



British Model Flying Association

Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Minutes of the AGM held on the 26th of November 2025

Venue: - Held at Popham & via Zoom

Start Time: **7.00 pm**

Those Present:

Phil Stevens, David Durnford, Peter Carter, David Smith, James Hounslow and Terry Weeks with Peter Bennett, Dave Franks, David Burstow, Tony Butterworth, Emily Mason and Colin Gross via Zoom.

Apologies for absence:

Simon Wood, Alan Wallington.

1.0 The minutes of the 2024 AGM on the 26th of November 2024.

Ratified as a true record so will now be shown as such on the website.

Proposed: Phil Stevens. Seconded: David Durnford. Agreed: Unanimously

2.0 Committee reports:

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

Since our last AGM I have attended all but one Area meeting, every Areas Council meeting, and the 2025 BMFA AGM at Buckminster. I helped out on the Area display stand at the July 2025 Wheels and Wings event at the Museum of Army Flying, and at Families Days at RAF Odiham in July and Baker Barracks on Thorney Island in September. I attended each of the planning meetings for the 2025 Popham Model Show, helped with set-up and take down, and managed the helicopter section of the flying display over the weekend. I also helped at our AS Testing and Training day at Basingstoke MFC in May. I acted as a Judge at the Scale Helicopter Nationals in July and have recently been involved in rewriting the rules for this competition.

We were successful in our bid for a repurposed BMFA office PC to replace the aging laptop that we used to run our copy of the Phoenix Professional simulator at our events. I was amazed to discover that this came with a copy of Real-Flight 9.5 already installed, along with a Spektrum Interlink DX controller. The BMFA AGM was held at Buckminster for the second year, again as a hybrid meeting on Zoom. Attendance was pretty poor, with around 25 clubs present and around 35 on Zoom (out of 905 affiliated clubs). The LMA and SAA have come in to the BMFA fold as a result of their declining memberships, and overall BMFA membership has stabilised at 27,762. BMFA finances are now on a more even keel, helped by a less-than-expected decrease in membership, reduced insurance premiums, and some cost savings. The National Centre made a profit of £28k this year, which has been ring-fenced for further development of the site. There was a bit of a bunfight between the previous and current Finance Directors over some small errors in the accounts and budget that had not been picked up by the auditors, but the meeting approved both documents. Senior fees have increased by £2 to £51, with all other categories unchanged.

At Areas Council meetings there continues to be a lot of discussion around encouraging Club participation in Area activities and a push to recruit new members. The Club of the Year Award has

been won by Impington Village MFC, with Leatherhead MFC a close second.

This has been my eighth year as Area Delegate; if anyone wants to take this on, I am happy to help them settle into the role.

2.2 Secretaries Report:

Terry reported that throughout the year he had arranged the area meetings both by date and venue organising the zoom link as required. All minutes for the meetings being written and distributed both by email and addition to the website.

I have also been the main contact for the areas events such as Popham and Middle Wallop and also assisted David Durnford with the areas ASC event (The second David has organised doing the lion's share of the work to make it a very successful day). Again, publicising these on our website using the calendar of events and adding reports as available.

On the Popham event I spent a considerable time contacting the pilots for the Model Show chasing up their registrations and ticketing requirements, this was complete by mid-August when the listing was closed, and details provided to the Popham team.

As far as attendances go, I attended all of the events run by the area including the Popham Show from noon on the Friday and from 8:30am on both the Saturday and Sunday to deal with pilot registration, the briefing and helping as required. I am, if required, willing to stand again.

2.3 Treasurer's Report:

Since the last AGM we were projected to spend £1993.57, £293.57 more than we have received, however this has already reduced to £1846.25 and as our year does not end until the 31st of March 2026, some of the projected funds may not be spent further improving the situation.

One unplanned expenditure was to purchase some cones and fence posts to allow us to form a barrier to protect our models at the various static displays we attend. As a result of this overall situation, to minimize the reduction in the area's assets, I applied for and received a grant of £1200.00 from HQ to help maintain our position. Even so we continue to reduce our assets to finally match around two years expenditure. From this point on we will either need a higher grant or reduce our activities to match our income. All of the above was helped by the £500.00 received with thanks from Popham for the running of the Model Show.

