



British Model Flying Association Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10th April 2024

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

Start Time: **7.30 pm**

Those Present: David Smith, Peter Carter, Phil Stevens, Mike Pearson, Terry Weeks.

And Via Zoom: Dave Franks, Peter Bennett, Dave Burstow, Alan Wallington, David Durnford and Jonathon Robertson. 11 a great attendance thank-you all.

Apologies for absence:

None.

1.0 Approval of the minutes of the 17th of January.

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

Proposed: Dave Franks. Seconded: Peter Bennett.

2.0 Committee reports:

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

The start of the year has been relatively quiet, so little to report. On behalf of SABMFA I completed the public consultation for the proposed Popham Garden Village development. On 19 February I met the organisers of my village May Fare, scheduled for Monday 6 May, who had asked if I would display some of my models. I offered to run a SABMFA stand with static model display, but there is little scope for a flying display. One of my club members and our AS Coordinator have offered to help man the display. On 3 March I attended the planning meeting at Popham for the now twice postponed AS Testing and Training day.

The BMFA Club Support Officer has proposed a Club of the Year award, with each Area nominating their own Club of the Year and the Area nominations then going into a selection process for the national Club of the Year. There have been mixed responses from Areas and clubs, with the few Southern Area responses being mainly against the idea. The Areas Council ballot to decide whether the proposal goes to the next BMFA Board meeting closes at midnight on 10 April.

2.2.1 Secretary report:

Terry said he had prepared the minutes of the last meeting sent a copy out to all and entered the draft on to the website, and also the agenda for this meeting.

Received an item for the agenda from Dave Burstow and duly added it for discussion at this meeting. As noted below David and I visited both the Bank & Popham to sort out signatories on the account and the set-up system at Popham if required in Mike's absence.

Added the ASC training day to the website and then the amended date due to the cancellation (Twice now as in David's report).

Just for information I am having a knee operation on the 29th of April so will not be able to drive for around 6 weeks subject to my recovery, I do not see this affecting my attendance to any meetings / activities.

I have also arranged an extension of this meeting to discuss the Popham model show.

2.2.2 Treasurers report:

Purchased the laptop, microphone and ancillaries as agreed Total £541.55.

Paid myself £12.81 for secretarial supplies.

Paid out £23.97 in expenses.

Paid the annual fee for the Zoom facility £155.88. (An increase of £12.00)

Balance as of the 31st of March £6353.79, this includes the £367.00 of self-generated funds, so the income over expenditure for the year is £5986.79.

Mike said that Popham would donate £500.00 towards the running of the Popham show to the S. Area for their help in running the flying aspect of the event, all thanked him for this.

Just today I have been advised of level of support to be awarded the area from Head Office, we had requested £1300.00 and been granted just £1000.00.

But post meeting, following correspondence with Duncan McClure we may be able to claim the £541.55 from the Finance Director as it is for Capital Equipment and as we appreciated is thus the property of the BMFA. I this week put forward a claim for re-imburement of this money, so let's wait and see.

2.3 A S Co-Ordinators report: David Durnford.

Unfortunately, a rather frustrating time to report regarding this year's BMFA Southern Area, Achievement Scheme Meet initially planned for March 24th, then April 7th! Despite arrangements being made at an early stage since the last committee meeting for use of Popham Airfield 'Spitfire' Model Flying Site, the seemingly continual poor weather has forced two postponements.

A new date has now been booked for holding the event SUNDAY 16th JUNE.

Let us all hope the succession of Low-Pressure weather systems will have moved away by then and we enjoy some good model flying weather at long last.

On a positive note, there has been a very good response from candidates wishing to undertake various AS tests. These include Fixed Wing 'A' & 'B', Heli 'A', Multi Rotor 'B', Silent Flight 'B' and Club Examiner in both Fixed Wing & Heli categories.

Clubs from around the Southern Area are keen to support the Achievement Scheme and have even extended invites for ACE & myself to visit them at a suitable future date.

On a personal note, I have assisted the South West Model Show, BMFA stand held at Bovington Tank Museum and will be doing likewise at the BMFA stand at the upcoming Nursling & Rownhams Fair on May 6th.

Last, but not least, my thanks and appreciation to all who have assisted in the planning and organising of the Southern Area, Achievement Scheme Meet.

Let's hope for a superb day all round on the 16th of June.

