



BMFA South West Area

2nd Annual General Meeting

Held 23 November 2023 at 7:30pm Via Zoom

Provisional Minutes

Attendance

Present	Club	Delegate	Official
Felix Marten	East Devon RCC	No	Chairman
Ron Marking	CVA	Yes	Vice Chairman
Richard Hull	Newton Abbot Heli Club	No	PR Officer
Peter Smedley	St Austell DMFC	No	PR Officer
Peter Disney	RNAS Culdrose MFC	Yes	Council Delegate
Robert Oats	Okehampton MFC	Yes	Events Coordinator
John Osment	Riviera Thermal Soaring Club	Yes	
Tom Jenkin	Torbay DRFC	Yes	
Graham Webb	Blackdown RCFC	Yes	
Mike Bundy	Davidstow MFC	Yes	
Chris Morton	CSSA	Yes	Secretary
Geoffery Bell	Newton Abbot Heli Club	Yes	AS Coordinator
Barrie Gallev	Truro DMFC	Yes	Treasurer

AGENDA

1. Welcome from the Chairman.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Confirmation of Club Delegates present.
4. Minutes from previous AGM.
5. Reports from Area Officers.
6. Consideration and Adoption of Accounts.
7. Nomination of Club Delegates.
8. Nomination and Election of Officers.
9. Date and venue for next meeting.

PROCEEDINGS

1. Welcome from the Chairman.

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:40pm welcoming all to the 2nd AGM of the re-constituted South West Area. He thanked all for attending noting that the AGM is the most important meeting of the year.

2. Apologies for absence.

2.1 Apologies were received from:

Peter Coates, ACE,
Mark Hawker, Chair Teignmouth School (YG)

3. Confirmation of Club Delegates present.

3.1 The Secretary noted that ten Club Delegates were present which represented a quorum for the meeting. These are identified in the Attendance table above.

4. Minutes from Previous AGM.

4.1 Approval of Minutes. The Secretary noted that the provisional minutes of the previous AGM had been distributed on the 20th of December 2022, and further circulated with the final calling notice to the present meeting on the 8th of November 2023. As he had received no corrections or additions, he proposed that they be approved. This proposal was seconded by the Vice Chairman and carried unanimously on a show of hands.

4.2 Actions arising.

Action 1. The Secretary to organise appointment of the proposed ACE candidates for the coming year. **Complete** – The Secretary had processed the appointments with the BMFA Achievement Scheme Controller on behalf of the Area ASC.

Action 2. The Secretary to explore means of providing the ASC and the broader committee with help in the organisation of Events including for training, achievement, and competition. **Complete** – The Okehampton Delegate had been co-opted as Events Coordinator.

5. Reports from Officers.

5.1 The Chairman said he had been unable to prepare a written report because his time had been taken up in recent weeks by pressing family matters. However, since the disbandment of the original South West Area some 10 years ago it had been his ambition to see it restored. He was pleased to say that he considered this ambition achieved. The Area had functioned remarkably well over the last year, as demonstrated by the many events that had taken place across all disciplines as well as the interaction that had been achieved between the many Clubs of the Area. He thanked all concerned for the hard work that had brought this about and for the personal support he had received from various Area members.

5.2 The Vice Chairman reported that as South West Area Coordinator for Free Flight he had run eight competitions across the summer on behalf of the BMFA Free Flight Technical Committee. These were all well attended though the local weather was too poor to fly on three occasions. Despite this, CVA had finished 4th overall out of 14 Clubs nationwide in the BMFA Plugge Trophy. He noted that the three top scoring Clubs had managed to fly on all 14 occasions, so 4th place represented a very creditable achievement for CVA and SWA. Additionally, at the Nationals, CVA member Dave Powis had won the Tailless competition and he personally had finished 4th in Vintage Rubber. The following day they had finished 2nd and 3rd in Combined Rubber. The Area Indoor flying activity at Winnards Perch had been much better attended this year and with the help of the Area grant will probably break even. This venue is a fantastic location for Indoor flying, and all are encouraged to attend.

