opens that form the S Area League have been set and are shown on the S Area Website. **Action: Terry to send details to James.**

### **AOB:**

#### **Action from the AGM:**

1. Tony Warrilow – Discussion on a suitable award.  
**Action: Tony to purchase a plaque, David Smith to arrange for a certificate and Dave Burstow to apply for an award.**
2. Agree a S Area budget for Keith Lomax and Ian Pallister. **Actioned in Treasurers report.**  
Terry had forwarded the suggested proposal, this to be discussed.  
New Committee – Web site updated, Area Returns updated, Minutes produced and forwarded to HO by w/ending 12<sup>th</sup> November. **Action complete.**  
Arrangements to pass over the Treasurers work to Wayne. This is all but complete as per the notes above. **Action complete.**

3. Update on Facebook interface. James has invoiced the cost of the software, and this paid.

**Action complete.**

**Actions from the 29<sup>th</sup> September meeting:**

**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. No further action at present but to be held as a future activity.

**Odiham:**

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. The S Area Free Flight Gala to proceed here. This reported above.

**Popham show report:**

This project is being progressed by a separate "Organisers Group" and will have meetings and minutes prepared in its own right. Information only to be added here.

**BMFA centenary celebrations next year:**

Central BMFA is promoting the area to help celebrate this achievement. The Popham Show was suggested and accepted as it would be the biggest event, we would be running this year.

**Web Site / Facebook integration:**

James has the link up and running with just the future event details to be sought and entered.

**Drone Bill Notes:**

These have been added to the website prior to the AGM 2021.

**Action Closed**

**Hold a second webinar:**

Progress on web page and facebook for S/Area:

Popham Model show -- report on the 2021 event - include plans for the 2022 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.

**Action: This not discussed so will be carried forward.**

**New Items Raised:**

**1. The strategic review:**

Following the reports from David and Tony this matter was discussed at length with some dissatisfaction being raised as to how it was being organised by HO. Several thought an initial consultation with the general membership should have been carried out on how they thought the organisation could be improved.

Peter Willis raised a number of concerns about the process and communication of what in his opinion is the most important thing to happen to the BMFA in decades. (Forwarded following the meeting as follows.)

"Firstly, the majority of the members and those present feel the communication on the topic has been very poor with no apparent consultation of the wider membership being apparent. The general feeling amongst the members was that it was purposely being done in secret to prohibit comment/influence from concerned members.

Peter Willis questioned the lack of detail in the Strategic Objectives of the review, which he had only become aware of when he sought a copy of the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021 presentation by Ian Pallister in mid-December, following a brief update on the review at the S. Area AGM by the Area Rep in November. Other members of the committee did not appear to be aware of the detail of the presentation.

The lack of detail from the consolidated SWOT (Strength/Weakness/Opportunities/Threats) and with just some overarching Strategic Priority statements such as *1. Protect Model Flying including advocacy with the DfT CAA*, meant there appears to be limited focus on a number of key issues directly affecting members now and probably over the next 25 years, such as loss of flying sites, BMFA Safety & Compliance oversight/learning and poor service levels to clubs/members. Current examples of poor service were discussed such as a recent loss of a flying site for which the club has had no response whatsoever from BMFA HQ, despite requests for help. The debacle that Wimborne MAC suffered when the over 400ft authorisation process was very poorly handled/under resourced (and changed without notification to the applicant) leaving the club vulnerable to law breaking, requiring cessation of certain types of flying activity. Anecdotal evidence of poor reporting/possible understanding of RC beyond visual line of sight safety issues from the BMFA Safety Committee or sharing of safety related learning, especially important given the CAA potential focus on how the BMFA is handling its recently delegated powers;

The other key issue that produces a big risk to the sport going forward is the significant over regulation now being faced, which has the potential to get much worse going forward, especially as BMFA has appeared to be reactionary rather than being very proactive on the topic to date. Whilst it was recognised that the Vice Chair has a safety remit (not included in the job title) it was felt that the lack of a dedicate Safety and Compliance Directorship in the proposed restructure and an apparent unwillingness to openly share lessons learnt was seen to be a poor demonstration to the CAA that BMFA were not taking effective delivery and management of delegated powers seriously, which could potentially lead to yet more inappropriate or unnecessary regulation.

It was generally agreed that the S. Area should consult and check/share with other adjoining BMFA Area Committees their concerns about poor communication/lack of detail/understanding, lack of effective consultation (and woefully short timescales given the cascade nature of Area communications).”

It was agreed that another meeting should be convened to discuss this matter in isolation so that a view from the Southern Area could be expressed by David at the next meeting on the subject and this also shared with other Areas for comment.

**Can I suggest Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> February?**

2. Wayne to advise the dates for the Bovington shows for inclusion on the website / facebook.
3. James to contact the Cub / Scout groups to try to arrange an event with them.
4. Paul Mead expressed his disappointment due to the lack of help given due to the loss of their flying site. Paul to create a detailed diary of events in relation to the loss of the site so that appropriate action can be followed up. **This will be on the agenda at the next meeting.**

**The next meeting is on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7:00 pm.**