

## **Report on the 40th SAM35 AGM, held at the BMFA Visitor Centre, Buckminster, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

As with previous years, here is a synopsis of this meeting which was held in the Events Building at the BMFA Visitor Centre, Buckminster. The President, Brian Lever, welcomed members to the meeting. A short silence was observed for those members no longer with us.

Committee members present were Brian Lever (President), Ian Lever (Chairman), Kevin Richards, Andrew Housden, Andy Brough, Steve Betney, Bill Longley, Alex Phin, Colin Hutchinson and Andy Green plus 19 Members. Apologies were received Roger Brown, Mike May, Tony Goodger, Wes Denton and John Ashmole. The minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> AGM were approved, and there were no matters arising from them. Reports were received from the Chairman, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, CL Secretary, FF Secretary and RC Secretary:

- 1) *The Chairman*, Ian Lever commented that in his last six reports he had discussed the challenges of access to flying sites, the age profile of our membership and the difficulty in recruiting and keeping committee members, as well as event planners/organisers. These are unchanged, but there is now the added impact of Covid and CAA regulation relating to unmanned aerial vehicles. Double vaccination has, however, made it possible to run some events at Old Warden and Buckminster, the latter now having a tether car track that was built on the efforts of, and funding from, SAM35 members. The CAA rules have resulted in SAM being asked to monitor the use of free flight and radio trimmed models at Old Warden to ensure compliance with rules concerning engine size, model weight and insurance. Regular appeals for a webmaster have not been successful and so Ian is undertaking the basic data input under the aegis of Andy Green who has also provided some basic training to Malcolm Davis; however, the necessary technical expertise is lacking. Finally, Ian commented on the adoption of CAA registration, the healthy financial standing of the Society, and thanked all the magazine contributors for their input that is ably edited by Colin Hutchinson.
- 2) *The Treasurer*, Kevin Richard circulated the accounts for 2020 together with budget predictions for 2022. In terms of membership, 2020 had been a good year but thus far 2021 shows a significant decline (34) despite some new members and about 12 renewals from lapsed members. The Vintage Model Company continues to include SAM35 leaflets in their kits to aid recruitment. The effect of Covid seems to be limited, but there is evidence of lethargy on the part of those renewing their membership. Subscription income increased by £1284 and engine sales totalled 88 units; there was no event income because of the pandemic and 492 Yearbooks remain unsold. The committee agreed that they should now be offered at £5.00 and sales to Australia are a possibility albeit with high postage costs; it was suggested by a member that some could be sold at BMFA Buckminster. Overall, there was an operating surplus of £1853 for 2020. A question was raised about rolling membership for those who join late in the year, and Kevin explained how we handle this. He then asked the members present about the payment of subscriptions by BACS (ie electronic banking) and

it was agreed that he should pursue this. Also, Manny Williamson had asked if SAM35 would like to finance the purchase of a large TV for use in Reception at Buckminster on which to show aeromodelling films. This proposal was supported by Andy Brough and a show of hands. Finally, at the year end, the Society had nett assets valued at £52,798 of which £23,874 is on deposit so there is a need to decide how this would be distributed in the event of being unable to continue. Possible recipients include BMFA Buckminster, the RAF Benevolent Fund, etc. It was agreed that Kevin would produce a short-list on which the committee could vote, with the Constitution being amended accordingly.

- 3) *The Editor*, thanked all the contributors for their efforts and repeated the plea for new material. He commented that the magazine had helped a lot of members during the tedium of nearly two years' Covid lockdown and restrictions.
- 4) *The Control Line Secretary*, Mike May had tendered his apologies, so his report was read to the members by Ian Lever. In it Mike, ably assisted by the "Quality Inspector", commented that everyone seemed determined to make the best of a bad situation. It was a shame that only a few meetings could go ahead, but in Dorset he managed some under-the-radar test flying of a MiG15 and Bf 109T in unexpected venues when the rules allowed, as many other modellers did, staying local and flying solo or in a bubble with family or a nominated friend. For those who couldn't do that, there was a lot of interest in Round-The-Pole and back-garden C/L. Buckminster was opened under strict social distancing rules over the latter part of the Summer (good for day tripper model fliers) but it wasn't until the Voetsak Tribute event, run under a 'single model in the air' regime, at Old Warden in September that there was a competition on which to report. Voetsak Tribute continued to justify its role as the new premier SAM35 C/L competition by providing (from the Buckminster Octoberfest) our second and last competition report of the year. Additionally, there was a good deal of useful C/L information exchanged around the SAM35 world throughout the pandemic via the website as well as the C/L 'Wind in the Wires' column.
- 5) *The R/C Secretary*, Bill Longley explained that because of the Covid situation in 2020 very few competitions had been held and the Tasma Trophy was in obeyance. However, it had been possible to run an Evening League which was eventually won by Colin Hutchinson. Bill then outlined some of the VPD and associated activities that had been run in 2021, including the Webster Shield for Super Sixty racing that was won by Tom Airey, spot landing and Miss 35 competitions, SAM35 events at Cacklebarrow and Sparkford, and evening decentralised events for the SAM League Championship Shield, the latter being won by Jeff Fellows; this was presented by Brian Lever. Jeff also received the All Up Last Down Trophy.
- 6) *The F/F Secretary*, John Ashmole was unable to attend the AGM and his report was read to the Members by Brian Lever. In it he commented that we were lucky in 2020 with the weather: after the inevitable late start, the "Ajax and Achilles" (Buckminster) was excellent, the "Rubber Bowden" at Old Warden was a really good contest in wind, and the final small models event at Buckminster again was well supported in the most neutral conditions imaginable. Innovations for 2021 were the "Power Precision" contest at the three day summer meeting

