



BMFA South West Area

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held by Zoom Thursday 31st July 2025.

1. Welcome: The meeting opened at 7:38pm with a welcome from the Chairman.

2. Apologies:

Treasurer + Truro MFC
Exeter and District RC Club
Riviera Thermal Soaring Club
BMFA Southern Area Co-ordinator ACE

3. Confirmation of Club Delegates present.

Plymouth Model Flying Club
Newton Abbott Heli Club
Plasterdown Flying Association
RNAS Culdrose
Okehampton MFC

Other:
Chairman
Secretary
ASC

4. Minutes from previous meeting.

The minutes having been previously circulated were taken as read. There being no corrections they were proposed for adoption by Newton Abbott Heli Club delegate and seconded by Plasterdown Flying Association delegate.
Vote 5/0

5. Actions from previous meeting.

- a) The Treasurer has investigated other options and not found any local Building Societies or banking institutions that could provide alternative options. Plymouth Model Flying Club said

- they banked with Barclays and paid no fees and queried whether they are accepting new clients. RNAS Culdrose delegate mentioned NatWest.
- b) Dartmoor and St. Agnes gliding sites; No news on the new bye-laws for Dartmoor however the RC Cornwall Flyers delegate has sent a report that we have had confirmation that BMFA SW has a new permit to fly from Sep 1st through to Jan 31st, as per previous years. I am continuing to work with BMFA Head office (Dave Phipps), to bring what pressure we can, to bear, to extend this flying period but I don't have any good news at this time. The secretary received comment that if the Peregrine Falcons do not breed again this year then we should be highlighting this fact with the authorities who control the Area.
- c) The Achievement Scheme weekend will be covered below by the ASC

6. Reports from Area Officers.

Chairman: The following vacancies on the Area Committee have still not been filled.

Area Delegate

Webmaster/PRO

Vice Chairman.

Youth development officer.

He appealed to delegates/members who are willing to fill these roles to come forward.

Secretary: Nil

Treasurer:

Sorry that I am unable to be at this meeting but I am involved in a charity fundraiser for the RNLI this evening.

In summary, our current bank balance is £5,135, of which we received £2,000 to meet our total bids and expenses this year. To date we have spent £301 and I am aware that we will shortly receive an invoice for around £150 for our annual Zoom bill.

The following bids that were made to the BMFA have not yet been used:

Area Achievement Scheme – Toilets and expenses -£350

Open Events -

2 x Oakhampton Gliding - Toilets - £180

4 x Open Aerotow – toilets £360

5 x Open Gliding Competitions – toilets £500

CVA – Subsidising new participants and juniors - One evening £175

Truro MFC – one swapmeet -£60

Torbay & District MFC – 2 x swapmeets - 2 x room hire -£140

Exeter and District RCC – 2 x static youth displays – venue£120

Total = £1,885

Of the above, only the CVA and the second Truro swapmeet has been confirmed as being staged this autumn. This will result in a probable end of year bank balance of £3,250. I recommend that these 2 events be confirmed for payment.

Of the remaining events, I suggest that we review the Exeter youth displays to confirm whether these are still being planned by the club.

I suspect that the above toilet figures are probably now out of date. Recent quotes have been received for £150 per day, double the above figures - possibly increasing the £1,885 funding total to £2,580. This would reduce our probable end of year balance to £2,555 – a significant reduction from our year beginning of £3,436. I recommend that the committee considers whether the provision of toilets is sustainable with the dramatic increase in prices.

Please note that I am only contactable by phone on my mobile. I no longer use

my old BT Landline.

The Secretary then raised the point that bids for funding from clubs in the Area would be considered at the next meeting in September. The reduced funding from the BMFA makes it difficult to allocate funds fairly. Since the SW Area receives about 20 applications he made the following proposal:

The BMFA SW Area will provide approved funding for open events at clubs and SW Area events of up to but not exceeding £100.

Seconded: Plymouth Model Flying Club

After discussion the proposal was approved by vote 4/1

The Newton Abbott Heli Club delegate asked if toilets could be paid for by Area at an event to be held shortly. It was pointed out that clubs should plan ahead and request funding through bids to the Area committee. Bids for the 2026/27 financial year will be considered in September.

RNAS Culdrose delegate noted that funding to Areas was based on their expenditure. Areas like ours that managed their funding well would get the funding requested up to a maximum which is the current situation.

ASC Report:

He has been visiting clubs in the Area and promoting the Achievement Scheme. There appears to be less activity than normal.

The Achievement Scheme weekend is going to be limited to a single day on the 6th September but would be expanded to Sunday if there was enough interest. It will be held at Okehampton again. Three examiners have agreed to take part. Promotion of the event will start soon via email shots.

The Area ACE reported that AS training was slow at present.

7. Progress on Training events:

No further progress.

8. Simulator Storage:

The BMFA had recently provided the Area with 2 simulators that could be provided to events. These will require storage in a dry temperature stable environment. The Newton Abbott Heli Club delegate said a member he knows has commercial premises and he would enquire about a price to store the equipment there.

9. Reports & Matters arising from Club Delegates:

Plasterdown delegate: The club has met with their wild flyers and threatened them with retesting and that seems to have resolved their issue for the moment. They have a member ready to take an "A" test and 4 more scheduled. He had arranged NOTAMS for the SW Gliding events.

Plymouth Model Flying Club delegate: They also have a new “A” flyer and another due to take the test soon. They have offered to host a trial SW Gliding event but it must comply with their field rules.

Newton Abbott Heli Club delegate: The Vulcan model he has reported on previously has had bigger jet engines fitted and was test flown recently. It caught fire in flight but landed safely. The Eddystone Club is holding an open training weekend. Camping will be available to those attending.

9. AOB:

There was some general discussion on the rescinding of AS Certificates.

General discussion about the need for additional training for “A” certificate holders moving on to high performance models.

10. Date and venue for next meeting: Tuesday 16th September 2025 at 7:30pm by Zoom

11. Meeting Closed at 9:07pm

Actions:

- 1) Dartmoor/St. Agnes access
- 2) AS Weekend - ASC