



British Model Flying Association Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

e Minutes of the S A Meeting held on the 1st of April 2026

Followed by an Update on the 2026 Popham Model Show

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

Those Present: Terry Weeks, Peter Carter, Phil Stevens, Peter Bennett, Colin Gross, David Smith, Dave Burstow, Dave Franks, Alan Wallington, David Durnford, David Hammer, Mark Vroobel, James Hounslow and Simon Wood. 14 a great attendance, thank you all.

Apologies for absence:

None were received

1.0 The minutes of the 14th of January 2026.

These were ratified as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Dave Franks. Seconded: Dave Burstow. Voting: Unanimous.

2.0 Committee reports:

2.1 Chairman's and Area delegates Reports: David Smith.

I attended an Areas Council Zoom meeting on 22 January. Three new members were appointed to the ASRC, and the thorny issue of rolling membership was debated again and a proposal from East Anglia Area was referred to the Board for a vote.

I attended a memorial service for Ken Knox on 26 January.

I attended the Hampshire Electric Flyers club night on 6 February to support presentations on Achievement Scheme and e-soaring, and to field general questions from members regarding BMFA issues.

I attended an Areas Council Zoom meeting on 10 March at which we were supposed to ratify the Areas grant distribution for 2025-26. In the event there were several amendments required so no vote was possible; this was deferred to an online poll following revision of the budget spreadsheet.

I attended the BMFA webinar 'Just Go for Clubs' on 24 of March and have submitted a display licence for a helicopter hovering display at my local village fete on 4 May.

2.2 Secretaries Report: Terry Weeks.

Like David, I attended the memorial of Ken Knox on the 26th of January and am pleased to say we were joined by quite a number of other Southern Area Members. It was a good send-off fitting of a valued member.

Other visits were to join David Durnford and David Smith to give a talk on the Achievement Scheme and Esoaring at the Hampshire Electric Fliers club night on the 6th of February and the Chesil flying site to assess the suitability for this year's ASC day.

As usual I prepared the minutes of the last meeting and distributed them to those that were present, all 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. I have also completed, with some effort, the final attendance list of Pilots, Family and Helpers all in agreement with Dave Franks. Slot management, ticketing and camping slot allocation can now be sorted. Just for information I will be on holiday from 7th April until the 11th of April.

2.3 Treasurer's Report: Terry Weeks.

At the last meeting I reported a projected end of year balance of £5637.63 this had reduced to ££5595.44 due to some unplanned expenses. These were some rope to go with the previously purchased cones and stakes at £31.65, the bank having introduced a charge of £3.00pcm, and we bought a lead for the PC to connect to a projector at the HEF ASC visit at £7.54.

As we have now passed the official end of the financial year on the 31st of March the balance sheet been updated to delete the "Unspent" budgeted costs and the final expenses paid following the ASC visits to Hampshire Electric Flyers and Chesil.

As a result of the above the final end of year balance has increased to **£5716.00**, still a reduction on last year of £143.08. Finally, I have adjusted the 2026 / 2027 forecast taking into account the now agreed grant of £1272.00, added £36.00 to cover the new bank charges and increased the ASC travel expenses allowance due to this year it being at Chesil MFC.

2.4 Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinators Report: David Durnford.

I am very pleased to report Chesil MFC have kindly agreed to host this year's BMFA Southern Area (SA), Achievement Scheme (AS) Meeting. This will be conducted at their Lower Pymore Farm flying site near Bridport in Dorset.

Assuming the weather is all good and favourable, Sunday 14th June is the event date for your diary. Neighbouring clubs have been contacted but it is not too late for other clubs and individuals, be they club members, examiners, instructors, or anyone interested in observing, registering to attend. There will be a free BBQ provided and 'comfort' facilities are available on site too. Remember to bring your chair!

Otherwise, probably not much flying or testing activity to report due to the 'liquid conditions' most if not all have endured and soggy, waterlogged, windy flying fields across the region.

A gentle reminder that Achievement Scheme booklets for all disciplines, as well as test forms, are new issue and dated for 2026 use. Club and ACE Examiners require the code 'ASRC2026' to submit their completed paperwork electronically to BMFA HQ.

Meanwhile, anyone requiring further details of the AS Meet in June and wishing to register to attend, contact me or any member of the SA Committee.

Poster details for the AS Meet are to be found on the BMFA SA Web Site Events page, BMFA Achievement Scheme Facebook Page and the BMFA Members Web Site Events Page.

Happy, Safe Flying.

2.5 Free Flight Report: Peter Carter.

Peter reported, not unexpectedly, little activity on the free-flight front due to the weather.

As a member of the Salisbury Plain users committee Peter said all were happy and that there is a possibility of the access being improved, something many will appreciate.

2.6 Webmaster / PRO Report: James Hounslow.

Again, as with Peter there is little to report due to the weather, no contact from clubs but hopefully this will improve soon.

As suggested at the last meeting James “shadowed” David Smith at the HO meetings as a prospective Delegate replacement at the next S. Area AGM.

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

3 rd June	S. Area Meeting at Popham + Zoom.
14 th June	ASC Meeting at Chesil MFC Nr. Bridport.
11 th July	Wheels & Wings at Middle Wallop.
12 th August	S. Area Meeting via Zoom.
12 th & 13 th September	1 st Model Show at Bovington.
14 th October	S. Area Meeting at Popham + Zoom.
15 th November	Aircraft Enthusiasts Day at Middle Wallop.
25 th November	S. Area AGM at Popham + Zoom.
6 th & 7 th February (TBC)	2 nd Model Show at Bovington.

4.0 AOB.

1. The Popham Model Show Update.

- a. As above the final Pilots listing was confirmed with Dave Franks and all pilots advised by email that they had been selected to fly and given basic instructions regarding registration and arrival times.
- b. Emily was emailed to give her the list for ticketing and camping slot allocation. I have requested as last year to have two different coloured armbands provided, one for pilots and one for helpers. Only armband holders to be allowed on the flightline. David Hammer advised that the armbands are now available, and Terry agreed to pick them up following his break next week.
- c. I will ensure sufficient lanyards and coloured stickers are available.
- d. Peter Bennett said he was going to submit all of the paperwork required for the show next week.
- e. Terry confirmed he had agreed with Brett that he was to do the commentary and that as last year he would allow Brett £75.00 for expenses.
- f. The flying times were discussed and David Hammer to confirm the details with Mike Pearson, in particular the Sunday finish time and the Saturday evening “Night Flying” times.
- g. The aerial photography drone? David Hammer to confirm the position with Mike regarding its use.
- h. It was agreed that Terry arrange a final Zoom meeting specifically for the show on the 29th of April to discuss / confirm all of the above. **Action Terry Weeks**

2. Bovington support.

The agreed support to the tune of £102.00 for the 2025/26 year has been paid.
We have allowed £120.00 for the two shows in this financial year, the September 2026 and February 2027 shows. Dave Burstow to speak to Wayne to confirm the position.

3. David Smith, on behalf of the Southern Area proposed a vote of thanks to Mike Pearson for all of his support over the past years – **Thank You Mike**

The meeting closed at 8:00pm.