

Report of SAM35 Committee meeting held at the Old Warden Guest House on 13th May 2017

Present: Brian Lever (President), Ian Lever (Chairman), Andrew Housden (Secretary), Colin Hutchinson (Editor), Andy Green (Webmaster), Alistair Simpson (PRO), Steve Betney, Dick Roberts, Bill Longley, and Peter Fox. Andy Brough and Julio Isidro (SAM74 President) were in attendance.

- 1) **Apologies** were received from Kevin Richards, John Ashmole and Tony Goodger
- 2) **The Minutes** of the previous meeting had been electronically circulated and were approved as a true record; proposed by Bill Longley and seconded by Dick Roberts.
- 3) **Matters Arising** There were no matters arising.
- 4) **Treasurers Report** Kevin Richards was unable to attend this meeting but had emailed some basic figures to be presented to the Committee. The Current Account balance is £19,950, and there is a reserve of £23,700 on deposit. The only outstanding debt is the bill for printing and mailing the March issue of SAM Speaks, so it is possible to estimate where the Society's finances will be at the end of 2017: £8,000 will remain in the Current Account with reserves unchanged. The final accounts for the year ending 31st December 2016 have not been received from the auditor, but it is anticipated that there will be a trading loss of £1500-£2000, due mainly to the relatively large number of members who did not renew; at the end of the year the membership was 55 down on 2015, and this alone represents an income decline of just over £1500. The actual drop would have been much larger had we not been successful in recruiting some 38 new members during the year. So far in 2107 28 new members have been found, due in no small part to the inclusion of colour in the magazine and new contributors such as Mike Goulette covering radio topics. The current membership is 660, but there were over 700 at the end of 2016.
- 5) **Subscriptions for 2018** The Committee agreed with the Treasurer's views that these could remain at the 2017 level, there being sufficient surplus funds to cover any unexpected rise in postal or print costs. Brian lever proposed that this recommendation be adopted and was seconded by Dick Roberts.
- 6) **Election of Officers** The Committee was reminded by the Secretary that the change to the AGM date plus the point at which previous committee members had resigned meant that some committee members are overdue for re-election and others would have stood for re-election in 2016 had the AGM been in November. All the committee members present, with the exception of Nick Zotov who agreed to act as webmaster for one year, stated that they were willing to continue in office. Article 7 of the constitution says that *"A candidate for election must be proposed and seconded by members in good standing and with*

his or her consent. Where a serving Officer wishes to stand for a further term, a proposer and seconder shall not be required provided there is no other candidate for the same post.” Additionally, “To minimise disruption, one third of the Society’s Officers shall stand down each year after having served their normal term and a general election for their posts shall be held at the Annual General Meeting”. In view of the difficulty in attracting members to serve on the committee, and there being no nominations for any of the committee positions (with the exception of John Ashmole as FF Secretary and Andrew Green as Webmaster), it was agreed that one third of the committee should be notionally re-elected at the 2016 meeting (ratified at the AGM), these being those longest in post; accordingly, Bill Longley, Ian Lever, Steve Betney and Tony Goodger were re-elected at the July 2016 AGM. Andrew Housden, Kevin Richards, Colin Hutchinson and Dick Roberts will be formally re-elected at the 2017 AGM and Brian Lever and Peter Fox in 2018 assuming they are able and willing, at that date, to continue. Kevin had expressed his willingness to continue as did Dick Roberts, Andrew Housden and Colin Hutchinson.

- 7) **SAM Speaks** Colin Hutchinson reported on the beneficial use of colour and that no more “complaints” had been received in relation to the change in cover design. The provision of copy remains a problem, so to this end could members of the Committee write about 1000 words outlining their aeromodelling history, this being used as and when needed as filler. The possible inclusion of more plans was discussed with reference made to the many obscure designs available from Derek Scott. It was agreed that an article giving details of where plans may be obtained would be of interest, and Andy Brough offered to undertake this task. Also, “how to and where to get it” articles are well received - witness the item on a radio “Senator” using rubber and electric power that Ian Lever had recently submitted. In addition, a full description of Buckminster Lodge is needed, and many members might be interested to learn of the many You-Tube links to aeromodelling topics that can now be accessed via the Internet.

