



# British Model Flying Association

## Southern Area [www.sabmfa.org.uk](http://www.sabmfa.org.uk)

Minutes Ratified at meeting dated 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### Minutes of AGM Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Venue: - *The Ship Inn*

**41 Old Redbridge Road Southampton Hampshire SO15 0NN**

Start Time: 8.00 hrs. pm

Present:	S Area Office	Club
Tony Butterworth	Chairman	WCA
Ken Gale	Vice Chairman/ PAS co-ordinator	Heli Pad MC
Terry Weeks	Hon. Treasurer/RC Comp Sec Silent Flight	Aldershot
Peter Turley	Hon. Sec. & RC Comp Sec Fixed Wing	Petersfield/CADMAC
Ken Knox.	PRO	CADMAC
David Burstow	Dorset Area Support representative	Eagles Delegate
Stuart Simpson	Area Delegate	Hayling Helis / CADMAC
Roger Newman	Vintage F/F Rep. & Special body co-ord.	Bournemouth
Paul Newell	Visitor	Hornets MFC
Ginny Newbold	Visitor	Hornets MFC
Richard Sharman	Visitor	BMFC chairman
Graham Gibson	Visitor	BVMFA sec.

#### 1.0 Apologies for absence

Steve Warren	South Hampshire Operations support	Waltham Chase
John Thompson	Free Flight Comp. Sec.	Crookham
Peter Robinson	SA Web Master	

Firstly the Chairman welcomed our visitors Paul and Ginny Newbold of the Hornets MFC, on the IOW, also Richard Sharman Chairman Beaulieu MFC and Graham Gibson from Blackmore Vale MFA in Somerset.

#### 2.0 Review and correction of Minutes of the S. Area AGM held 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015

Comments, None                      Proposed by Terry Weeks                      Seconded by Ken Gale

#### 3.0 Committee reports: -

##### 3.1 Chairman's report (Tony Butterworth)

The Southern area can report that 2016 has been a mixed year with continued success in the development of additional key events for local modellers, but also concern over changes that have affected our use of established local flying sites and the promotion of EASA rules for classification of unmanned aircraft. All these issues each provide their own challenges but none so much as keeping all informed and giving help where necessary to those in the area trying to work to provide solutions.

Our committee meetings have indeed spent much time focused on the national changes and local airfields but this has been necessary to ensure that we maintain a positive communication route with those in control. This also ensures that we can monitor changes and

negotiate when necessary with a proven track record of adopting and accepting the changes that are required and are indeed necessary.

Our free flight team of John Thompson and Roger Newman should be congratulated on the work completed this year at both Middle Wallop and also Odiham, through their efforts we have been well informed of the situation and have continued to maintain a positive relationship with both airfields.

Our web site continues to provide a focal point within the area but is also attracting attention from abroad. The fact that we are recognized in this way should help us develop further and maybe expand the opportunities in the coming year. We always try to improve each year and its always rewarding when we see local clubs using this facility to promote their own events –this being something we must continue to develop. Analysis of the web site shows that it receives approx. 100 visits per week and although the majority of visits are from local sources it is attracting global interest. We need to continue to update information on a more regular basis as changes appear to attract additional interest, a challenge for 2017.

It is also encouraging to see that club websites, Beaulieu model flying Club and also Southampton MFC, have appeared near the top in interest level of site visitors. We need to advertise this opportunity to other member clubs and hopefully encourage them to share the benefits of being identified on our web site, these benefits already seen by Beaulieu and Southampton MFC.

The strategy last year to appoint local reps around the area has been successful- it brings the committee closer to the local modeller as well providing an improved communication channel for both club members and ourselves. The post of representative incurs no paperwork or reporting and therefore removes the factor of responsibility that is often associated with committee posts, the function is purely attend our meetings and become a messenger between clubs and ourselves. Considering the value that has been added during the year we should promote this role further in 2017.

Another change for this year is the inclusion into the AGM of the list of our achievements during the year, and also observations of some of our concerns. It is very easy to forget the positive work that has been completed during the year by this team and it is only right that such good work should be documented to record the levels of success.

The concerns list is also important as this should help us identify those areas that require improvement for the year ahead. Having clear targets and good communication is essential for us to progress, I think we have the necessary tools and shown the commitment so we can look forward to 2017 with positive hope. For info please [Annex A](#) at end of minutes

This AGM always precedes our annual Balsa Brain quiz evening, again another successful event that can show a history going back at least 34 years. I think it is only fitting that this year we pay tribute to Steve Warren who for so many years has put considerable effort as quiz master into this event to ensure a successful evening. His wife Maggie has also provided support in previous years supplying food at half time to keep the teams going. Steve has always been a key Southern Area committee member for as long as I remember however today is unable to attend our meetings, although he continues to provide support. He remains on the committee and ever attached to his PC continues to supply help and support on all matters reviewed. While talking matters Balsa Brain I would also wish to record our thanks to the Firebirds and Pat Parsons who continue to provide venue, facilities and refreshments to ensure that this annual event has a safe home for the foreseeable future.

