



British Model Flying Association Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 28th August 2024.

Venue: - **The Meeting was held at via Zoom only**

Start Time: **7.30 pm**

Those Present: David Smith, David Durnford, Phil Stevens, Simon Wood, Dave Burstow, Emily Mason, James Hounslow, Alan Wallington, Dave Franks and Terry Weeks.

Apologies for absence: Peter Carter.

1.0 Approval of the minutes of the 19th of June.

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

Proposed: Dave Franks. Seconded: David Durnford.

2.0 Committee reports:

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

There has been little going on at Areas Council, so there is nothing significant to report on BMFA activities. The BMFA AGM will be a hybrid meeting on Saturday 2 November in the Goldsmith Hangar at Buckminster or by Zoom. I plan to attend in person. The Awards Dinner will be a separate event to the AGM.

Since our last meeting, on Saturday 13 July I attended the Wheels and Wings event at Middle Wallop as part of the SABMFA static display. Thanks to Peter Carter and David Durnford for their help with this, there was a lot of interest from the public. I attended a site visit at Popham on Saturday 3 August in preparation for the Model Show on 7/8 September; I can confirm that there will be a BMFA presence at the show, however not bringing the flight simulator trailer, but 2 smaller simulators instead. I attended the twice-postponed Area Achievement Scheme Testing and Training day at Popham on Sunday 11 August, which was a very busy and successful day. I would like to record my thanks to Mike Pearson and the Spitfire Model Club for making the site available to us, and to Dave Durnford and the team of examiners who worked hard to complete a busy schedule of tests. The Basingstoke club has informally offered, through one of their club examiners, to host a similar event next year, so I propose that we make a formal request to them to get this off the ground. It would also be good to have an AS Testing and Training day in the west of the Area next year.

2.2 Secretary and Treasurers reports: Terry Weeks.

Secretaries Report:

Terry reported that he had written and distributed the 19th of June minutes, posted the draft onto the website, and emailed them to BMFA HO.

Since the last meeting I have spent a considerable time contacting the pilots for the Popham Show chasing up their registrations and ticketing requirements, this is now complete, the pilots listing was closed on the 3rd of August when a site visit and meeting took place.

Emily and Mike have been given the lists for ticketing requirements.

I have liaised with David Durnford on the ASC day and booked the food after a final "Go" date was confirmed. On the 11th of August I attended the ASC day to support and help David, the day was a real success as David's report will detail. I paid the food bill on the 12th

and emailed both Lisa and Mike to thank them for their support. I have to register my personal thanks to David for all his hard work in making the day the resounding success that it was. Please see the report I have posted on the website. At this point Phil Pointed out that the website report was absent, Terry said he would correct this. Finally, I will be attending the Popham Show from 11:30 on the Friday and from 8:30am on both the Saturday and Sunday to deal with pilot registration.

Treasurer's Report:

Since the last meeting we have spent a total of £595.38 this includes the ASC day buffet, expenses for the last committee meeting, the Wheels & Wings event, the ASC day, spares for the Gazebo, printing costs for the Popham show and finally the extension lead required for the Zoom meeting.

As per Peter Carters report the S Area Free-Flight Gala went ahead and the balance sheet has been amended to reflect this.

The current bank account stands at £6758.41 this includes the £367.00 of self-generated funds, thus the areas official balance is **£6391.41**.

2.3 A S Co-Ordinators report: David Durnford.

They say good things come to those that wait, well the Southern Area have certainly done that with three prior postponements of the area's Achievement Scheme Meet.

Finally, on Sunday 11th August we were rewarded with a glorious sunny day and fair light winds to undertake the various AS tests.

Nearly 30 BMFA members, some with their partners and assistants, attended from clubs right across the Southern Area as well as one flyer from Witney, Gloucestershire, and a Coventry club student, currently studying in Southampton Uni.

All main disciplines were examined including FW 'A' & 'B', Heli & MR, SFE 'A' and two Club examiner tests. I am very pleased to report that the majority passed with flying colours and, dare I say, no serious mishaps either. The one or two individuals who were less successful, were pleased with the chance of experiencing the tests and learnt from the experience. Well done to all.

From discussion during the lunch break and with individuals during the day, it appears some clubs still have many members awaiting training instruction and/or AS testing. To that end, Southern Area have made the offer that SA ACE, Instructors & Examiners are available, willing and ready to assist if so wished. This with visits to individual club sites. There, more tailored one-to-one tuition may be given and ultimately tests taken. To all Southern Area Clubs, we make the offer to assist your training and testing requirements should you wish.

To continue. The whole event would not have been possible though without the permission of Popham airfield manager Mike Pearson, his catering team lead by Lisa Wright and the generous support and co-operation of the resident 'Spitfire MFC' giving up their site for the day and our sole use. Phil Stevens from 'Spitfire MFC' greatly assisting with site management, 'No-Fly Area' information and not forgetting his photography of the event. At this point James suggested we should think about ways to minimise the nervousness created by the large gathering watching the candidate.

