

SAM 35 Chairman's Report 2018

In my last 3 reports I identified 3 major challenges facing aeromodellers in general and the Society in particular.

- 1 Access to Flying Sites
- 2 The age profile of the membership
- 3 The difficulty in recruiting and keeping committee members, event runners and planners.

I think these still remain the main challenges facing us, but there have been developments during the last year which lead me to be cautiously optimistic about our future.

Access to Flying sites

This is still an area of concern. Many members have found loss of site where we can fly continues.

The new regulations on unmanned aerial vehicles will mean that sites where unrestricted flying is to take place will need to be registered. BMFA have taken the lead on this which is helpful but the precise process for registering sites is not yet clear and its impact on the availability of sites unknown. It is unlikely to increase their availability.

SAM35 was again involved in a successful BMFA Free Flight Nationals in May, where we ran many successful competitions. We have this years BMFA Power Nationals in August to look forward to.

There is still however doubt over the availability of Barkston Heath for events in the future but we are making use of the opportunities to use Barkston when it is available.

Bill Longley was successful in gaining a license to run Radio and Control Line events at Middle Wallop this year and those held so far have been well attended. Further events will be held on the 4th and 5th of August, 8th and 9th September and 6th and 7th of October. Thanks are due to Bill for his efforts in securing the license following the pioneering work of David Lovegrove last year.

We continue to benefit from our relationship with Modelair at Old Warden. The Mayfly, Scale Weekend and Festival of Flight events are supported and enjoyed by many of our members. Concerns about safety have however meant we have had to take a more disciplined approach to our activities and in some cases we are no longer able to run events for larger engined speed models

The BMFA National Flying Site at Buckminster has developed rapidly. The amount of work undertaken since we first visited has been astonishing. SAM35 was invited to bid for use of the site to run events and this year we bid successfully to run 4 events in April, June and July and August

To summarise despite restrictions we are running more events than ever before.

The Age Profile of the Membership

The threat to the continued existence of the Society as a result of its declining membership remains an issue

Kevin's report shows that we continue to lose members, however this is balanced by new members. It appears therefore that our strategy is keeping membership stable and the outlook for the future of the Society is positive.

Roger Brown has secured the agreement of all the real aeromodelling kit manufacturers to include a leaflet encouraging SAM35 membership. This should have a positive effect.

We continue to recruit members at events when they see our activities and have a chance to see the quality of SAM35 Speaks. Andy Brough is producing a stand on which we can display copies of 'Speaks, application forms and other publicity materials.

Invitations to join by existing members are often successful keep a few application forms handy.

Finance

Our Treasurer's report for the year shows that we continue to be financially stable and in a good position to develop further. I would like to thank Kevin for his work in keeping the society on a firm financial footing.

Recruiting People to Run the Society and Events

We are fortunate to have people who are prepared to give up their time to help run the Society on our behalf.

We have an excellent committee working on your behalf. All our activities would not happen without them. I would like to thank particularly committee members who have continued to do a vital job despite difficult personal circumstances.

We were fortunate last year in adding Roger Brown as our PRO and having Mike May volunteer to produce a Yearbook.

Andy Green has continued to develop and maintain our website, which is now a really useful window on the Society and its full range of activities.

SAM35 Speaks is the cornerstone of the Society, it is why many members join and is fantastic value for money. Colin Hutchinson our editor, has transformed SAM35 Speaks into an easy to read magazine that is arguably the best aeromodelling magazine available.

We are fortunate to have an active, competent and dedicated committee working on our behalf and I look forward to continuing to work with them to keep the Society an active force in preserving real aeromodelling.