



# BMFA South West Area

## SW Area Ordinary Meeting, 18 August 2022 at 7:30pm Via Zoom

### ATTENDANCE

**Clubs present:** Okehampton, Riviera, Torbay, Davidstow, CVA, Newton Abbott Heli, Truro, Exeter, Culdrose, Dartmoor, CSSA, St Austell, East Devon

**Officers present:** Chairman, Secretary, PR Officers, Vice Chairman, Achievement Scheme Coordinator, Treasurer, Council Delegates

### AGENDA

1. Chairman's opening statement.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Confirmation of Club Delegates present.
4. Minutes from previous meeting.
5. Actions from previous meeting.
6. Reports from Area Officers.
7. Financial Statement.
8. Review of Club Finance Bids.
9. Progress on Achievement Scheme Activities.
10. Events Planning.
11. Matters arising from Club Delegates.
12. AOB.
13. Date and venue for next meeting.
14. Chairman's closing statement.

### PROCEEDINGS

#### 1. Chairman's opening Statement.

1.1 The meeting agreed that the proceedings could be recorded on video by the Secretary who will destroy the recording after completing the minutes.

**Action 1** Secretary to destroy recording on completion of minutes.

1.2 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.3 The Chairman reminded the meeting of the voting rules:

- Where a vote is required to adopt a decision, it must be proposed by a Delegate and can only be seconded by another Delegate.
- Only Delegates are entitled to vote.
- The Officers of the Club are not entitled to vote unless they are also a Delegate.
- The Chairman may cast a vote in the event of a tie.

## 2. Apologies for Absence.

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from the following BMFA members:

*(names and contact details omitted from this online copy – Secretary)*

## 3. Confirmation of Club Delegates present.

3.1 The Secretary confirmed there were 13 Clubs present represented by their nominated Delegates. These are identified in the attendance list above. *(names and contact details omitted from this online copy – Secretary)*

## 4. Minutes from previous meeting.

4.1 No comments had been received on the minutes from the previous meeting. The CVA Delegate proposed they be adopted this was seconded by the Okehampton Delegate. They were accepted unanimously on a show of hands.

## 5. Actions arising from previous meeting.

**Action 1** Secretary to destroy recording on completion of minutes. **Complete.**

**Action 2** Secretary to write to all Clubs in the South West requesting they identify their requirements for Examiners. – **Complete**, the Secretary will report on this action under Agenda Item 9.

**Action 3:** On all Delegates to seek bids from their respective Clubs for 2022/23 available funding as soon as possible. Their Finance Officers should liaise with the Treasurer to achieve this. **Complete**, Treasurer will report under Agenda Item 8.

**Action 4:** On all Delegates to seek bids from their respective Clubs for 2023/24 funding by mid-August. Their Finance Officers should liaise with Treasurer to achieve this. **Complete**, Finance Officer will report under Agenda Item 8.

**Action 5:** PR Officer to post Event information on the Website pending improvement in the operation of its Forms as well as access to it. **Not yet complete**, He explained that he needs to discuss the operation of the website Forms function with the BMFA Club Support Officer. He will continue to post Event information on behalf of members until the Forms function is working correctly.

## 6. Reports from Area Officers.

6.1 The **Chairman** emphasised that though the title of this evening's meeting was "Ordinary" members should not be put off. These meetings are important to the maintenance of the Area and what the Area can do for its Members. This young, newly re-constituted Area is already beginning to get noticed with the huge success of the recent Achievement Scheme Event held at the Okehampton Model Flying Club. From the reaction of various Clubs, this event will now be repeated not only at Okehampton but in various other parts of the SW Area. To follow, there are now even more exciting ideas beginning to emerge and are being driven by people re-invigorated by this newly re-constituted Area and with signs of further exciting things to come. These ideas can only benefit the area, the Clubs and mostly those members who are willing to embrace them and join in to help get these ideas up and running.

6.2 The **Vice-Chairman** had nothing to report.

6.3 The **Secretary** reported he had been mainly engaged in organising communications between the Area and the Clubs as well as various meetings. He had also deputised for the Achievement Scheme Coordinator during his absence and will report on these activities under Agenda Item 9.

6.4 The **Treasurer** said the next two Agenda items would cover his report.

6.5 The **ASC** reported as follows:

- After the demise of the original SWA, contact with the Clubs was severed and the roles of ASC and ACE were administered by himself direct with the BMFA. This enabled the scheme to continue. On restoration of the SWA, Area Officers are working on the direction the Area can take.
- Carrying on from an Email sent by the Secretary to Clubs on his behalf on 14/07/22, the main drive for the Achievement Scheme is to appoint at least two Examiners per Club. This process has now started with the Achievement Day organised by the Okehampton Club and supported by the BMFA's Achievement Scheme Controller and Club Support Officer.
- It is important that the Area establishes a training plan based on "Flying Start" leading to solo, then "A" certificate and beyond. The information necessary to do this is available on the BMFA Website. We have made a good start, but it will take time to achieve our objectives.

