The GM commenced at 19:30 on the 3rd September 2025

**Present;**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Area Role | Delegate for Club |
| Stuart Willis | Chairman |  |
| Robert Richardson | Vice Chairman | Horam MFC |
| Jim Tucker | Treasurer | Wealden MAS |
| Rob Stanley | Web Master |  |
| Alex Cameron | Free Flight Competition Secretary |  |
| Bob Hart | A.S. co-ordinator | Hastings MFC |
| James Gordon | Member | Caterham & District MFC |
| Chris Searle | Secretary | Riddlesdown MFC |
| Terry  Knight | Member | CADMFC |
| David Allen | Member | EMHC |
| Alex Blackwell | Member | Leatherhead MFC |
| Jonathon Stubbs | Member | Concorde MFC |
| Norman Carter | Member |  |
| Paul Holmes | Member | Gravesend MFC |
| Tony Crawford | Member | Slope Soaring Sussex |
| Ray Evans | Member | BRFC |
| Stephen Hills | Member | Ashdown Forest Flyers |
| John Newbury | Member |  |
| Robin Strange | Member | SRFC |
| Roger Marples | Member | EDMAC |

**Apologies from;**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Area Role | Delegate for Club |
| Taj Manning | Education co-ordinator | Mid Sussex MFC |
| Mike Sun | A.C.E |  |

**Voting strength;**

It was confirmed that a voting quorum existed.

**Minutes of the previous GM;**

Agreed to be a true record.

**Matters arising from the previous meeting not covered in the meeting;**

None

**Officers reports;**

Chairman and Council Delegate

I attended the Areas meeting over Zoom back in May,

The subject of area grants was discussed with the subject of Area Treasures not submitting accounts and budgets in timely manner to enable final accounts and budget to be finalised by the Board. The South East and Midland Areas were two areas that had not submitted their budgets in time so would only get the statutory £600 this year.

The Club of the Year initiative was discussed which is now up and running after receiving approval from the Board. A number of clubs have already been nominated for the award. Andy will email all Clubs to remind them of Club of the Year initiative.

The Chairman asked the Delegates for the Areas without Outreach officers to go back to their Areas and do their best to recruit an Area Outreach Coordinator.

Chairman and Council Delegate continued

I announce at the last meeting that I would be standing down as Area Delegate at the AGM in November. I have been lucky to find a replacement fairly quickly. With the help of Taj Manning, Ian Watts. Who some of you met at the recent Area Scale competition. Due to work commitment Ian is unable to take on the roll fully till June 2026. I have arranged with Duncan the Areas Chairman that we can elect Ian as the Area delegate at the November AGM but I will stand in as his Alternate at the January and May areas Council meeting. Ian will be attending the September Areas Zoom meeting as an observer to get a feel of what the meetings entails.

Jim Tucker will be stepping down as area Treasure at the November AGM. Stephen Hills will be taking on the role. There is an item to Co-opt him on to the committee later in the meeting. This will enable the transition of Area Treasure to him.

I’d like to propose a vote of thanks to Jim for all his work in keeping the area in the black over the past many years.

I have been able to attend the vintage day run by the Eastbourne club and the Area Scale competition at the Hastings club. Both days were well attended and had good weather of not a bit blustery. I was unable to attended the Scale Helicopter day at the Levels 47 club but understand it was a successful event.

Vice Chairman;

Robert commented that the Area Scale Day had been a success with good attendance and good weather.

Secretary;

Nothing to report

Treasurer;

Jim announced that he would be retiring as Treasurer this year and Stephen Hills has offered to be a candidate in the election of a Treasurer at the AGM. A meeting will be arranged between Stuart, Jim and Stephen in September to discuss Area finances and budgets for next year.

After payment for the Area Scale Day expenses and including £600.00 allocated to the Area by the BMFA there is £3603.76 in the Bank account and £905.00 cash. Ashdown Forest Flyers have paid the licence of £633.74 on 12th May and ESSA paid  their £250 for this year’s Long Man on 5th August. SSA have already paid. Future expenses include a £30.00 donation to the Croydon Club for the Area Fun Fly.

