



British Model Flying Association Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 16th October 2024

Venue: - **The Meeting was held via Zoom only.** Start Time: **7.30 pm**

Apologies for absence: David Durnford.

Those Present.

Peter Carter, Emily Mason, David Smith, Peter Bennett, Dave Franks, Mike Pearson, James Hounslow, Alan Wallington, Dave Burstow, Phil Stevens and Terry Weeks.

1.0 Approval of the minutes of the 28th of August.

These to be ratified as a true record so will now be shown as such on the website.

Proposed: David Burstow. Seconded: David Franks.

2.0 Committee reports:

2.1 Chairman's & Area Delegates report: David Smith.

I attended an Areas Council Zoom meeting on 12 September, at which the main topic was Areas involvement in outreach activities. The focus remains on recruiting new young members, rather than persuading middle-aged ex-flyers to return to the fold. South-East Area has been chastised for using the bulk email facility for communicating non-flying topics. Nothing interesting in the minutes of the last Board meeting, though part two is scheduled for tomorrow night, when the membership fee for 2025 will be discussed.

I attended the Popham show 6-8 September, assisting with set-up on the Friday, and managing the helicopter flying during the show. Trade presence was again disappointing. There was some rowdy behaviour from a small group of flyers on the Saturday night that needs managing next year.

I attended the scale helicopter weekend at BMFA Buckminster 21/22 September, where there was a good turnout with some fantastic scale machines.

Following on from their kind offer, I have formally asked Basingstoke MFC to host an Achievement Scheme Testing and Training day in 2025, date to be confirmed.

The BMFA AGM is being held on 2 November in the Goldsmith Hangar at Buckminster and also by Zoom. I hope to attend, but central BMFA funds no longer pay my travel expenses as Area Delegates are no longer Directors of SMAE Ltd.

It was agreed unanimously that the area would fund the trip by paying Davids fuel costs to attend in person. Proposed TW & seconded DB.

2.2 Secretary and Treasurers reports: Terry Weeks.

Following the last meeting I have as usual written and distributed the minutes of the last meeting and added them as a draft on to the S. Area Website. Albeit late, for which I apologise, I have written and distributed the agenda for this meeting and changed the venue details from Popham and Zoom to Zoom only due to the known absences of some of the regular attendees. I have also sent out the zoom link for the meeting and a later reminder. Following checking all of the show equipment, preparing and printing the registration forms, I attended the Popham model show on Friday 6th to set up and start the registration for the early arrivals, this eased the work on the Saturday morning prior to the briefing. On the Saturday and Sunday arrived early to continue with the registration and conduct the briefings.

As David has reported I believe we must improve the trade attendance by one means or another as many attendees were disappointed by the trades represented at the show. From the treasurers point of view, it has been quiet bar the payment of expenses and the agreed £150.00 to subsidise the Redlands indoor flying for the coming year. The current bank balance is £6381.96 including the £367.00 of self-generated funds, so the actual official balance has reduced to £6014.96 from the £6391.41 last reported.

2.3 A S Co-Ordinators report: David Durnford.

The weather has continued to disrupt many of our flying schedules.

However I have continued to receive positive feedback from many participants following the successful Southern Area, Achievement Scheme meeting held at Popham.

It has been suggested that Basingstoke MAC hold a AS Meet at their flying site during 2025.

I have followed up correspondence with their club's Chairman, Robert McCalpine, and outlined the possible items and matters to consider in hosting such an event. At time of writing, they will consider these factors at a forthcoming club committee meeting and decide further steps accordingly.

Personally, I have been on my regular annual travels to the BMFA South West Area to assist their running of their Achievement Scheme meeting.

Following confirmation approval with Duncan McClure, BMFA National Scheme Controller, I have been proposed and accepted as an additional Area Chief Examiner for the BMFA South West Area.

I plan to assist SA Chair at the forthcoming Model Aircraft Enthusiasts Fair at Middle Wallop on Sunday 24 November.

2.4 Events Co-Ordinators report: Peter Bennett.

Peter said he had little to report other than his willingness to be involved in the running of the Popham Show.

2.5 Free Flight report: Peter Carter.

Peter said the S Area Gala went ahead as planned on the 18th of August, but attendance was low due to a clash with two other events, even so 37 did attend.

Due to the costs involved mainly the licence, the event for 2025 is under question so will be assessed at the January meeting. Peter to attend the site users meeting to see how things stand with the RAF.

2.6 Webmaster / PRO report: James Hounslow.

James reported he had little to report on but expected things to get busier at the turn of the year as events get planned

3.0 Events already planned / in progress for 2024 / 2025 for information.

24 th November	Aircraft Enthusiasts Show at Middle Wallop. Cancelled.
27 th November	S. Area AGM at Popham + Zoom.
15 th January	S. Area AGM at Popham + Zoom.
2 nd April	S. Area Meeting via Zoom.
4 th June	S. Area AGM at Popham + Zoom.
6 th August	S. Area Meeting via Zoom.
1 st October	S. Area AGM at Popham + Zoom.
26 th November	S. Area AGM at Popham + Zoom.
Suggested dates TBC	

4.0 Items from the August meeting.

- 4.1** Terry advised he had paid the £150.00 agreed for the Redlands indoor flying.
- 4.2** A short report on the Popham Show held on the 7th & 8th September to be added to the website when available.
- 4.3** A short report on the Bovington Show held on the 14th & 15th September will be added to the website when available.

5.0 AOB

- 5.1** Preparation for the Aircraft Enthusiast Show at Middle Wallop. **N/A**

- 5.2** The 2025 Popham show:

Mike reported that the event had made a loss due to attendance being low as a result of a poor weather forecast and agreed the trade attendance situation had also had an effect. Another attributing factor being with no charity event being coupled with the model show, costs were not shared, even so he was willing to go ahead with a show in 2025.

On a positive note, Mike said that RCM&E had produced a 7-page editorial on the show and intended to get an advertisement placed for the 2025 show.

Terry asked Mike to forward to him the revised artwork asap so he could get the websites (BMFA & S. Area) updated to show the new dates.

To get over the trade situation he had proposed moving the event to the 9th – 11th May weekend in advance of the meeting for all to consider, as a result a decision was made to confirm the dates, following checks in all areas being very positive. Dave Franks, Peter Bennett and Terry to confirm the pilot list prior to invitations being sent out, mainly consisting of those that had supported the event over the last few years, but James added we must be careful not to exclude new pilots who were willing to attend.

Terry to email Brett Houghton to confirm he will be willing to undertake the commentary again next year.

All advertisements / web entries to emphasize the change of date will vastly improve the trade attendance to over come any negative feelings regarding the show.

The next meeting, the AGM, is to be on the 27th November both at Popham and via Zoom and to start at 7:30pm.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm: