



British Model Flying Association Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6th of August 2025

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

Start Time: **7.00 pm**

Those Present: Terry Weeks, David Smith, Alan Wallington, Peter Carter, David Burstow, Phil Stevens, David Durnford, Peter Bennett and James Hounslow.

Apologies for absence: Dave Franks, Mike Pearson.

1.0 Approval of the minutes of the 6th June. These as usual are available on the website.

Proposed: Peter Bennett.

Seconded: David Burstow.

2.0 Committee reports:

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

Since our last meeting I attended as a scale judge at the Helicopter Nationals at Hemel Hempstead Model Flying Club 5/6 of July and attended the Wheels and Wings event at Middle Wallop as part of the SABMFA static display. My thanks to Terry Weeks, Dave Durnford, Phil and Iris Stevens for their support on the day. There were a few issues with the administration of arrival and departure which we have addressed with the organizers, hopefully it will work better for us next year.

I took my RC Chinook to the Aldershot Model Club static display at the Families Day at RAF Odiham on 25 July, which provoked quite a bit of interest and a photo shoot on the ramp of the full-size machine. My thanks to Peter Carter for organising the day, and also to Terry Weeks, Dave Durnford, and Phil and Iris Stevens for supporting the event.

Following the relocation of the majority of BMFA administrative functions to Buckminster, a few repurposed office PCs have become available. I have made a bid for one of these to replace the ageing laptop that runs our simulator and hope to pick this up from Buckminster on the scale helicopter weekend 20/21 September. I also hope to collect some more BMFA freebies to replenish our stock in preparation for events over the autumn and winter.

The next Areas Council meeting is on Thursday 11 September; no agenda is available at present, but I am happy to raise any Area-related issues at the meeting if I get enough notice to add them to the AOB agenda item.

We are supporting the Aircraft Enthusiasts Fair and Model Show at Middle Wallop on Sunday 23 November as part of the BMFA Outreach agenda. It would be nice to see a new face or two from the Southern Area Committee to help "The Few" man the stand and oversee the flight simulator.

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.

I attended the Wheels and Wings show on the 12th July to help set up and man a static display to generally “Fly the Flag” to promote the BMFA. This attracted much attention, and several people asked for details of how to contact their local clubs, many were past aeromodellers that intended to get active again. At the show I was approached by a representative of the Andover Armed Forces Day with regard to our attending next year’s event on the 27th June. I have thus added it in AOB for discussion.

Treasurer’s Report:

I have updated the balance sheet to cover the expenses of attendees of the various shows we attend, following our attendance at Wheels and Wings on the 12th July and with the prospect of attending other shows throughout the year in line with the “Outreach” initiative.

The allowance for club support has increased by £100 to £200.00 pa for both the 2025 / 26 & £2026 / 27 periods. As a result, I have reduced the £150.00 pa specifically allowed for the Wheels & Wings attendance to £50.00 so there is no overall change to the totals.

Actual activity this period was to pay the attendees at Wheels & Wings their expenses totaling £49.50 and £42.00 to David Durnford to cover his ASC travelling expenses.

We also paid £120 for the Heli’ Scale Day toilet at £120 from the club support budget.

The current bank account as a result of the above has reduced from that reported last month from £7428.88 to £7217.38 as of the 31st of July. Our official end of year balance, after all planned expenditure, is £5606.36.

At this point David Burstow raised the expenses allowed for the Bovington model show, initially £42.00 was allowed and paid but David asked for consideration be given to raise this to £60.00 per show to cover Waynes’s camping expenses. This was agreed so Terry was asked to forward £60.00 to Wayne for the second show and change the allowance to £120.00 for subsequent years (£60.00 per show).

I would also like to extend our thanks to Mike Pearson (Charles Church Spitfires Limited) for the £500.00 donation to cover our expenses at the 2025 Popham Model Show.

As usual, anyone wishing to have a copy of the balance sheet please just ask.

Acceptance: **Proposed:** David Durnford. **and Seconded:** Peter Bennett. .

