



British Model Flying Association

Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Minutes the Meeting held on the 14th January 2026

Venue: - **The Meeting at Popham & via Zoom.** Start Time: **7.00 pm**

Those Present: David Smith, Peter Carter, Phil Stevens, Mike Pearson, Terry Weeks and via Zoom David Durnford, Colin Gross, Peter Bennet, Dave Burstow, Alan Wallington, Emily Mason, Dave Franks and Mark Vroobel the new CADMAC representative. A good attendance.

Apologies for absence: None received.

The notes of the meeting of the 1st October were noted as an unofficial meeting.

These were added to the website, but due to a quorum not being achieved they are for information only.

However as we now had a Quorum we could now officially ratify the August meeting, proposed Alan Wallington, seconded Peter Carter and unanimously accepted as a true record.

2.0 Committee reports:

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

I would like to start this report by paying tribute to Ken Knox and John Hook, both of whom died in December 2025 and both of whom were stalwart supporters of Southern Area activities.

Since our last meeting I have attended the BMFA AGM at Buckminster, chaired our own AGM, and helped out on the Area stand at the Aircraft Enthusiast's Fair at the Army Flying Museum. Our new simulator was put through its paces at the latter event and performed well.

After the Area AGM I completed the Area Return to the BMFA Office, and the ACE/ACI re-ratification for the Achievement Scheme Committee.

My meeting with the Events Coordinator for the Historic Army Aircraft Flight keeps being postponed, but I am expecting that this will finally take place in February or March.

The next Areas Council meeting is on 22nd January, there is nothing controversial on the agenda and most items are procedural. The agenda for the January BMFA Board meeting is also largely taken up with procedural items; there is nothing that requires prior discussion.

2.2 Secretary and Treasurers reports: Terry Weeks.

Secretary's Report:

Like David, I would also like to pay tribute to both Ken Knox and John Hook, their contribution over the years to the Southern Area will be greatly missed.

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

I have also continued some preliminary work on the paperwork for the 2026 Popham Model show. This included updating the Briefing notes, the Pilot Declaration and the Registration document. More details below on the show activity.

Just for information I will be on holiday from 7th April until the 11th of April but will be available for the meeting on the 1st of April and will send out the agenda prior to leaving.

Treasurer's Report:

As is usual at this time of year I have updated the balance sheet to reflect all activity during 2025, but as our end of year is the 31st of March, we still have some time to go before the final end of year situation is finalized. The last expenditure was for an adapter lead for use at the coming ASC visit to HEF in February.

Our current balance is £6768.83 (as on the 8th January) including our self-generated funds of £660.50 and with £470.70 of projected expenditure still to be used, leaves us as shown an official end-of-year balance of £5637.63. This is £221.45 less than last year.

I have received the application pro-forma for next year's grant, and am currently working on it, in line with our balance sheet. Currently it looks like our request will be £1271.88 to maintain our accounts predicted balance, but as our year does not end until the 31st March, final figures must consider the Zoom renewal £155.88 + any increase and some expenses for meeting attendances and the proposed visit to Hampshire Electric Flyers on the 6th February.

At this point, due to Mike having to leave early Popham was discussed, but the report is recorded in the usual place on these minutes, see below.

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

After the Southern Area AGM and last general area meeting, I have been making approaches to various clubs in the SA. This with the potential possibility of their hosting a SA Achievement Scheme (AS) meeting this year 2026.

At time of writing Dave Burstow, (*possibly in attendance tonight at this meeting to further advise and update*), and Wayne Broome have been asked to discuss with Chesil Model Flying Club committee regarding SA hosting an AS meet at their flying site. I am awaiting latest news developments which I would optimistically like to be able to progress before our next meeting.

If any other southern area club(s) would like to host an AS meet in 2026, BMFA SA would be very pleased to hear from them. Do contact me via the BMFA SA web site ASAP as the model flying calendar soon fills up and firm diary dates need to be made.

The UK weather continues to do its best to thwart our outdoor flying though indoor events continue to be popular for both R/C and Free-Flight disciplines. Many thanks to the excellent organisational efforts of Alan Wallington.

Personally, I have carried out my Area Chief Examiner duties in testing several indoor R/C candidates for their 'A' and 'B' FW tests. I am pleased to report these very challenging achievement tests that were passed successfully.

Whilst BMFA outdoor activity may be less, I shall shortly be giving a BMFA presentation to a southern area club on matters mainly regarding the achievement scheme. I will be ably accompanied and assisted by David Smith & Terry Weeks.

Any other club(s) wishing a similar 'Club Night' presentation, do get in touch and we will do our best to assist. Like seasonal panto, we take bookings for next year too!

Happy, Safe Flying in '26 Everyone.

2.4 Popham Co-Ordinator's report: Peter Bennett.

This is to be discussed later in the meeting.

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

Peter reported all was very quiet due to the recent weather even with low activity on Salisbury plain bar a few stalwarts. The permit is expected to remain at £30.00. Peter also reported that the F/F nationals would be held at Sculthorpe next year.

2.6 Webmaster / PRO report: James Hounslow.

No report.

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

7 th & 8 th February	Southwest Model Show at Bovington.
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.
7 th July	Wheels & Wings at Middle Wallop.
12 th August	S. Area Meeting via Zoom.
September date TBA	2 nd Model Show at Bovington.
7 th October	S. Area Meeting at Popham + Zoom.
22 nd November	Aircraft Enthusiasts Day at Middle Wallop.
25 th November	S. Area AGM at Popham + Zoom.
TBA	S. Area A S Workshops. Action: AS Co-Ord.

4.0 AOB.

4.1 The Popham Model Show update.

Terry reported having received back, after some considerable effort, 78 +3 Bekra registrations received with just 13 of the invited pilots still to come. The 78 total does not mean all will be invited to fly as some are not known to us. Dave, in allocating the slots, will have the final say in producing a well-balanced display. Of the 78 however around 13 are of the "Spitty" Group and 5 of the "E-soaring" group so the numbers are not quite as high as they look. Dave advised that Bekra had ceased trading so they will have to register as individual pilots.

Mike gave an update on the Popham situation saying that the consultation was still ongoing but that support for the objection was increasing at a considerable pace. It was rejected last year and with the current support hopefully will be dropped again. The support group Popham Airfield Matters has become a very well-supported organization with a very professional approach.

Mike also advised that he will be officially retiring at the end of April and that a replacement in Peter Hammer would take over following an eleven-week crossover period.

On the actual show front Terry reported having passed all pilot registrations to Dave Franks who said he would be arranging the slots over the next few weeks. It was agreed that all pilots would have to submit a registration form to be allowed to fly. No specific slots to be allocated to groups or commercial organizations, but the individual pilot allocations could be used by the groups to fly together as required.

The exceptions to this are the E-soaring group who would have 1 slot allocated on Saturday (5 Pilots) and the Spitty Group 1 slot on both Saturday and Sunday where (c13 pilots) would fly together. These pilots would not be allocated individual slots. Emily said to date 12 traders have already booked.

Finally, night flying was discussed, times yet to be finalized but may be extended from the times allowed last year, however new regulations are now in place in that a green light must be fitted for those flying after sunset, this must be enforced.

4.2 The Bovington shows at the tank museum.

The Chesil club, affiliated to the BMFA, will again be represented at the Southwest Model Show on the 7th & 8th February and again in September date to be advised.

Meeting closed at 7 : 46 pm.