My grateful thanks to all and the members of Southern Area Committee, ACE and Club Examiners, each contributing to result in a very successful day.

SA Secretary, Terry Weeks has already posted a report with photos on the SA website. In

due course I will be submitting an article for a future issue of the Popham airfield 'Spitfire' magazine and BMFA News.

With regard my other activities, I have assisted SA Chair, David Smith at the 'Wheels & Wings' show, Middle Wallop and SA F/F Committee member, Peter Carter at 'RAF Odiham, Families Day' event.

2.4 Events Co-Ordinators report: Peter Bennett.

Peter was absent but Terry confirmed that Rob Buckley of the LMA had approved and issued the licence for the event following Peter's application.

2.5 Free Flight report: Peter Carter.

On Sunday August 18 we were back at Odiham for the Southern Area BMFA Freeflight Gala following the double cancellation of last year's event.

A lot of hard work is involved and with the willing cooperation of the Station Commander Grp Capt. Matt Robert's OBE DFC and his staff we were fortunate to have this superb Airfield all to ourselves on a day the weather gods smiled on us.

Forty-nine people registered to fly but only 37 turned up, with wind speed expected to reach 12mph this was probably the cause. However, those that did arrive included a mixture of Sport and Contest types. A report is on the website giving more details of the event.

2.6 Webmaster / PRO report: James Hounslow.

A decision needs to be made about the ongoing subscription with Facebook /website integration. The subscription costs \$98 per annum and at present I do not think it represents value for money. It saves me some time over doing things manually but, in all honesty, it takes a reasonable amount of work to keep it running and with the relative growth of the official BMFA representation on Facebook such as the achievement scheme group and the 'normal' web based BMFA events page I am not convinced that it will actually cover most of the limited work I do.

I forgot to ask for last year's subscription as an expense and plan on cancelling the subscription prior to its automatic renewal in 4 weeks' time.

The bulk of the work over the last few months has been promoting the various attempts at putting on an achievement scheme day at Popham which finally paid off with a successful day, mostly due to the hard work of those organising it but also because of the weather finally playing ball. Efforts to spread the word on the two previous cancellations appear to have worked well and there was a moderate engagement to the event on social media (our own, the BMFAs achievement scheme page and the main BMFA page). The BMFA's own events page was down, and I was therefore unable to post the go/no go there this time around but I think it would have been challenging to have completed the day if it had been much better publicised!

Of course, the next mini push will be the Popham show in a couple of weekends time.

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

7 th /8 th September	Popham Model Show. Action: S Area Sub-Committee.
14 th /15 th September	Bovington Tank Museum Model Show
16 th October	S. Area Committee Meeting at Popham+.
24 th November	Aircraft Enthusiasts Show at Middle Wallop.
27 th November	S. Area AGM at Popham & Zoom.

4.0 Items from the April meeting.

- 4.1** Terry to contact David Durnford to discuss and amend as necessary the web article on the ASC procedure. **Actioned**
- 4.2** Terry to confirm the attendance at the Middle Wallop Event on the 24th of November. **Actioned**
- 4.3** Terry to set up dates for both the site visit and Zoom meeting for the Popham Show **Actioned**

5.0 AOB

- 5.1** A short discussion on the Popham show followed, Emily said there were 7 traders booked in and that some 250 tickets had been sold.
Dave Franks added that he had been working hard on the slot management and this is coming together. David Smith said he was working on the details for the Helicopter Fliers within the slots allocated.
Terry said at the briefing he would advise any of the early arrivals to collect their tickets from the gate prior to registration. He will also request a more prompt reply when responding to the offer to attend subsequent shows. The form will be modified to request more details of models to be flown for slot management and their ticketing requirements for friends, helpers and camping.
- 5.2** Following the request from Dave Burstow. *"I just now have some figures for the Redlands indoor flying 2024/25 season. Prices are expected to increase 2% over the £1800 or so we initially expected, not too drastic (note: the reason we pay up front is to get a 10% discount and secure the booking). Ten people are signed up to cover the upfront payment to cover the booking cost. We hope to limit this to around £150 each, allowing for what we have in the 'kitty' from last season's casual attendees, but this would leave us about £150 short without asking for more or significantly increasing the casual attendance prices. We would therefore be grateful if S Area could cover this, at least for this year, so we can get back to an even financial footing."*
This was discussed at length and on the basis that it was a once only situation was approved.
Proposed: David Smith Seconded: Terry Weeks and agreed unanimously.
Dave Burstow to send Terry the account details for the bank transfer.

The next meeting is to be on the 16th October both at Popham and via Zoom at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 8:42pm.