

BMFA South West Area



**Ordinary Meeting, 17th January 2024 at 7:30 pm
on Zoom.**

Provisional Minutes

1. Welcome: The chairman welcomed everyone and especially ordinary members who were taking part for the first time.

2. Apologies: Plymouth Model Flying Club
Cornwall Slope Soarers
Plasterdown Flying Association

3. Attendance:

Club/Portfolio	Delegate
Treasurer + Truro	Yes
Exeter and District RC Club	Yes
EDRCC + Chairman	No
Newton Abbott Heli Club	Yes
Riviera Thermal Soaring Club	Yes
East Devon Radio Control Club	Yes
Davidstow Model Flying Club	Yes
RC Cornwall Flyers	Yes
RNAS Culdrose + Area Delegate	Yes
St Austell & Dist Modelling Club+PR	No
Okehampton MFC + Secretary	No

4. Minutes from Ordinary Meeting held 2nd November 2023.

The draft minutes were circulated to everyone in November. No corrections have been made. The minutes were taken as read and there being no corrections, their acceptance was proposed by RNAS Culdrose and seconded by PRO. The meeting voted to accept the minutes as a true record of that meeting.

5. Action points from Minutes:

Action 6-1: Events Coordinator to seek an alternative Club to host next year's Achievement Weekend. Action : Events Co-ordinator

Events Co-ordinator again appealed to clubs to consider hosting this Annual Achievement Scheme Weekend.

Action 6-2: The PRO was actioned to advertise the Secretary and ASSC vacancies for next year on the website. Action: PRO

PRO has advertised these roles on the SW Area Website but there has been no response as yet. He will continue to advertise in the Area media channels.

Action 6-3: The Treasurer to seek advice on travel expenses rules and rates from the BMFA.
Action: **Treasurer**

Treasurer suggested a rate of 30p/mile. The meeting then considered the following proposal;

Area Chief Examiners (ACE) and Examiners are entitled to claim 30p/mile for official travel. The Club Secretary must verify the test to the Area Treasurer.

Proposed: Delegate EDRCC Seconded: Delegate Newton Abbot Heli Club

This proposal was unanimously approved by the meeting.

6. Reports from Area Officers:

Treasurer: The current bank balance stands at £2991.90. The BMFA Treasurer has had to revise budgets due to reduced income and has requested that all bids must be resubmitted along with the latest Financial statements. Given this situation the treasurer said the Area would have to fund upcoming events from current funds until bids are approved.

Secretary: Reported he is getting to grips with the systems and received welcome support from the previous secretary.

Area Delegate: Has circulated summaries of the recent BMFA meeting and Board meeting.

(I) Rolling membership: this would entail membership renewal based on the date of joining rather than based on annual calendar renewal. There had been some opposition and he asked for input from the committee. The opinion was ambivalent from those present.

(ii) The Club Support Officer has appealed for photos from members to be used for promotional material.

(iii) The BMFA is promoting the idea of Areas having an Outreach officer to promote the hobby and membership.

(iv) It has been suggested that there should be an annual award for Club of the year based on various criteria. Areas might also consider the same award.

Criteria:

Effective recruitment

Outreach Program – Local community visibility

Online visibility

Training Program

Achievement Scheme Participation

Good club governance (Constitution, welfare policies etc)

Area PRO: The Facebook page now has over 100 subscribers. He has posted the St Agnes Flying rules as a result of posts questioning the agreement reached with the National Trust. Nigel Argle confirmed that no written agreement has been presented and so far no issues have been reported. The NT still hasn't provided any signage as to conditions for flying models there.

Events Co-ordinator:

Annual Achievement Scheme Weekend: It was felt by some at the meeting that in the event that a site couldn't be found then clubs should be encouraged to hold an achievement day as a way of promoting the scheme. They felt that this might be preferable to an Area event. The Co-ordinator questioned whether the clubs actually carried out more tests than were done at the Weekend. These figures are not available.

Fixed Wing aerobatics: Sadly Peter Coates had advised that he is unable to progress this due to personal reasons. The Co-ordinator appealed to delegates that if they knew of any suitably qualified persons to let him know.

Thermal Gliding: Phil Sellwood has agreed to put together a training programme to promote the sport and this along with the Helicopter training would be promoted in the spring.

Achievement Scheme Coordinator: Geoff Bell continues to act in this role pending the Area finding a new co-ordinator. Some discussion was held on the attributes required for the role and the search continues. He reported that he had done 3 tests and continues to support requests.

7. Training Events: as reported above by the Events Co-ordinator.

8. Club Delegate Reports:

Newton Abbot fears that they could lose their site.

There was discussion regarding the flying site map.

9. AOB: Nil

10. Next Ordinary Meeting: 7:30pm April 10th by Zoom

Meeting closed at 10:08pm

Actions:

1. Achievement Scheme Weekend; Rob Oats

2. Training events: Rob Oats
3. ASC advertising: Peter Smedley / Felix
4. Financial bids: Barrie Galley