Lastly my thanks go to all the committee members whom without we would never be able to operate. This team has shown a high level of enthusiasm to make things happen, they have spent their own time and money on many occasions to support area activities and all too often worked outside their comfort zone but through it all we have had fun in the process, thanks TB

### 3.2 Vice Chairman's report (Ken Gale)

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, I supported the Southern Area team helping out at the Model Engineering Exhibition in London at Alexandra Palace. Thursday was 'setup' and was freezing as the main roller doors were open all day. Friday was the first day proper and Terry Weeks, Steve Warren and I had hoarse voices and stiff legs by the end of it, but thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I had never seen so much grey hair in one place at the same time! I returned on the Sunday afternoon to firstly have a look around the exhibition as we had been too busy with people asking questions on the Friday and secondly to help with the dismantling of the stand and retrieving some of the models. The organising of the exhibition ran surprisingly smoothly considering the number of exhibitors and the amount of kit that had to be assembled and then taken down again at the conclusion of the event. I have since received a very nice letter from Manny Williamson thanking me and the team for bringing our models to show and for our hard work.

Our usual trip to the Blackbushe show was cancelled this year owing to the airfield coming under new ownership. Hopefully this is just a hiccup this year and that the show will resume next year. Only time will tell.

On 30<sup>th</sup> May (Bank Holiday) I attended the 'Wartime Wallop' day with a couple of my helicopter models on static display. As usual, it seems with Bank Holidays, the Saturday and Sunday of the weekend were great weather wise and the Monday couldn't really have been colder with strong winds etc! Generally a good day however and it was good to be able to have a chat to a full size Bell 47 pilot who was there with the Historic Flight team.

July 6<sup>th</sup> I attended a meeting of the Christchurch and District Model Aircraft Club along with, and at the request of, Manny Williamson to answer questions about the Southern Area in General and the Achievement Scheme in particular. It was a very good meeting and we were made to feel very welcome.

15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> of July I attended Farnborough International Air show at the request of Head Office to help with the putting up and taking down of the stand and also answering questions from the public on the Saturday and Sunday of the show. We were in an area of the show designated the 'Drone Zone' which was incredibly busy all weekend with FPV drone racing taking part in a huge netted area put up and sponsored by DJI, probably one of the biggest companies involved in Drone activities with their Phantom range of quadcopters. We were also visited by a member of the CAA which was interesting, particularly the very nice comments that were made about the BMFA.

24<sup>th</sup> July saw the third annual Southern Area Scale Helicopter Fly-in at the HeliPad Model Club field that I organised as Chairman of HeliPad. As usual this was very well attended with over 60 superb scale model helicopters present. Some had come from as far afield as Cornwall, Kent and the West Midlands. Interesting to note that the helicopter power source was pretty evenly split between Turbine and Electric with very few were Glow powered helicopters present. This is a sign of the times.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November I attended the Petersfield Aero Modellers club night to give a talk on helicopters in general and my turbine models in particular. I was made to feel very welcome and there were very many questions from a club with virtually no helicopters!

### 3.3 Honorary Treasurer's report (Terry Weeks)

First and foremost I would like to thank Dave Burstow for his continued willingness to audit the accounts for us.

Please refer to sheet 2 of the balance sheets provided tonight, it shows our current balance of £3625.78 as at the 7<sup>th</sup> October the date of the last statement, this takes into account the income and expenditure during the year. Sheet 1 shows the predicted cash amount at the end of the financial year of **£3242.29** this is an increase over last year of **£323.55**. These are the figures to be presented to the BMFA HO together with the AGM minutes as required to qualify for the 2017 grant.

#### Notes on the accounts:

1. We held one less meeting this year saving £40.00 but this will not be the case next year.
2. We were, thanks to Peter Robinson, able to reduce our Web-Hosting costs to £35.86 considerably less than the previous arrangement with the council of £153.30.
3. A table for the Marquis was purchased for £25.99, this prompted by a need when manning the stand at the Farnborough show, but I believe it will be an asset for our ongoing use (Ken has already used it for the Heli event he runs).
4. The 2015 Balsa Brain was budgeted to cost the Area around £250.00 but following the raffle and entrance receipts the actual cost was £212.00. A similar amount has been allowed for to run the 2016 event.
5. The usual subsidies to CADMAC and Waltham Chase were continued at a cost of £200.00.
6. Finally John Thomson has made a donation of £325.00 to the RAF benevolent fund following the free-flight event at Odiham this year.

Proposed acceptance: Peter Turley                      Seconded: Tony Butterworth

These minutes are not ratified until the 2017 AGM; however the accounts have been ratified and approved at this meeting.

### 3.4 Honorary Secretary's report (Peter Turley)

Attended all of the committee meetings and forwarded the BMFA HQ correspondence to the committee members and acted as interface as appropriate.

Disappointed that Blackbushe Model Show in May and the Nat's were not held this year.

Chichester Model Club supported the Army Families open day at Thorney, taking a selection of models.

