



British Model Flying Association Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 15th January 2025

Venue: - **The Meeting to be at Popham & Zoom.** Start Time: **7.00 pm**

Those Present: David Smith, Mike Pearson, Phil Stevens, Peter Carter and Terry Weeks, and via Zoom Emily Mason, Peter Bennett, Ken Knox, Alan Wallington, David Burstow, James Hounslow and David Durnford. A good attendance, thank you all for your support.

Apologies for absence: None.

1.0 Approval of the minutes of the 16th of October.

These have been available on the website. The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Phil Stevens.

Seconded: Alan Wallington.

2.0 Committee reports:

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

I attended the BMFA AGM at Buckminster on 2 November and the subsequent EGM on Zoom on 26 November, then chaired the Area AGM at Popham on 27 November. On 3 December I attended an initial planning meeting at Basingstoke MFC for an Achievement Scheme Testing and Training Day later this year.

There have been some issues with renewal dates on BMFA membership documents for 2025, which I have taken up at Areas Council and which the Club Support Officer is working on. Club secretaries should encourage their members to check their documentation to ensure that they can rely on it to prove that they are flying legally if challenged.

There is an Areas Council Zoom meeting on 23 January. The Finance Director has proposed that central funding for Areas be restored to £25k for 2025-26 (it is currently £15k); I think we should support this. There is also an agenda item on CAA Flyer ID's; as of 1 January the CAA no longer recognises grandfather rights for those using previous AS test passes to demonstrate competency. Individuals who previously relied on this will have to pass either the CAA DMARES test or the BMFA RCC to fly legally. However, several thousand flyer IDs have been issued in error to these folk, so I understand that a stay of execution to 31 December 2025 has been agreed with the CAA. I will update the Committee after the meeting if there is any change to this.

2.2 Secretary and Treasurers reports: Terry Weeks.

Secretaries Report:

Following the meeting in October I prepared the agenda for the AGM in November, set up the Zoom facility, and wrote the minutes for the meeting and finally adding them to our website for all to see, these to be approved at the next AGM planned for the 26th of November.

Again, I prepared the agenda for this meeting and distributed it and the zoom link to the officers, regular meeting attendees and all S. Area club area delegates.

I have also continued to chase and collate the pilots lists for the 2025 Popham Model Show, at the time of writing they number 41.

I joined David Durnford and David Smith on a visit to the B&DMC model club site to discuss and formalise arrangement for the 2025 S. Area ASC day to be held on the 18th of May. The

Basingstoke club to provide the venue a BBQ albeit funded by the S. Area. The S Area to actually run the event.

Two other club visits have also been arranged with David Durnford, CADMAC on the 13th of March and B&DMC on the 20th of March to make a presentation on the Achievement Scheme, the activities of the S. Area and E. Soaring /F5J gliding.

Treasurer's Report:

Since The AGM I have updated the accounts spreadsheet, by deleting the 2021/22 column and adding the 2025/26 column. The current planned balance stands at £5951.65 although this includes some as yet unspent monies so will change by the end of the financial year. Having been advised by David Smith that the treasurer had resigned, and the post is currently being managed by Keith Lomax, I have presented the accounts and requested our draft grant requirements to Keith (effectively trying to get in first). It was met with a positive response, so watch this space. Copies of the accounts were available at the meeting for those attending.

2.3 A S Co-Ordinators report: David Durnford.

Following the last SA Committee Meeting, on December 3rd I was accompanied by SA Chairman David Smith and SA Secretary Terry Weeks on a visit to the Basingstoke MAC (BMAC) flying field. Here we held a meeting with various officials and committee members of BMAC to ascertain the suitability of their venue to host a BMFA Southern Area Achievement Scheme (AS) meeting during 2025. I am pleased to announce that after cordial discussion with all parties concerned, agreement was reached to hold a AS meeting at BMAC flying site. Dates agreed are: **Sunday 18th May** and the fall-back dates in the event of poor flying weather of Sunday 3rd and 10th of August 2025.

Prior registration by all attendees is essential due site parking space availability and numbers required to be known for catering arrangements.

All participating models may be subject to noise testing as deemed necessary. No Jet Turbines are permitted.

BMFA SA agreed to contribute costs for catering and provision of a hired WC.

BMFA SA will administer and run the AS meeting itself whilst BMAC allow sole use of their flying site for the day, and they will attend to site marshalling i.e. car parking and catering provision.

Would Area PRO James Hounslow please publicise these dates on all the BMFA social media sites i.e. BMFA Facebook Achievement Scheme, BMFA main web site 'Events Page' and Terry Weeks to likewise promote on the SA Web site.

As part of assisting SA clubs with AS and other BMFA matters, together with David Smith and Terry Weeks, I will be visiting indoor club nights firstly Chichester MFC on March 13th then Basingstoke MAC club night on March 20th.

BMFA SA committee continue to extend the offer to assist any SA club with a club visit either on an indoor club meeting night or a flying site attendance to supplement their ACE and Club Examiners if so, required for AS tests and training.

2.4 Events Co-Ordinators report: Peter Bennett.

Peter had some IT issues on the night so could not report but is aware of the progress to date regarding the Popham Show.

2.5 Free Flight report: Peter Carter. F/F Gala Go /No Go Decision?

Peter said for obvious reasons with the recent weather there had been little activity at Salisbury Plain, however there was some good news in that the fees for 2025 have been

retained at £30.00.

On the S Area Gala a final decision is held pending the return from abroad of the two RAF representatives that are required to assist Peter in the running of the event. Final costs have yet to be finalised regarding the licence fee but having approached many of the potential competitors there is some acceptance that the entry fees will have to rise to make the event viable. Although it has been agreed that the event can take place at the airfield a date has yet to be finalised.

2.6 Webmaster / PRO report: James Hounslow.

James apologised due to pressure of work he had yet to update the media outlets but said that he would have time soon to do all of the work required, certainly by month end.

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

15 th January	S. Area Meeting at Popham + Zoom.
8 th /9 th February	South West Model Show at Bovington Tank Museum.
13 th March	S. Area visit to CAMAC – presentation.
20 th March	S. Area visit to B&DMC – Presentation.
2 nd April	S. Area Meeting via Zoom.
10 th /11 th May	Popham Model Show. Action: S Area Sub-Committee.
18 th May	ASC Day, This year hosted S. Area at the B&DMC site.
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.
13 th /14 th September	South West Model Show at Bovington Tank Museum.
1 st October	S. Area Meeting at Popham + Zoom.
26 th November	S. Area AGM at Popham + Zoom.
Date TBA	S. Area Free-Flight Gala at Odiham. Action: Peter Carter.
Dates TBA	Aircraft Enthusiasts day(s) at Middle Wallop. No Dates yet.

4.0 AOB.

1. Alan raised the S Area Website contact page was out of date. Terry agreed to look at and correct as required.

2. Popham Update:

a. Mike requested that we produce an invoice to cover our expenses at the show, Terry agreed to do this, thanking Mike on behalf of the S Area for this.

b. Emily gave a general update on progress so far stating that the response from the Trade had been very positive and hoped to get things back to the 2022 show attendance.

c. Mike agreed to extend the flying time to 10:00 till 17:00 (was 10:00 till 16:00)

d. Mike said that camping for the public was to be tried for the 2025 show allowing people to stay overnight.

e. Night flying – This turned out to be a contentious issue needing some further discussion on how / if it was to be allowed.

It was agreed that Terry arrange a Popham Show specific meeting to go over all of these details in depth.

The Meeting closed at: 20:09hrs

As above the next meeting to be on the 2nd of April via Zoom.