



BMFA South West Area

**SW Area Ordinary Meeting 23rd June 2022 at
7:30pm Via Zoom**

Attendance

Clubs present: Okehampton, Riviera, Torbay, Davidstow, CVA, RC Cornwall Flyers, Newton Abbott Heli, Truro, Eddystone, Exeter, Culdrose, Dartmoor, CSSA

Officers present: Chairman, Secretary, PR Officers, Vice Chairman, Achievement Scheme Coordinator, Treasurer, Council Delegate

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Opening Statement
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Confirmation of Club Delegates present
4. Minutes from previous meeting
5. Actions arising from previous meeting
6. Reports from Area Officers
7. Financial Statement
8. Matters arising from Club Delegates
9. Bidding for next year's Area funding
10. Progress on St Agnes License
11. Any Other Business
12. Date and venue for next meeting
13. Chairman's closing statement

PROCEEDINGS

1. Chairman's opening Statement

1.1 The meeting agreed that the proceedings could be recorded by the Secretary who will destroy the recording after completing the minutes.

Action 1 Secretary to destroy recording on completion of minutes.

1.2 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 1st meeting of the re-constituted South West Area Committee. He noted that the Area was an integral part of the BMFA formal structure, amalgamating the Clubs of both Devon and Cornwall. As such it requires the support and cooperation of all around the table to make it succeed.

1.3 The Chairman explained the voting rules as set out in the 2003 Area Constitution.

- If an item needs to be voted on it must be proposed by a Delegate and seconded by a Delegate.
- Only Delegates are entitled to vote.
- Committee Officers cannot vote unless they are also a Delegate. The exception to this rule is that the Chairman may cast a vote in the event of a tie.

1.4 The Chairman noted that the minutes will be forwarded to the BMFA Hon Sec in draft form pending their approval at the next meeting. It is important that anything we wish to carry forward to BMFA HQ is highlighted for documentation in the minutes.

1.3 The Agenda will be taken in a slightly different order to improve the flow: Item 8 will be moved to item 10 and the intervening items brought forward.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following BMFA members:

(names and contact details omitted from this online copy – Secretary)

3. Confirmation of Club Delegates present

3.1 A roll call of Clubs identified those present along with the names of their Delegates. These are identified in the Attendance list above *(names and contact details omitted from this online copy – Secretary)*.

3.2 In the run up to the meeting four additional Clubs nominated Delegates but unfortunately none were present at the meeting.

3.3 While all Clubs were invited to nominate Delegates, five have not yet responded.

4. Minutes from previous meeting

4.1 The Secretary referred to the **Minutes of the BMFA South West Area meeting, 12 May**. While this was a Special meeting and not an Ordinary meeting it was directly relevant because it documented the re-constitution of the South West Area and election of its Officers.

4.2 The Secretary confirmed that he had circulated these minutes in draft form to Hon Sec at BMFA as well as the Club Support Officer. Additionally, they had been circulated to all Officers, Club contacts and Delegates to this meeting. They had also been placed on the SWA Website for attention of all members. As no comments had been received, he requested that they be accepted by this meeting and placed on the record. This action was proposed by Peter Disney and seconded by Ron Marking. It was accepted by all.

5. Actions arising from previous meeting

Action 1: BMFA Hon Sec to circulate funding Proforma.

This action had been passed by BMFA Hon Sec to BMFA Finance Officer. The Secretary said that he had been in contact with the Finance Officer who had advised that the Proforma was not yet complete. However, he had received guidelines in a useful Email and forwarded a BMFA Discussion document that could be used for planning purposes. This documentation has been circulated to Officials and Delegates and is sufficient to plan our budgeting cycle. This action can be considered closed.

Action 2: SWA to determine funding requirements. This will be dealt with later in the Agenda and can be considered closed

Action 3: BMFA Club Support Officer to arrange single Email addresses for Officers and website access. This was done. Action closed.

Implied Action. There was an implied action on BMFA Hon Sec to write up the minutes of the BMFA meeting chaired by him which formally brought the Cornwall Sub-Area to a close and elected Officers to the newly formed SWA. This has not yet been done, the Secretary will follow up with BMFA Hon Sec.

6. Reports from Area Officers

6.1 The Chairman considered his opening statement had covered the required ground and had no further comment, at this time.

6.2 The Vice-Chairman reported he had chaired the final meeting of the Cornwall Sub-Area committee bringing its activities to a close in orderly fashion. Outstanding business has been transferred to the South West Area.

6.3 The Secretary reported that he had been mainly engaged in organising communications between the Area and the Clubs, identifying Delegates, and organising the present meeting. Despite teething problems with the Website and Email this had gone roughly according to plan.

6.4 The Treasurer said the next two agenda items would cover his report.

6.5 The Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator, reported on his activities:

- He is the Chief Area Examiner for Devon and would now look to extend this role to the full South West Area.
- Has continued to conduct training and examinations.
- Aim is to encourage Clubs to have two examiners each, covering the diverse needs of fixed wing and helicopters.
- Keen to promote the Achievement Scheme throughout the South West
- Very encouraged by Okehampton kickstarting this by hosting the forthcoming Achievement Scheme weekend.
- Would like a letter written to all SWA clubs requesting they identify their requirements for Examiners.

