



British Model Flying Association Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Minutes of the S A Meeting held on the 12th of August 2026

Venue: - **The Meeting was held via Zoom**

Start Time: **7.00 pm**

Those Present:

David Smith, Terry Weeks, Peter Bennett, Colin Gross, David Burstow, Alan Wallington, James Hounslow and Peter Carter.

Apologies for absence:

David Durnford, Dave Franks, Phil Stevens, David Hammer, Emily Mason, Mark Vroobel and Mark Roach.

The minutes of the 3rd of June 2026.

These were ratified as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Peter Carter Seconded: Peter Bennett Voting: Unanimous.

2.0 Committee reports:

2.1 Chairman's and Area delegates Reports: David Smith.

I attended the Popham Model Show wash-up meeting on 10 June, and helped on the static display at Wallop Wheels and Wings on 11 July.

I sent an email to 55 Southern Area club secretaries on 16 July, asking what AS tests their membership was requiring. I had replies from six clubs and two individuals, for whom plans have been put in place. The next Areas Council meeting is on Thursday 10 September.

I shall be judging the scale competition at the BMFA Helicopter Nationals at the Phoenix Model Club, Potters Bar, 22/23 August. David reported that PADMAC have had to vacate their site and are in discussion regarding alternative sites. David also said he was to attend the Midlands Model Engineering Exhibition in October so would have to join the October meeting via Zoom, at this point it was agreed that the meeting be changed to Zoom only. Terry to advise Popham that the conference room would not be required as a result.

2.2 Secretaries Report: Terry Weeks.

As usual I prepared the minutes of the last meeting and distributed them to those that were present, all club secretaries, and finally added them to the S. Area Website for all to see. I prepared the agenda for this meeting, distributed it to all clubs and regular attendees and set up the zoom facility for the meeting.

I attended the Popham "shakedown" meeting on the 10th June arranged by Emily, much was discussed and all felt it was a very useful exercise to further improve the show for 2027.

Emily produced a full report for the organising team. The date being confirmed as the 8th & 9th May.

I attended the Wheels & Wings event at Middle Wallop, with David Durnford, David Smith and Phil Stevens to provide and support a static display, taking with us all of the usual equipment and

models. It was a really good day, although extremely hot, we joined by many visitors thus helping us to promote the Area. The simulator was as always very popular with the youngsters. I have confirmed our attendance at the Aircraft Enthusiasts day on the 15th November, also at Middle Wallop hiring the extra table as usual to give us plenty of space. Lastly but by no means least I spent around 3 hours doing the job that I love to hate and that is cleaning (removing the stickers) and preparing the lanyards for next year's Popham show, 110 of them, should be sufficient*. Folding the high vis' jackets and ensuring we have enough stickers for issuing at the briefing on each day. *To save this waste of time it was agreed that new pockets would be used for all future shows, they are not expensive. Terry to order as required.

2.3 Treasurer's Report: Terry Weeks.

At the last meeting I reported a projected end of year balance of £5595.44, this has now changed to £5550.32 now that the final accounting of the Popham Show has been finalised. I raised an invoice to claim our expenses for the show adding a little to show a self-generated profit and this has been paid with thanks. The good news is that although our projected end of year balanced has reduced by £45.12, our self-generated funds have increased by £100.00 to £760.50.

Since the last meeting we have paid the £3.00pcm bank charges*, the expenses for the Wings and Wheels show and £15.00 for the extra table at Middle Wallop event in November.

*The bank charges were introduced in January 2026, so I have enquired at other banks to see if we could avoid these charges, but it appears free of charge accounts are no longer available.

A few suggestion were made for Terry to further investigate this.

Acceptance of the report. Proposed: David Smith. Seconded: Alan Wallington and Unanimous.

2.4 Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinators Report: David Durnford.

Following the unfortunate, almost last-minute cancellation of the planned AS Meeting to be held at Chesil MFC, soundings were made to clubs in the SA. Did their club require/need an AS Meet and what testing requirements did they currently have? In almost all instances most SA clubs that replied advised and I paraphrase:

'No thanks, we have our own club ACE / Club Examiners and can manage our requirements at our own site. No outstanding trainees or testing requirement'.

There have been a few individuals requesting testing, these have been arranged as and when required. Personally, I have conducted several tests as the Club Examiner for my primary club which I'm pleased to say were successful.

I have also assisted SA at the 'Wheels and Wings' BMFA stand on 11th July.

Looking further ahead, suggestion has been made by a few that a AS Workshop may be useful. It is mentioned that Examiners may be getting a little 'rusty' as they have had fewer tests if any to conduct as many clubs, as mentioned, are now trained at least to 'A' standard and show little or no interest in undertaking further achievements. I await feedback and sufficient requirement from SA clubs on this possibility.

2.5 Free Flight Report: Peter Carter.

Peter advised he had attended an event in May but due to the current fire risk all flying at Salisbury Plain has been suspended. When visiting RAF Odiham Peter said he experienced considerable interest in free flight models. Peter also added that although not a Southern Area event he had

been attending the Odiham Families day for 34 years, the last 14 years of which he had run it due to no RAF personnel being available to do it.

2.6 Webmaster / PRO Report: James Hounslow.

James reported that he had received good feedback for Popham, the only negative comment was that the flying would be better viewed if the flightline was moved more centrally as those at the A303 end were too far away. This is something already being looked at following the “shakedown” meeting previously mentioned.

James further reported that his Chief Examiner activity had been low, but unusually had failed one of the candidates tested.

Lastly James reported that the South Hants Helis site may be at risk but he continues to try to find a solution with the landowners.

3.0 Events already planned / in progress for 2026 for information.

12th & 13th September 1st Model Show at Bovington.

14th October S. Area Meeting via Zoom only.

15th November Aircraft Enthusiasts Day at Middle Wallop.

David Smith, Terry Weeks, Dave Burstow, Peter Carter, David Durnford* & Phil Stevens* to attend.

*assumed in their absence.

25th November S. Area AGM at Popham + Zoom.

6th & 7th February (TBC) 2nd Model Show at Bovington.

4.0 AOB.

1. The Wheels & Wings visit.

As in the various reports this was well attended on what was a very hot day. The display attracted considerable interest from the visiting public thus promoting the BMFA and what it offers. In particular the Flight Simulator was very well used by the visiting youngsters and some of the older visitors too.

2. The 2026 S. Area ASC Day.

It was agreed to cancel this due to lack of interest this year, but will be again attempted in 2027. A different approach may also be tried to put more emphasis on the consistency of Examiners. The offer to visit clubs to give a one-to-one approach remains as always by contacting David Durnford the S Area ASC representative..

3. The Popham Model Show – “Shakedown” Meeting.

This was arranged by Emily from Popham on the 10th June and a report produced as detailed in the Secretaries report, very worthwhile. **Date set for the 2027 show is the 8th & 9th May.**

4. Colin Gross requested help in clarifying the rules regarding the use of Gyro’s when taking the various tests, this was clarified for him, together with an offer from James to get involved with the club directly if further help was required.

The meeting closed at 7:50 pm.