6.3 The **Council Delegate** had nothing to report.

6.4 The **Public Relations Officers** had nothing to report but encouraged all Members to seek items that could be published on the website News Page.

## 7. Financial Statement.

7.1 The Treasurer reported that for logistical reasons he is in the process of moving the Area's bank account from Barclay's to a more local Lloyds Branch. This had turned out to be a more time-consuming process than advertised. Having made the initial approach some three months ago he was still at least six weeks (advised by Lloyds) away from having a functioning account. Meantime he had re-imbursed a Public Relations Officer for Zoom expenses out of his own pocket and would need to recover this payment from the account when possible.

7.2 There was still a distinct lack of clarity over what funds had been made available for last year. It wasn't apparent that the £300 promised by BMFA for the Cornwall Sub-Area for last year had been paid, also that there should have been £300 for Devon Clubs for last year which also hadn't been paid. The Area is still expecting £600 for the present year.

**Action 2:** Treasurer to ascertain status of last year's Area funding with the BMFA.

7.3 It remains that the Area still has £1047 in hand ex-Cornwall Sub Area, plus the £2100 ex-Devon Sub Area at its closure and presently held by the BMFA. The BMFA has agreed to transfer the latter when the new bank account is operational. There will be some elements to deduct from these figures, such as the payment referred to 7.2 above, by the time the new account becomes operational.

## 8. Review of Club Finance Bids.

8.1 The Treasurer reported he had sought bids for year's 22/23 and 23/24 from the Clubs. However, when he finally received the funding proforma from the BMFA it transpired we only need to return bids for 22/23 at the present time. The bids are listed in the table below:

| 2022 Bids  |         |                                |         |                                      | 2022         |              | 2023         |              |
|------------|---------|--------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Club       | Contact | Project                        | Date    | Event                                | Cost         | Grant        | Cost         | Grants       |
| Torbay     |         | South Devon Swapmeet           |         | Hall hire                            | 140          | 140          | 0            | 0            |
| Torbay     |         | Spring Static Display Torquay  | May     | Promote club and BMFA                |              |              | 250          | 250          |
| Torbay     |         | Summer Static Display Paignton | Jul/Aug | Promote club and BMFA                |              |              |              |              |
| Davidstow  |         | Runway resurfacing             |         | Runway re-tarmacing                  | 1,000        | 500          | 0            | 0            |
| Exeter     |         | 2 x displays                   |         | 2 static scout displays              | 60           | 60           | 100          | 100          |
| Truro      |         | 2 x Swapmeets                  |         | 2 x swapmeets                        | 100          | 100          | 120          | 120          |
| St Austell |         | Steam Fair                     |         | BMFA publicity                       | 100          | 100          | 120          | 120          |
| St Austell |         | Chris Foss Fly in              |         | Inter club fly in                    | 75           | 75           | 75           | 75           |
| Culdrose   |         | First Aid Kit                  |         |                                      | 30           | 30           | 0            | 0            |
| CVA        |         | Indoor Flying                  |         | 7 events pa. Subsidy for one evening | 140          | 140          | 150          | 150          |
| Okehampton |         | 6 Aerotow Events               |         | Toilets @ £70 for each event         |              |              | 420          | 420          |
| Okehampton |         | 2 open SW gliding events       |         | Toilets @ £70 for each event         |              |              | 140          | 140          |
|            |         |                                |         |                                      | <b>1,645</b> | <b>1,145</b> | <b>1,375</b> | <b>1,375</b> |
|            |         |                                |         |                                      | 2023         |              | 1,375        |              |
|            |         |                                |         |                                      | <b>Total</b> | <b>2,520</b> |              |              |

8.2 The Finance Officer noted the BMFA position remained that funding would not be allocated in the next financial year unless that available in the current financial was spent. As the Area already had a little over £3000 in hand this condition will not be met on the basis of these bids.

8.3 The Council Delegate advised that the Davidstow bid for funding to re-tarmac their runway was not likely be supported by the BMFA. After some discussion the Davidstow Delegate withdrew the Bid. The RNAS Culdrose Delegate withdrew his bid on the basis that there was an alternative way of providing the equipment.

8.4 The Treasurer proposed that he proceed with the remaining 22/23 bids. This proposal was seconded by the Vice-Chairman. After some discussion the motion was approved unanimously on a show of hands.