As Petersfield Model Club Delegate, the club has been busy with a model build using Kline Fugleman wing section, visual judging with a flight test and also a visit to see the Vulcan that can taxi.

At the PAM AGM in January, I stood down as Competition Sec.

I am happy to stand again for the year 2017

### 3.5 Achievement scheme Co-ordinator's report (Ken Gale)

Since October 2015 to February 2016 the AS scene was fairly quiet as you would expect due to cold and windy weather, except for continuing enquiries about multi-rotor or drone tests. February saw several enquiries; one in particular from someone who was under the impression that you 'sit' the tests as it was purely theory! I pointed out that this was not the case. His reply was that he had better build one then. He has subsequently been in touch to say he is building one and will be in touch when it's ready. All will be revealed later on.

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He was the third enquiry from Southampton University. The first, from Iceland, had yet to come back to me. He was another that was expecting me to supply the 'drone'.

It transpired that they were all part of several teams that were building drone to take part in an inter-university challenge nationally for an autonomous flight with several challenges to be performed.

Finally, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March I took a team of five for their A tests at the Helipad club site. Unfortunately, all failed on the flying, partly due to them not appreciating how lively these things are when you turn off all the stability gyro's, several also managed to get very disorientated. At a subsequent test on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, I only had one pass (the guy from Iceland) as the others all failed on either the mandatory questions or general safety questions. The flying had definitely improved, but some were still marginal. There have not been any further requests for tests so far. 24<sup>th</sup> September I was asked to take a Multi-rotor 'B' test for a member of a local club. Unfortunately, this was also a failure partly due to what I believe to be an unsuitable model (very small 'racing' quadcopter) and weather at the time!

There was an enquiry from Jersey about a potential candidate for Helicopter Club Examiner on the island. They have an Area Chief Examiner (FW) and a Club Examiner (H). After discussions with Duncan McClure, Achievement Scheme Controller, it was agreed that the flying part of the test could be conducted by the Club Examiner and the Questions part of the test could be conducted by the Area Chief Examiner. This would negate the need for a Heli Chief Examiner from the mainland travelling to the island. This arrangement has subsequently been approved by the Achievement Scheme Review Committee.

There has also been a request from the north of the area from two clubs for members to be taken for Fixed Wing Club Examiner. These have been passed onto Peter Carter (Area Chief Examiner (FW)) to manage.

### 3.6 PRO's report (Ken Knox)

He reported that he had supported the committee and interfaced with the web master.

### 3.7 Web Masters report (Peter Robinson)

This review is presented by Tony Butterworth-  
For details on the web site performance please see [Annex B](#)

### 3.8 Council Delegate's report (Stuart Simpson)

#### *January 2016 Full Council Meeting summary*

No Nationals at Barkston Heath.  
ASCR has been suspended.  
Change of printer for BMFA News.  
New Achievement Scheme hand book is to be issued.

#### *May 2016 Full Council meeting summary*

Confirmed no Nationals for 2016, due to a big event taking place some 40 miles away!  
The flying disciplines are to do their own thing!  
Capping the Area Fees to two years in total was rejected.  
The proposed joining fee was rejected.  
Presentation of the New National Centre, ex equestrian centre was given.

*September 2016 Full Council meeting summary*

We have been without a PRO for all the year, no nominations received.

No change in subscriptions.

Presentation update on the National centre was given.

Heavy lift challenge is going global.

No discussion on next year's Nat's.

Mike Collier, BMFA Educational officer, who is responsible for the Darts etc. wishes to stand down, so the activity will be taken over by the BMFA.

New EU rules covering Drones was discussed and if implemented could change model flying as we know it today.

**3.9 Free Flight Competition Secretary's report (John Thompson) – presented R Newman**

Firstly, many thanks to the committee for their stalwart work during the year.

I will not drone on about Drones, however the Free Flighters did prepare and send a response regarding the proposed EASA regulations, that would as proposed more or less prohibit any form of Free Flight modelling.

Our response can be viewed in the November issue of the "New Clarion" the E-magazine of "Sam1066.org".

Middle Wallop was lost to us this year and it appears unlikely that any form of FF will be permitted to return to this site. The 68<sup>th</sup> annual rally at RAF Odiham went ahead albeit with severe restrictions which many participants did not find very palatable. This event allowed us to make a £325 donation to the RAF Benevolent Fund. See **Annex C** for response from Royal Air Force Benevolent Society

Salisbury Plain remains available and is well used by many sport flyers as well as competitive types.

A few more Beaulieu permits for sport flyers were issued compared to previous years, but aside from the 8 Area competitions, when say 15 flyers turn up, footfall is very low.

The weather this year has not been an encouragement for our kind of activity!

On a happier note Crookham won the prestigious BMFA Plugge Cup for team activities spread over the whole year of competitions. It was last won by them some 20 years ago.

