



B.M.F.A. WESTERN AREA COMMITTEE

Unconfirmed AGM Meeting Minutes of 21nd November 2023

Virtual meeting held on Zoom

Those in attendance

S Kirby	Beaufort Model Flying Club (Area Chairman)
J. Harris	Bristol Radio Control MAC (BMFA Council Delegate)
P Wilson	Bristol Bulldogs (Area Secretary)
J Stennard	(Youth Engagement officer)
D Hanks	South Bristol MAC
B Silcocks	Bristol & West Model Aero Club
J Smith	White Sheets Radio Flying Club
A Meaney	Weston MFC
A Mason	Woodspring Wings MAC
C Argent	Chedworth Model Flying Club
A Benson-Blair	Frome Model Flying Club
A Green	Westbury Park MFC
A Bell	Frome Model Flying Club (Observer)
R Phare	Frome Model Flying Club (Observer)
T Pearle	Cotswold Flying Club (Observer)
J Ann Bower	Salsbury MFC (Observer)
M Evans	South Cotswold Soaring association (Observer)
P Tribe	Bristol & West Model Aero Club (Observer)
J Emms	Beaufort MFC (Observer)
M Richards	Drone club (Observer)
Darren	?? (unsound connection?)

1. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the first meeting of the revised Western Area following the change to area boundaries. With ten clubs present we easily exceeded the six clubs required for a quorum. The attendees were asked to give their name club and if they were representing their club as a delegate. This was the first meeting where we have used the BMFA word press system which sent the AGM details to everybody in the new Western Area. As this is the AGM it is a fixed agenda with no AOB.

The Chairman then opened the formal meeting at meeting at 8:04pm.

2. Apologies for absence

N White	Woodspring Wings MAC (Area Treasurer)
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3. **Acceptance of the 2022 AGM Minutes (22nd November 2022) and matters arising**

The provisional minutes from the previous AGM were offered for acceptance. Proposed for acceptance by Bristol Radio Control MAC and seconded by Weston MAC Accepted by the Clubs who were present at the last AGM.

Matters arising; - South Bristol raised a question in relation to the accounts presented as there appeared to be a discrepancy of £200.00 between 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 . The Chairman agreed to review this with the Area Treasurer and respond after this meeting.

Note:- later in the meeting the Chairman established there was a typo error in reading across the figures from the previous AGM this has now been corrected and will be re issued. Thanks to South Bristol for raising the error.

4. **Officers Reports**

Treasurer (Nick White, unavailable at the meeting)

The chairman pointed out we had put in a request to the BMFA for 2024 however as the western area has a significant surplus the area only received the basic £600.00 to cover expenses. Any Area awards would therefore come from our existing funds. From the treasurers report we are currently showing a balance of £10,861.32. Expenses were £2,430.03 and were mainly for supporting achievement scheme activities, cost of replacing outreach equipment and Merryfield licence.

Secretary (Peter Wilson)

We have started to use the BMFA Area information for distribution via Word Press as this allows full distribution where required to all BMFA members in the Western Area. Note;- Previous recipients who had requested to be on the circulation will not receive anything if they're not in the BMFA or their information is not correct within the BMFA records. I am happy to continue as area secretary as this is up for re-election at this AGM

Council Delegate (John Harris)

I have attended all Area Council meetings in preparation for the main meetings. Some may not be aware the format has changed and only a few pre-selected Area delegates support the Area Director (Duncan McClure) at full meetings. The key thrust being trying to get more clubs to attend Area meetings. There have been a few changes, which will allow the Area Secretary to access and email members in our Area. There has also been changes to our boundary, where we will be joined by Clubs from Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire (welcome all 😊). I was unable to join the BMFA HQ organised New Area Club Zoom meeting due to work commitments.

Education Co-ordinator (John Stennard)

The roll is to promote outreach activities across all age groups across the Western area who want help and support we do a number of things locally including working with youth groups scouts badgers in the last year we have used over 90 Aerojet's the scouts

are quite keen as they have an air activities badge the work for which is quite a complicated program and is worth looking at we also get involved with the spirit of aviation and we have an all-day session with over 20 pupils running this week we also get involved with the local aerospace museum putting on talks and displays during half terms and things like that a good example is the Wessex model club who once a year run a stem day at Lavington school where a number of clubs get involved and the students design and build their own models if any clubs or others wish to get help I am there to help and we can give you help and advice and even materials there is plenty of scope for more things to be done we find you don't wait for people to come to us we actively go out and seek to offer ourselves around, it appears to be difficult to get into schools at this time although we did get into a junior school to help arrange some things. That is a few examples of what we have got involved in over the past year.

