

SAM 35 Chairman's Report 2019

In my last 4 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. We now have an additional concern namely the recent proposals from the CAA on the registration of people responsible for and using drones.

If implemented these proposals may impact particularly on some of our members. Especially those who are not computer or smart phone users.

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 will again be involved in the BMFA Free Flight Nationals in May, and the BMFA Power Nationals in August.

For the moment the availability of Barkston Heath looks more secure than recently but we know from experience that changes in MOD plans can have a negative impact at short notice.

Bill Longley was again successful in gaining a license to run Radio and Control Line events at Middle Wallop this year. on the 11/12 May, 15/16 June, 13/14 July, 3/4 August 21/22 September and 5/6 October. Thanks are due to Bill for his efforts in securing the

We continue to benefit from our relationship with Modelair at Old Warden. We will be able to enjoy again this year The Mayfly, Scale Weekend and Festival of Flight. Our more disciplined approach to safety last year was well received and we must maintain this approach so as not to endanger our use of Old Warden.

We continue to be welcome at the BMFA National Flying Centre at Buckminster. We ran a successful early spring meeting in April and this AGM coincides with this years Retro-Fest which has been promoted earlier and in more places than

last years event. I hope this has paid dividends. We will also be running an event on the 19/20 of October.

Members continue to be involved in events at Pontefract, Cocklebarrow and Ilminster.

To summarize despite headwinds we continue to be involved in a significant number of events. Access to local sites , particularly for free flight remains a problem

The Age Profile of the Membership

Kevin's report shows that we continue our efforts to recruit new members is bearing fruit. The usual turnover of members has been more than balanced by new recruits which means that we had a slight increase in membership at the end of last year.

Thanks are due to Roger Brown in his getting the agreement of real aeromodelling kit manufacturers to include a leaflet encouraging SAM35 membership. This has had a positive effect with over a third of members coming through this route.

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 has produced 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.

I was pleased to be presented, on behalf of the SAM35 Committee, with the Ray Malstrom Trophy by the President of the BMFA. It was awarded to the SAM35 Committee for its services to model flying outside the framework of the BMFA between 2010 and 2018.

Thanks are due to Mike and Jane May did an excellent job of producing SAM35 Yearbook 16 which was immediately in great demand and continues to sell consistently.

The collaboration of Kevin Richards and Alex Phinn in producing The SAM35 and SAM50 engines generated a lot of interest and demand and revenue for the society. It also spawned a pretty new design from Dave Banks, Miss35, to suit the engine and a new multi task competition with the SAM35 engine with serial number 35 as the prize.

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 remains the cornerstone of the Society, it is why many members join and is fantastic value for money. Colin Hutchinson, supported by our creative and knowledgeable contributors continues to produce a consistently excellent, 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.

CAA Registration

The proposal to introduce a system to register and test flyers of and people responsible for model aeroplanes threatens to discourage people from participating in the hobby. This is particularly true if the user has no experience of computers and smart phones.

We have been kept informed by the BMFA of their efforts to negotiate less onerous arrangements for their members. We have also made submissions to the CAA and the relevant minister to bring to their attention the likely negative impact on SAM35 members of the proposals.

I hope that common sense will prevail and that whatever system is finally agreed will not place too heavy a burden on our aspect of the hobby.