

SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LTD

(T/A British Model Flying Association)

TO ALL BOARD MEMBERS

There will be a Board Meeting on Saturday 24th January 2026,
to be held at **11.00 am** at 8 Merus Court, Leicester LE19 1RJ

All reports to the Meeting should be emailed to the Office Manager and posted to the Board on-line Forum as soon as possible and no later than Monday 19th January 2026

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies for Absence.
- 2 Request for permission to be absent.
- 3 To formally receive the Non-Executive Directors.
- 4 To verify the voting strength of the meeting.
- 5 Ratify Executive Directors co-opted since the last meeting.
- 6 To re-verify the voting strength of the meeting.
- 7 To:~
 - a Ratify Membership of the Areas Council.
 - b Note the names of the Area Chairmen.
 - c Ratify Membership of the Technical Council.
 - d Note the names of the Technical Committee Chairmen.
 - e Ratify the BMFA Delegates to other organisations.
 - f Ratify Board-appointed sub-committees and re-confirm membership.
 - g Ratify Board-appointed posts.
- 8 Correction and Adoption of the Minutes of the Board Meetings held on 16th September & 18th September 2025,.
- 9 Matters/Actions Arising from the meetings on 16th September & 18th September that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 10 Strategic and Topical Matters:
 - a Membership Strategy
 - b Finance Strategy
 - c Data Set
 - d Code of Conduct

- 11 To receive a report from the Finance Director to include:
 - a Membership and Financial position.
 - b Royal Aero Club
- 12 To receive a report from the Chairman.
- 13 To receive a report from the CEO to include:
 - a National Centre Update.
 - b CAA Team report.
 - c Computer Sub-Committee report.
 - d Club Support Officer's report.
 - e General Aviation Alliance (GAA).
 - f European Model Flying Union (EMFU).
 - g Airprox
 - h Sport & Recreation Alliance
 - i GAAC
- 14 To receive a report from the Vice-Chairman to include:
 - a Summary of reportable incidents.
 - b Report from the Safety Review Committee.
 - c GASCo
- 15 To receive a report from the Honorary Secretary.
- 16 To receive a report from the Members Director.
- 17 To receive a report from the Technical Director.
- 18 To receive a report from the Sporting Director to include:
 - a National Championships.
 - b UK Hosted World or European Championships.
 - c UK Hosted FAI World Cup or Open Internationals.
- 19 To receive a report from the Outreach Director to include:
 - a Education Working Group.
 - b Payload Challenge.
- 20 To receive a proposal from East Anglia Area (see full proposal attached)
- 21 To receive any reports from the following personnel (reports should be brief, preferably in writing and in advance):
 - a AS Controller
 - b BMFA Archivist.
 - c BMFA News Publisher
 - d PR Consultant

22 Any Other Business.

Please note: Items for Any Other Business should be sent by email to the Chairman or the Office Manager before the meeting commences.

Any questions to be asked under AOB that require detailed answers should be previously advised to the Office Manager to allow preparation of replies.

23 Date of next meeting.

Linda Harding
Office Manager
19th December 2025

Circulation: All Directors

Note: Provisional Minutes will be circulated no later than 21 days after the Board Meeting and will be published on the website within three working days of the Minutes being available.

~ Refer to the booklet “Information for the January Agenda” which will be circulated and posted on the Forum prior to the meeting.

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P R O P O S A L F O R M

Please use **BLOCK LETTERS** for handwritten proposals.

Indicate the appropriate Agenda: **BOARD / AREAS / TECHNICAL** (delete those which are inapplicable).

Proposals must reach the Chief Executive no later than the Monday, 26 days prior to the Council Meeting.

Use a separate sheet for long proposals or reasons and attach to this form. Refer to the notes on page 2 regarding the conditions for submitting proposals.

