



British Model Flying Association Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th January 2024

Venue: - **The Meeting to be via Zoom only** Start Time: **7.30 pm**

Those Present: David Durnford, Peter Carter, Peter Bennett, David Smith, Ray Cox, James Hounslow, Dave Burstow, Alan Wallington, Dave Newby, Dave Franks and Terry Weeks.

Apologies for absence: Simon Wood,

1.0 Approval of the minutes of the 18th of October.

These were ratified as a true record so will now be shown as such on the website.

Proposed: Dave Burstow. Seconded: Dave Durnford.

2.0 Committee reports:

2.1 Chairman's & Area Delegates report: David Smith.

Since the Area AGM I attended the BMFA AGM in Solihull on 18 November 2023. I have completed and submitted the paperwork for the new ACE appointments James Hounslow, Dave Durnford, and Trevor Roper. I have also completed the online Area Annual Return for the BMFA office, together with the online ratification of all our ACE appointments. We now have a good spread of ACEs for all disciplines across the Area.

I went to Popham Airfield with Terry Weeks on 8 January to find out how to set up the Zoom facility in the Conference Room for when Mike Pearson is not available, and afterwards we went to the Metro Bank in Basingstoke to add me as a signatory to the Area bank account. Whilst at Popham, Mike Pearson updated us on the proposed housing development 'Popham Garden Village' which, if it goes ahead, would see Popham Airfield sold off to provide space for up to 3000 homes.

I attended an Areas Council Zoom meeting on 11 January, which was primarily a procedural meeting to elect new members to the ASRC, ratify the new ASRC membership, and review the agenda for the Executive Board meeting (nothing exciting, it's another procedural meeting). At the meeting however the rolling membership was discussed, most areas being against it, no final decision, so watch this space.

2.2 Secretary and Treasurers reports: Terry Weeks.

Secretaries Report:

Terry reported that he had written and distributed the 2023 AGM minutes, posted the draft onto the website, and emailed them to BMFA HO.

As most of you are aware some of our meetings are held at Popham in the conference centre by kind permission of Mike Pearson the airfield manager. However, this arrangement requires Mike to be available to set up the Zoom facility which is not always convenient. Mike has offered to give us access when he is not available so on the 8th of January David Smith and I visited Mike to go over the procedure to set meetings up independently. Again, on the 8th whilst together we visited the bank to amend the signatories required due to the committee changes, they are now Terry Weeks & David Smith.

I attended the Aircraft Enthusiasts Fair and Model Show on the 26th of November at Middle Wallop with David Smith, David Durnford, Peter Carter 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. 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 roles of Secretary and Treasurer. As above Wayne has been removed as a signatory and replaced by David Smith.

The expenditure planning for the year April 2024 until March 2025 is in place mirroring what we were going to do last year, this was sent to Mike Woodhouse with a covering report both having been approved by this committee retrospectively on the 18th of October meeting

The 2023 Free - Flight Gala was cancelled due to poor weather. Peter Carter is in discussion with Odiham to sort out a date for this to be re-arranged for early 2024, the licence fee hopefully will be carried forward.

As you all know I am proposing that we purchase a laptop for the area, details were sent out to the officers of the committee to assist in the decision-making process.

As advised the most suitable I have found which meets all of the criteria is as follows:

*Lenovo IdeaPad 3i 15.6" Laptop - Intel core i5 256 GB SSD @ £349.00 & case £366.59
A mouse @ £9.99, a USB / HDMI cable @ £49.99 (for the Zoom / TV connection.), a
Sennheiser SP 20 ML High End Speaker @ £79.99 and an adaptor HDMI to USB C £34.99 In
Total £541.55.*

I have adjusted the balance sheet from the last meeting, the above proposal having been accepted via email to let you all see the overall effect it has on our funds.

Zoom is expected to increase by c£12.00, we have saved £85.30 by having this meeting via Zoom so overall the above and the laptop purchase effectively cost us **£468.25**. Once received I will proceed to load with Office 365 from my personal account and transfer all documents from my PC to the Area's equipment and back it up at that point.

Due to recent correspondence received from HO and knowing from David that the areas budget had been reduced I emailed Mike Woodhouse to stress our need to receive the grant requested of £1300.00, I will not hold my breath.

2.3 A S Co-Ordinators report: David Durnford.

I had a meeting with Airfield Manager, Mike Pearson at Popham today (16.01.24). After consulting his giant wall chart calendar of bookings etc. he can offer us the following for an AS Meeting: **Sunday 24th March**, with a Back-Up / Fall Back of **Sunday 28th April**. Other dates are either booked or N/A and that includes avoiding Easter Sunday, 31st March. Mike also offered us the free use of their portable trailer e.g. for completing the AS paperwork, this can accommodate up to approx. 20 persons. Vehicles to park in the vicinity of the Model Site. I have endeavored to contact as many Southern Area clubs & their examiners and representatives as possible. Almost all to date have responded very positively to the idea of a SA AS meeting and, at a minimum, would expect at least 1(one) of their club members to attend. At the time of writing that is approx. 40 persons, I'm hopeful perhaps a few more. Also discussed catering with Lisa of Popham Catering/Cafe and was given a price list for providing a buffet lunch in the Conference Room for attendees. The Conference Room costs £90 to hire and food from £6-50 per person (est. £260.00) for buffet/sandwiches etc. IT is available in this room of course.

