

Minutes of the BMFA South West Area meeting, 12 May 2022

Re-constitution of the South West Area

The BMFA South West Area had been in abeyance for several years. An initial meeting Chaired by the BMFA Hon Sec formally re-constituted the South West Area (SWA) on 12 May 2022.

An election amongst members present filled the following Committee Officer posts:

Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Council Delegate, Area Achievement Scheme Coordinator, 2 of Public Relations Officers, Secretary Treasurer.

These incumbents will serve for the remainder of this year and will then be subject to re-election through the usual BMFA process. Hon Sec handed the meeting over to the new Chairman.

First meeting of the reconstituted South West Area

1. The Chairman welcomed the Committee and Members present to the first meeting of the newly reconstituted SWA. He considered that after 12 years in abeyance there were likely to be many questions, so he intended to divide the remainder of the session into two parts: part 1 to take any other business, part 2 to address any other questions - these being the sole agenda items for the remainder of the meeting.

Any Other Business

2. The Vice Chairman noted the existing Cornwall Area has a regular business meeting (effectively a winding up meeting – Sec) planned for Thursday 19 May and asked Hon Sec what now was the position with respect to that and the continuation of the Cornwall Area? Hon Sec replied that as of now the Cornwall Area is subsumed into the new SWA. The Chairman offered to attend the meeting on the 19th along with other members of the Committee to ensure continuation of existing business matters, also to provide an opportunity for the new Committee Officers to meet on an informal basis for the first time. This was welcomed by Vice-Chair.

3. A PRO noted there were several local club projects within the Cornwall Area for which Grants had been agreed and asked how these would now be treated? Hon Sec replied this was now a matter for the re-constituted SWA to take forward, but they should not in principle be affected by the change of administrative arrangements. Further, when the original Area was split between Devon and Cornwall funding was effectively halved. Funding available to the reconstituted SWA would now be double that available to Cornwall over each of the last few years.

4. Hon Sec added a few general comments about funding arrangements.

- Funding would be made available through a system of Grants
- Not all Areas or Clubs would receive the same funding amount as requirements vary from year to year, some may receive much more than others.
- Areas holding money in reserve would receive less Grant.
- Grants could be available for individual Club events where they are open to general BMFA members, especially if so doing incurs expenditure above whatever the Club would need to find on its own account.
- The Area should try to remain “cost neutral”; any Grants should be used to cover real costs and should not be retained as underlying “profit”.
- In writing bids, Clubs should try to provide as much structure as possible as this would help assessment in the bidding round.

Hon Sec noted the importance of the Area deciding what its funding requirements are and would pass on the BMFA Proforma which needs to be completed as soon as possible.

Action: Hon Sec to circulate funding Proforma.

Action: SWA to determine funding requirements.

The Chairman thanked Hon Sec for his helpful comments.

5. The Club Support Officer said he would arrange for a single email address for all Committee Members plus access to the existing SWA website for the PR Officers.

Action: Club Support Officer to arrange single email address and website access.

6. An invited Member asked how Members from individual Clubs would be nominated to attend the SWA meetings. The Club Support Officer replied that these should be nominated in Club's start of year returns and that there are existing nominations but if there were absences and omissions these could be revised in-year.

7. The RNAS Culdrose representative asked if the loss of the Slope Soaring site at St Agnes was an issue likely to be taken up by the Area. The Chairman replied that yes, it was, noting this is a broader issue than just St Agnes because it has the potential to affect any flying site which is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The RC Cornwall representative explained he was leading an activity on this topic on behalf of local clubs and that work was presently in hand with the BMFA and the National Trust to submit an appeal to Natural England. Unfortunately, there was little that could be presented publicly at the present time, but he would brief on progress to the wider community as soon as possible. Both he and the Club Support Officer considered wider briefing at this juncture would prove counterproductive. The RC Cornwall Representative noted there is no guarantee of a beneficial (to BMFA - Sec) outcome.

8. The Club Support Officer said he had arranged through the Achievement Scheme Review Committee to hold an Achievement Scheme Training Weekend on the Okehampton Club flying site over the weekend of 9/10 July. He will visit and run the event. The Chairman of the Okehampton Club confirmed that arrangements are in hand including for camping. The Club Support Officer confirmed that excess costs for renting land from the local farmer would be met by the BMFA. SWA Achievement Scheme Coordinator regretted he was unable to support this activity because of an unavoidable prior commitment. This was fully accepted, and all wished him well.

Any Other Questions

9. The Hon Sec said that while the Council Delegate would remain incumbent for the remainder of the year for the practical reason that removing him from the BMFA Directorship that accompanies the role is not a simple matter. **However, he asked if anyone would like to shadow him in that role for the remainder of the year?** No candidates were forthcoming.

10. An individual from the floor offered to undertake the second PR role. He was formally proposed and elected by those present.

11. There were no other questions.

12. The meeting was closed by the Chairman. He was roundly thanked by those present, as were the BMFA Officials for their help in re-creation of the SWA.

Secretary, BMFA South West Area

Present

This meeting was open to the general South West Area Membership attracting 30 participants from within the Area. All names and contact details have been removed from this copy for online safety reasons. Any BMFA member who would like to see a full copy of the approved minutes can do so through a request via <https://southwest.bmfa.uk/contact-us/>

Also present:

BMFA Hon Sec

BMFA Club Support Officer

Elected SWA Officials