**3.10 Radio Control Silent Flight Competition Secretary's report, (Terry Weeks)**

3 of the 4 planned S.A Soaring competitions went ahead, one cancelled due to adverse weather and these events continue to be well supported. The series winner was Chris Foss with Ken Manley in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Dave East in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dave East was also awarded Best Flight.

I attended the London Model Engineering Exhibition at Alexander Palace on the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Jan.

I attended the "Wartime Wallop" event at Middle Wallop on the 30<sup>th</sup> May to assist in the provision of a static display and am already planning to attend the 2017 event.

I attended the Farnborough Air Show on the Media day and all 3 show days from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of July and felt it was well worthwhile with much interest shown on the stand.

I attended the Odiham Families day this year with Peter Carter and several members of the Aldershot model club on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July to put on a static display, very impressive it was too with some 41 quality models on display, this was appreciated by the station commander who visited the stand.

Sadly I have established there is to be no Blackbushe show again next year.

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There is a proposal on the table of the AMC at their AGM (to be held tonight) to dissolve the club (currently around 80 members) and distribute the funds equally amongst the existing members; the feeling is that this proposal will be accepted. The name will be retained and I am fairly sure that a small group including myself will re-establish the club albeit in a much smaller form for 2017 still however without a flying site. It is thought that this small group will put more emphasis on finding a site at some time in 2017.

The Alton Silent Flyers continue to thrive and all is well on that front, their AGM is planned for the 15<sup>th</sup> November.

### 3.11 Radio Control Competition Fixed Wing Secretary's report. (Peter Turley)

No Activity.

### 3.12 Education Coordinator (vacant) no report

#### 4.0 Election of the S. Area Committee Members for 2016/2017.

Note – strategy moving forward - The Southern area Committee is always looking to encourage new members and or welcome support from Model flyers in the area.

To this end we should tailor tasks appropriately to encourage pilots to join us and become part of the team regardless of how much support they can offer, today we have to be flexible in this respect.

This item on the agenda is to consider how to engage new ideas with the clubs in the area.

4.1 The position already vacant is - Education Co-ordinator.- no proposers received

4.2 Stuart Simpson advised he wishes to stand down from Area delegates post after 30 plus years representing the area – the committee thanked him for his efforts and asked him to consider an alternative post on the committee for the future.

David Burstow has volunteered to take the vacant position of SA Area Delegate.

So current committee members prepared to stand for another year are –

Tony Butterworth	Chairman	WCA
Ken Gale	Vice Chairman	Heli Pad MC
Peter Turley	Hon. Secretary	Petersfield / CADMAC
Terry Weeks	Hon. Treasurer	Aldershot
Ken Gale	PAS co-ordinator	Heli Pad MC
Vacant	Education Co-ordinator	
Ken Knox.	PRO	CADMAC
David Burstow	Area Delegate/ Dorset Area Support rep.	Eagles Delegate
Peter Turley	RC Comp Sec (Fixed Wing)	Petersfield / CADMAC
Terry Weeks	RC Comp Sec (Silent Flight)	Aldershot
John Thompson	Free Flight Comp. Sec.	Crookham
Steve Warren	South Hampshire Operations support	Waltham Chase
Roger Newman	Vintage F/F Rep. & Special body co-ord.	Bournemouth

The Remaining committee members were re-elected unopposed.

David Burstow is to take up the position of SA Area Delegate, in addition to being Dorset Area Support representative and was accepted to unanimously.

Area Return for 2017 was to be completed and sent to BMFA.

Post meeting Action P. Turley

## 5.0 Ratification of Southern Area Chief Examiners for 2016/2017: -

Steve Warren, requested that he wished to stand down as an ACE, accepted.

Those up for re-ratification are:

### (Block Acceptance by Committee)

Terry Weeks SF    Ken Gale HELI    Mike Rondel FW    David Burstow FW    Matt Lodge  
Tony Warrilow FW    Tony Butterworth FW & SF    Tony Shortell FW  
Peter Carter FW

*Proposed*                      *Peter Turley*                      *Seconded*                      *Ken Gale*

## 6.0 AOB

### 6.1 Discussion on Proposed EASA Prototype regulations and BMFA response (attachment)

Various details were discussed by those present; we all awaited the results if the EASA vote in November (delayed from October). The SA wished thanked the BMFA, in particular David Phipps CEO for his support in the negotiations.

### 6.2 BMFC support to get more Examiners and get Country members to take their "A – Certificates"

Richard Sharman Chairman Beaulieu MFC, reported that the flying site was very close to the road and carpark and wanted to get all flyers at Beaulieu qualified to the "A" test and was having difficulty in getting examiners to take the test, also flyers using Beaulieu reported that at their clubs they could not take any tests because of the lack of examiners.

Tony noted that in the first instance, BMFC and their members clubs should contact the Southern Area if they wanted examiners to take the test's as there were sufficient examiners in our area.

Ken Gale ACE Co-ordinator said that he was the point of contact, when an examiner was required.

