



British Model Flying Association

Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4th of June 2025

Venue: - **The Meeting to be at Popham and via Zoom.**

Start Time: **7.00 pm**

Those Present: David Durnford, Terry Weeks, Phil Stevens, Dave Burstow, Dave Franks and Emily Mason.

Apologies for absence: David Smith and Mike Pearson.

- 1.0 Approval of the minutes of the 2nd of March.** These have been available on the website.
Proposed: Dave Franks. Seconded: Phil Stevens.

2.0 Committee reports:

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

Firstly, my profuse apologies for failing to pick up on the clash between this meeting and my annual holiday in Corfu, and secondly my grateful thanks to DD for standing in as Vice-chair in my absence.

I attended an Areas Council Zoom meeting on 6 May. Most of the meeting was given over to outreach activity and the Club of the Year award, though Areas Council did approve the Areas budget for 2025-26 and that money has now been disbursed. I have still not received a satisfactory answer as to whether the total Areas budget allocation is £20k or £25k but will continue to pursue this. Rolling BMFA membership is still a thorny issue for club secretaries but has been introduced by stealth via the gift membership scheme and BDF membership so will become increasingly prevalent.

The Areas Council Forum has generated an interesting thread on the provision of defibrillators at flying sites, based on a recent case and the increasing age profile of the BMFA membership. I have a rather jaundiced professional take on this but would be interested to hear the views of Area clubs as to whether or not this is a good furrow to plough.

I attended the Popham Model Show 9-11 May as part of the SABMFA presence. This year was a success, with many more traders than previously and a lot of interest from pilots. It is the first year that the show has not lost money, so we hopefully have a good base to build on for the future. The dates for 2026 are the same weekend, 8-10 May.

I helped out at the AS day at Basingstoke MAC on Sunday 18 May, which was well organised by our ASC (many thanks DD) and the club. My personal thanks go to all who participated, and particularly to our ACEs who attended. The wind was not helpful (we live in the UK after all) but it did not hamper the flying or the enjoyment of the day.

There are a few office PCs that have become surplus to requirements in the BMFA secretariat, so I have requested one to use for our flight simulator since the laptop we currently use is an ancient HP Compaq that is not compatible with modern TV/monitor screens that rely in HDMI inputs.

We have a couple of outreach-style events coming up, and I would be grateful if any of you would consider coming along to support these. The first is Wallop Wheels and Wings, at Middle

Wallop airfield on Saturday 12 July. We will have a static display of flying models and interaction with the general public, together with the ability to see some amazing full-size flying and a large display of classic cars. The second is the Aircraft Enthusiasts Show and Model Fair, also at Middle Wallop, on Sunday 23 November. This is an indoor event, mainly focussed on plastic modelling, but we have had reasonable interest in our previous displays and the event fits with the BMFA outreach agenda.

2.2 Secretary and Treasurers reports: Terry Weeks.

Secretaries Report:

As usual I have prepared the minutes of the last meeting (2nd March) and distributed them to those that were present, all the club secretaries and finally adding 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 those that cannot make it in person.

I attended the Popham show on all three days to organise the registration, distribution of the armbands and ensuring all pilots completed their declaration, nearly a 100 this year when including the two groups that entered this year. Following this generally helped out throughout both show days.

As usual after each show, I have prepared the equipment for the 2026 show, as mentioned below replacing items as required.

I also organised a Zoom "Shakedown Meeting" for the 28th of May to go over the activities of the show in order that we can continually improve things, even though I believe this had been the best show we have run to date. This I believe went well with several suggestions where we could improve things.

I also attended the ASC day at B&DMAC run by David Durnford on the 18th May to assist on the day.

Treasurer's Report:

I have updated the balance sheet as required, anyone that would like a copy let me know and I will send you a copy. It has been a busier period than usual. As previously reported, I have deleted what was the first column and added a new column to cover the period 1st of April 2026 until 31st of March 2027.

All expenses for Popham are now entered together with the purchase of some new lanyards to cover the non-returns, soiled and damaged ones.