In summary the current bank account stands at £6914.47, this includes the £660.50 in self-generated funds, thus the area's official balance as of today is **£6253.97**. (*This will be reduced to £5712.83 shown on the balance sheet when the predicted £541.34 is spent before the 31st March*).

For this AGM we have to vote on and approve the balance sheet up to March 31st, 2024. Refer to the green area of the balance sheet supplied.

Again, I am, if required, willing to stand again.

Proposed: David Smith. Seconded: James Hounslow. Approved: Unanimously.

2.4 Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinators Report: David Durnford.

I am pleased to report a good year for the BMFA Achievement Scheme (AS) in the southern area.

Among the principal events in the SA calendar, Basingstoke MAC were the generous host club for one of the main AS events. Candidates came from clubs across the region and undertook tests for fixed wing and helicopter. Only one or two less successful but nevertheless all benefitted from the learning

experience, the majority I am pleased to say passed with flying colours!

Looking ahead to 2026, if any SA club can host a AS event i.e. accommodating approximately 20 or so flyers, do get in touch with me or any member of SA committee who will be pleased to discuss this with you.

As is a requirement for all Area Chief Examiners (ACE), reports of their AS activity for 2025 have been submitted by most SA ACE.

(‘Null’ reports are recorded for those who have not responded to repeated requests).

Re-ratification of ACE/ACI status is subject of approval at the annual SA AGM.

On a personal note, I have undertaken 22 assorted tests. These include FW Indoor as well as outdoor, Silent Flight Electric, Club Examiner and Approved Instructor achievements. Well done to everyone and I encourage all to have a go as a fresh challenge in the new year.

Besides organising and administering in the ASC role, I have visited Chichester and Basingstoke clubs on their winter evening club nights. This to give presentations on BMFA matters with fellow SA committee members David Smith & Terry Weeks.

Other events I have participated in include representing a BMFA presence at ‘Wheels & Wings’, Middle Wallop, RAF Odiham 100-year celebratory Families Day and recently the ‘Air Enthusiast’s’ day also held at the Army Air Museum, Middle Wallop.

My current term of office expires this year and I am willing to stand for a further term if so elected.

Wishing one and all an enjoyable and safe flying new season to come.

2.5 Free Flight Report: Peter Carter.

Peter reported that there was little to report due to the weather, the main casualty being the Southern Area Gala.

On the Gala Peter said due to the ongoing stress in running the event together with the ever-increasing cost, now over £500.00, he was standing down in the hope that someone else would take over. This event has been run continuously for over 60 years so if anyone comes forward the Southern Area would be willing to continue to support it. On a brighter note, Peter reported that the activities at Salisbury Plain continue to be supported well.

Although not a Southern Area event Peter continues to support the RAF Odiham Families day and has good contacts as a result, so was asked to investigate the possibilities of increasing the aeromodelling activities on the base such as Control-line & RC Events.

2.6 Events Co-Ordinator (Popham).

Peter said he was happy to continue to head the Popham Model show Team, having had a very successful show this year, and will continue with the 2026 show on the 9th & 10th May. He added that he had visited several other shows this year to assess if any improvements could be made but was pleased to report that he considered the Popham show to be the best.

Just out of interest the Woodsprings event will not be run in 2026.

2.7 Webmaster / PRO Report: James Hounslow.

This year has been somewhat turbulent for me, primarily with workplace challenges and an on-call pattern that often clashed with Southern Area Committee meetings which has meant my attendance has not been as good as I would have hoped. Regarding continuing in the post of PRO I am very happy to continue to do this while at the same time accepting that there may be other people who are in a

better position to contribute or indeed that the committee may feel it is better to change things up a bit.

There have been a couple of key events this year which I have been pleased to have helped promote on social media and via official and non-official BMFA channels - the achievement scheme day at Basingstoke and the Popham show. The majority of the PR for the Popham show however was taken care of directly by Popham themselves which meant the load was relatively light.

