



British Model Flying Association Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Minutes of the S Area Meeting held on the 19th July 2023

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

Start Time: **7.30 pm**

1.0 Present:	S Area Position:	Club:
Terry Weeks	Chair & Secretary ACE	ASF & Popham
David Smith	V Chair & SA Delegate	Helipad
Peter Bennett	S A ASC	Lansdown
Alan Wallington	Committee / Club Delegate	WCA
Dave Franks	Committee / Club Delegate	Bister
James Hounslow	Committee / Club Delegate	South Hants Helis
Peter Willis	Club Delegate	Wimborne
Mike Pearson	Popham Airfield Manager	Popham
Ken Knox	Club Delegate	Chichester
Via Zoom		
Ray Cox	Club Delegate	Popham
Dave Burstow	Club Delegate	Eagles

1.1 Apologies for absence:

Peter Carter	Committee / Free Flight Rep & ACE	Popham
Dave Newby	Club Delegate	NADMAC

2.0 Approval of the minutes from the last Meeting held on the 12th of April 2023.

Deferred to the re-arranged meeting but has been added to the website as non-ratified until approved. Proposed: David Smith. Seconded: Alan Wallington. Agreed: Unanimous.

3.0 Committee reports:

3.1 Chairman & Secretary's Report:

I attended a planning meeting for the Popham Show on the 24th of April to further progress with the arrangements. I have since received a new system from Gail for the ticketing of pilots and helpers for the Popham Show, this will be under our control. We basically send a link for the selected pilots / helpers to fill in, in turn I will get an email to approve them and then Gail will send out the tickets sometime in August.

Following the last meeting as suggested I emailed a number of clubs to see if there was any interest in resuming the annual "Balsa Brain" quiz, from 73 addresses sadly I only received 1 positive reply and no others. I found this very sad as the quiz has quite an extensive history within the Southern Area. With this response I see no option but to shelve the idea of running it in 2023, however as a last-ditch attempt, I have asked Tony Butterworth to see if he can generate support, so a final decision is deferred. Nothing received from Tony Butterworth so now cancelled for 2023.

I am sure Peter Carter will elaborate in his report, but I am pleased to report that he has managed to agree with RAF Odiham a date for the Southern Area Free-Flight Gala.

From a secretarial point of view, I completed the minutes for the 12th of August and sent them out to all 73 clubs in our area, as agreed a copy of the proposed Area constitution was also sent requesting that all should read it and reply to David Smith so a view from the Southern Area could be formulated for presentation at the Areas Council Meeting.

We have been invited to attend the second "Aircraft Enthusiasts Day" at Middle Wallop on the 26th of November, enough members have agreed to attend so I have confirmed our attendance with Middle Wallop.

3.2 Vice Chairman & Area Delegates' Report:

Since the last meeting I have contributed to the rewriting of the BMFA Areas Constitution, attended a planning meeting for the Popham Model Show on Monday 24 April, and attended an Areas Council Zoom meeting on 4 May. At the Areas Council meeting the reworking of the BMFA Areas to form a Wales Area was formally adopted. This involved the dissolution of the Mid-West Area and realignment of non-Welsh clubs into the Western Area, and the removal of northern Welsh counties from the North West Area. The main reason for the change is to define a 'BMFA Wales' to enable funding from Sport Wales to be accessible to Welsh clubs.

There was then some lively debate on the rewrite of the Areas Constitution. I represented the majority (of the received responses) Southern Area view that the revision be adopted, though pointed out the concerns raised by Wimborne MAC. The revised Constitution was passed by a majority vote.

A proposal has been put forward by the Executive that we consider adopting a rolling membership year for new members. There is a perception, but no hard data that I have seen, that we are losing new members (mainly multi-rotor fliers) because folk do not want to pay a full year's membership if they join the BMFA in the spring or early summer. The potential increase in workload this would create for club secretaries has been pointed out, as has an alternative option to make a joining payment *pro-rata* for the remainder of the year, but the Executive seem determined to explore the rolling membership option first. I would be grateful for any views on this proposal from Southern Area clubs. In advance of the next meeting Terry to put some "words" together as a suggestion from the S Area. (These will be circulated for approval / amendment prior to the next meeting.)

