



British Model Flying Association Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Agenda for the S Area Meeting to be held on the 18th January 2023

Venue: - Meeting to be held at Popham & via Zoom

Start Time: 7.00 pm

1.0	Present:	S Area Position:	Club:
	Mike Pearson	Popham Airfield Manager	Popham
	David Smith	Vice Chair & Area Delegate	Helipad
	Terry Weeks	Chair & Secretary	ASF & Skylarks

Via Zoom

David Burstow	Club Delegate	Eagles
David Newby	Club Delegate	Newbury
Peter Bennett	S Area ASC	Lansdown
James Hounslow	S A PRO	S Hants Helis
Peter Willis	Club Delegate	Wimborne
Ray Cox	Club Delegate	Popham
Alan Wallington	Club Delegate	WCA
Ken Knox	Club Delegate	Chichester

1.1 **Apologies for absence:** Wayne Broom, David Durnford & Peter Carter.

2.0 **Approval of the minutes from the last Meeting held on the 14th Sept 2021.**

Proposed: David Smith Seconded: David Burstow Agreed: Unanimous

3.0 **Committee reports:**

3.1 **Chairman's Report:** Terry reported that he had written to Dave Phipps, to be discussed later in AOB 5:2. Terry also said that both he and David Smith had continued to chase the area grant, again to be discussed later in AOB 5:3.
Terry said he had attended the Aircraft Enthusiasts Show at Middle Wallop with David Smith, David Durnford and Ken Gale, note in "Events" below.
He had assisted the Skylarks Club to write their constitution following being asked for help. I will also be attending via zoom the treasurers meeting recently called by Duncan McClure on the 28th January at 7:00pm.

3.2 **Vice Chairman's Report:** David reported that he was unable to attend the Area Council meeting on 8 October 2022 as he was in Canada, but I did attend the meeting on 5 January 2023. As a result of the change in the management structure of the BMFA Area Delegates are no longer Company Directors, but four of us will act as non-executive directors and sit on the Board of Management for two years on a 10-year rolling rotation. Southern Area has its first seat at this table in 2029 and 2030. Feedback from Board meetings to Areas will be via Areas Council, rather than directly via Area Delegates.

The minutes from the October Areas Council meeting were not produced until the start of the meeting on 5 January and are still not available on the Areas Council forum, which is why I have not been able to provide a report on this meeting. I was approached by the Southeast Area delegate at the BMFA AGM with the suggestion that we run a joint scale helicopter event in 2023. The format and venue for this are still to be decided, but I have volunteered to be the Southern Area contact for this.

I attended the Aircraft Enthusiasts Fair and Model Show at Middle Wallop on 27 November to help man the SABMFA stand.

3.3 Area Delegates report: David that this was the first Areas Council (AC) to be held under the new BMFA management structure, and was therefore chaired by the Members Director, Duncan McClure. It was held on Zoom. The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 8 October 2022, were still not available when the meeting started but have subsequently been posted to the Areas Council forum. The chairman stated that he aimed to have shorter AC meetings in the future, with increased use of the AC forum to reduce the need for unnecessary discussion of issues at AC meetings. Fixed meetings would take place shortly before scheduled Board of Management meetings, with others arranged as required in between.

There were five applicants for the four vacant posts on the ASRC; Chris Bradbury, John Harris and Joseph Kemp were re-elected, and Simon Wood of the Bracknell club (a SA club) was elected to the final vacancy.

A proposal to create a Wales Area, by merging parts of Mid-West and Northwest Areas, was debated at length but finally withdrawn, as it appeared that the clubs involved had not been adequately consulted. The driver for the proposal was to enable clubs in Wales to access funding from Sport Wales, but it was not at all clear that funding would be available and there were potentially onerous requirements, such as mandatory use of the Welsh language.

There are now more BMFA-affiliated clubs in Scotland than are affiliated to the SAA.

There are ongoing discussions between the BMFA and SAA to establish Scotland as Area 15.

Support for the BMFA clubs in Scotland is provided by Northeast Area.

Brian Seymour, the South Midland Area delegate, was nominated as the AC representative on the Awards Committee.

Several Areas have ongoing problems with delivery of bulk emails. After some rather tedious discussion AC has appointed a small subgroup to explore a better solution.

The failure to pay 2022 Area grants on time was noted. Only seven Area Treasurers had completed the required return. The Chairman had agreed with the Hon Treasurer that 2022 grants would shortly be paid in full to those Areas that had submitted a return, with the others receiving the £600 base grant.

The proposal to introduce rolling membership to the BMFA was debated at length, with some considerable opposition. The Club Support Officer was dismissive of the opposition, but any change is still a long way off.

There was lengthy debate on the new Areas Constitution. The guidance document is longer than the Constitution, contains a number of errors, and is not fit for purpose. The Constitution itself is not perfect and will need some changes, potentially incorporating some of the text from the guidance document. So much for a short meeting ...

3.4 Secretary's Report: Terry reported that he had prepared the minutes of the AGM held on the 15th November and added a copy to the website for all to read. Booked the future committee meeting dates for the year and requested access to the Popham conference centre for alternate meetings so we could meet on a face-to-face basis (these already agreed with Mike – Thank you), the others being via Zoom to minimise travelling for all. Agreed to attend the "Aircraft Enthusiasts Show" at Middle Wallop soliciting help from willing committee members, see under "Events" below.