Competition Secretary Free Flight (Peter Tribe)

Free flight is accelerating into decline with the existing membership growing older and we have seen the passing of several key members over the last year. Any person who is coming into model flying is understandably attracted to radio control or drones now that they have become so readily available. For the western area access to Salisbury plain has become more difficult both physically and obtaining permission. We plan to carry on and have fun as best we can. I would like to now stand down as free flight representative for the Western Area.

The chairman thanked Peter for all that he has done over the years and, based on his report and the fact nobody else has offered to fill the position for free flight at the meeting it was agreed we would not put the post up for election at this meeting.

Chairman (Steve Kirby)

Achievement Scheme

As Achievement Scheme Area coordinator and area chief examiner disappointedly only one club took up the offer of a train and test day however the weather was extremely kind to us for a change and the event proved to be extremely successful especially for a few test candidates' One club examiner test was carried out by myself, but completion is still outstanding due to holidays and weather issues. My thanks to the hosting club BRCMAC and the supporting visiting examiners.

Early in 2024 I will write to all the clubs and see if we can arrange more of the train and test days and examiner workshop for 2024.

Chairmans Report

This was my tenth year as Area Chairman during which I attended on Zoom all of the Meetings planned throughout the year plus tonight's Annual General Meeting. I continue to find it odd that we don't have more attendees tonight as Zoom makes for a "no travel and no cost" option.

I would like to thank all the elected Officers for their usual sterling work during the year and as usual would like to point out a few notable achievements: -

- **Our Secretary, Peter Wilson**, for again maintaining the improvements in communications within the area. This has involved yet again updating the email distribution list of all club contacts, receiving documents from Leicester and elsewhere and packing all these as appropriate to mail out to Clubs in a timely

manner. Also the enlargement of our Area resulting from the creation of the Wales Area along with the recent addition of the automated email distribution to all members in the Area has created considerable work and learning, but this should pay off in the future.

With all the improved communications I'm surprised we don't see more Clubs attending the Ordinary Meetings and the AGM tonight. I was especially disappointed in the attendance on these Zoom meetings as no traveling time or costs are incurred by anybody.

- **Our Outreach/Education Officer, John Stennard**, for yet again conducting many talks and/or demos at schools, social groups and at Aerospace. Well done and thank you John, keep up the good work and continue to spend our grants wisely!
- **The Area Committee (and that encompasses the Club delegates)** for supporting John Stennard's education efforts with the purchase of models and equipment over the year. I anticipate further support being requested in 2024.
- **John Harris our Council Delegate** as a Chief Examiner for morally supporting me on the "Train and Test" day and for his continuing work on the Achievement Scheme Review Committee.
- **Peter Tribe** for his efforts as the Area's Free Flight Secretary for many years. Peter is standing down as the free-flight needs have diminished.
- **Nick White** for maintaining the accounts for the year.
- **Patrick Haxell** for auditing the Area's accounts.

I have been heavily involved in the implementation of recent changes to the BMFA management structure and how the Areas have been affected, especially working on the updated Area Constitution. The enlargement of our Area as mentioned above necessitated a lot of behind the scenes work and I'm sure there much more to come as we get know the clubs that have transferred. Additionally, we can now send Area information direct to all members residing in our geography rather than just to Club contacts, thus ensuring that everyone is kept informed.

The Area's challenges and priorities for next year are to:-

Maintain the communications to the Clubs and persuade clubs to attend Area meetings. Involve all members residing in the area, both Club and Country members.

Continue the new "Train and Test" events at our clubs and to reflect further changes in the Achievement Scheme

Support our Outreach Officer and our Clubs in their demo/training events

Adapt to the recent changes in the Area structure.

Adhere to financial limitations/restrictions whilst ensuring clubs have the opportunity to apply for grants.

And all the usual business!

Having resolved the anomaly with the submitted accounts the chairman asked for a proposer and seconder to approve the accounts so that he can sign them for submission.