5.3. The Secretary reported:

5.3.1... that significant time-consuming tasks at the start of the year had been responding to the Dartmoor National Park's request for comment on its proposed byelaw changes as well as re-invigorating discussion with the National Trust on an agreement to fly at St Agnes. An agreed input on the former was achieved via BMFA CEO but the outcome is still on hold pending the resolution of wild camping rights in the Appeals Court. Flyers can continue to operate unpowered aircraft under the existing byelaws. Regarding the St Agnes issue, we gained agreement to fly there outside of the bird breeding season, that is we can fly unpowered aircraft at St Agnes between 1 September and 31 January. As yet there is no formal written agreement to do this though the Secretary had written and widely circulated guidelines for flying at St Agnes. The action to prepare a formal agreement continues to lie with the National Trust Head Ranger at St Agnes. The Area leadership on this task has been passed back to the CSSA Chairman (Nigel Argall). This effort was also assisted by CEO BMFA.

5.3.2... that a new Club: Teignmouth Community School (YG), had recently joined the Area. Its Chairman, Mark Hawker, had explained that the Club, of which he is the only adult member, came into being through a BMFA initiative to involve schools in rocketry. He had found seven enthusiastic 11/12-year-old pupils and formed two teams: "NOAB" (i.e. Nasa On A Budget!) and "Velocity". Each team designed rockets using computer software methods and used 3D printing and laser cutting machines to build them. After some initial excitements Team NOAB went on to win the south west regional rocketry event in Chippenham while Team Velocity placed fifth. This qualified both teams to enter the National event at Buckminster where they placed 9th and 15th respectively. The Secretary said that in his view this was an outstanding achievement on the part of Mark and his pupils which should attract the Area's support for future activities where possible. The meeting agreed and highly commended Teignmouth school for its achievements.

5.4 Public Relations Officers.

5.4.1 Peter Smedley reported that he had kept the website up to date adding new pages and items to keep the site interesting and fresh. This had included an arrangement for Jeff Hoer to upload a gliding news item but so far, the relevant page had not been populated. The Chairman agreed to pursue the matter with Jeff Hoer.

5.4.2 Richard Hull reported that due to work and family matters he had been unable to contribute to activities this year and had nothing to report.

5.6 The Area Achievement Scheme Coordinator reported:

5.6.1... that he had put considerable effort into planning tests and training for both days of the Achievement Weekend. Each day, the BMFA Club Support Officer concentrated on fixed wing activities while he became involved with helicopter tests on a separate field. The event was well attended:

- Online applications	59
- Candidates in attendance	22
- Examiners available	8
- Successful Candidates	12
- Total Certificates Gained	17

Passes comprised: 3 Fixed Wing As, 3 Fixed Wing Bs, Examiner Heli, Examiner Fixed Wing, 2 Heli As, 2 Heli Bs, 1 A&B MR with Camera Drone Proficiency, FPV (MR Extension) +BPC. The AASC considered this a good total, plus those who failed gained useful training. All are to be congratulated on either gaining their certificates or participating in training.

Overall, the AASC thought the event a good success. It was encouraging that so many Examiners had made themselves available and he extended his thanks for their support.

5.6.2... that he had received reports from the ACEs. Their reports are attached at Annex 1.

5.7 The report of the Area Council Delegate is attached at Annex 2. He further reported that at the recent full BMFA Board meeting it appeared that the current financial outlook was difficult. A relook at accounting procedures under the new BMFA Treasurer had determined that reserves were £200k less than previously thought. Savings were being sought, for example serious consideration was being given to moving the BMFA news online, also Chacksfield House had now been sold and the proceeds ring-fenced. Even so, membership fees would have to be increased and the conclusion had been that to provide a cushion for eventualities they would need to go up by £5. He noted that while under the new organisational structure he remained a non-executive Director though this arrangement would lapse by rotation in a year's time. The PRO(PS) asked, looking to the future, if the BMFA had say a five-year plan for finance. The Council Delegate replied that the new Treasurer was developing such a plan. The Events Coordinator asked the Council Delegate to take forward to BMFA HQ the concept of forming a dedicated model display team to take to full size aircraft displays. As well as for their own dedicated display, they may well be used to fill in slots when full size aircraft become unserviceable (as is frequently the case at vintage displays). The Council Delegate said he would consider this. The meeting thanked the Council Delegate for maintaining the Area's presence at Board Level.