PROPOSAL: Implement a pro-rata BMFA membership fee structure for **new members only**, based on the number of months remaining in the calendar year at the time of joining: (see attached)

- The **pro-rata rate** applies **only in the first year** of membership.
- **Renewals** for all members, including those who joined part-way through the year, would revert to the **standard renewal process**, with full fees due on **1st January** each year

REASON:

Fairness to New Members

- Under the current system, new members who join mid-year are charged a simple reduced BMFA membership fee, regardless of how much of the year remains.
- This creates a **perceived penalty** and discourages late year joining.
- A pro-rata option would be seen as fairer and more encouraging for prospective members.

ELECTED OFFICERS/BOARD/COUNCIL MEMBER

Proposed by: _____ Post: _____ Signature of Officer/Board/Council Member: _____
Date: _____ *(Only sign if not submitted electronically)*

TECHNICAL COMMITTEES OR THE ACHIEVEMENT SCHEME REVIEW COMMITTEE (ASRC)

Proposed by: _____ Technical Committee / ASRC (delete as appropriate)
Date of Meeting: _____ Voting Results: For: _____ Against: _____ Abstentions: _____
Date: _____ Signature of Committee Secretary / ASRC Council Member: _____
(Only sign if not submitted electronically)

AREA COMMITTEES (Delete as appropriate)

Proposed by: **Ron Gray** Club: South Norfolk Signature of Club Delegate: _____
Seconded by: **Michael Woodhouse** Club: Vikings FFG Signature of Club Delegate: _____
(Only sign if not submitted electronically)
Date of Meeting: _____ Voting Results: For: 13 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1
Date: **6th November 2025** Area: _____

Pro-Rata Membership Proposal

Implement a pro-rata BMFA membership fee structure for **new members only**, based on the number of months remaining in the calendar year at the time of joining:

Month Joined Fee Charged

January - March	Full annual fee
April - June	$\frac{3}{4}$ of annual fee
July	6/12ths
August	5/12ths
September	4/12ths
October	3/12ths
November	2/12ths
December	Full fee includes the subsequent year

- The **pro-rata rate** applies **only in the first year** of membership.
- **Renewals** for all members, including those who joined part-way through the year, would revert to the **standard renewal process**, with full fees due on **1st January** each year.

Rationale

1. Fairness to New Members

- Under the current system, new members who join mid-year are charged a simple reduced BMFA membership fee, regardless of how much of the year remains.
- This creates a **perceived penalty** and discourages late year joining.
- A pro-rata option would be seen as fairer and more encouraging for prospective members.

2. Challenges of Rolling Memberships for clubs

- Rolling Membership creates **ongoing administrative burdens** for clubs, particularly Membership Secretaries.
- Clubs must regularly check the BMFA membership status of each individual, especially when their renewal dates vary.
- While BMFA has clarified that this is not necessary for insurance purposes, **club constitutions and rules often require active membership verification**.
- Over time, if new members adopt Rolling Membership, the club's roster becomes fragmented, requiring **individual tracking** of renewal dates for club members

3. Retention of Members within BMFA Affiliated Clubs

- By making BMFA membership easier and more consistent to manage, clubs are **less likely to explore alternative insurance providers**.
- A simpler, calendar-based renewal cycle encourages **ongoing BMFA affiliation** and simplifies reporting for clubs.

4. Easing Volunteer Burden

- Membership Secretaries already face difficulty in managing renewals, data tracking, and club administration.
- Keeping the majority of memberships aligned to a single renewal date (1st January) **minimizes workload** and supports the retention of club volunteers.

Conclusion

Introducing a **pro-rata fee structure** for new BMFA members strikes a balance between fairness, administrative efficiency, and long-term membership sustainability. It would:

- Remove the disincentive for mid-year joiners.
- Reduce the effect of the administratively burdensome Rolling Membership system.
- Help clubs better manage their rosters.
- Support club officials and volunteers by simplifying processes.

Recommendation

Adopt and implement the pro-rata BMFA fee structure for new members from the next membership cycle, with a review after 12 months to evaluate its impact on membership numbers and administration.