2.4 Events Co-Ordinators report: Peter Bennett.

Peter said that there was little to report at this time, however he would like as much information as possible for the Popham Model Show so he can get the paperwork completed much earlier this year.

On the Wheels & Wings event at Middle Wallop he said he knew little detail. Terry said that although he could not make it due to a holiday, he would contact the organisers and get more information, passing same on to Peter when known.

Mike then raised that he was hosting a Wing racing event on the 8th & 9th of June and maybe the Fixed Wing element could be included at the Popham Show albeit on a separate flightline. Details to be sent to Peter for inclusion on the paperwork.

2.5 Free Flight report: Peter Carter.

Peter reported that little had happened due to the recent inclement weather, but some activity has been planned at Salisbury plain.

Good news regarding the S Area Free Flight Gala, Peter has been given a date for the event of the 11th of August with a backup date of the 18th all subject to final confirmation. It is hope that the previously paid licence fee will be carried forward but even if not the £460.00 has been budgeted in to the 2024 accounts. Peter said with the current enthusiasm being shown any shortfall will be minimal.

2.6 Webmaster / PRO report: James Hounslow.

James not present but it was noted that he had helped David Durnford in promoting the ASC days on Facebook.

3.0 Confirmation of Ratifications 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 Heli.

These were Proposed: Terry Weeks. Seconded: David Burstow Agreed: Unanimously.

It seemed most had received their certificates from HO although David Durnford's was incorrect.

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

16 th June.	S. Area A S Workshops. Action: David Durnford
19 th June	S. Area Committee Meeting at Popham+.
13 th July	Wheels & Wings at Middle Wallop.
11 th August	S. Area Free-Flight Gala at Odiham. Action: Peter Carter
28 th August	S. Area Committee Meeting via Zoom.
7 th /8 th September	Popham Model Show. Action: S Area Sub-Committee.
16 th October	S. Area Committee Meeting at Popham+.

5.0 Items from the January meeting.

5.1 Terry and David have been to the bank and amended the signatories. **Actioned**

5.2 Terry and David to visit Mike at Popham to agree the use of the conference centre facilities should Mike be unavailable. Setting up access and Zoom etc. **Actioned**

5.3 We have as agreed bought the laptop for the S. Area Business, currently all was on Terry's own computer which would be a problem in the event of Terry being unavailable for any reason. As an afterthought an extension lead for the microphone purchased at £9.99. **Actioned**

6.0 AOB

6.1 Request from Dave Burstow for funding possibility: See Below.

"INDOOR FLYING AT REDLANDS, WEYMOUTH

For several years now our group of indoor flyers have used The Redlands Sports Centre in Weymouth for indoor flying. This is an excellent location and we have use of the whole of the main sports hall, covering 6 badminton courts. 2 years ago, it was threatened with closure, and those organizing the flying were an active part of the community group which saved the Centre from closure. There are

no other comparable locations across West Dorset.

We fly every Friday from 2 to 4pm, from 1 October to 31 March. Attendance is around 12-15. This is booked in advance for the whole 6 months to guarantee availability. This upfront cost of around £1800 is paid in advance in June by a core of about 10 flyers drawn from the Chesil, Weymouth, Eagles and Marquis clubs. The sessions are open to all, and casual attendees outside the core members are charged £7 per session. This keeps it flexible, and any monies collected are offset against the following season's cost.

Covid was a challenge, and our usual attendance has fallen somewhat since, which leaves all the cost to fall on the core members. It will not be clear what the financial position will be for the 2024/25 season, but we are asking if the S Area would be prepared to commit some funds later in the year to contribute to any shortfall. We do not want to lose this excellent facility, which is (as usual) only kept available to all by a few dedicated flyers. Another action we can take is to publicize the facility via the events pages of both BMFA and S Area, which we will be doing for 2024/25. This should encourage more casual attendance to absorb some of the cost, hopefully removing the need for any subsidy in future.
Dave Burstow - On behalf of the Redlands indoor flyers"

It was agreed in principle that monies be put to one side as a contingency to mitigate any perceived losses. Agreed Unanimously by all present.

The next meeting is to be on the 19th June via Zoom at 7:30pm

No other items were raised so the S. Area meeting closed at 20:15.

Those involved in the running of the Popham Model Show remained for a quick update on progress so far. Another meeting to be convened at a later date to go over more in-depth detail.