5.8 The Treasurer's report is attached at Annex 3. The bank balance as of 1 April 2023 was £3,128, from which various payments during this financial year have resulted in a current account balance of £3,644.

5.9 The Events Coordinator reported that plans were in hand for both fixed wing and helicopter training courses to begin in spring next year. ACE, Peter Coates, would lead the fixed wing venture and Examiner Phil Jones that for Helicopters.

6.0 Consideration and Adoption of Accounts.

6.1 The Treasurer presented the audited accounts for the Area for the period 2022/23. These are copied at Annex 4. The balance brought forward was £3128. The Secretary proposed that the accounts be accepted. This was seconded by the Vice Chairman and approved unanimously on a show of hands.

7.0 Nomination of Club Delegates. The Secretary presented the list of currently nominated Club Delegates. This is copied at Annex 5. Text in red shows changes since the last AGM. The list was accepted by the meeting.

8.0 Nomination and Election of Officers.

8.1 The Chairman said that as agreed at last year's meeting the following Officers would be standing down this year:

Vice Chairman	Ron Marking
Secretary	Chris Morton
Achievement Scheme Coordinator	Geoff Bell
Public Relations Officer	Rich Hull

...further, that the Vice chairman, Secretary and ASC would not be seeking re-election which they confirmed. Rich Hull said that as he had indicated at 5.2.2 above, he was pressed for time at the moment and probably would not be able to contribute much. It was agreed that he would stand down for this year and if necessary be co-opted back into the task should that prove necessary. The remaining Officers were happy to continue into the second year of their appointments.

8.3 As no nominations for the vacant posts had been received prior to the meeting, despite them being widely advertised, the Chairman invited nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming for Vice Chairman or Achievement Scheme Coordinator so these appointments will remain vacant for the time being. The Chairman suggested the present Okehampton Delegate (and Events Coordinator) might like to be Secretary. After some dissembling on his part the Okehampton Delegate finally agreed. The outgoing Secretary proposed that the Okehampton Delegate be appointed the new Secretary. The Area Delegate seconded this proposal which was approved unanimously on a show of hands. The meeting welcomed the Okehampton Delegate to his new role and thanked the outgoing Secretary for his efforts.

8.4 The Achievement Scheme Coordinator said that the ACE appointments needed to be re-confirmed on an annual basis, subject to their final ratification by the BMFA Achievement Scheme Controller. As noted in his report, Phil George (ACE Helicopter), Peter Coates (ACE Fixed Wing) and himself (ACE all disciplines) were prepared to stand again. He recommended the meeting approve these re-appointments. However, David Wallace (ACE Helicopters) did not intend to stand again. The Council Delegate proposed that these appointments be approved on a block vote. This was seconded by the Torbay Delegate and approved unanimously on a show of hands. The meeting thanked David Wallace for his efforts.

8.4. The Chairman said that as the Events Coordinator had been co-opted during the year his appointment would need to be approved at this meeting for the coming two years. Asked if this would be acceptable alongside his new secretaryship the Events Coordinator agreed. The Chairman proposed that the Events Coordinator be re-elected for a further two years. This was seconded by the Vice Chairman and approved unanimously on a show of hands.

9.0 Date and Venue for next meeting.

9.1 The next AGM will be held on Thursday 21st of November 2024 at 7:30pm by zoom.

9.2 The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:25pm.

Chris Morton
Secretary (outgoing), BMFA South West Area
24 November 2023

Annex 1. Reports from Area Chief Examiners

1. Phil George, ACE Helicopters.

Area Chief Examiner, South West Area 12
BMFA no: S052747 CE(H) CI(H)

Dear Geoff,

I have to report I have not had any requests for Heli Tests this year, so I was pleased to accept the opportunity to attend the Training and Testing w/e but due to other commitments I could only make Saturday afternoon.

