



# BMFA South West Area

## Minutes of ordinary meeting held by Zoom on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**1. Welcome:** The meeting opened at 7:35pm with a welcome from the Chairman.

**2. Apologies for Absence:**     Area Delegate/RNAS     Delegate  
   ACE  
   RC Cornwall Flyers     Delegate

**3. Confirmation of Club Delegates Present:** 9 delegates

Plymouth Model Flying Club  
Treasurer + Truro  
Bude and District Model Flying Club  
St Austell MFC  
Newton Abbott Helis + ACE  
Riviera Thermal Soaring Club  
East Devon Radio Control Club  
Plasterdown Flying Association  
Davidstow Model Flying Club

**Officers**  
PRO/Webmaster  
Chairman  
Secretary

**4. Minutes from previous meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024:**

The provisional minutes having been circulated were taken as read. There being no corrections or matters arising they were proposed for adoption by Truro delegate and seconded by Davidstow.

**5. Actions from the previous meeting:**

- (1) **Achievement Scheme Weekend :** The Blackdown club have decided that they would be unable to host the event. The event would then revert back to the backup option of the Okehampton MFC site and be held over the weekend of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024 with the reserve being the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of September. A broadcast notification to all BMFA members in the South West will be sent out soon.
- (2) **AS statistics:** despite further enquiries these cannot be obtained by Area. It has been decided to gather the information locally though systems to be introduced by the new ASC.
- (3) **Appointment of the ASC:** see 9 below
- (4) **AS conditions for payment of travelling expenses:** Covered under Treasurer report
- (5) **Area Event funding bids:** Covered under Treasurer report.

## 6. Reports from Area Officers:

### Treasurer:

#### Treasurer's Report – 18<sup>th</sup> Jul 24

The Bank account for our Area at the end of the 2023/24 year was £2,991.90. The accounts have been audited by our auditors and found to be correct.

The current bank balance as at 15 July 2024 is £4,327.86

#### 2025/26 Bids

The Secretary recently contacted all the area clubs inviting financial bids for open events and exhibitions/talks. These bids were to be sent to me for consolidation by me and submission to HQ BMFA. As usual, in my experience, there was only limited response from clubs, as shown below:

Area Achievement Scheme -	£350
Okehampton SW Glider Competition - 2 x Toilets £90 -	£180
Okehampton Open aero-tow events – 4 x toilet hire - £90	£360
SW Glider competitions – 5 x 100 -	£500
CVA – Annual Grant for indoor flying (subsidising new participants and zero charges for juniors)) -	£175
Truro Swap meets (2x £50) -	£100
St Austell – Tredinnick Steam Fair -	£120
Travel expenses to collect BMFA simulator trailer	£100
St Austell Open Chris Foss Day -	£75
Bids Awaited:	
Torbay – 2 x swap meets -	£140
EDRCC Displays -	<u>£100</u>
Total	<u><b>£2250</b></u>

Proposed that these bids be submitted by the Treasurer to the BMFA Treasurer by the end of August.

Proposed: Secretary and seconded by Plasterdown delegate. Approved by the committee 9/0

The draft AS conditions for payment of mileage for AS events/tests was presented. A lot of discussion was focused on the funding of this policy. The Secretary stated that an estimate of £125 had been included in the AS 2025/6 bid. This is a new payment policy and we have no history on how much this is likely to cost. It is the responsibility of the incoming ASC to ensure that testing is done by the closest examiner qualified for the task so that funds are used effectively.

**Chairman:** Nothing to report.

**PRO:** The Area marquee is currently being stored by him. Requests for use should be directed to him and transport will be agreed.

The Secretary reported that a planning session involving the PRO, Chairman and himself had been held and some of the ideas that came from this were;

- creating a local classified ads section on the SW Area website. It is hoped this will generate traffic on the website which will then generate traffic for the following item.
- Look for paid for content in the form video advertising material to be shown on the Area website. The proposal is a £20 donation for showing these adverts.

- A quarterly newsletter. The PRO appeals to all clubs to send material and pictures of events held.

**7. Events Co-ordinator:** Because the weather has been so poor he has not promoted anything yet. With signs that the weather is starting to improve he plans to send out invites for Helicopter training events and Thermal gliding training.

#### **8. Reports and matters arising from Club Delegates:**

- **East Devon Radio Control Club:** The delegate reported that a model aircraft had caught fire in the air and crashed at their site on Woodbury Common resulting in fire on heathland. The local fire brigade had been called immediately and a number of appliances had attended along with fire fighters employed by the landowner. Discussions with the landowner are currently ongoing with particular reference to Risk Assessments (RA) of the site. A local investigation is ongoing and the landowner has also started investigating the safety of Lipo batteries. Until the landowner is satisfied with the RA and safety of the site, flying is currently suspended. Blackdown club have given club members permission to fly at their site for a period of one month ending 5<sup>th</sup> August. The landowner has requested that a charitable donation be made in lieu of the costs incurred to fight the fire by their staff. The club has also decided to provide gift vouchers to the landowner's fire fighters who attended. The Plasterdown delegate requested a copy of the RA when completed.
- The Plasterdown delegate reported that the Catstow club has adopted a rule that all flyers must have an AS "A" Certificate in order to fly solo. Despite voting the rule in, some members have been resistant.
- St Austell delegate stated they also require an AS "A" certificate to fly solo. They have recently held a scale event. They also plan a "military" fly-in and funds raised would go to Cornwall Air Ambulance.
- The Truro delegate reported that a number of members have started aero-towing at the site and flying standards and purpose had improved markedly.
- Newton Abbott Heli club has been affected by the poor weather. He reported that the Kingsbridge club were planning events for the future.

#### **9. Appointment of the Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator:**

The Chairman and Secretary have met up with the Bude & District MFC delegate as he expressed a deep interest in driving the AS following attendance at the last 2 AS weekends. The BMFA AS Controller advised that the Area Committee should officially appoint the delegate and he would then support the Area Co-ordinator in the role. The Bude and District MFC delegate gave a brief talk on his motivation to take on the role.

His appointment was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by the Treasurer. The vote was 8 for and 1 abstention.

#### **10. AOB: Nil**

#### **11. Date and venue of next meeting:** Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September by Zoom

#### **12. Meeting Close:** 9:41pm

#### **Action Points:**

1. Achievement Scheme Weekend