**Action 3:** Treasurer to proceed with 22/23 Bids as outlined above and complete any necessary funding proforma for return to the BMFA by end of August.

8.5 The meeting agreed that as the BMFA did not require 23/24 Bids at the present time they should remain open.

**Action 4:** The Treasurer to write to the BMFA requesting they clarify their schedule for submitting 23/24 bids.

### 9. Progress on Achievement Scheme Activities.

9.1 The Secretary recalled that he had agreed to deputise for the ASC during his absence. In this respect he had written to all Clubs requesting they indicate their need for Examiners. He had received responses from just three or four Clubs, however a search of the Azolve data on the Just Go Portal had produced a list of currently accredited Examiners from across the Area. Subsequently he had written to all identified Examiners requesting they confirm they are still active and what their disciplines are.

9.2 All of the information gained from this exercise has been combined into a spreadsheet and passed to the ASC. In summary:

- The Area has 29 Affiliated Clubs plus Blackdown which is presently in the Western Area but wishes to join SWA and is currently participating.
- Several Clubs share Examiners while 11 Clubs have none at all.
- The Area has 21 currently qualified Examiners plus a further 3 from Blackdown available to us.
- Of the 22 written to by the Secretary, 13 stated they were still active, 1 declared he was not. The remainder have not yet replied.
- Only two Examiners cover all Disciplines while there is only one further Heli Examiner.

9.3 The BMFA guidelines are for 2 Examiners per Club though with some caveats about the size of the Club's Membership. Accordingly, a broad conclusion is that the Area needs to roughly double its number of Examiners and substantially expand its number of Heli Examiners.

9.5 The Just Go data identified two individuals with Area Chief Examiner status. One being the Area ASC, the second being xxxxxxx of the Plasterdown Flying Association. The Secretary pointed out that technically the ACE Appointment is in the gift of the Area Committee which had not yet appointed any ACEs. It was though in a position to appoint the ASC who is qualified across all disciplines, for whom a current CV is available and who has a recent RCC. The Secretary proposed that ASC be appointed, and this was Seconded by the Torbay and District Delegate. The Appointment was approved unanimously on a show of hands.

9.6 Regarding xxxxx, the Committee asked the ASC to make contact, ask if he wishes to function as an ACE for Helicopters in the re-constituted Area and, if so, join an informal Officials' meeting to talk through what is involved in the Appointment and the necessary requirements.

**Action 5:** On the ASC, as at 9.6 above.

9.7 The Okehampton Delegate reported on the Achievement Day held on their flying site on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of July.

- This had proved to be extremely successful. The Organisation had gone well, and he offered thanks to all involved, especially to those who undertook the catering.
- The BMFA Achievement Scheme Controller and Club Support Officer led training and Examination activities. These were conducted in extremely professional fashion with two "B" passes for Helicopter Pilots and four "B" and seven "A" passes for fixed wing pilots. All pilots who underwent training or examination went away having learnt useful lessons. The BMFA Officials indicated they would return in six months' time to Examine the two Heli pilots for Examiner appointments.
- The BMFA Officials remarked that with a couple of notable exceptions most pilots at first lacked the rigour of flying a disciplined circuit and accurately placing manoeuvres. This latter approach to flying underlies maintenance of a safe and disciplined flight environment. It is extremely important that this is taught and learnt as a standard approach within the Clubs.
- The day's activity underscored the need to establish a wider complement of instructors and Examiners and to hold more of these events in the Area within the coming months and years.

9.8 The ASC thanked those who had worked on his behalf during his absence, and particularly the Okehampton Club for organising the event. He fully agreed there was a need to raise the general standard of training within the Clubs but noted that at the moment there was a distinct lack of resources on the ground to support this work. In his view this was due to their atrophy during the years since the original South West Area was disbanded. It would take a while to recover, but hopefully it can be seen that the Area has at least made a good start.

## 10. Events Planning

10.1 The Secretary said that part of the Area's terms of reference is to sponsor Area wide Events. The Free Flight Community already does this extensively with seven or more per year outdoor as well as an extensive Indoor series. These Events would require a particular Club to pick up the concept, offer facilities and organise, but participation would be open under a BMFA South West banner to any BMFA member. Additionally, funding would need to be put into next year's budget necessary to support expenditure beyond what Clubs would normally spend. Possibilities which spring to mind are:

- **Aerobatics.** Say classic pattern to the BMFA Club Schedule and/or 3D.
- **Thermal Soaring League.** Maybe an extension of the existing Devon round of thermal soaring days?