I carried out various tests with Geoff Bell which acted as refresher for both of us.

Also, I do however actively suggest to club members in various different clubs that they should consider improving their flying abilities and the achievement scheme might help them do this, and where to contact me if they wish to proceed.

Regards,

Phil George
CE(H), CI(H)

2. Peter Coates, ACE Fixed Wing.

ACE activity 2023

From: Peter Coates 7 November 2023 at 20:31

To: Geoffrey Bell

Hi Geoff,

I have examined 3 A tests. One of these was a failure but with some guidance and encouragement from me the candidate passed at the second attempt. The other A was a pass. This candidate is also keen to obtain his B cert and I have been working with him to that end. Once he gets a consistent grip on the 2-roll sequence he will most certainly pass, hopefully in the new year. Have spent some time with a candidate for Club Examiner. Unfortunately, despite encouragement, he has decided not to pursue this further. Attended the Saturday of the Achievement Scheme Weekend. Having observed 2 individual's B test practice flights, I gave them both advice and at least one went on to pass although not examined by me.

Regards,

Peter,

Sent from my iPad On 6 Nov 2023, at 13:11

3. David Wallace, ACE Helicopters

dw018a6333 18 September 2023 at 16:49

To: Geoffrey Bell

Hi Geoff,

Due to other commitments, at the end of the year I will be standing down as area chief examiner fixed wing but will be continuing as a club examiner.

Regards,

Dave Wallace

4. Geoff Bell, ACE all disciplines

South West Area ACE REPORT 2023
Report 23/11/2023 SWA 12 AGM

After a rather busy 2022 with
4 Examiner Tests
2 A FW Tests
1 A Heli Test

There was a slow start to the year 2023 with just,
2 Examiner FW
1 BMFA Approved instructor

There were later requests for 2 more examiner tests for candidates who could not make the training and testing days so they will be taken in the next few weeks.

The bulk of my activity has been with ASC work on the Achievement Days at Okehampton MFC.

At the T & T Weekend I helped the examiners with testing candidates for various disciplines I also took tests.

Geoffrey Bell

CE 134 S70001 CE(FW) CE(H) CI(FW) CI(H) CE(SF) CI(SF)

Annex 2. SW Area AGM 23 Nov 23 – Area Delegate’s Report

As the SW Area Delegate, as well as representing the Area at BMFA Area Council meetings in the usual manner, I have also carried out duties as one of the Non-Executive Directors sitting on BMFA Board Meetings (previously Full Council). The considerations and implications sitting as a NED require that I have to vote in what I believe are the best interests of the BMFA as a whole moving forward, which sometimes can be in conflict with feelings based purely on a SW Area perspective. I have one year left as a NED before the role will be passed onto another area in accordance with the rotation established when the new Board/Areas construct was established over a year ago. I continue to try my hardest to take a full and active part in all the meetings and ensure our voice is heard.

As well as all our SW Area Ordinary Meetings, since our AGM on 24 November last year I have taken part in the following Zoom meetings and given appropriate written feed-back in my usual manner: 1 x BMFA AGM (verbal feed-back report delivered at SW AGM) 3 x BMFA Board Meetings (I missed the September meeting due to a family problem) 3 x Additional BMFA Informal Board Meetings (last was last night and there is another next week) From a personal perspective it has been good to see the Area Committee find its feet again and crack on with supporting all model flying activities in the Area.

Peter Disney

Area Delegate 23 Nov 23

Annex 3. Treasurer's Report

Accounts 2022/23 - The activities bid for in 2022/23 all took place; no monies need to be returned to the BMFA. Some minor additional payments were made due to increases in costs. The accounts for the period 2022/23 have been compiled, audited, and will be considered separately under Agenda item 6. The bank balance as of 1 April 2023 was £3,128, from which various payments during this financial year have resulted in a current account balance of £3,644.

