



British Model Flying Association Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Minutes of the AGM held on the 9th November 2022

Venue: - **The Meeting was held at Popham & via Zoom**

Start Time: **7.00 pm**

Those Present:

David Smith, Terry Weeks, Peter Bennett, Peter Carter, Ken Knox and Mike Pearson in person.
Tony Butterworth, Alan Wallington and Dave Burstow Via Zoom.

Apologies for absence:

Peter Willis, Ray Cox, Wayne Broom, David Durnford.

David Smith Chaired the meeting.

1.0 The minutes of the 2021 AGM on the 3rd November 2021.

Following one correction that has already been made, these were approved as a true record so the corrected version will now be shown as ratified on the website.

2.0 Committee reports:

2.1 Chairman's Report: Tony Butterworth.

I have attended all Southern Area BMFA committee meetings over the past year, and also attended the initial Popham planning meetings for the 2022 show up till the end of March. I have also visited several model shows in the South including Woodsprings Wings, two Modelair events at Old Warden as well as two events at Buckminster. In July I was also invited to the BMFA centenary garden party event at Buckminster which included the opening of the static model display presenting models from the past 100 years of aeromodelling in the UK and the presentation of several awards to mark this historic achievement. My wife and I enjoyed this event as we had the opportunity to meet up with many of our friends from the BMFA Nationals team whom we had not seen for several years. The centenary event was well attended and included a flypast of a Spitfire and Hurricane to celebrate the occasion.

The Southern area committee this year has seen a welcome increase in attendees with several new clubs offering support. This is a positive sign with these newer members also providing practical hands-on support at local events as well as involvement at area meetings. The support from our members from the Dorset area has also been of great benefit and it does feel that we are developing a positive team spirit here in the South that is capable of developing future opportunities to benefit our local area clubs. The success of the Popham show demonstrates this capability admirably, and the confidence gained from this success will only enhance the Southern area BMFA's ability to continue to organise and develop future opportunities as and when they arise. Sadly, the situation with finding venues to fly has not seen an improvement, in fact I cannot recall a period where we have seen restrictions applied to so many of our long-standing flying facilities. Beaulieu & Middle Wallop to name but two have been facilities where free flight - control line and RC events have been organised but are now out of bounds. Such a reduction has a massive impact

not only on providing venues to hold events but also on our ability to develop model flying and keep it in the public eye. Thankfully while outdoor facilities are struggling indoor events appear to have maintained interest at local levels and deserve our support. On a personal level I will be resigning from my position as chairman of the S/A committee this evening, with family matters taking priority for the winter months. This is my second term of office on this committee as chairman after I replaced Roger Bedford some 16 years ago. Previous to that I followed Don Eades onto this committee back in the 70's so I have the privilege to have been involved in over 20 years of BMFA support here in the South. That experience has shown me that the challenges of promoting the BMFA and developing model flying are far greater today than they have ever been, and therefore demand a higher degree of commitment to ensure success. The core members of this committee have been together for many years now, in part due to the difficulty we experience in finding suitable candidates but today I personally feel that we are in a better place than we have been for many a year. I have enjoyed my time as Chairman, but I need to focus on family issues first hence my decision. I would like to continue as an area ACE and am more than happy to continue liaison with Trophy man supplies should these be required . Also, I hope to attend area meetings to keep in touch as I still have the desire to promote and support the BMFA in the future when my wife's recovery is complete. Lastly, to all the team members who I've met and worked with over this period my thanks to you all, we have created many memories and promoted the BMFA with purpose and commitment. I look forward to your future success. TB.

This was followed by a unanimous thank you from all present to Tony for all he done over the years in the role as Chairman of the Southern Area.

3.2 Vice Chairman's Report: David Smith.

Since the last Area AGM I have attended the 2021 BMFA AGM and participated in all but one Full Council meeting and all but one Areas Council meeting, many of which have been by Zoom, and produced timely reports of the meetings for the Area Committee. I have also participated in all of the Southern Area Committee meetings, including the planning meetings for the 2022 Popham Model Show, and will attend the BMFA AGM in Solihull on Saturday 19 November.