- **Scale.** Scale Glider, maybe an Aero Tow Day at Okehampton, or elsewhere could be designated a BMFA event. A powered scale day?

- **Helicopter** aerobatics or fun-fly. The Okehampton Heli enthusiasts are willing to lead an inter-Club fun-fly activity of this nature.

**Action 6:** Clubs are requested to consider the above and come forward with ideas and further suggestions for Events which might fit with their interests and competencies that could be extended to BMFA wide participation.

10.2 The Secretary said that in considering the above, also the need to support financial planning, he had concluded that the Area needs to define its priorities. In turn these need to be set in a “Strategy” document for the Area which would guide its development in the coming years. A set of priorities that spring to mind might be:

- **Training**, as exemplified by the outcome of the Achievement Day.

- **Outreach** to the general public ie build up the image of model flying in the public eye.

- **Events**, as discussed above but overall, with the aim of improving interaction between Clubs across the Area.

-**Site Protection**, understanding which of our sites are vulnerable to outside interests and gaining a head start on their protection.

But clearly these are not the only possibilities, other suggestions should be considered and would be welcomed by the Secretary. The Secretary agreed to draft an outline paper for consideration when time allowed but with the intention of having a document to Submit to the AGM.

## 11. Matters arising from Club Delegates.

11.1 Exeter and District suggested the Website page should carry the names and contact details of Area Officials. After some discussion it was agreed that this posed GDPR and online safety issues. The “Contact Us” page should be used for this purpose (Sec – at the time of writing this seems to be working, contacts get directed to me and I farm them out).

11.2 East Devon reported on their successful Flyathon which had raised £2022 for Devon Air Ambulance. A new Examiner had been appointed by the Club replacing a recent resignation.

11.3 CVA reported on their successful expedition to the Free Flight Nationals and coverage of their activities in Aeromodeller as well as the BMFA News.

11.4 The Davidstow delegate said he had recently heard rumours of the likely requirement for model aircraft and drones to carry remote identification devices. The ACS commented while this seemed to be the case in the USA (from September 2023 – Sec) it was not yet necessary in the UK, though no doubt we would follow in the footsteps of the US. He offered to make some online material about US activities available to post on the website. After some discussion the meeting concluded it would not be appropriate to do this at this point in time and we should wait until the BMFA had completed negotiations with the CAA and then make the results known.

11.5 Okehampton noted that the Club was working with Altitude Angels to help develop their Drone Aware App and the possible placement of a CAA implemented transponder on their site.

## 12. AOB

12.1 The RNAS Culdrose Delegate noted there was new anecdotal evidence, both verbal and on-line, that people are still flying at St Agnes despite the Advisory Letter. The Secretary said he had written to the Redruth Club, being the most local to St Agnes, for help in keeping an eye on activities but had received no response.

12.2 The RNAS Culdrose Delegate said he had made an appointment to see his local MP over the ban at St Agnes and encouraged members to write to their MPs. The Secretary pointed out that the negotiating team did not think escalating the situation in this way was a worthwhile thing to do at the moment and could have negative consequences.

*(Secretary Note: post meeting I contacted the negotiating team to see what their current advice is on this issue. Their advice remains much as before. They are in the middle of a complex negotiation with the NT. This negotiation is part of a detailed bureaucratic and legal process and will be lengthy and inevitably frustrating, but which cannot be avoided. Being able to support this work has required many hours of detailed research. Any further flying is likely to upset this process, in many respects it already has. Presently the ball is in the NT's court, a response to our letter requesting they open specific negotiations over a license is awaited. As we have not formally requested a license nothing has been refuse. It would be much better to avoid escalating the issue until we reach a point where a license and/or appeal has been refused. We are not there yet.)*

## 13. Date and venue for next meeting.

13.1 The next meeting will be the AGM on Thursday 24 November at 7:30pm. The Officers reserve the right to call an intervening Ordinary meeting should the need arise.

## 14. Chairman's closing statement.

14.1 Thank you everyone for attending this evening. In the few months this Area has been going Things have happened already and more things are starting to happen. If you have any ideas for the items you have heard about this evening, or have any new ideas that you think are worth pursuing as a possible exciting new project or event then please don't hold back, do come forward and talk to any of the Area Officers and it could well become a new craze that takes off.

14.2 I hope this evening was not too ... exciting for you, we wouldn't want you to have a sleepless night, however it's time for me to close this meeting officially.

14.3 The meeting was closed at 9:45pm.

Secretary, BMFA South West Area.  
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*All names and contact details have been removed from this copy for online safety reasons.  
Any BMFA Member wishing to see a full version can do so by a request via the link:*

<https://southwest.bmfa.uk/contact-us>