## 7.0 Next meetings -- Date and time of the next Southern Area AGM: -

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at the:-

. Venue: - ***The Ship Inn***

**41 Old Redbridge Road Southampton Hampshire SO15 0NN**

*Start Time 20.00 hrs*

### 7.1 Date and time of the next Southern Area Committee meeting: -

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017 at the:-

. Venue: - ***The Ship Inn***

**41 Old Redbridge Road Southampton Hampshire SO15 0NN**

*Start Time 20.00 hrs*

## Attachments

The Successes and Concerns of 2016

Web Master's report

**Annex C – letter from Royal Air Force Benevolent Society**



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Update on EASA Proposals from a BMFA e-mail, received dated 6<sup>th</sup> November

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.15 hrs.

Peter Turley Hon. Sec.

Home: 01243376861 Mobile: 07971498726 Email address is: [p.turley123@btinternet.com](mailto:p.turley123@btinternet.com)

Attendees	Position/Visitor	Club
TERRY NEEDS	Treasurer / SF Rep	AMC / ASF / TVSF.
Dave Burnton	ACE / Hornet Rep	EFA / Chivil MFC
KEN KNOX	Pro (BMFA Rep.)	CHICHESTER to BODFAR.
Stuart Simpson	Delegat	Heli Helis & Andover
<u>Ken Gale</u>	ASC / V. CHAIRMAN	HELI PAD.
TONY BUTTERWORTH	CHAIRMAN	W C AERO MODELLERS
JOHN HOOL		CROOKHAM C/M,
P.C. TURLEY	SA Hon Sec	CANNON & PATT.
PAUL NEWELL	HORNETS MODEL FLYING CLUB	
GINNY NEWBOLD	— " —	
GRAHAM GIBSON	BLACKMORR VACE MFC	
RICHARD SHARMAN	BMFA Beaulieu Model Flying Committee	BHFC.
ROGER NENTMAN	chairman S.M.A.S. C/PATM 1006 VIST FIF REP	S.M.A.S. / PATM 1006

Minutes of BMFA SA AGM Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Photos of the meeting



## Minutes of BMFA SA AGM Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016

### **Annex A - The Southern Area Successes and Concerns of 2016**

1) Last year we introduced 3 new positions onto our committee, namely Dorset Area support rep (Dave Burstow) - South Hampshire Ops support rep (Steve Warren) and Vintage F/F rep (Roger Newman). The reason for this change was to improve our communication with member clubs and model flyers to ensure that we had greater contact with more modellers in our area. We can report that this change has been successful and if we look back at our meetings this year the information that we have received from these reps has been of great value to the debates at our meetings. It is not realistic in these days to expect all clubs to attend our area meetings, however by ensuring that we have active representatives in key areas we can improve communication with modellers in the area and also receive valuable feedback on what matters to them - success -

2) We have 2 key airfields that are critical to many modellers in the Southern area - namely Middle Wallop and also Odiham. This year we have focussed on supporting each of these airfields in whatever way we can - this to ensure that we are seen as a positive organisation. For Middle Wallop we have supported their open days for the last 2 years and we are already booked to support them in 2017. At Odiham Peter Carter (one of the areas new Chief Examiners who has links with Odiham) was asked to support the Odiham family day event. He enlisted the help of other local modellers including Terry Weeks and the display was well received by the Base Commander such that future invites are expected with the addition of flying displays a distinct possibility.

It should also be recognised that our Free flight members have also donated funds from their events to the Odiham benevolent society - another gesture of good will that has received positive reports from the airfield management. Although we are currently experiencing difficult times with airfields we should all recognise that continuing this theme of support does provide corridors of communication and keep us in a positive light for future discussions - success

3) RN Yeovilton - Dave Burstow and Terry Weeks have continued to help and support the twice yearly shows at RN Yeovilton. This not only helps ensure the S/A committee is informed of progress at this venue but also provides an active communication forum for the Area. While changes during the year have affected our use of other airfields it is indeed encouraging that we continue to see RN Yeovilton actively requesting flying shows at each of their modelling events. Yes the degree of security has increased but we have been able to work together and find solutions. RN Yeovilton should be regarded as an example of how we can work with such organisations and find solutions to the benefit of all - success

4) The growth of the Southern area E-soaring events and the recently introduced RC Scale helicopter events show that we still have room to improve the level of events within the area. It is always difficult to establish new events and financial risks always exist - however it is not impossible. Throughout the whole year our web site continues to advertise monthly events by many member clubs - many events now regarded as annual events that are expected by model flyers so we should always record the success when new events are introduced. – success.

5) This year several of the committee also committed time and effort to support the London Area with the Model engineer show. Our involvement included support to set up the stand, provision of 11 models for display on the stand, support over 3 days to help man the stand and support in the disassembly at the close of the show. It was indeed good to work with the London Area and there were many compliments received with respect to the stand and quality of exhibits – a good PR exercise. – success.

6) At the specific request from head office the Southern Area took on the responsibility of providing a BMFA stand at the Farnborough International Air show. Considerable effort was required to meet the reqts of the organisers with respect to security, set up, provision of equipment etc.

