



British Model Flying Association Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Minutes of the AGM held on the 15th November 2023

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

Start Time: **7.00 pm**

Those Present: Terry Weeks, David Durnford, David Smith, Peter Carter, Alan Wallington, and Mike Pearson in person. Via Zoom David Burstow, Ray Cox, Justin Carter and Dave Franks.

Apologies for absence:

Simon Wood, Wayne Broom & Ken Knox* (Ken tried but failed to get access to the Zoom meeting).

1.0 The minutes of the 2022 AGM on the 9th November 2022.

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

Proposed: David Smith. Seconded: David Durnford.

2.0 Committee reports:

2.1 Chairman's & Secretaries Report: Terry Weeks.

Good evening and thank you all for coming.

The year has been a generally good one, but if I am honest, it has not gone completely as I would have liked, no one's fault but many of the committee had for various reasons (generally very good ones) not been able to give the time required to achieve all that was planned. (We must always remember we all have a life outside of Aeromodelling.)

From talking to individuals however 2024 will be much better.

Failures this year were the lack of the planned AS Workshops, this can still be corrected as the year does not end until the 31st of March 2024, and the lack of interest from the clubs in resuming the Balsa Brain Quiz. However, on a more positive note we attended the Middle Wallop "Aircraft Enthusiasts Event" this was greatly appreciated and assisted in the running of the Popham Model show by putting on a very good model flying display. This will be further improved in 2024, the date already agreed is the 7th/ 8th September. I would like to express my thanks to all involved for their hard work.

On the admin front I have taken on the roles of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, no problem from my point of view but it is wrong. As a result, I will not be standing as Chairman next year but am prepared if elected, to continue as Secretary and Treasurer, as I believe these two roles are closely associated.

2.2 Vice Chairman and Delegate Reports: David Smith.

Since our last AGM I have attended all but one Area meeting (this due to holiday), every Areas Council meeting, and the 2022 BMFA AGM in Solihull. I helped out at the Area display stand at the November 2022 Aircraft Enthusiasts Fair at the Museum of Army Flying. I also attended each of the planning meetings for the 2023 Popham Model Show, helped with set-up and take down, and managed the helicopter section of the flying display over the weekend.

This year finally saw the publication of the BMFA 'Flying Start' handbook for helicopters, for which I was the principal author, and I was also involved in editing the revised Areas Constitution. The latter was a rather painful process, the outcome of which has not been universally popular in Southern Area, but the mandate was to not rewrite from scratch. Areas Council meetings have been better run and more frequent under the new Members Director. The meeting in January was mainly procedural but May saw the adoption of BMFA Wales as Area 11, the adoption of the new Areas Constitution, an undertaking from

the Club Support Officer to improve the mass e-mail system for Areas, and a wide-ranging discussion on rolling membership. At the September meeting BMFA Scotland was formally adopted as Area 15, and an Outreach Coordinator post was proposed to work on membership recruitment alongside the Outreach Director. There was a lot of discussion around Club participation in Area activities; although a supporting webinar was proposed, no details have subsequently been posted on the Area Forum.

Recently I have been actively reviewing the provision of Area Chief Examiners for helicopter tests, with a view to improve geographical distribution within the Area.

I shall attend the BMFA AGM on 18 November in Solihull, at which the proposed senior membership fee for 2024 is £45. Membership has fallen by 20% over the past six years, despite approximately 2500 new members being recruited each year. The sale of Chacksfield House looks imminent, with relocation to Buckminster and retention of a small office facility at the British Gliding Association in Leicester. I also understand that future AGMs will be online only, with the Awards Dinner becoming a paying event (previously it was free to trophy winners).

2.3 Treasurer's Report: Terry Weeks.

As many of you are aware we get a grant each year from the BMFA Head Office to allow us to operate, and this requires the need for a budget to be prepared to outline our intended activities throughout the coming year. I produced a budget much on the lines of the activities we undertake each year with accompanying notes and presented this to head office, this budget and report was put before the committee at the October meeting and approved unanimously. Should any club wish to receive a copy, please send me an email and I will forward a copy with accompanying notes. **These minutes to be used as a mandate for the following changes. Terry Weeks to be retained as a signatory, Wayne Broom to be removed and replaced by David Smith as the second signatory.**

2.4 Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinators Report: Peter Bennett.

Due to Peters absence no report was given but we knew very little had happened since the last meeting. Dave Burstow asked could he be taken off of the main BMFA website, it had remained there since he was in the position. David Smith said he would try again to see that this was removed.

2.5 Free Flight Report: Peter Carter.

Peter Carter reported that due to the recent weather very little had happened.

The two dates for the S Area Free-Flight Gala had both been cancelled but it is hoped that the licence will be renewed without further cost. Peter also reported having attended the Salisbury Plain users meeting and confirmed that its use for Free-Flight meetings be continued. Peter is to attend the Middle Wallop event on the 26th of November with some Free-Flight models.

3.0 Election of the S. Area Committee Members for 2022 / 2023

Note – strategy moving forward is unchanged - The Southern area Committee is always looking to encourage new members and or welcome support from model flyers in the area.

Position	Name	Club(s)	
Chairman:	David Smith	Helipad	2Year term
	Proposed: Peter Carter	Seconded: Dave Franks	Agreed: Unanimously.
Vice Chairman:	No appointment, as the position so rarely used another member to stand in.		

Terry Weeks and David Smith to visit Mike to arrange future access to the conference centre when Mike for any reason is unavailable to attend.

November Committee Meeting:

AOB

Items to be discussed in advance of the January meeting that needs urgent attention:

- 1.0** Area AS Workshops – Strategy going forward, David Durnford to take on board.
Simon Wood has volunteered to help in any way required prior to the meeting.
Terry to pass on Simon's email address to David after the meeting.

- 2.0** For the first time in several years a suitable candidate deserving of an award was
put forward and agreed by the committee Unanimously.
For all his work over many years in promoting and organising Indoor Flying for the S
Area the award goes to **Alan Wallington**.
A plaque was presented to Alan by Terry Weeks at the meeting.

- 3.0** Those attending the Aircraft enthusiasts event on the 26th of November are:
David Smith, David Durnford, Peter Carter, Ken Gale and Terry Weeks.
Fixed wing, Helicopters, Gliders and Free-Flight will all be represented together with
the Simulator and some BMFA promotion items.
Terry to bring the SA Banner, Flags.
Terry to also email the attendees with the arrangements for attending.