2.3 A S Co-Ordinator’s report: David Durnford.

Despite periods of unsuitable weather, particularly blustery winds even though sunshine has prevailed, numerous Achievement Scheme (AS) tests have been undertaken in the Southern Area. Typical of these have been clubs catching up on long overdue AS tests.

Among these, Southeast Berkshire Radio Flying Club (SEBRFC) required my services as Area Chief Instructor (ACI) to conduct ‘Approved Instructor’ tests for several of their experienced club instructors. This formalized their training structure within the club, and I am pleased to report that all candidates were worthy and successful. Opportunity was also taken to test a Club Examiner and a ‘A’(FW) member.

Other AS tests passed have included those from Alton MFC who required a couple of ‘A’(FW) for two recent South African flyers now experiencing UK model flying.

Later in August, Hampshire Electric Flyers (HEF) requested at least one AS coaching and testing session. Something the club hasn’t quite managed to ‘get-round-to-it’! This will soon be remedied, I’m sure.

A gentle reminder to any SA club that resource for coaching instruction and AS testing are available together with Southern Area AS personal. I am available to assist clubs with their requirements including, dare I say, ‘Winter Club Evening’ presentations on aspects of the BMFA Achievement Scheme and BMFA matters.

Regarding other matters, I joined other members at Middle Wallop for the “Wheels & Wings” show flying the flag for BMFA on the area’s stand. I have also assisted with static display at the recent RAF Odiham families day 100-year celebration on the Aldershot & RAFA Club stand together with fellow SA members.

2.4 Popham Event Co-Ordinator’s report: Peter Bennett.

Peter reported having visited both the Weston Park and Woodspring shows and noted a distinct shortage of pilots at both. He noted that there was a general feeling spreading around that Popham was becoming more popular with the pilots. Some additional pilots approached Peter with a view to coming to our show and it was agreed that a selective few may be accommodated but with preference being retained for those that had supported the Popham show over the years.

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

Peter reported that a potential problem had been overcome, the two regular RAF personnel had been posted abroad but following an approach to the base commander two Chinook pilots had come forward to help. Peter said all else was fine subject to more entrants coming forward as to date only 15 of the required 30 to break even were booked in.

2.6 Webmaster / PRO report: James Hounslow.

James also reported having visited Weston Park and agreed with Peter Bennetts comments. He also commented that he thought that the Basingstoke ASC day had gone very well.

James further reported that he had been involved at HO to do with the “Club of the Year” initiative, saying that he hoped many of the activities that clubs were offering their members be published to give other clubs ideas.

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

13th/14th September Southwest Model Show at Bovington Tank Museum.

14th September S. Area Free-Flight Gala at Odiham.

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

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

To be Attended by: David Smith, David Durnford, Peter Carter, Terry Weeks & David Burstow.

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

8th/10th May Popham Model Show

27th June Andover Armed Forces Day – **The decision was to not support this.**

4.0 AOB.

- a. Popham Model show report. This was covered separately by the shakedown meeting on the 28th of May. Mike reported all was well at this time. The above comments from Peter and James were found to be very encouraging.
- b. Wheels & Wings Day at Middle Wallop report.
As in David’s report, a few initial problems were reported and will be overcome next year as a result of David’s contact with the organizers following the show. Otherwise, it was a very rewarding event to attend.
- c. As in Terry’s report: Discuss if we should attend the Armed Forces Day at Vigo Park, Andover following the invitation made at Wheels & Wings. As above the decision was to not attend this show, Terry to advise the contact.
- d. Confirm volunteers’ attendance at the Aircraft Enthusiasts Day to man the stand - done.

- e. Fence posts & cones for static displays. Terry raised this so that we can form a “Safe” area around our models at shows like Wheels & Wings, all agreed we should go ahead. Terry advised he thought the cost would be around £48.00 for 10 posts & 3 750H cones.

The Meeting closed at: 20:00hrs.

The next meeting is to be at Popham and via Zoom on the 1st of October.