Action 2 Secretary to write to all Clubs in the South West requesting they identify their requirements for examiners.

6.7 The Chairman invited the Okehampton Delegate to comment on the Achievement Weekend at Okehampton. This will take place on the 9th and 10th of July. He said that arrangements were well in hand:

- BMFA, Club Support Officer and Achievement Scheme Controller would be attending with their support equipment and would lead the event.
- Zoom meetings had been held with Club members and the Area Secretary to coordinate arrangements and establish the likely attendance from Website Registrations.
- Catering and camping facilities had been planned along with the site layout. He extended a welcome to anyone wishing to attend.
- PR Officer, a Newton Abbott Club member, offered the facilities of Newton Abbott Heli Club for another similar day. This welcomed by all.

6.8 The joint PR Officers reported on their activities:

- The Website is operational. A training session had been held with Andy Symons.
- A Zoom account has been purchased for the Area and is operational, a Telegram account has been set up for the Officials group.

7. Financial Statement

7.1 The Treasurer provided a financial statement:

- The Treasurer was formerly Treasurer of the Cornwall Sub-Area.
- At its close the Sub-Area held £1047 in its bank account.
- BMFA Finance officer had confirmed there was £2100 recovered from the Devon Sub-Area when it closed.
- Total funds available are therefore £3147. The BMFA has confirmed there will be no more money available for this financial year.
- Provision of annual grants to Areas is under review by the BMFA and will result in Clubs having to bid through their Area for future funding.
- Areas which have failed to spend money in year are unlikely to receive additional funds the following year.

- It is urgent that all Clubs come forward with bids for this year's funding.

Action 3: All Delegates to seek Bids from their respective Clubs for 2022/23 available funding as soon as possible. Their Finance Officers should liaise with the Treasurer to achieve this.

8. Bidding for next year's Area funding

8.1 The Secretary confirmed that a discussion paper received from BMFA Finance Officer outlining the likely bidding process could be circulated. This could be used as a basis for planning next year's funding requirement. Again, this needs to be supported by bids from Clubs. The aim should be for bids totalling the same order of cost as this year's, namely £3000 to be forwarded to the BMFA by the end of August. This means that Club bids need to be available by mid-August for discussion by the Area Committee.

Action 4: On all Delegates to seek bids from their respective Clubs for 2023/24 funding by mid-August. Their Finance Officers should liaise with the Treasurer to achieve this.

9. Progress on St Agnes License

9.1 RC Cornwall Delegate said there was no progress to report. Negotiations had been halted hold by the National Trust as the result of people being observed flying at St Agnes in defiance of the ban. He would be writing to the Head Ranger shortly in an effort to re-open negotiations, but any further flying activity there could only hinder this process.

9.1 The Culdrose representative noted it seemed unreasonable to expect modellers not to fly there if they were unaware of the ban. The Secretary agreed but unfortunately the activities of modellers aware or unaware had already put negotiations into a very difficult position.

9.2 The Secretary confirmed that Emails had been sent to all Area BMFA members as well as separately to all Clubs stating there should be no model flying by BMFA members at St Agnes pending negotiation of a License. The possibility of a letter being issued by the BMFA to all Clubs nationwide has been raised with the Club Support Officer.

10 Matters arising from Club Delegates

The Chairman invited Delegates to present any matters requested by their Clubs.

10.1 The East Devon RCC Delegate raised the following points:

- Could the Flyathon on 2nd July be posted on the website.
- Could the South West Glider Competitions be posted on the Website
- Could access to the SWA website be improved
- The East Devon Club shared the same concerns about the action of Natural England with regard to SSSIs as had happened at St Agnes and requested to be informed of progress.

Action 5: PR Officer to post Event information on the Website pending improvement in the operation of its Forms as well as access to it.

11 Any Other Business

11.1 The Dartmoor Delegate queried the significance of recent statements on interference between mobile phones and RC Equipment, is it really a risk? The Secretary replied that there is certainly a real risk. There were one or two papers in the US modelling press on the topic. He would pass what he could find on to the relevant PR Officer to post on the Website.

11.2 The Exeter Club Delegate raised his concern over not being able to post his Club events on the Website. Neither the events Form nor the Contact Form appear to be working correctly. The PR Officer said he was aware of these issues was working to fix them and would do so as part of Action 5 above. In the meantime, would any person having difficulty pass him directly the information they wish to post, and he will do the honours.

12 Date and venue of next meeting

The next meeting will take place by zoom at 7:30pm on Thursday 18 August

13 Chairmans Closing Statement

The Chairman thanked everybody for their efforts and closed the meeting at 9:35pm

Secretary, BMFA South West Area
26/06/2022

All names and contact details have been removed from this copy for online safety reasons. Any BMFA Member wishing to see a full version can do so by a request via the link:

<https://southwest.bmfa.uk/contact-us/>