



British Model Flying Association

Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Minutes of the S A Meeting held on the 14th of October 2026

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

Start Time: **7.00 pm**

Those Present: Terry Weeks, Peter Carter, Dave Burstow, David Durnford, David Smith, Alan Wallington, Phil Stevens & Mark Vroobel.

Apologies for absence: Emily Mason & Simon Wood.

The minutes of the 12th August 2026.

These were ratified as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: David Durnford. Seconded: Dave Burstow. Voting: Unanimous.

2.0 Committee reports:

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

I attended an Areas Council Zoom meeting on 10 September. There was much discussion about recruitment of new members and encouraging club engagement; a single-item webinar has been convened to address this on 27 October, but neither the Secretary or I are available to attend this. A new membership survey is being developed, but I have yet to see a draft. There was some discussion regarding the robustness of BMFA web servers following the recent outages, this has been referred to the Board for action. Many club websites are overloaded with redundant material and an excess of out-of-date images. There has been a suggestion that clubs that are able to should provide an automated cardiac defibrillator, given the age of our membership and the remoteness of some flying sites. (This was debated at length and the general consensus was that although it seemed a good idea, the proposal was not practical for many reasons.)

I attended the summer BBQ and fly-in at the Blue Gryphon club on 15 August, an enjoyable event with generous hosts. I was a judge for the scale competition at the AHA helicopter nationals at the Phoenix Model Club near Potters Bar over the weekend of 22/23 August. I helped at a static and flying display at the Brooklands Museum aviation day on 13 September, and also at the Midlands Model Engineer Exhibition 15-18 October. I was at BMFA Buckminster over the weekend of 19/20 September for the scale helicopter event, during which we finalised plans for the 2027 helicopter nationals.

The Area AGM is imminent and the following positions are up for re-election:

Chairman

Secretary

Area Delegate

Free flight rep

Webmaster/PRO

Whilst I am reasonably happy to stand again as Chairman and/or Area Delegate, it would be good to see some new faces in Area officer roles. The Area cannot function without a secretary, so please consider whether you could take on this role.

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, although this was delayed due to the website not being available until Andy Symons corrected the situation. All H Office, Area and Club hosted sites were down, no reason having been given.

I prepared the agenda for this meeting, distributed it to all clubs and regular attendees and set up the zoom facility for the meeting.

As previously reported I have confirmed our attendance at the Aircraft Enthusiasts day on the 15th November, at Middle Wallop hiring the extra table as usual to give us plenty of space.

Following my comments at the last meeting regarding bank charges and the suggestion that these might be able to be avoided, I did a tour of all of the major banks and building societies in Basingstoke. My finding was that most club /small business accounts have either been stopped or now apply charges, most at a higher rate than we are being charged. As a result of these findings I agreed with David Smith that we take no further action. Finally to give everyone advanced warning after 5 years in the post, I have decided to step down as your Secretary at the coming AGM, I will of course be available to give the new incumbent any help required during the transition.

2.3 Treasurer's Report: Terry Weeks.

At the last meeting I reported a projected end of year balance of £5550.32 this remains unchanged, with our self-generated funds amounting to £760.50. Since the last meeting we have paid the bank charges and the agreed subsidy for the Helipad toilet.

There is nothing else to report other than although standing down as Secretary at the AGM I am more than willing if required to continue as the Area Treasurer.

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

2.4 Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinators Report: David Durnford.

Since the last meeting I have visited various club sites in the BMFA Southern Area as well as assisted the BMFA South West Area with their Achievement Scheme activities.

The SA clubs have required an examiner either through having no one suitably qualified among their own members or having difficulties finding one despite a seeming 'run-around' when contacting BMFA HQ.

I am pleased to say all AS candidates were successful in their various tests i.e. 'A' & 'B' fixed wing. Among the Achievements a youngster accompanied by his father. This is encouraging to find but regrettably most clubs I visit have few, if any, junior flyer members. As a comparison, whilst attending a large model rail exhibition, I noted a considerable number of youngsters keenly interested and participating too. What have trains got that planes and helis don't I wonder(?).

On 7th October I visited Christchurch & District MFC to give a presentation on the BMFA Achievement Scheme followed by a further presentation on the 'History of Electric Flight'.

As often stated, any club requiring SA assistance for their members Achievements or Instructing if so required, as well as a visit by the SA team for a club night presentation, has but to get in touch with me or other member of the SA committee.

On a personal note, I am extremely pleased and honoured to be selected as a recipient of a Certificate of Merit for my efforts with the BMFA Achievement Scheme. This to be made at the forthcoming BMFA Awards on the 14th November.

2.5 Free Flight Report: Peter Carter.

Peter was pleased to report that Salisbury was again available following the recent closure due to the risk of fire during the unusually hot weather. The gala went ahead as a result with around 14 members attending. Peter also reported that he was to attend the training area users meeting in the near future. On the Nationals he said it had been split between two venue this year but ongoing there may be a problem due to site availability. Buckminster was considered, but it is too small for free flight activities.

2.6 Webmaster / PRO Report: James Hounslow.

James was not present and had presented no report.

3.0 Events already planned / in progress for 2026 / 27 for information.

15 th November	Aircraft Enthusiasts Day at Middle Wallop.
David Smith, Terry Weeks, Dave Burstow, Peter Carter, & Phil Stevens to attend.	
25 th November	S. Area AGM at Popham + Zoom.
6 th & 7 th February	2 nd Model Show at Bovington.
8 th & 9 th May	The 2027 Popham Model Show.

4.0 AOB.

1. The Popham Model Show.

Terry had done the following in Preparation:

- a, Full list of pilots sent to Dave Franks & Emily.
- b, Invitations had been sent out to all pilots and organisers with the new procedures regarding the armband issue / registration.
- c, 100 lanyards prepared for issue at registration.
- d, 100+ each of two coloured stickers made available to be issued at the briefing.
- e, Declaration forms prepared for completion at registration.

2. CADMAC.

Mark advised there were pending site problems and asked for advice / facilities that anyone could give regarding finding an alternative. It was agreed that this was becoming an ever increasing problem with no single solution. Contacting the local farmers was suggested but this in practice proved unsuccessful in most cases. It is down to hard work with all the club members looking into every avenue they could find.

No other items being raised the meeting closed at 7:54 pm.