- 3.5 Treasurer's Report:** Terry had received the following report from Wayne:
 September 2022 Payments: Meeting attendance expenses – Paid in Total £82.20.
 October 2022 Payments: Meeting attendance expenses – Paid in Total £12.60.
 Received from the Spitfire Club £250.00 – Popham Expenses contribution.
 November 2022 Payments: Amy flying museum £12.00.
 Check issued £26.00 for plaque.
 Meeting attendance expenses – Paid in Total £59.70.
 December 2022. No transactions.
 January 2023 David Smith paid for extension lead lost at Middle Wallop £32.79.
 I would like to wish all the committee a very happy new year! And here's to an amazing year ahead.
 Terry added that he had been advised that the Grant will be £1000.00 and be paid w/c 16th January not before time!!
 Terry also added that he had renegotiated the annual fee for our Zoom a/c down from £143.88 to £119.90 due on the 28th January, sadly this quote was found to be pre-VAT so the price remains at £143.88.* (**Corrected post meeting.*)
 Initially when opening the Zoom, a/c Terry used his credit card, but this now changed to the Metro card we now have. The previous HSBC a/c did not give us this facility.
- 3.6 Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinators Report:** Peter reported that due to the weather very little had happened. One exception to this being making arrangements with Peter Carter to take a Junior for his fixed wing "B" so that he could take part in a competition requiring this as a minimum standard, he passed.
- 3.7 Free Flight Report:** Peter reported no activity of note largely due to the recent weather.
- 3.8 Webmaster's report:** Peter Bennett / David Smith. Peter Bennett had access problems, but James Hounslow assisted on the night to correct this, thanks James.
 Terry asked James to liaise with both Peter and David regarding the Facebook interface.
- 4.0 Items agreed in advance at the AGM that could not wait until this meeting:**
- 4.1** 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.
- 4.2** Request for support for the Crookham Gala, see accounts submitted below. This is essentially a club event open to all BMFA members. As is the usual case all efforts were made to break-even but in the event a loss was made of £46.65. It was agreed that we cover this loss. Proposed David Smith and Seconded Peter Bennett.
 Terry to contact Roger Newman to organise the payment.
- 4.3** Dates for the ASRC meetings & test days, as above Peter Bennett to arrange.
- 4.4** Arrangements for a S Area Webinar, as above David S to speak to Andy Symons.
- 4.5** Balsa Brain Quiz for 2023 – Should go ahead due to the long-standing history of the event. Some discussion on location took place but it was felt that the first event following the break should take place, if possible, at the previous location.
 Terry said he would ask Tony to see if he could arrange make the initial arrangements for this suggesting November as a good time.
- 5.0 AOB:**
- 5.1 Events already planned / in progress for 2022 / 2023.**
- 5.1.1 27/11/22 Model Enthusiasts show at Middle Wallop
 This was attended by David Smith, David Durnford, Ken Gale & Terry Weeks.
 The stand was assembled, and the day was very worthwhile with many visitors young and old. Terry to write a report for the website. **Action Terry**

5.1.2 TBA	S. Area A S Workshops, dates to be set. Action Peter Bennett
5.1.3 TBA	S. Area Webinar, date to be set. Action David Smith
5.1.4 16/9/23 & 17/9/23	Popham Model Show. Popham Sub-committee to be confirmed as: Peter Bennett, David Smith, David Newby, David Durnford, David Franks, Steve Vine, Wayne Broom, Alan Wallington & Terry Weeks. Plus, Mike Pearson. Due to availability of key personnel the date to be reviewed. Peter Terry and Mike to sort a date.
5.1.5 TBA	S. Area Free-Flight Gala at Odiham. Peter Carter to arrange.
5.1.6 TBA	S. Area "Balsa-Brain" The popular Quiz Night. Noted above.
5.1.7 Info'	No Wartime Wallop at Middle Wallop planned for 2023.

5.2 Letter to Dave Phipps

From Terry's report: The letter that he had sent to Dave Phipps, although sent from a personal point of view, was discussed, as yet he had received no response. The committee reviewed the letter and fully endorsed the content. Terry was asked to follow this up, this time representing the S Area not just himself.

5.3 Chase of the Area Funding.

Again, from Terry's report: The email to be discussed that he had sent to Keith Lomax chasing the area grant for 2022, this due last April remained as yet unpaid. Some movement finally in that Sian Sergeant has advised on the 11th January that the grant will be £1000.00 and paid w/c 16th January – Just 9 months overdue!!! (It had not been paid when checking on the 20th January!)

5.4 Future committee meetings.

Terry suggested that alternative meetings from now on be in person + zoom or entirely via zoom as face to face meetings were considered better.

All to try to make the in-person meetings at Popham but Zoom will be available.

The following dates have been agreed with Mike.

12 th April	S. Area Committee Meeting via Zoom.
14 th June	S. Area Committee Meeting at Popham + Zoom.
30 th August	S. Area Committee Meeting via Zoom.
18 th October	S. Area Committee Meeting at Popham + Zoom.
15 th November	S. Area AGM Meeting at Popham + Zoom

5.5 The Areas' Constitution:

The guidance document still requiring work to clarify. David Smith & Peter Willis to follow this up so a working document can finally be agreed.

5.6 Popham Show:

Mike added for information that he had made contact with a model car club, and they would be included in the next show. Also, more "Drone" involvement to be included and Mike forwarded more detailed proposals on this.

5.7 ADSB Trials:

Peter Willis reported that the initial trials had gone well but work on this is ongoing.

6.1 The next Meeting as above is the 12th April via Zoom.

(I will however advise all when the grant finally arrives and any agreement on a revised date for Popham)