Our presence was to support the UK Drone Show and show BMFA support to this new branch of model flying as well as advertising the broader range of model flying activities that we encourage. As part of this exercise we also visited the futures day activities where other BMFA representatives were providing encouragement to the younger generation (futures day is designed to encourage the younger generation into the aerospace industry). This event offers the opportunity to meet other organisation and we received visits by members of the CAA and MAA. Again a very positive weekend, interaction with the public was positive with the CAA delighted that the BMFA had attended the show to support the growth in drones and advertise education in safety and operational reqts. - success

7) Being able to support the events as detailed above has also shown that within the current committee we do have individuals who are motivated enough to take on new tasks and accept challenges to support BMFA. It is very easy to feel that sometimes the gods are against us however regardless of all the current changes having the motivation to spend your own time and often money to try to encourage growth is fundamental to our survival. There is a lot that we need to protect in our area – the activities listed above show the effort that members have been prepared to expend in 2017 to achieve that goal.

8) Balsa Brain, our annual flagstone event was held again last December. For the past few years we have been supported by the FIREBIRDS MAC, who provided us with excellent facilities at a local community centre where we can enjoy projectors -screen, food, drink and a stage to enable us to display a variety of models on the evening. This event comprises a quiz for teams from clubs in the area who then compete for the Balsa Brain Trophy (now 33 years old). As an event it also offers the opportunity to engage with many modellers who we would normally not meet, and pass valuable information on to them and

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their clubs on what is happening in the area. Such events as these always rely on key members for support and Steve Warren assisted by wife Maggie have continued to provide many interesting and varied question for many years now – they both deserve a vote of thanks from us all. It should also be noted that Pat Parsons from the firebirds club has willingly accepted the task of providing facilities to hold this event for several years – we should be thankful that we do indeed have such individuals in our area prepared to give support in this way.

### Concern--

This year has seen our hobby affected by several key governmental changes that have affected our ability to hold events and continue flying on airfields that we have used for many years.

The concern however must be the lack of information available when the changes have been made and more importantly the fact that many were unaware of the risk before the change happened. Today we have seen in our area more request for clarification on these changes as well as the recently advertised new proposals for classification of UAV. Where lack of information exists then often our members will assume the worst and or act on poor information - neither of these add any value to the cause. We did send an information document round to all member clubs at least once this year and we need to review feedback but for improvements in 2017 we need to consider --

- a) Do we need to add additional information onto our website?
- b) Include on our web site the changes being implemented and why they have been made.
- c) What is the effect of these changes - what do they mean for us?
- d) Is there a better way to disseminate this information?

Keeping all member clubs informed with valid and correct information is part of our focus - with these changing times we need to ensure we have a process in place that supports this requirement - a challenge for 2017.

Annex C – letter from Royal Air Force Benevolent Society

From: Heather Kemp  
Southern Regional Fundraiser  
Email: heather.kemp@rafbf.org.uk



3 November 2016

Mr John D Thompson  
Company Secretary  
British Model Flying Association  
Beechmede  
Meadow Lane  
Hartley Wintney  
RG27 8RF

Regional Office - South England  
Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund  
Building 167  
RAF Benson  
Wallingford  
Oxon  
OX10 6AA

Tel 01491 837766 Ext 5299/6536  
DFTS 95261 5299/6536  
Mob 07877 882393  
Web [www.rafbf.org](http://www.rafbf.org)

Dear Mr Thompson

Thank you so much for your kind donation of £325 which was recently passed to me by the Charities Committee at RAF Odiham. I understand that you held your 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Free Flight Model Aircraft event on the Station and as a token of their appreciation, the Southern BMFA chose to support our charity. This was a fantastic donation and one which we are most grateful to receive!