I coordinated the helicopter section of the BMFA Centenary exhibition, held at Buckminster July-September in the Goldsmith Hangar. This involved attending Buckminster to help with setting up the exhibition in early July, and then again in early September for dismantling. I also attended the VIP Opening Ceremony at Buckminster on 15 July to represent Southern Area. I assisted at the Popham Model Show in August for all three days, including the Friday set-up and Sunday take down.

The BMFA Strategic Review has resulted in a proposal to restructure Council, to be called the Board of Directors, with fewer Directors than currently as the fourteen Area Delegates will no longer be Directors of SMAE Ltd. Area representation on the Board of Directors will be via a single Members' Director, and four non-executive Directors elected from among the Area Delegates by Areas Council.

The revision of the Areas Constitution has taken a bit of a back seat this year as a result of the Centenary activities. Under this proposal, and as a result of the Strategic Review, Areas will have much more autonomy to run their own affairs than previously. One of the proposals arising from the Strategic Review is to reduce the number of Areas, though this

has yet to be fully worked through.

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.

Finally, David advised that a £2.00 increase in subscription levels was to be proposed at the BMFA AGM and would probably be accepted, this for both Seniors and Juniors. This will make the Senior subscription £42.00.

3.3 Secretaries Report: Terry Weeks.

This is the completion of my second year as Secretary following the resignation of Tom, following eight years as Treasurer. Prior to that I acted as Silent-flight representative for 12 years.

I have arranged all of this year's S Area Meetings, attended them all and taken minutes for same. Once approved I have both added them to the S Area Website and copied them to BMFA HQ. As second signatory I have assisted Wayne by paying the expenses of all meeting attendees keeping him completely up to date as required.

I attended the Popham Show on 5 days, the Thursday and Friday to deliver our equipment and set up, the Saturday and Sunday of the Show and the Monday to finish the breakdown and return home with all of our equipment. I have also attended all of the Popham Show meetings and acted as secretary by taking minutes for the show arrangements.

I have to add my personal thanks to Tony on his time spent as Chairman guiding the committee to where it is today and am pleased that he intends to stay involved albeit to a lesser extent.

3.4 Treasurer's Report: Wayne Broom.

Expenditure up to and including the 7th November has been as follows:

T Weeks a box for equipment used at Popham £13.12; and Committee attendance expenses of £75.90. Tony Butterworth £26.00 for the Salver he bought on our behalf.

On the 4th of October we received £250.00 (Mike initially offered £500.00) from Popham (Spitfires Ltd) to cover our expenses and thank us for our contribution in the running of the flightline of the show.

Our balance as of the 31st October is £5,891.29.

Refer to copies of the spreadsheet presented tonight; Terry went through the spreadsheet on Wayne's behalf due to his absence. *(The Zoom attendees have since received a copy via email following the meeting.)*

3.5 Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinators Report: Peter Bennett.

I have participated in all 2022 meetings of the Southern Area either by zoom or in person at the Popham airfield Conference room.

I have also attended all the meeting for the 2022 Popham model show.

I have attended some of the model shows within the south and can report good attendance by both pilots and the public.

The start of 2022 was a little slow with request from individuals and clubs but as the weather started to improve so requests for advice and training days starter to become more active, I think we need to set some dates for Training days and achieve A/B at the clubs that are willing and active. I have enjoyed working with the current committee and hope I can continue with my post.

I wish to thank all those that have supported me.

3.6 Free Flight Report:

As Roger has resigned no formal report was presented. However, refer to the notes on Odiham below regarding the very successful S Area Free-Flight Gala that was held on the 6th September. The full report is on the website.

(This from the last S A committee meeting): Peter Carter said he was pleased to report that the final loss of running the S Area Free-Flight Gala at Odiham was reduced to just £136.00 as shown on Wayne's report, much less than initially expected. Due to the success of the event, it is expected that it will be better supported next year.

