



British Model Flying Association

Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Minutes the Meeting held on the 1st October 2025

Venue: - **The Meeting at Popham & via Zoom.**

Start Time: **7.00 pm**

Those Present: Terry Weeks, David Smith, Mike Pearson, Phil Stevens in person, and via Zoom Emily Mason, Dave Burstow and Alan Wallington. Although 7 attendees only 5 clubs were represented so we did not have a quorum. These minutes are thus just a record of the reports given for information.

Apologies for absence: David Durnford, Peter Carter.

All-in-all a very disappointing turnout, hopefully we can do better at the next meeting The AGM.

Approval of the minutes of the 6th of August

These have been available on the website. Due to a quorum not being achieved the acceptance of the August meeting minutes will have to be proposed and seconded at the next meeting.

2.0 Committee reports:

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

It has been rather quiet , for me at least, since our last meeting.

I attended an Areas Council Zoom meeting on 11 September. Although the agenda for the Board meetings on 16 & 18 September was available, there was no detail to discuss so I have no idea what is proposed for the membership fees next year. There was again a lot of discussion on Outreach, but the focus remains on recruiting children and teenagers rather than getting middleaged and soon-to-retire folk back into the sport. There has been a gratifying increase in the number of Achievement Scheme tests undertaken so far this year. I attended a Royal Artillery Families Day at Baker Barracks on Thorney Island as part of a wider BMFA club presence. The weather was too poor to put on a flying display, but there was good interest in the static displays from the few that attended and the simulator was well used.

I attended the BMFA scale helicopter weekend at Buckminster on the weekend of 20/21 September, during which I picked up a box of BMFA freebies for distribution at our upcoming events, and a repurposed PC complete with Realflight v9 flight simulator and Spektrum Interlink DX controller. This latter will replace our aging laptop and Phoenix simulator, which I have returned to Ken Gale.

I have a meeting at Middle Wallop on 3 October with the events coordinator for the Historic Army Aircraft Flight to explore whether we can get a model flying presence back into Middle Wallop airfield. I think the HAAF are supportive, but we need to persuade the commandant. However, the meeting was finally postponed to be arranged at a later date.

2.2 Secretary and Treasurers reports: Terry Weeks.

Secretary's Report:

As usual I prepared the minutes of the last meeting and distributed them to those that were present, all the club secretaries, and finally added them to the S. Area Website for all to see. I have prepared the agenda for this meeting, distributed to all clubs and regular attendees and set up the zoom facility for the meeting. As noted in the treasurers report below I purchased the fence posts and cones for use in future static displays to protect our models on display, we will still need either some tapes or rope, has anyone got a supply / source or shall we buy some.

I have also done some preliminary work on the paperwork for the 2026 Popham Model show. This included updating the Briefing notes, the Pilot Declaration, the Registration document and the

Pilot listing in readiness for the invitations to be sent out later in the year. These to be assessed by

Dave Franks prior to the final drafts being confirmed as complete.

Just for information I will be on holiday from tomorrow until the 22nd of October so will not be available during that time. I will however try to get these minutes published before I go.

Treasurer's Report:

Little to report since the last meeting except the purchase of the posts and cones at £44.81 agreed at the last meeting and some secretarial expenses of £6.04 claimed for a ream of printing paper. The current balance after all projected expenditure is now £5565.51, refer to the balance sheet presented tonight for clarification.

You will note as a result of Peter's decision to discontinue the S Area Free-Flight Galas, I have removed the entries pertaining to these events from the spreadsheet.

2.3 A S Co-Ordinators report: David Durnford.

Firstly, my apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. This due to a recent family bereavement requiring my presence elsewhere.

I have been carrying out various Achievement Scheme tests with clubs in the Southern Area. At least one playing 'catch-up' and taking the opportunity to have their members enjoy taking one of the many personal flying skills achievements BMFA can offer.

Whilst in general conversations with clubs and their members, it is apparent that many feel the increasing and future legislation requirements, are somewhat off putting.

In no way am I supporting, encouraging, or condoning any illegal disregard of rules and regulations as they pertain to our model flying activities. However, many have said they will simply ignore as they see fit and carry on as they chose.

I would hope BMFA officials in their negotiations with CAA and other legislative bodies, take account of the many strong feelings expressed by BMFA members.

A poor law is often an ignored or unenforceable law which may detract from BMFA's credibility among the wider membership.

Looking ahead to 2026, may I reach out to clubs in the Southern Area who are able to hold an Achievement Scheme meeting at their flying site. Be assured the Southern Area Committee would be pleased to assist the organising of the event. Club members always say

how much they have benefited from the day.

Also, if your club would like a BMFA presentation visit for a winter's club night, get in touch with myself or any committee member.

2.4 Popham Co-Ordinators report: Peter Bennett.

No Report presented.

2.5 Free Flight report: Peter Carter. F/F Gala.

Ref the Free flight event scheduled for Sept 14 at RAF Odiham ,this had to be cancelled due to high winds and rain, so hopefully we will get away without paying any fees. I eventually had 34 members who were registered to attend, but chances are that not all would have attended. Whether this event should go ahead or not in the future should be considered due to lack of attendees and cost, a number of members attend and fly on Salisbury Plain when weather allows, but nothing further to report. (Apologies due to hospital attendance.)
I spoke to Peter prior to the meeting and agreed it was time to call it a day due to the work involved for him. With the numbers ever decreasing, a break-even situation was now almost impossible to achieve.

2.6 Webmaster / PRO report: James Hounslow.

No Report presented.

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

1st October S. Area Meeting at Popham + Zoom.

23rd November Aircraft Enthusiasts Day(s) at Middle Wallop.

26th November S. Area AGM at Popham + Zoom.

4.0 AOB.

- a. Volunteers to attend the Aircraft Enthusiasts Day to man the stand.
Terry Weeks, David Smith, David Burstow, David Durnford & Phil Stevens.
- b. Popham Model show 8th – 10th May 2026 update.
 - i: Paperwork as in Terry's report.
 - ii: Mike discussed and asked for the attendee's views on the advertising requirements.
 - iii: Emily to forward posters/ fliers as soon as available.
 - iv: Terry to add to BMFA Events website listing and S. Area website.
- c. Alan to forward Indoor Flying information for the S. Area Website as soon as available.

Meeting closed at 8:00 pm.