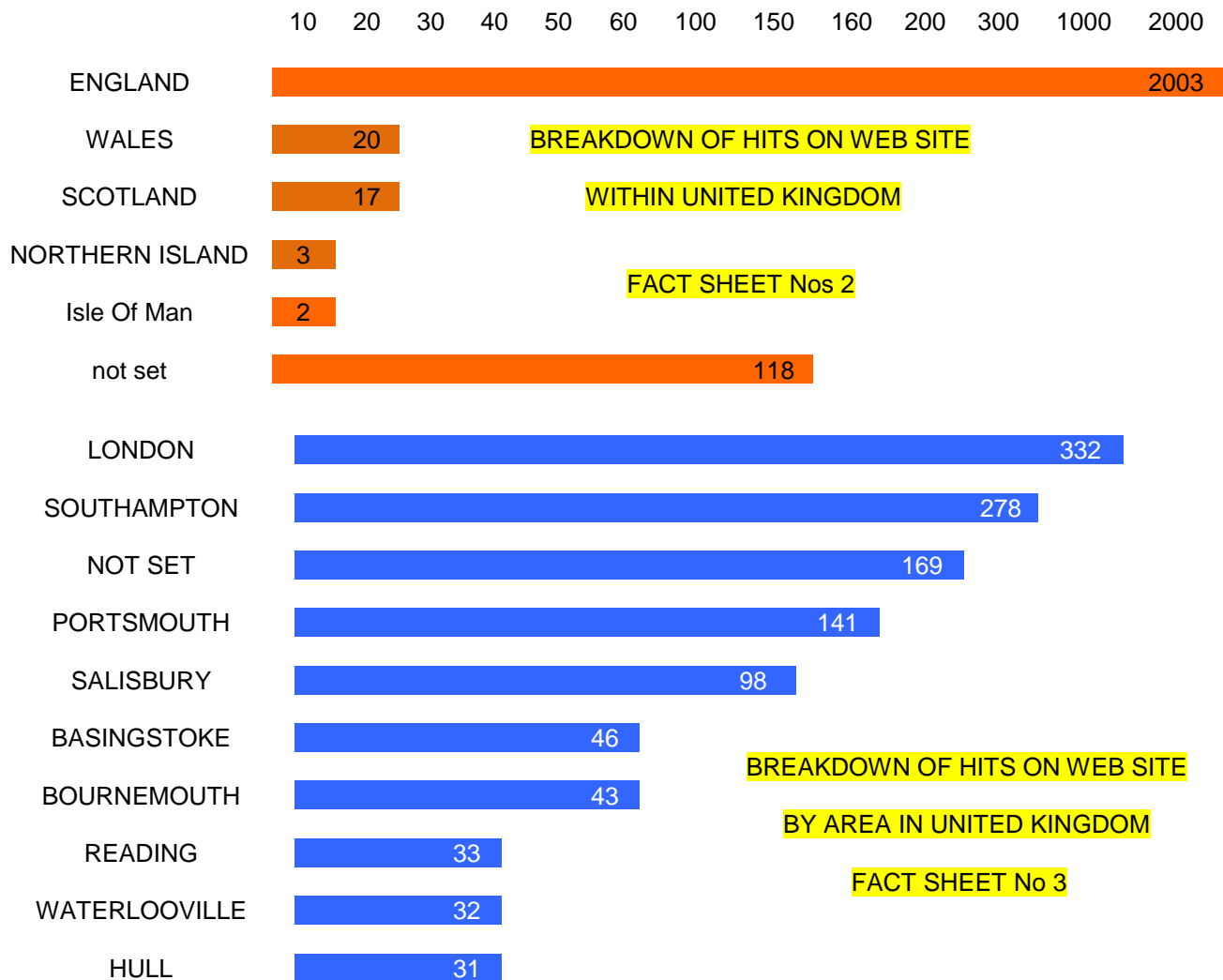
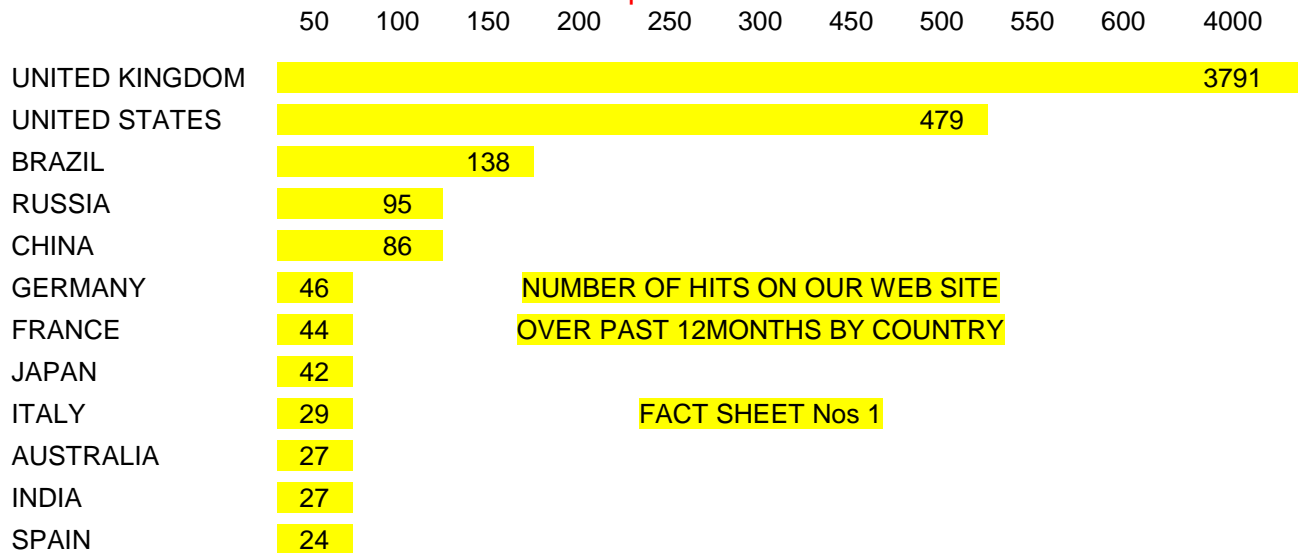
As you may know the Fund continues to provide a welfare safety net to members of the RAF family in their time of need. As we receive no government funding, we rely solely on fundraising efforts and we are delighted that you chose our Charity on this occasion.

