



B.M.F.A. WESTERN AREA COMMITTEE

Unconfirmed Meeting Minutes of 13th January 2026

Virtual meeting held via Zoom

Those in attendance

S Kirby	Beaufort Model Flying Club (Area Chairman)
J. Harris	Bristol Radio Control MAC (Area Vice Chairman)
P Wilson	Bristol Bulldogs (Area Secretary)
J Robb	Beaufort Model Flying Club (Area Delegate)
S Rooms	Beaufort Model Flying Club (Area Treasurer)
J Stennard	Beaufort Model Flying Club (Area Outreach Officer)
A Meaney	Weston MFC
M Palmer	Woodspring Wings MAC
C Montagu	County Model Flying Club
N White	Bath Model Helicopter Club
R Spreadbury	Chedworth R C Flying Club
P Griffith	South Bristol Model Aircraft Club
B Silcocks	Bristol & West Model Aero Club
G Stokes	Minehead and District Model Club
B Surgison	North Wiltshire Model Aircraft Club
P Marsh	Cotswold Radio Control Society (Country Member representative)
J Smith	Western Area ACE

1. **Chairman's welcome, apologies, confirmation of voting confirm aob items.**

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the first Western Area meeting of 2026 and was pleased to see so many clubs represented.

Apologies were received from: -

P Haxell	Frome Model Flying Club
A Green	Prestbury Park Model Club
M Mathews	Medbourne Model Club

The Chairman then opened the formal meeting at 7.00 pm. Having confirmed the voting strength, the chairman then asked as per the constitution for any AOB items to be noted at the start of the meeting.

No AOB items were raised.

2. **Acceptance of the 2025 Minutes (28th August 2025).**

The unapproved minutes from the previous ordinary area meeting were offered for acceptance.

Proposed for acceptance by Bristol & West MFC and seconded by Weston MFC, they were accepted by all the Clubs who were present at the last ordinary meeting.

3. **Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising

4. **Actions and Activities of the BMFA Board.**

The Area Delegate had reviewed the meeting agenda for the Board meeting and there were no items needing direction on. The proposal for rolling membership had already been discussed before Christmas. The Area Delegate noted we had not shown the Area meeting agenda for the meeting due on 22 January 2026 and there was some confusion over the circulation.

(Post Meeting the Area Secretary has circulated the Area meeting Agenda and asked for any feedback prior to the Area meeting on 22nd January 2026)

5. **Unfilled vacancies.**

The Delegate from the Cotswold Radio Control Society (Peter Marsh) offered to be the Western Area **Country Membership Representative**. The meeting unanimously agreed and seconded Peter on to the western Area committee until the next AGM.

Still outstanding is a **Communications Officer**, preferably two but one would be better than none. If anybody would like to take on this roll please contact the Area Secretary.

6. **Achievement scheme.**

The Achievement scheme coordinator (Steve Kirby) gave an overview of the current status. There was a request for Examiner training from BRCMAC which had been postponed. The BRCMAC representative was asked to review the position and report back to the chairman. A Swindon club member was also supposed to complete a C scale test but was unable to complete, the chairman will liaise with the Swindon club as they are not at the meeting tonight. There were no other requests for examiner training but there is one request in for a train and test day on Saturday 28th March (with a contingency date of 11th April if the March date is impacted by weather) this will be at the BRCMAC field near Thornbury. Anybody wishing to attend please advise either the chairman Steve Kirby or John Harris to get booked in. The current focus is planned for fixed wing but if anybody would like anything else then we can probably accommodate this, if given enough warning.

BRCMAC asked if there was a scheduled invite they could circulate to some of the clubs in Worcestershire and Herefordshire. The Chairman agreed to liaise with BRCMAC (John Harris).

7. **Area Funding.**

The Chairman asked the Area Treasure to give the meeting an overview before we went into the details of the funding requests. The treasurer said we had a grant from the BMFA of £2000 and have spent some £1204 of it, therefore we have about £800 of that grant left. Overall, the Western Area is currently holding £9000 available to us.

The Treasurer confirmed we can easily agree to support all the current funding requests if we wish to do so. The chairman asked if we had received a budget request for 2026 /2027 from head office?

The Treasurer had not seen it yet. The chairman asked the clubs to try and look at what they are likely to request and send a simple one liner to the secretary so that we can get a good feel for when we have to generate a meaningful budget for the next financial year.

There were six requests for western area support circulated and a seventh request received at the meeting. The chairman pointed out that raising requests at the meeting while acceptable it deprived all the members the opportunity to review the requests prior to the meeting. All seven requests had been seen in previous years, so broadly they were acceptable provided the recipients understood that events needed to be open to others outside of that club. The clubs receiving support should also acknowledge it had been supported by the BMFA Western Area.

There followed a discussion on funding with the key points being; -

The Treasurer, Chairman and vice Chairman pointed out the current application this year exceed our nominal budget for the year. Although the western Area is holding a surplus it would over time be used up. The clubs requesting support were asked to review any opportunities to recover some costs if that was possible. The Cotswold Radio Control Society said it was being run by a new group this year and were looking at amending the charge for pilots that take part, an element of which is given to the farmer. They would see how it goes but of course it also depends on the weather on the day. On a good day it would be in the region of 200 members at each session. The Area Delegate asked if the opportunity arises could the clubs look at refunding some of the costs back to the Western Area.

The Woodspring wings representative asked for more details from the meeting regarding the type of support contained within the current applications and if there were any risks pertaining to the requests. This generated a good discussion and showed that requests fall into two types, public facing events like the cheese show and members style events like the Beaufort Charity day. This was very useful as we will need to potentially decide a guideline approach when we get in a position where we would not be able to support all the requests. Thank you to the Woodspring Wings MFC (Mark Palmer) for taking the time to fully review and question the submissions.

There was a proposal to accept the following requests funded at 100%

Wessex MFC / Lavington School STEM Event.	(£226.56.)
Frome MFC Cheese Show.	(£253.00.)
Beaufort MFC Aerospace Museum Display.	(£600.00.)
Beaufort MFC Open Charity Day.	(£190.00.)
Cocklebarrow Vintage RC Fly in.	(£540.00.)
Area Outreach Officer (John Stennard)	(£200.00.)
Added at the meeting	
Chedworth RCMFC fly in support for Portaloo	(£190.00)

Proposed by Beaufort MFC and seconded by BRCMAC and agreed by all the clubs present. The clubs were reminded that if the event takes place to please generate a request for payment to the Western Area Secretary (Simon Rooms)

8. Any other business.

No AOB were raised at this meeting.

9. Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 28th April 2026 at 7pm via Zoom

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.53pm