- 8) **Website** Andy Green reported on his first year as webmaster. Some of the problem encountered included a Google blacklisting due to an inappropriate keyword, and the re-assignment of servers by the web host; also, links to other websites can be problematic with Google because of potentially infected portals. These difficulties have now been overcome since when there has been eight months of stability. However, enhancements are needed combined with a more frequent refresh, the latter requiring more photographs with explanatory captions; also, there needs to be better coordination of the events listing between the website and what appears in Speaks. In this context, Brian Lever commented that he had made extensive use of the website to promulgate new events, an action that has proved to be most effective: viz the Nipper, Bee Bug and Phantom competitions in 2017. Ian lever thanked Andy for his efforts and the smooth handover from Nick Zotov.

9) **Membership** This is covered in Item 4) above

10) **Publicity** Alastair Simpson explained that personal circumstances had limited the amount of time he could devote to publicity and asked that in view of this the Society recruit someone else to take on the PRO mantle. In this context, Ian Lever reported that Roger Brown, one-time owner of DB Sport and Scale, had expressed an interest in helping with publicity. It was noted that SAM gets good mileage via articles in Aeromodeller, although there had been problems with the inclusion of copy in BMFA News; also the new sweatshirts are a good publicity vehicle. However, the promised "flyer" (leaflet) that could be included in the kits sold by Belair and the Vintage Model Company had not materialised, an issue that must be addressed with urgency; this is a task that Brian Lever said he would discuss with Roger Brown. Staying with leaflets, Ian Lever explained that he had produced over 500 on his own initiative that would be placed on the windscreens of vehicles parked at Old Warden Aerodrome on Sunday 14th May to outline the details of a SAM35 Fly-in at Buckminster Lodge on the 2nd and 3rd August 2017 SAM35.

11) **2016/2017 Event Reports**

- a) Free Flight: Although John Ashmole was unable to attend the Committee meeting he had e-mailed a report that Ian lever read. In it he said that a full listing of FF events was now on the website and the first of these "March Wynde" had attracted nearly a dozen competitors, sufficient for the event to be repeated in 2018. John had made a personal visit to Buckminster Lodge and this had enabled him to formulate the type of competition he could initially run there; these include, but are not limited to, 36 inch hi-start glider, and all-in precision for rubber, electric and power models. There had been a major error on the BMFA entry form for the FF Nationals for the SAM35 events, but this has now been corrected. Additionally, SAM35 has been invited to run FF events at Brumfly.
- b) Control Line: Peter Fox had no formal report but he commented on the success Brian lever had enjoyed with his control-lines competitions such as autogyro, Bee Bug, Phantom authenticity and Nipper. Additionally, there is growing interest in electric CL, and the Leicester MAC have two control line circuits available that need greater usage, although noise constraints limit the size of engine that can be employed.
- c) Radio: Bill Longley reported that 2016 had been quite a good year, with a total of 16 contestants taking part in 10 events, (3 being cancelled due to poor weather). An experiment was tried in having all events, except those at the Nationals and Old Warden, as decentralised options, which enabled contestants to fly at local venue and then either forward their results by text or email; this was most satisfactory and is being repeated for 2017/18. Bill then listed a number of prospective VPD events to be held at Old Warden, Pontefract, Middle Wallop and Buckminster Lodge, and gave the results of the Tasma Trophy 2016, the winner of which was Wes Denton.

12) **Yearbook** There has been no progress on the next Yearbook as Roger Symmonds is not in a position to continue with its compilation due to health issues. There is therefore a need for a new compiler/editor, and each Committee member was asked to think of someone who potentially could write an article as Yearbook material. Brian Lever said that he would ask Roger how much material he currently has.

13) **Sales and Wants on the Website** It had been proposed that the "Sales and Wants" currently on the inside back cover of Speaks go onto the website. It was agreed that this should be done, but the entries will be deleted after one month; the paper version is to remain for the benefit of those members who do not have Internet access.

14) **Life Membership** There were no nominations for Life Membership.

15) **Future Events**

a) Buckminster Lodge: The flyer produced by Ian lever describing the SAM Fly-in at Buckminster has been covered above under item 10). Andrew Housden said he would look into the possibility of a local company providing food; also at this event he will oversee the ROG area of the runway with Andy Brough being responsible for safe RTM, Bill Longley radio, John Ashmole FF Scale, and Peter Fox/Brian Lever CL. The SAM Gala scheduled for the 1st October had been welcomed by the BMFA, but the events to be run would be decided in the light of experience gained from the earlier fly-in.

b) Old Warden: SAM organised events will carry on as before at the meetings organised by Modelair.

c) Middle Wallop: Brian lever explained David Lovegrove has organised one-day (Sunday) events at Middle Wallop but stressed that apart from some control-line these were strictly radio only.

16) **Any Other Business** Nothing was raised.

17) **Date and Venue of Next Committee Meeting** Possibly Buckminster Lodge, 2018