Bids for 2024/25 Activities - In Jul 2023 we were invited by the BMFA to submit financial bids to fund SW Area activities for the financial year 2024/25. I therefore emailed a request to all clubs and delegates in the area, inviting bids for any events/activities for which individual clubs and the Area might wish to bid. I received very few bids from any clubs or from the committee.

I therefore, unilaterally, decided to work on the assumption that all the Club/Area activities held in 2023/24 would be repeated in 2024/25. I made this decision based on the premise that if any of those activities were not held, I could return their funding to the BMFA HQ.

The bids submitted for the year 2024/25 were defined as follows:

Torbay & DMFC	Tom Jenkin	2 Gliding events	2 Swapmeets Provision of toilets	£140 £150
Exeter & D RCC	Cliff Brumfield	2 displays	2 static displays	£120
Truro & DMFC	Roly Smith		2 Swapmeets	£120
St Austell MFC		Tredinnick Steam Fair	BMFA publicity	£200
		Chris Foss fly in	Inter club fly in	£75
CVA	Ron Marking	Indoor Flying	Support for junior initiative	£175
SMAE SW	Martin Smith	6-8 RES and Open Thermal Days	Provision of toilets	£500
Okehampton MFC	Rob Oats	6 Open aerotow and 2 gliding events	Provision of toilets	£500

These bids were discussed and approved at the SWA full committee meeting held on the 2nd of November 2023.

Barrie Galley
Honorary Treasurer
23 November 2023

Annex 4. Area Accounts

1. Audited Balance Sheet

BMFA South West Area Accounts - 2022/2023

1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023	2022	2021
Balance b/f	(1) 1047	2193
Income		
BMFA Grant	600	
Devon Grant	2100.00	
Misc	10	300
Total Income	2710	300
Expenditure		
BMFA SW	104	1010
Torbay	150	196
CVA	140	0
Exeter	60	85
St Austell	175	155
Total Expenses	(2)-(3) 629	1446
Excess of Income over expenditure	(1)+(3) 2081	-1146
Balance Carried Forward	3128	1047
Total Assets		
Bank Account	3128	2303
Less unrepresented cheques		£
		118 250
		119 196
		120 40
		181 15
		182 15
		183 15
		184 20
		185 10
		186 5
		187 500
		188 5
		189 75
		190 70
		191 40
Total Balance	<i>Total U/P</i> 0	1256
	3128	1047

Accounts prepared by :



B W Galley

Accounts examined by RK Martin and M Glass

We certify that we have examined these accounts and, as far as we can see, they are correct.

R Kingsley Martin

R.K. Martin
18-7-2023

M Glass

Martin Glass
22-7-2023

2. Payments

BMFA South West Area – PAYMENTS 2022/23										Total
Date	Club/BMFA	Description	Payment Reference	BMFA SW	Torbay	CVA	Exeter	St Austell		Total
22 Feb 23	BMFA	Zoom Licence	P7	104.00						104.00
22 Feb 23	Torbay	Swapmeet	P2		150.00					150.00
22 Feb 23	CVA	Hall hire	P3			140.00				140.00
22 Feb 23	Exeter & District	Newton Abbot display	P4				60.00			60.00
22 Feb 23	St Austell	Chris Foss Fly-In	P5					75.00		75.00
22 Feb 23	St Austell	Tredinnick Steam Fair	P6					100.00		100.00
										0.00
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				104.00	150.00	140.00	60.00	175.00	0.00	629.00

3. Receipts

Date	Description	Devon transfer	BMFA			Misc	Total
1 May 22	Unpresented Cheque - Redruth travel					10.00	10.00
22 Oct 23	BMFA Grant ex Devon	2100.00					2100.00
16-Jan-23	BMFA Grant		600.00				600.00
							.00
							.00
							.00
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		2100.00	600.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	2,710.00

Totals are automatically transferred into the balance Sheet

Annex 5. Nominated Delegates.

Red type represents changes from 1st AGM

Club

Ash Park Fly

Blackdown F

Blakemore F