3.5 Treasurer's Report:

No report given by Wayne, so Terry advised of the current position being the second signatory on the account. The current position is that we had a starting balance of £6217.22 and to this was added our annual grant of £1480.00 giving a total of £7697.22. We have paid out expenses to date totalling £118.20. Thus, our current balance sheet shows a nett figure of £7579.02.

However, our current bank balance is £7946.02 as it includes the £367.00 of self-generated funds, we have built up over a period of time that we allowed to keep separate. The balance sheet handed out tonight shows the current expectations of expenditure for the year.

3.6 Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinators Report:

Peter reported that via Dave Smith just 1 request had been received for Simon Dawes to become a club examiner, several ACE's were approached that could not help for various reasons, but it was agreed that Dave Burstow would take this on.

Richard Sharman has requested he be taken off of the ACE listing due to ill health.

We may have to review the appointed ACE availability at the next AGM if we feel as a result the number of ACE's is insufficient.

3.7 Free Flight Report:

A situation has arisen whereby I will not be available to attend the meeting on Wednesday, however I can report the following from the Free-flight scene.

I attended the National champs held on Salisbury Plain the weekend 27/28 May and the weather was kind to us with around 50 attendees on each day.

Re: The Odiham Gala: The Licence has been issued by the DIO, and the cost of such as being the same as last year. Licence fee £250, plus preparation fee including VAT of £180 and commercial

liability insurance £30. Grand total of £460 which I hope to re-coup from attendees £10 entry fee. The event is for general Sport flying and a Cognarata comp, with Free-flight scale tech committee member arranging a comp if the number of scalers attend. Andrew Boddington says he may also come along. I have received a copy of "Visitors Information Doc" raised by Odiham and it states that a list of all attendees and their details must be delivered to Odiham by JULY 17, therefore I have asked Terry to please Highlight the on the website this Deadline date. Regards Peter.
(Terry reported that this had been done as requested.)

3.8 Webmaster's report:

A new email system to allow us to reach every member directly in our area is now in place but I have yet to learn how to use it / try it.

2 reports by Peter Willis added to the "Event Reports" and the home page modified to reflect this addition.

4.0 AOB:

4.1 Events already planned / in progress for 2022 / 2023.

- 4.1.1 TBA S. Area A S Workshops, dates to be set. **Action Peter Bennett**
- 4.1.2 TBA S. Area Webinar, date to be set. **Action David Smith.** Left for next meeting.
- 4.1.3 2&3/9/23 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, Mark Ealey & Terry Weeks.
Plus, Mike Pearson.
- 4.1.4 6/08/23 S. Area Free-Flight Gala at Odiham. Peter Carter has now arranged as per his
report above.
- 4.1.5 Now 2024 S. Area "Balsa-Brain" The popular Quiz Night. Terrys to report. A Go/No Go
decision required. NO GO for 2023 as above.
- 4.1.6 26/11/23 Middle Wallop attendance on the 26th of November, again as above I have
enough volunteers to attend so have confirmed our attendance.
- 4.1.7 A revised date for the testing & training day at Wimborne 28/29th July.
- 4.1.8 Peter advised of an "Air Prox" event at Wimborne – being sorted officially.

4.2 Letter to Dave Phipps

Terry reported that he has given up, so this will be deleted from any future agenda.
A copy of letter to Dave Phipps passed to Mike Pearson as requested.

4.3 The Areas Constitution – As per Davids report this has, like it or not, now been approved.

5.0 Future committee meetings. All to try to make the in-person meetings at Popham.

- 30th August S. Area Committee Meeting Zoom only.
- 18th October S. Area Committee Meeting at **Popham** + Zoom.
- 15th November S. Area AGM Meeting at **Popham** + Zoom

6.0 Popham Show: As per Terrys report a new ticketing system is now available for Pilots and Helpers and already being used, it gives us full control.

7.0 The next Meeting as above is the 30th of August via Zoom.

Clarification: In accordance with the new constitution meeting agendas will be posted 21 days in advance of a meeting and contain the Accounts information in brief. Officers' reports are not deemed to be "supporting documentation" as they are just a record of the officers' activities since the last meeting for information. Where possible they should be issued in advance to the **secretary only** to allow for inclusion in the minutes to assist the secretary to speed thing up at the meeting.