Proposer Bristol Bulldogs Seconded by South Bristol MAC
Accepted by all with one abstention.

5. Election of Officers (for a two-year period)

Vice Chairman, Secretary, Outreach Officer, Achievement Scheme Coordinator and Auditor.

Nomination requests were sent out to all, we have received a single nomination for all the existing positions. On that basis we do not need to do any voting for those posts and the following are duly elected.

Vice Chairman John Harris, Secretary Peter Wilson, Outreach Officer John Stennard, Achievement Scheme Coordinator Steve Kirby and Auditor Patric Haxell.

Under the revised Western Area, we have the opportunity to fill new positions. They are Communications Officer X2, British Drone Flyers Representative and Country Members Representative. While there may not be anybody from the current meeting, can everybody go back to their clubs and see if anybody is interested. It would be useful to have at least one Communications member. John Emms noted that a local drone club could be worth approaching to see if they are prepared to propose somebody for the Drone representative. The Secretary agreed to talk to the local club. There was an offer by Angus Benson-Blair should we fail to get a volunteer from the local club. With no members suggesting a country member the chairman asked the delegates to go to their clubs and see if they can suggest anybody. The country member does not need to be a country member they can be a member of a club. Andy Green offered that he may be available to do the communications roll for the Western Area depending on the outcome of the Wales AGM to be held shortly.

6. Ratification of chief examiners

The chairman said there were three Chief Examiners to ratify, Steve Kirby, John Harris and Jonathan Smith. Richard Morris was retiring, and we are therefore still short of a Helicopter ACE. If the delegates can go back to the clubs and poll any Heli examiners to see if they were prepared to step forward as a Heli ACE. They have to be a Heli Examiner before they can become a Heli Ace. Hopefully we will have some feedback on the January meeting.

The ACE reports were read out as follows.

Steve Kirby ACE /Area Co-ordinator

Disappointingly only one of the Area's clubs took up the offer of a "Train and Test" day however the weather was extremely kind to us for a change and the event proved to be extremely successful especially for a few test candidates! One Club Examiner assessment was commenced by myself, completion of this is outstanding due to holidays and other commitments plus the condition at this time of year. Thank you to all those who supported the event, especially the hosting club and visiting examiners.

In early 2024 I will again be writing to all Clubs in the Area offering "Train and Test" days as well as "Examiner Workshops" on request and am already in discussion with one Club.

John Harris ACE/I

As relative quiet year with no Club Examiner appointments forthcoming. I have attended/supported the Area Train to Test day, held at the Bristol Radio Control Model Aircraft Club (BRCMAC). A very successful day, with a good number of attendees and several taking test, with some good passes! I continue to provide support to clubs/members needing advice and guidance on the achievement scheme. I am happy to confirm I am willing to support the Area as an ACE/I for 2024.

Jonathan Smith ACE

The year of 2023 has been a busy year for me personally, both with family commitments and since retiring from the Airlines, I now teach full size private pilot flying, so my time on the slopes has been limited. All that said I continue to promote the Achievement Scheme actively in the Slope Soaring discipline. I had also been asked by Duncan McClure to attend SMAC 2000 and work with two candidates to help them become Club Examiners. The first candidate passed first time, whereas the second needed some additional coaching, which I helped with, and was successful one month later.

I am very happy to continue in 2024.

The meeting then ratified the Chief Examiners as follows.

Steve. Kirby Fixed wing
John. Harris Fixed wing
Jonathan. Smith Fixed Wing and Silent Flight

Proposer Weston MFC
Secunder was Chedworth Model Flying Club

All in favour

7. Dates of Next AGM

The date for the 2024 AGM is Tuesday 19th November 2024.

The next Ordinary meeting is Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Other dates for your diary in 2024

As normal the Western Area meeting dates have been set for 2024 to coincide with meetings at head office and are currently planned to be held as Zoom meetings.

They are: -

Ordinary meetings ... Tuesday 2nd January, Tuesday 7th May, Tuesday 03rd September (and Tuesday 2nd January 2025) to discuss Full Council meetings.

All 6:45 for 7pm, assume Zoom meetings until determined otherwise. *See note below.*

The Chairman closed the meeting at 08.57pm.

Post Mtg Note: - We have elected to bring forward the start times of Zoom meetings for 2024 to see if this helps improve the attendance.