There has been little to no interest from other event organisers in wishing Southern Area to promote their local events or regular activities (indoor flying or fly-ins etc.) and I would welcome all of the Southern Area clubs to not be shy in coming forward with events where the SAC can help with publicity to appropriate parties.

I was put forward by SAC to BMFA central as a Southern Area rep for the BMFA's 'Club of the year' award and this is where the majority of my work for SAC has taken place this year. My involvement was from the planning phase where the application / nomination process and screening were designed through to the marking and individual club feedback and of course finally to the ratification of the winners and runners up. This was quite an eye-opening experience in seeing the breadth of offerings from across the country and the lengths that some clubs go to in promoting the sport and progressing things for their members. Unfortunately, there were very few nominations from SAC clubs, and we were outshone by some margin by our northern competition. My understanding is that this process will be happening again next year and I will be asked to sit on the panel again, all things being equal. I understand that in due course the BMFA will be furnishing Area Committees with feedback on what was learnt from the exercise.

In my role as ACE / ACI I am happy to continue.

3.0 Election of the S. Area Committee Members for 2025 / 2026.

Note – strategy moving forward is unchanged - The Southern area Committee is always looking to encourage new members and or welcome support from model flyers in the area. To this end we should tailor tasks appropriately to encourage pilots to join us and become part of the team regardless of how much support they can offer; to date we have to be flexible in this respect.

Position	Name	Club(s)	Term
Chairman	David Smith	Helipad Model Club	2nd Year
Secretary	Terry Weeks	ASF	2Yr
	Proposed: David Smith.	Seconded: Phil Stevens.	Agreed:
Treasurer	Terry Weeks	ASF	1Yr
	Proposed: James Hounslow.	Seconded: Dave Franks.	Agreed:
AS Co-Ordinator	David Durnford	Alton MFC	2Yr
	Proposed: Terry Weeks.	Seconded: Peter Carter.	Agreed:
Area Delegate	David Smith	Helipad	1Yr
	Proposed: David Durnford.	Seconded: Terry Weeks.	Agreed:
James Hounslow offered to "Shadow" David this year with a view taking on the position in 2027.			
Events Co-Ordinator	Peter Bennett (Popham)	Lansdown	2Yr
	Proposed: Terry Weeks.	Seconded: Dave Franks.	Agreed:
Free Flight Rep'	Peter Carter	Aldershot	1Yr
	Proposed: David Smith.	Seconded: Dave Franks.	Agreed:
S. Area Webmaster / James Hounslow		South Hants Heli's	1Yr
PRO	Proposed: David Smith.	Seconded: Terry Weeks.	Agreed:

4.0 Ratification of S. Area Chief Examiners for 2024/2025

Tony Butterworth FW & SF, David Burstow FW, Peter Carter FW, Peter Rondel FW / Heli, Matt Lodge Heli & M-rotor, Terry Weeks SF, David Durnford FW & SF, James Hounslow FW / Heli, Trevor Roper FW & Heli & Andy Beswick FW & Heli.

Proposed: David Smith. Seconded: Peter Bennett. Agreed: Unanimously.

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

14 th January	S. Area Meeting at Popham + Zoom.
1 st April	S. Area Meeting via Zoom.
9 th /10 th May	Popham Model Show. Action: S Area Sub-Committee.
3 rd June	S. Area Meeting at Popham + Zoom.
12 th August	S. Area Meeting via Zoom.
7 th October	S. Area Meeting at Popham + Zoom.
25 th November	S. Area AGM at Popham + Zoom.
11 th July	Wheels & Wings at Middle Wallop.
22 nd November	Aircraft Enthusiasts day(s) at Middle Wallop.
TBA	S. Area A S Workshops. Action: David Durnford.

David Smith said he would like minute his thanks to those that assisted in attending and supporting the various events.

6.0 Calling Notice for the S. Area 2025 AGM.

To be held on the 25th of November 2026 at 7:00pm at Popham+.

Notes on Meeting designations:

Popham+ To be in person where possible at Popham but with Zoom available.
Zoom All attendees via Zoom.

Our thanks go to Mike Pearson for the use of the Popham Facilities.

The AGM meeting to closed at 8:20 pm.