



British Model Flying Association Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2nd April 2025

Venue: - **The Meeting was via Zoom only.** Start Time: **7.00 pm**

Those Present: Terry Weeks, David Smith, Phil Stevens, Emily Mason, Alan Wallington, Dave Franks, Peter Carter, Ron Gardener, David Durnford, Ken Knox & James Hounslow. A good attendance.

Apologies for absence: Mike Pearson & Simon Clark.

1.0 Approval of the minutes of the 15th of January.

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

Proposed: Dave Franks.

Seconded: David Durnford.

2.0 Committee reports:

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

I attended an Areas Council Zoom meeting on 23 January at which a proposal to increase central Area funding from £15k to the historic £25k target was approved, though amended to divert £5k of the increase to the Outreach budget.

I made representations to the ASRC following the access debacle after the (late) release of the 2025 AS documentation, much of which was down to server hosting issues. I also complained to the BMFA Executive, via the Members Director, about the mishandling of Flyer IDs for those claiming 'grandfather rights' using AS test passes rather than taking the RCC or DMARES online tests.

I attended club meetings at Chichester and District MAC on 13 March and Basingstoke MAC on 20 March to support talks by our AS Coordinator and our Secretary.

2.2 Secretary and Treasurers reports: Terry Weeks.

Secretaries Report:

Following the meeting in January, I wrote the minutes for the meeting and as usual added them to the S Area Website for all to see. 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 joined David Durnford and David Smith on two club visits last month, 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. From feedback both were much appreciated. I have also continued to chase and collate the pilots lists for the 2025 Popham Model Show, at the time of writing they number 64 plus 2 groups that will fly as a group, one of 15 and one of 6, all of this in liaison with Dave Franks.

For information I will be on holiday from the 20th of April until the 9th of May. I hope to get home mid-morning on the 9th to allow me to get to Popham in mid-afternoon to set up for registration later in the afternoon and then Saturday Morning from around 08:30 hours. I will bring with me my table and chair, all of the registration documents, the declaration paperwork, the briefing notes and the lanyards & stickers. I will arrange for the "Declaration" paperwork to be available on all three days at registration and conduct the briefings on the Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Treasurer's Report:

Since the January meeting I have updated the accounts spreadsheet. The current planned balance stands at £5859.08, and this is now unlikely to change as the official end of the BMFA year was the 31st of March.

The main expenditures were the annual bill for our Zoom contract at £155.88, and travel expenses to attend meetings and the two ASC visits mentioned in my secretaries report.

Following a request from HO, I was asked to formally present our budget. If you remember I had already made a request following information from David that the treasurer had resigned, this I presented on the form supplied. The submission has since been acknowledged by Keith Lomax who commented that we were one of the few areas that had done so. The request is for £1200.00. As you will all be familiar our balance sheet covers a four-year period, I will before the next meeting delete the 04/2022 – 03/2023 column and add a new column for the period 04/2026 – 03/2027.

Copies of the accounts will be made available as usual for those that request them.

Acceptance: **Proposed David Smith and Seconded Dave Franks.**

2.3 A S Co-Ordinators report: David Durnford.

Preparations continue for the 2025 Southern Area Achievement Scheme Meet to be hosted by Basingstoke MAC. A publicity poster has now been uploaded on the BMFA AS Facebook page, the SA website and BMFA main events calendar page.

To date a few flyers have registered to undertake tests and assessments in a variety of disciplines. May I request SA club members wishing to attend and take AS tests register with me as soon as possible. This also includes current ACE & Club Examiners wishing to attend so tests can be undertaken satisfactorily. It will greatly assist planning and organisation of the meeting including calculations for catering requirements.

A revised format AS structure, featuring illustrated booklets, has been issued for 2025.

Unfortunately, this was very poorly executed suffering multiple IT issues, continuing errors in publications and format for easy printing. Despite subsequent rectification and corrections, comments I have received from various SA clubs and their members have not been particularly enthusiastic. Added to the other issues clubs have faced with BMFA administration, it is overall a very disappointing performance.

Notwithstanding the issues regarding deployment of the new format AS publications for 2025, I made presentations regarding the AS scheme to members of the Chichester (CADMAC) club on the 13th of March and then Basingstoke MAC on the 20th of March. I was accompanied by SA Chair, David Smith and Secretary, Terry Weeks. Terry giving a presentation regarding gliding including F5J.

As a reminder, the AS Meet at Basingstoke is planned for Sunday 18th May. Please contact me if you require any further information and of course register to attend.

2.4 Events Co-Ordinators report: Peter Bennett.

Peter Bennett was not present so no report but had already reported that the paperwork for Popham was well advanced.

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

Peter reported that he had initially experienced great difficulty in reaching his usual contacts due to their being in Bahrain but eventually made contact. Avoiding clashes with other events the 14th of September was finally agreed. The viability of the event was then discussed, Peter advising that

the licence fee was to increase by at least £40.00, assuming the base costs did not increase this year so would be £508.00. On this basis it would take 34 entries at £15.00 per head to break even, this was thought to be possible, so it was agreed that the event should be given the go ahead.

2.6 Webmaster / PRO report: James Hounslow.

James reported that he had attended the “Club of the Year” planning meeting, after an aborted start this had gone reasonably well, James to report further when more information is to hand. However, he did suggest that the way it was framed it would probably favour the bigger clubs due to the range of activities that they covered.

James also confirmed that he would be attending the ASC day at B&DMAC.

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

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.
14 th September	S. Area Free-Flight Gala at Odiham. Action: Peter Carter.
1 st October	S. Area Meeting at Popham + Zoom.
26 th November	S. Area AGM at Popham + Zoom.
Dates TBA	Aircraft Enthusiasts day(s) at Middle Wallop. Not Listed in “Events”?

4.0 AOB.

1. Popham Update:

- a. Pilots list now complete and sent to Emily for ticketing and Dave Franks for slot arrangements many more than last year. Dave said he was arranging the event into “flexible” 10-minute slots.
- b. I have spoken to Brett Houghton to confirm his attendance as commentator and agreed his expenses of £85.00. Also allowed travel expenses for Dave Franks £48.00, Peter Bennett £78.00, David Smith £52.20, Peter Carter £17.10, David Durnford £43.20 and my own at £24.70. Total for the show £348.20 (Others may also be included). Sufficient high vis’ vests, lanyards and stickers are already in hand. A final Zoom meeting is to be held a week or so prior to the event for any last-minute arrangements to be sorted.
- c. Emily said that to date 21 traders are booked in with possibly more to follow following contacts being forwarded to her – refer to the Popham “Events” website for details.

The Meeting closed at: 20:15 hrs.

As above the next meeting to be on the 4th of June at Popham & via Zoom.