Many thanks once again and apologies for the tardiness in responding to your kind gesture.

With best wishes,

Minutes of BMFA SA AGM Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**Annex B-- Web Master Report BMFA Southern Area AGM 2016**



## Minutes of BMFA SA AGM Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016

### ADDITIONAL DATA FROM WEB SITE REVIEW

#### PAGES OF WEB SITE LISTED BY POPULARITY

##### FACT SHEET no's 4

- 1 SITE HOMEPAGE /INDEX -- to be expected - is the initial page for entry
- 2 CLUBS and ASSOCIATIONS - information page
- 3 COMMITTEE - listing of who's who and responsibility on the committee
- 4 FOR SALE - WANTED --
- 5 SOUTHERN AREA - information about the southern area
- 6 BEAULIEU MODEL FLYING CLUB-- detailed information about this club
- 7 SOUTHAMPTON MFC - detailed information about this club
- 8 CALENDER -- what on ,when and where
- 9 AREA MINUTES -- information about past meetings -
- 10 R/C PARAGLIDING -- info page

##### SEARCH in GOOGLE ----- FACT SHEET no's 5

Sabmfa	web site comes first on the list
BMFA	our web site comes second on the list , first on the list being BMFA
British Model Flying	our web site comes 5th on the list

New web site host is running fine ,change necessary as previous host closing down

submitted a page to WIKI- **await acceptance check**

We have a total of 10GB of web space available to us - currently we have only used 71mb

Still need to add regular updates , this will enhance popularity and keep web site in the top selection, this has been proven as when new items are listed popularity increases

No Need to increase web site cost for 2017 - maintain same level as in 2016

## Minutes of BMFA SA AGM Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Update on EASA Proposals from a BMFA e-mail, received dated 6<sup>th</sup> November

Answering the Questions, asked by T. Butterworth:-

- 1 The latest update on EASA situation.
- 2 What action can we as members do to help the BMFA cause?
- 3 What should we not do?
- 4 What milestones can we expect to see in the next 6 months

The headlines are as follows:

1) Update on EASA Proposals: The feedback period for the 'Prototype Rules' closed on the 15<sup>th</sup> October and it is fair to say that the response from model flyers was much greater than EASA had anticipated. When I attended a meeting at EASA HQ on the 24<sup>th</sup> October, they were still receiving over 100 emails per day from the UK.

They have publicly acknowledged that more needs to be done to meet the needs of model flyers and are forming an expert group of around 16 people, to help work with them on writing something more workable. Europe Air Sports have nominated me to be part of this, but appointments are decided solely at EASA's discretion.

If accepted, I would be required to spend a day per month at EASA HQ for the next 4 months.

The European Parliament is yet to grant EASA powers to regulate anything below 150Kg and all of this is causing the timescale to slip. EASA were hoping to produce rules to put out to formal consultation by the end of this year, but this is now unlikely to happen until the end of March 2017 at the earliest.

Europe Air Sports submitted some proposed amendments to the EASA Basic Regulation to the European Parliament which would remove model flying and place it in Annex 1 (in the same way that full sized amateur built aircraft have been treated) leaving it to National control, exactly as it is now. However, the key MEP's have been working on a compromise amendment which would strengthen the position of model flying, but not remove it. If this compromise is voted through, then our amendments will fall. The vote on this is likely to take place in the next couple of weeks.

The UK, Germany, Austria & Switzerland called a meeting last week to establish the European Model Flying Union (EMFU). At the time of foundation, 11 nations were represented and we expect more to join up.

All nations present at the meeting were fully supportive of the lead which the UK has taken on dealings with EASA and they were happy to provide me with a mandate to continue working on their behalf as well as on behalf of the UK.

The FAI are also happy with the lead we have taken and are also content that we act on their behalf.

2) I think the response from members has been excellent so far and has had a positive effect.

We are now in a bit of a state of limbo waiting for the vote in the European Parliament and to see if I can get appointed to the EASA expert group. In reality, beyond this there will not be a great deal to report until we get a feel for how the amendments to the EASA rules are progressing. If the rules are published in March, then we have another opportunity to submit formal feedback to EASA and at this point we may be seeking direct input from all members again if we are unhappy with what they come up with. I do think that there is a genuine desire within the rulemaking team to come up with something acceptable for model flyers, so there is some hope.

3) I know that everyone is keen to help, but in terms of direct mass action my preference would be to keep our powder dry on this for now, until we have a clearer idea of what's required. At the present time, EASA can defend what they've done on the basis that the Prototype Rules were only ever intended to generate feedback.

4) The next milestones are the vote in the European Parliament in the next couple of weeks and then the formation of the EASA 'Expert Group' with its inaugural meeting scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> November in Cologne. Beyond that, it will be the publication of the rules for consultation which may be the end of March 2017.

I hope this helps? I will prepare an update for BMFA NEWS and the website in the next couple of weeks.