The above was discussed at the meeting and the dates were agreed.

Until a date was fixed, I could not approach the BMFA HQ to see if Duncan and/or Andy are available to join us with attendant BMFA HQ support including possibly financial as well as materials, booklets, simulator trailer etc.(?)

2.4 Events Co-Ordinators report: Peter Bennett.

Little to report at this stage as most of the Popham Show paperwork from previous events can be quickly adapted with any required modifications. Some good news from our point of view is that the Southern Model Show at Headcorn has been cancelled so no longer a clash with the Popham show. Terry to contact Middle Wallop regarding Wheels & Wings on the 12th of July to get some more information to pass on to Peter. A meeting around March time to be convened to discuss both shows.

2.5 Free Flight report: Peter Carter.

Peter reported that due to the weather there was very little to report. The licence for Salisbury plain has increased to £30.00 from £20.00.

The Odiham free Flight Gala has yet to be arranged, Peter said he was to attend a meeting in the second week of February to try to get things firmed up. It is hoped that the licence fee paid will be carried forward, but this to be confirmed.

2.6 Webmaster / PRO report: James Hounslow. I have covered the cost of the Facebook / southern area website integration again this year - I did not make full use of it last year and am happy to take the financial hit of this as I failed to negotiate down the cost with the software providers. I will be looking at alternative options this year which may offer better value for money (it's around £100/pa at present though did generate a significant amount of interest in events the year before last). David added that James should consider passing on this cost to the S. Area.

The Facebook page is up to date with events that have a known date and are available either through the minutes or the main southern area website. I would welcome direct contact from clubs who wish to publicize events that are open to the public such as fun fly days or social events. Clubs need to be aware that the Facebook site is public facing and anyone, not just model flyers, all are able to see this.

I had contact from Martin Thompson (a friend) who is currently in the process of organizing this year's Wings and Wheels. Someone had told him we were running an event called Wheels and Wings in competition with his event and I have explained the long-standing event at Middle Wallop that is predominantly NOT about model flying but that we do have a presence there. This conversation ended amicably when it was clear that he was misinformed.

I would welcome ideas as to how best to publicize the Popham Model Show this year once we are a little more certain as to how it will look.

As the club delegate for South Hants Helis, I would like the committee to note that we very transiently lost our flying field at the end of last year but have managed to strike a (hopefully) semi-permanent arrangement with the new owner who took control of the site following his father's death. As a result, club activities including BMFA affiliation have recommenced.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the committee for my nomination and instatement as one of the Area Chief Examiners (and instructors) for Helicopters. I have received confirmation from the BMFA that this has been successful.

4.0 Ratification of S. Area Chief Examiners for 2023/2024.

Tony Butterworth FW & SF, David Burstow FW, Peter Carter FW, Peter Rondel FW / Heli, Matt Lodge Heli & M-rotor, Terry Weeks SF, David Durnford FW / SF, James Hounslow Heli. Andy Beswick FW & Heli and Trevor Roper FW / Heli.
Proposed: Terry Weeks. Seconded: David Burstow. Agreed: Unanimously.
David Smith advised that all of the above had been accepted.

5.0 Events already planned / in progress for 2023 / 2024 for information.

26th Nov' 2023 Model Enthusiasts show at Middle Wallop. Terry Weeks reported that he was accompanied by David Smith, David Durnford, Peter Carter and Ken Gale. The stand complete with Area Banners was well equipped with a display of models of all types and with the ever-popular simulator. In general, we were well received and appreciated by the organiser, but we felt the show had less attendees than in previous years.

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| 24 th March | S. Area A S Workshops. Action: David Durnford A second at Popham in 2024 to be held if the above successful. |
| 10 th /11 th February | The Bovington South West Model Show. |
| 10 th April | S. Area Committee Meeting at Popham +. |
| 19 th June | S. Area Committee Meeting via Zoom. |
| 13 th July | Wheels & Wings at Middle Wallop (<i>after F/Up Now Static only</i>). |
| 28 th August | S. Area Committee Meeting via Popham +. |
| 7 th /8 th September | Popham Model Show. Action: S Area Sub-Committee. |
| 16 th October | S. Area Committee Meeting at Popham+. |
| 27 th November | S. Area AGM at Popham+. |
| TBA | S. Area Free-Flight Gala at Odiham. Action: Peter Carter |

6.0 New Items for this meeting.

- 6.1 Terry and David have been to the bank and amended the signatories.
- 6.2 Terry and David had visited Mike at Popham to agree the use of the conference centre facilities should Mike be unavailable. Setting up access and Zoom etc.
- 6.3 Confirmation of the agreement to buy a laptop for the S. Area Business, currently all is on Terry's own computer which would be a problem in the event of Terry being unavailable for any reason. Following some searching Terry has outlined a proposed purchase.
Proposed: Terry Weeks. Agreed: Unanimously via email in advance of the meeting.

7.0 AOB

- 7.1 A final decision to shelve the Balsa Brain competition was confirmed.
- 7.2 David Durnford has agreed with the Chichester club to visit on one of their club-nights to give a talk on the Achievement Scheme and the general work of the S. Area. Terry has agreed to support him subject to no clashes with other events.
- 7.3 Terry to attend a Webinar with Andy Symons to be advised how to use the system to communicate to all clubs in the Area more reliably than with previous systems. This will facilitate the resumption of Area Newsletters and the like.

Meeting closed: