



British Model Flying Association

Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Minutes of the AGM held on the 27th of November 2024

Venue: - **The Meeting was held at Popham & via Zoom**

Start Time: **7.30 pm**

Those Present:

Mike Pearson, Terry Weeks, Phil Stevens, James Hounslow, David Durnford, Dave Burstow, David Newby, David Smith, Peter Carter, Emily Mason, Peter Bennett, Ken Knox, Alan Wallington and Dave Franks. A Very Good attendance.

Apologies for absence: Simon Wood BADMAC,

1.0 The minutes of the 2023 AGM on the 15th November 2023.

These to be ratified as a true record (these have been available on the website throughout the year). Following a few minor amendments the record was accepted and the website copy changed.

Proposed: Peter Carter Seconded: Alan Wallington Agreed: Unanimously

2.0 Committee reports:

2.1 Chairman's and Area Delegates Report: David Smith.

Since our last AGM I have attended every Area meeting, every Areas Council meeting, the 2023 BMFA AGM in Solihull, and the 2024 BMFA AGM at Buckminster. I helped out at the Area display stand at the November 2023 Aircraft Enthusiasts Fair and the July 2024 Wheels and Wings event at the Museum of Army Flying but had to cancel our attendance at the November 2024 Aircraft Enthusiasts Fair due to lack of support. I attended each of the planning meetings for the 2024 Popham Model Show, helped with set-up and take down, and managed the helicopter section of the flying display over the weekend. I also helped at the successful AS Testing and Training day at Popham in August and coordinated a BMFA stand at my village fete in May.

Chacksfield house has been sold and most activities transferred to Buckminster, though office space has been rented at the British Gliding Association office for membership services. The BMFA AGM was held at Buckminster as part of the cost saving measures, again as a hybrid meeting with Zoom. This worked reasonably well. The Finance Director had resigned a few weeks beforehand, so the 2025-26 budget was not available in time to be voted on; this happened via a Zoom EGM on 26 November. Senior fees have increased by £2 to £49, with all other categories unchanged. Membership continues to decline by around 1000 per year, despite around 2000 new members being recruited annually. At Areas Council meetings there has been a lot of discussion around encouraging Club participation in Area activities and a push to recruit new members. Areas are encouraged to appoint an Outreach Coordinator to work on recruitment and PR activities alongside the Outreach Director.

2.2 Secretary's Report: Terry Weeks.

Terry reported that throughout the year he had arranged the area meetings both by date and venue organising the zoom link as required. All minutes for the meetings being written and distributed both by email and addition to the website.

I have also been the main contact for the areas events such as Popham and Middle Wallop and also assisted David Durnford with the areas ASC event (David doing the lion's share of the work on this very successful day). Again, publicising these on our website using the calendar of events and adding reports as available.

On the Popham event I spent a considerable time contacting the pilots for the Model Show chasing up their registrations and ticketing requirements, this was complete by the 3rd of August when the listing was closed, and details provided to the Popham team.

I liaised with David Durnford on the ASC day and booked the food after a final "Go" date was confirmed, thanks must go to the Popham team for the wonderful spread laid on.

As far as attendances go, I attended all of the events run by the area including the Popham Show from noon on the Friday and from 8:30am on both the Saturday and Sunday to deal with pilot registration.

2.3 Treasurer's Report: Terry Weeks.

Since the last AGM we are projected to spend £1253.87, £253.87 more than we have received, however as our year does not end until the 31st of March 2025, some of the projected funds may not be spent improving this situation. One of the unexpected expenditures was the need to repair one of our gazebos, this cost £134.70.

As a result of this overall situation, to minimise the reduction in the areas assets I intend to apply for a grant of £1000.00 from HQ to help maintain our position, even so our assets will reduce to around two years expenditure. From this point on we will either need a higher grant or reduce our activities to match our income.

In summary the current bank account stands at £6363.96 this includes the £367.00 of self-generated funds, thus the areas official balance is **£5996.96**.

For this AGM we have to vote on and approve the balance sheet up to March 31st, 2024, refer to the blue area of the balance sheet supplied.

Proposed: David Smith

Seconded: Ken Knox

Approved: Unanimously

2.4 Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinators Report: David Durnford.

Following my election to the post of BMFA Southern Area Achievement Scheme (AS) Co-Ordinator at the 2023 AGM, I am pleased to report the following:

I immediately made preparation and plans to hold an AS Meeting in the Southern Area during 2024. Probably no-one needs reminding that the weather has been particularly un-cooperative during much of the year. High winds and rain thwarted several planned dates but on the third attempt after two postponements, over 30 flyers plus others such as observers, visited Popham 'Spitfire' MFC on August 11th for the event.

Candidates for AS tests in all the main disciplines e.g. FW 'A' & 'B', Heli 'A' & 'B', SF Electric 'A' plus a Club Examiner testing took place. All agreed it was a very successful and worthwhile event, even those few less successful test candidates enjoyed and learnt from the experience.

BMFA Southern Area express our thanks to Popham Airfield Manager, Mike Pearson for permission to hold the event and members of the Popham 'Spitfire' MFC for use of their flying site for the day.

I have written a photo illustrated report of the event to be published shortly in the Royal Aeronautical publication as well as the quarterly Popham Airfield magazine. (*My thanks and acknowledgement to Phil Stevens of 'Spitfire' MFC for the photos*).

During the year I have assisted at several BMFA presences at shows including Middle Wallop, RAF Odiham and Rownhams fete. At the latter I had the opportunity to speak at length to the local MP

Caroline Nokes. I presented a positive and constructive picture of model flying and it's conscientious and responsible approach to activities in the Southern Area and UK which she was reassured with. With this year (2024) AS event completed, attention is now turned to planning for 2025. At time of writing, members of BMFA SA Committee and myself are in the early stages of planning an event to be hosted by Basingstoke MAC. Subject the weather, a site visit is already planned for early December when an event date will be proposed with a fall-back and other provisional arrangement made. As well as providing Area Chief Examiner & Instructor (ACE/ACI) for fixed wing and silent flight in the SA, I have been pleased to be ratified as such in the BMFA South West Area covering Devon and Cornwall. During those few favourable model flying days we've had, I've enjoyed spending time assisting members of clubs such as Oakhampton where they held their AS Meeting for the year. Looking forward to lots of good, safe and enjoyable model flying conditions and events in 2025.

2.5 Free Flight Report: Peter Carter.

Peter said there was little to report due to the weather, but many of the area's members continue to enjoy visits to Salisbury Plain to fly and compete on a regular basis.

The 2024 S. Area Gala went ahead having been cancelled in 2023, and was a great success enjoyed by all who attended, however there is a question on the viability for a repeat in 2025. The licence fee currently at £450.00 with a probable attendance of 30 would mean that the entry fee would need to rise from the current £10.00 to c£15.00 to break even, Peter to assess the situation and report at the January meeting.

3.0 Election of the S. Area Committee Members for 2024 / 2025

Note – strategy moving forward is unchanged - 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, to date we have to be flexible in this respect.

Only the Chairman, Secretary and Events Co-ordinator are up for election this year plus the appointment of a Country Members Rep', all others remain for their second year.

Position	Name	Club(s)
Chairman	David Smith	
Proposed: Terry Weeks	Seconded: Phil Stevens	Agreed: Unanimously
Secretary	Terry Weeks	
Proposed: Peter Carter	Seconded: David Durnford	Agreed: Unanimously
Events Co-Ordinator	Peter Bennett	
Proposed: Terry Weeks	Seconded: David Smith	Agreed: Unanimously
Country Members Rep'.	Dave Franks	
Proposed: David Smith	Seconded: Peter Bennett	Agreed: Unanimously

The following remain in position for their second year.

Treasurer	Terry Weeks
AS Co-Ordinator	David Durnford
Area Delegate	David Smith
Free Flight Rep'	Peter Carter
S. Area Webmaster / PRO	James Hounslow

4.0 Ratification of S. Area Chief Examiners for 2024/2025

Tony Butterworth FW & SF, David Burstow FW, Peter Carter FW, Peter Rondel FW / Heli, Matt Lodge Heli & M-rotor, Terry Weeks SF, David Durnford FW & SF, James Hounslow Heli & FW, Trevor Roper Heli & FW and Andy Beswick FW & Heli.

Proposed: David Smith

Seconded: Terry Weeks

Agreed unanimously.

5.0 Events already planned / in progress for 2025 for information.

15 th January	S. Area Meeting at Popham + Zoom.
2 nd April	S. Area Meeting via Zoom.
10 th /11 th May	Popham Model Show. Action: S Area Sub-Committee.
4 th June	S. Area Meeting at Popham + Zoom.
12 th July	Wheels & Wings at Middle Wallop.
6 th August	S. Area Meeting via Zoom.
1 st October	S. Area Meeting at Popham + Zoom.
26 th November	S. Area AGM at Popham + Zoom.
Date TBA	S. Area A S Workshops. Action: AS Co-Ord.
Date TBA	S. Area Free-Flight Gala at Odiham. Action: Peter Carter to assess.
Dates TBA	Aircraft Enthusiasts day(s) at Middle Wallop.
Dates TBA	Bovington tank museum model show(s)

6.0 Calling Notice for the S. Area 2025 AGM.

To be held on the 26th of November 2025 at 7:00pm at Popham+.

Notes on Meeting designations:

Popham+ To be in person where possible at Popham but with Zoom available.

Zoom All attendees via Zoom.

The AGM meeting closed at 8:22 pm.

Our thanks go to Mike Pearson for the use of the Popham Facilities.