The £150.00 income obtained by the sale of kits at this year’s indoor meeting will go forward to the cost of to the running next year’s indoor event. We will also run a raffle to help cover the cost of the hall hire. The remaining cash and cash from next year’s event will be put into the area bank account. The cost of the trophy's will be covered by the area. The BMFA are aware of our cash balance.

Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinator;

Since the last meeting there has been one test carried out by one of our Chief Examiners.

We were asked to carry out a drone with camera test by a father who has a son doing a Duke of Edinburgh award. We have been in touch with the father who gave me the contact details and are awaiting suitable dates from him to conduct the test.

Phil Penn who lives in Kingston upon Thames has asked to be considered as a Helicopter Area Chief Examiner. Bob has checked his CV and found it to be satisfactory with some “B” tests completed. Bob proposed accepting this application, seconded by Jim and carried unanimously. Bob will process the request.

The previous application for a “C” test awaits follow up from the candidate.

Education officer;

Taj will be retiring as Education officer this year due to other commitments.

He is working with Sussex University. Stuart and Ian Watts made a visit last month to do some training. Rob and Martin will be continuing to teach at Warden Park in September with Stuart re-joining them in October. Stuart, Rob and Norman attended an Enrichment Day where there were 23 models.

A member of the Caterham Club had requested some involvement with Scout/Guide group, James would find out more detail when he next meets the member.

Web Master;

Rob noted that he is not receiving information or reports about events that have taken place making the Web site look out of date. Regarding the Area Scale Day Stuart explained that the photographer was on holiday but would forward pictures to Stuart on her return. Stuart would also send Rob some pictures taken at the Eastbourne Vintage meeting. David Allen agreed to send pictures and information on the Eynsford MHC meeting on 7th September.

Free Flight Competition Secretary;

No problems have been encountered with the Ashdown Forest wardens.

6 out 8 meetings have been held.

Neil Allen has become the F1C World Champion.

**SE Area Events in 2026;**

Indoor competition

The hall is booked although the exact cost is unknown. Dave Goodwin will source the Trophies and the Area will pay for them. Dave Godwin and Terry Adams will arrange advertising.

This year without the sale of kits donated by Alex we would have made a loss. To avoid this next year a raffle will be organised. Prizes will be Wine, Chocolate (budgeted £50) or donations. The entrance fee will remain at £15 for flyers, £5 for spectators and free for juniors.

**Co-Opt Stephen Hills onto the Committee;**

Stephen has offered to stand for election as the Area Treasurer at the AGM. To ensure a smooth transition he will become a member of the Committee now if the meeting is in favour. The Treasurer is due to be elected this year along with Area Delegate, AS co-ordinator, Free Flight competition Secretary and Webmaster.

Stuart proposed Stephen’s committee membership, Robert seconded it and the meeting voted unanimously in favour.

**A.O.B**

There is an Area’s Council meeting on 11th September which precedes a Board meeting. Stuart summarised 2 proposals to be considered at the Area’s meeting. The South East Area agreed, after a short discussion, to endorse the Proposals. However, James thought the responsibilities of the existing RC Power Technical committee and a new Drone Technical committee may overlap and need defining.

The proposals are;

* 1. 1) To receive a proposal to create an additional Membership Class for Indoor Micro Drone Racers (commonly known as tiny whoops) and other small drones.
  3. 2) To receive a proposal to create an additional Technical Committee to look after the interests of our FPV/Drone flying members.

The Full Proposal can be found using this link;

<https://southeast.bmfa.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Agenda-Board-Meetings-Sept-2025.pdf>

James announced that there will be Fun Fly competition at Croydon Club on 21st September, details can be found here;

<https://events.bmfa.uk/event/south-east-area-fun-fly-competition-day>

Roger announced that EDMAC are having a “Family Day” on 14th September,

Details can be found here;

<http://www.edmac.org.uk/index.php/events>

James informed the meeting that there were many visitors, including families, at the Southern Model Show and a BMFA presence would have been useful. Stuart replied that previously results had been disappointing however if the Show has grown over the years some sort of BMFA stand might prove worthwhile and be considered for next year.

**D.O.N.M**

AGM; Wednesday 29th October at 19:30 followed by a GM.

The meeting closed at 20:44