



# BRITISH MODEL SOLDIER SOCIETY

The National network of Military Modellers

## Minutes of the AGM held by Zoom. 21<sup>st</sup> February 2026.

This was the second official AGM meeting by zoom. The zoom AGM was chaired by our President Mark Gilbert. The meeting commenced at 14:10pm.

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The President, Mark Gilbert welcomed all 14 members who linked into zoom, again it had been well publicised, so it was a little disappointing that more members had not joined in the zoom meeting. Though attending the zoom meeting were Mark Gilbert (President), Paul Newman (Hon Treasurer), Julie Newman (Hon Secretary), Mark Blowers (Hon Editor), Terry O'Neill (area rep for Northants Military Modelling Society, now known as North Hants Scale Model Club). Ian Duthie (Chief Judge), James Opie, Barry Whitehead, Kelvyn Church, Stephen Dance, Jimmy Quinn, Paul Vickers, Bruce Harron & Brian McMahon.

Apologies were received from Gerald Balchin, Graham Cobb, Renato Fort, John Elliott, Roger Dixon, Andy Statham, Ian Groves & James Sloane.

### 2. In Remembrance

As on previous meetings we started with a minute's silence held in remembrance of members who had passed during the year that the Society had been made aware of:

They were-

David Anthony Boyd (Chester), Richard Gilroy (Dorset), Barry Lomas (West Yorkshire), & Wal Vernon (London).

### 3. Previous AGM Minutes

Minutes from the AGM held February 2025 as published in Bulletin issue 2 of 2025 were sent by email and those on zoom accepted them as a true and accurate record.

These were proposed by Paul Vickers and seconded by Mark Blowers.

There were no Matters Arising which were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

### 4. Officers' Reports

- a) **Hon Secretary.** Nothing further to add to her report for 2025, and there were no questions from the floor.
- b) **Hon Treasurer.** Again, nothing further to his report for 2025, and there were no further questions from the members on the finances at this point.  
Both reports were published on the website 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026 along with the other officers' reports.

**Motion:** - To accept the accounts as published by the Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary report

Proposed by: Paul Vickers, seconded by: Terry O'Neill & Mark Blowers.

- c) **Hon Editor.**
- d) **Publicity.**
- e) **Support Services.**
- f) **National Collection Curator.**
- g) **Archivist.**
- h) **Webmaster.**

**Motion:** - To accept all officers reports as published on the BMSS website 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

Proposed by:- Terry O'Neill, seconded by Paul Vickers.

## 5. Sub Committees

a) **Fellowships and Accolades.** At the time of the AGM there had been no recommendations for accolades. However, one nomination for a Fellowship had been received. This Fellowship was awarded to Bruce Harron and he accepted on the day of the AGM. Well done to Bruce Harron who had worked hard for years as the Area rep for Ealing /West London BMSS and for all his hard work at the Annual Show for the competitions. This would be awarded to Bruce at the Annual Show in April 2026.

b) **Competitions.** Ian Duthie, Chief Judge updated the members about the competitions for the Annual Show, thanking all judges in advance of the day for their role and support to Ian. Ian explained that the competition rules had not been looked at for some considerable time. There was a subcommittee looking at the competition rules and categories it did need to be revised again for the modern age. They had introduced an award for displays over the last few years (rather than multi awards given out), this had worked well. The result would be if there was one person with multiple entries in the class they would only be awarded 1 medal for the best model on display. The Annual was an open competition, open to non-members and joint entries were welcome. A question was raised as to having more aircraft / or a class for this. This could be looked at as the Chief Judge saw no reason why not. The President thanked him and his team of helpers for his/their continual work at the annual show.

## 6. Election of the President, Officers, and committee for 2026

Mark Gilbert as President for the Society 2026.

The role of President, Officers and committee was proposed by Paul Vickers, and seconded by Brian McMahon, & Bruce Harron.

They were proposed and elected on mass and agreed unanimously.

## **7. Annual Show 2026**

The Hon Treasurer updated the members that the Annual Show for 2026, was all on schedule, same venue as the previous year in Reading Salvation Army Hall. Unfortunately, due to traders retiring, or unable to attend and more recently the passing of Alan Corkhill from Guidelines, trader numbers looked like they might be down, however, the Hon Treasurer had managed to secure two new traders. 3D Gizmo, and HB models. However, the Hon Treasurer still felt we had a good spread of traders to attract people. As one of the retiring traders had been a base supplier, concern was raised that this area would be missing from the show. The Hon Treasurer reassured the members that this was being looked into and there would be a supply of bases at the show. The venue had all been paid for and although there was the issue on the car park not being available last year, we managed to work the drop off points and disabled bays for people who needed it.

As it had been the 90<sup>th</sup> year the gift to all - a carrier bag with goodies seemed to go down well, and the kind donation from Airfix for the juniors 'make & take' Thanks to all who supported in this way.

## **8. National Collection – the future.**

The Hon Treasurer gave the members an update on the National Collection. The National collection had been gradually decreasing by the support of holding the BMSS Auctions the previous year. Pictures of the best models had been taken and displayed on the website. Again, an appeal had gone out to the members if they had previously given models to the collections to come forward to claim them. However, there had been very little if any response on claiming models. The Auction evenings brought the Society in approximately £11k. Now there was approximately 20 boxes left, again these would be taken to shows around for people to purchase them should they wish. This will first go to the Annual show for members to buy.

The Society still had in its possession the rare no 73 set, this was deemed to be high in value and the members at the AGM thought that it could be valued and perhaps be publicised to possibly sell off at the auction scheduled for November 2026.

## **9. Honoraria**

Motion: To pay the Honoraria to the Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer & Hon Editor at the same rate as last year (£300 per officer).

This was proposed by Stephen Dance and seconded by Paul Vickers and Bruce Harron, and agreed by all members attending the meeting.

## **9. AOB**

Member Barry Whitehead was concerned looking at the financial figures about the fall in membership and asked if the Society had a plan moving forward to ensure the Society could /would be financial stable over the next few years and planning for the future. Did the committee set themselves targets for the year. These were fair questions, and the committee did recognise that there could be financial issues in years to come if we did not plan or put something into place sooner rather than later.

Another question was raised from another member about the need to have a magazine, as this is a very expensive cost to the Society. The feedback was that the magazine was a very positive contribution to the Society and its members.

The challenge that the Society faces is the decline in the membership. Some thoughts came up with: will the Society have to look at 'fantasy' categories?; increase revenue by increasing subs?; do we need an Annual show?

In reply the Hon. Secretary informed the meeting that the constitution states that the Society has to hold an Annual show.

However, the members were informed that the Committee were currently looking at an updated /amended constitution which would be presented back to the AGM 2027 for agreement. This had just been looked at from a legal perspective and now the Committee needed to work on it to fit the needs of the Society.

It was asked if the Society could have a look at dates for next year's AGM to try to ensure it doesn't clash with other events around the area.

Hon Editor asked members if they might consider helping out at the IPMS show in Telford in November, they would not need to be there the whole time, but the more help they got the better. Looking at approximately 8 helpers over the weekend.

Meeting closed at 15:40pm. 14 members of the Society attended.