We have also purchased a new table to replace the very tired paste table we have had for years at a cost of £47.50.

I have also transferred the allowance budgeted to Wayne at Chesil for the Bovington shows, this amounted to £42.00.

The final costs of the ASC day at the Basingstoke club are also shown as £190.00 and added to this was some expenses paid to David D of £18.86, thus £208.86 in total. The original cost was estimated at £250.00 so we were well within the budget.

We finally received our grant from HO on the 20th of May, £1200.00, the amount requested. I have as requested by Mike produced an invoice for £500.00 to cover our expenses for the Popham Show, this will be received in due course.

The balance as of today is £7428.88 including the £660.50 of self-generated funds, our official end of year balance, after all planned expenditures are considered, is predicted to be £5806.36, slightly less than last year.

Acceptance proposed by: Dave Burstow and Seconded David Durnford.

2.3 A S Co-Ordinators report: David Durnford.

I am very pleased, (and somewhat relieved too), that this year's SA Achievement Scheme Meet was able to be held on the 18th of May.

Thanks to Basingstoke MAC, Chairman, Committee and its Members, SA had use of their excellent site for the meeting. Some 27 or so persons attended including test candidates, their assistants and various SA committee. ACE and club examiners. Obviously BMAC knew who to speak to as the day enjoyed superb weather. I am very pleased to report all registered candidates passed their AS tests and assessments, the latter for Club Examiner (FW) & (Heli) disciplines.

Numerous new contacts were established and one or two visiting from other SA clubs wish further contact for other AS tests when they are prepared and ready.

My thanks to everyone involved, BMAC, all candidates, SA Committee and SA Club ACE & Examiners for all their hard efforts during the long day, well done.

As ever, if any SA club requires any assistance with the Achievement Scheme be that help with club member training or testing, do get in touch and together with fellow SA Committee we will be pleased to assist. Happy, Safe Flying.

2.4 Popham Event Co-Ordinators report: Peter Bennett.

No report as Peter attended the Show shakedown meeting.

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

Peter has decided to go ahead and arranged a date of the 14th of September in co-operation with the necessary RAF personnel. The licence fee has increased to £320.00 and the arrangement fee £225.00 so £545.00 in total. As a result, the entry fee has increased to £15.00 in the hope that a break-even entry of 37 can be achieved. Peter further reported that he was disappointed with response from the media contacted to advertise the event, for one reason or another a month has been lost.

Having met with the army regarding the use of Salisbury Plain, all appears to be good albeit some days may be shared with Drone activities, but this not considered to be a problem, it is a very big area.

2.6 Webmaster / PRO report: James Hounslow.

No report as James was not present, but Terry added he was continuing to update the calendar and adding reports as and when produced.

3.0. Events already planned / in progress for 2025 / 2026 for information.

12 th July	Wheels & Wings at Middle Wallop*.
6 th August	S. Area Meeting via Zoom.
13 th /14 th September	Southwest Model Show at Bovington Tank Museum.
14 th September	S. Area Free-Flight Gala at Odiham.
1 st October	S. Area Meeting at Popham + Zoom.
23 rd November	Aircraft Enthusiasts day(s) at Middle Wallop*
26 th November	S. Area AGM at Popham + Zoom.

*These events to be attended by:

12th July: David Smith, David Durnford, Peter Carter, Terry Weeks and Phil & Iris Stevens.

23rd November: David Smith, David Durnford, Peter Carter, Terry Weeks & David Burstow.

4.0 AOB.

- a. Popham Model show report. This was covered separately by the shakedown meeting on the 28th of May. The meeting discussed various layout changes that may improve things amongst other details. Dave Burstow raised the questions of disabled parking and waste bins but was advised the reasons that they are not accommodated.
- b. Dave Burstow reported that the Redlands indoor flying activity was now running very well following the support given last year. The venue rent had reduced and breaking even was no longer a problem with the regular numbers attending.
- c. Emily was asked to book the conference room at Popham for the 1st of October and the 26th of November (AGM) meetings.

The next meeting is to be via Zoom only on the 6th of August.

Meeting closed at: 7:41pm.