



British Model Flying Association

Southern Area

<https://southern.bmfa.uk>

Minutes of the S A Meeting held on the 3rd of June 2026 - Issue 2

Venue: - **The Meeting was held at Popham & via Zoom**

Start Time: **7.00 pm**

Those Present:

Terry Weeks, David Smith, Peter carter, Phil Stevens at Popham with Peter Bennett, David Hammer, Emily Mason, David Durnford, Mark Vroobel and David Franks via Zoom.

Apologies for absence:

Colin Gross retrospectively.

1.0 The minutes of the 1st of April 2026.

These were ratified as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: David Smith.

Seconded: Phil Stevens.

Voting: Unanimous.

2.0 Committee reports:

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

I attended a Zoom meeting on 28 April to finalise our preparations for the Popham Model Show. On 4 May, together with Terry Weeks and some fellow club members, we had a display stand at the Nursling and Rownhams village fair. We were granted a BMFA display licence to hover helicopter models in the arena, and we had a lot of interest from the public.

I attended an Areas Council Zoom meeting on 5 May. We discussed the recent Safety Review Committee summary report covering 100 incident reports October 2025 to March 2026, of which 10 were triaged for forwarding to the CAA. Two thirds of reports were avoidable and directly related to poor pilot decisions, mainly loss of control due to adverse weather, and in 50% of cases the model was not recovered. Clubs should encourage members to report all significant incidents. There is still an issue with Area mailing lists, which are generated by county of residence rather than club membership; there does not appear to be a straightforward way to resolve this. The BMFA Club Handbook is in the process of being updated.

I attended the Popham Model Show 8-10 May, helping with pilot registration and managing the helicopter flying slots. The Saturday was a fantastic day with a large spectator turnout, but the Sunday was disappointingly cold and windy, and the flying display was very limited. One of the Chesil MFC members sustained an eye injury in the camping area on the Friday night but fortunately has not lost his sight. Peter Bennett added that a full recovery is anticipated over time.

I shall attend our AS Testing and Training day at Chesil MFC on whichever day the weather allows it to go ahead.

We have received an invitation from the Army Flying Museum to take part in their weekday school holiday activities program 'Summer of Flight'. The week of 3 August focuses on Fixed Wing, 10 August on Gliders, and 17 August on Rotary craft. Decision made not to go ahead.

2.2 Secretaries Report: Terry Weeks.

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 it to all clubs and regular attendees and set up the zoom facility for the meeting. As David has reported I joined him at the Nursling and Rownhams village fair on the 4th of May to support the static display put on by the Helipad Model Club.

I attended the Popham Model Show on all three days, the 8th, 9th & 10th May to help with the pilot registration, issuing of armbands and conducting the briefing on the two flying days. This year must have been the best yet. Not much else to report as I was on holiday soon after from the 13th of May until the 1st of June.

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 as explained last month.

Since the last meeting we have actually received the grant from HO, £1272.00 as expected.

Expenditure this period includes 2 months Bank charges amounting to £6, paid the Chesil Club £120.00 for the Bovington Shows attendances (2), and £360.60 expenses mostly for the Popham show. The current bank balance as of the 1st of June was £7161.90 including the £660.50 of self-generated funds so when considering all planned future expenditure gives us a projected end of year balance of £5575.32. £85.00 had previously been paid to Brett Houghton who conducted the commentary over the weekend.

Acceptance of the report. Proposed: David Smith. Seconded: David Durnford and Unanimous.

2.4 Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinators Report: David Durnford.

Until the very recent enjoyable spell of fine weather, good flying conditions had been sporadic. This obviously impacted flying practice for many newer club members eager to practice their skills for planned Achievement Scheme tests. Fortunately, a favourable break in the weather allowed me to undertake testing of one club candidate with a positive result. Other personal matters, which have included a house move, have otherwise impacted much of my free time for model flying activity.

At the time of writing this report I have literally just received the unfortunate news that Chesil MFC are now prevented from hosting this year's Southern Area Achievement Scheme Test & Training Meeting. This was planned to be held on Sunday 14th June. Alternate arrangements in the very short available time remaining are not practical or possible. I express my thanks to Chesil MFC members for their efforts and others involved in the preparations to date.

Notwithstanding Chesil MFC being unable to host this year's SA Achievement Scheme Meeting, this due to their site availability issues, general response for AS tests and/or training from the whole of the BMFA Southern Area has been very limited to say the least. A number of factors might be suggested including:

- (1) Until recently, relatively poor flying weather conditions often preventing consistent practice particularly for the less experienced pilots.
- (2) Individual Club examiners catering for their club test requirements at their own club site(s).
- (3) General lack of interest from long established flyers not wishing to expand their 'Achievements'

e.g. take a 'B' Test in their regular discipline(s). *See below in AOB for further information.*

Adding to Chesil MFC sudden situation, it would appear not an isolated occurrence that farmland owners are impacting the smooth operation by established clubs of their model flying activities. One club I am familiar with had a farm owner erect an electrified fence almost through their well-mown strip, all without even the courtesy of advance notice. Without secure tenure of our flying site(s), the practicality of encouraging new flying members and their subsequent achievement scheme successes is very likely diminished if not discouraged altogether.

We all must be vigilant and ensure we protect our sites for continued use now and into the future.

2.5 Free Flight Report: Peter Carter.

Peter reported that due to a dramatic improvement in the weather, the London Gala, a three-day event took place on Salisbury plain. Peter further advised that access to the flying area at Salisbury had put many off attending in the past, but good news, the Army are working to improve this.

2.6 Webmaster / PRO Report: James Hounslow.

James was not present or any report forwarded.

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

14 th June	ASC Meeting at Chesil MFC Nr. Bridport- Cancelled see below.
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.

A "Shakedown meeting" was arranged for the 10th of June to discuss all matters arising from the last show. Emily to arrange the Zoom Meeting and forward a draft agenda for all to add items as required and return. Terry to produce an invoice and send to David for consideration to cover the Southern Areas expenses and a contribution towards the Areas costs once the final amount agreed.

2. Bovington support.

The agreed support allowed of £120.00 has been paid for the two shows in this financial year.

3. A discussion took place with regard to running a replacement ASC Day at Popham sometime in September if enough interest is shown. David Durnford to discuss with Phil Stevens and report back.

No other items raised.

The meeting closed at 7: 40 pm.