On the question of an event next year Peter said he was reluctant to run it again due to the possible loss that could be sustained. It was unanimously agreed that it should go ahead, and that the committee were happy to cover any loss incurred as it was a very important contribution to the Area's activities.

3.7 Silent Flight Report: Terry Weeks.

Although I have been very active on this front, due to the backlash of COVID and fuel prices the S. Area Esoaring League was cancelled due to lack of entries. This will continue through 2023 but we hope to resume the competition in 2024.

As a S. F. ACE, I have conducted 3 tests, 2 "A" and 1 "B" throughout the year and all candidates I am pleased to report passed.

I did much to assist in the running of the Popham Model Show and arranged an Esoaring display at the show with 6 pilots taking part.

4.0 Election of the S. Area Committee Members for 2022 / 2023

Note – strategy moving forward is unchanged - 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.

Position	Name	Club(s)
Chairman	Terry Weeks	ASF, Skylarks & MVSA
Vice Chairman	David Smith	Heli Pad MC
Secretary	Terry Weeks	ASF, Skylarks & MVSA
Treasurer	Wayne Broom	Chesil MFC
PAS Co-Ordinator	Peter Bennett	Lansdown MFC
Area Delegate	David Smith	Heli Pad MC
PRO / Social-Media	James Hounslow	South Hants Heli's
RC Silent Flight Comp Sec	Terry Weeks	ASF, Skylarks & MVSA
Free Flight Rep'	Peter Carter	AMC, Skylarks & Popham
S. Area Webmasters	David Smith, Peter Bennett & Terry Weeks	

Secondary tasks. Peter Bennett to assist Wayne as required and the maintenance of the website now to be shared, Terry taking a back seat.

All of the above were proposed, seconded and appointed unanimously.

David Smith agreed to fill out and distribute the Area Returns for 2023.

5.0 Ratification of S. Area Chief Examiners for 2022/2023

Peter Bennett FW, Tony Butterworth FW & SF, David Burstow FW, Peter Carter FW, Peter Rondel FW, Ken Gale Heli & Muti-rotor, Matt Lodge Heli & M-rotor, Terry Weeks SF.

Proposed: Alan Wallington. Seconded: David Smith and all agreed unanimously.

6.0 AOB:

6.1 Events already planned / in progress for 2022 / 2023

TBA	S. Area A S Workshops. Action: Peter B to arrange. Two at Popham and one at Bath suggested.
TBA	S. Area Webinar. Action: David S to speak to Andy Symons
TBA	Model Enthusiasts show at Middle Wallop. Action: Terry W
18 th January	S. Area Committee Meeting at Popham+.
12 th April	S. Area Committee Meeting via Zoom.
14 th June	S. Area Committee Meeting at Popham+.
30 th August	S. Area Committee Meeting via Zoom.
16 th /17 th September	Popham Model Show. Action: S Area Sub-Committee.
18 th October	S. Area Committee Meeting at Popham+.
TBA	Wartime Wallop at Middle Wallop. Action: Terry W
TBA	S. Area Free-Flight Gala at Odiham. Action: Peter C
TBA	S. Area "Balsa-Brain" The popular Quiz Night. Jan Meeting

7.0 Calling Notice for the S. Area 2023 AGM.

To be held on the 15th November at 7:00pm at Popham+.

Notes on Meeting designations:

Popham+ To be in person where possible at Popham but with Zoom available.

Zoom All attendees via Zoom.

The AGM meeting to close.

Our thanks go to Mike Pearson for the use of the Popham Facilities.

November committee meeting.

8.0 Items that cannot wait until the January committee meeting:

- 8.1 Request for support for provision of a toilet for the Helipad scale day.
It was agreed that the event should be planned to breakeven, but support agreed in the event of a loss being made.
- 8.2 Request for support for the Crookham Gala, not a S A BMFA Event so it does not qualify.
- 8.3 Dates for the ASRC meetings & test days, as above Peter to arrange.
- 8.4 Arrangements for a S Area Webinar, as above David S to speak to Andy Symons.
- 8.5 Balsa Brain Quiz for 2023 – Should go ahead but left for January Meeting.