(on the day that Manny said was the best ever so far for Buckminster) and shortly afterwards the new "Rubber Aces" meeting at the same venue. In the pipeline for 2022 will be a "Scale Bowden". Reliance on Old Warden and Buckminster is becoming evident: various difficulties regarding larger venues tend to mitigate towards this effect. Fortunately, our relationship with both venues is excellent. The Nationals did not happen this year: hopefully normality will be restored next May. The calendar has tended to incline towards the later part of the year: this is because of slightly more predictable weather, and the length of grass at Buckminster prior to harvesting. Importantly, the numbers of participants seem to be keeping up; for example, the Cloud Tramp contest which used just as a back-up to this year's "Ajax and Achilles" drew eighteen entrants. John went on to say that he had written extensively for SAM Speaks, as well as BMFA News in a more generalised style and occasionally for Aeromodeller. He has also answered Martin Dilly's rather narrow interpretation of "How to start in Free Flight Competition" in AM with a homily on how it should be done, but felt that little headway was being made with the FFTCI do not feel, however, that I am making any headway with the FFTC in relation to sport flying. "Area Postals" have largely died out. The calendar for 2022 will largely shape itself, now that so many events have become "regulars."

7) The PRO, tendered his apologies, and in his absence his report was presented by Ian Lever. Roger remarked that 2020 had been a fairly quiet year due to the restrictions of Covid. However, his letter to Club Chairmen in BMFA News, December 2020, resulted in responses from the Chairmen of 14 Clubs. They received several copies of SAM Speaks and some membership leaflets. Details of the Clubs who responded were forwarded to Kevin Richards so he can monitor the number of new members joining as a result of this activity. There has been a steady out flow of leaflets to kit manufacturers over the year and we still have about 5k left. The SAM brand has appeared fairly regularly in Aeromodeller and RCM&E due to the good work of various competition directors, and Roger is proposing an article about SAM 35 for hopeful inclusion in RCM&E and Aeromodeller next year to try to refresh interest in new membership. At the end of this report Ian announced that Roger would be standing down as PRO due to family commitments.

**Membership Subscriptions**, The Treasurer proposed that the membership subscription rates for the year beginning 1st January 2022 remain at £27.50 (£29.00 if paying by Paypal) for UK members and £48.50 for those abroad. This suggestion was agreed by a unanimous show of hands.

**Election of Examiner of Accounts** It was proposed that Lyon & Co continue as Examiner. The proposal was supported by Brian Lever and seconded by Andy Brough, as well as a unanimous show of hands.

**Election of Officers** Andrew Housden briefly reiterated the three-year rule for tenure of a committee member. Mike May, Andy Brough and Brian Lever are eligible for re-election; all agreed to continue in office, although Brian had said that he would not continue past this forthcoming term. These positions were formally ratified by a show of hands.

**Declaration and Election of 2021/2022 Committee** All the Committee members have expressed a willingness to continue in service and the meeting accepted the proposal that they should do so by a unanimous show of hands.

**Tethered Car Secretary** Steve Betney suggested that a tethered car secretary be found and is searching for a candidate. For the time being he will act de facto in the role. The committee agreed that such a position be created in view of our involvement with the Buckminster facility, the position was ratified by a show of hands.

**Website** Ian Lever reported that he was now running the website on a limited basis as Andy Green had effectively stood down as webmaster some two years ago but continued to provide limited support. This raises the question as to whether SAM35 should seek professional help with the technical side of web management in relation to maintenance and updates which are driven by security concerns. Ian agreed to investigate such costs and circulate his findings to the committee.

**Life Membership** There are currently two vacancies for life membership – one existing and the other following the death of Dick Roberts. Kevin Richards had suggested that Dick's wife Babs be given an Honorary membership (ie life membership) in view of her continuing activity with the tether car events and long-time service supporting Dick. This was unanimously agreed by the committee – Brian Lever will write to her with the news. Additionally, Andy Brough nominated Colin Hutchinson as a life member as a reward for his sterling service in producing SAM Speaks; again, this was unanimously supported. Both positions were ratified at the 2021 AGM.

**SAM Transfers** This item was raised by Brian Lever who commented that he has run out of SAM transfers and stickers. Kevin Richards said that he has been unable to find a supplier of waterslide transfers, but Alex Phin remarked that he could supply these in three sizes laser printed onto decal paper and is looking at the provision of peelable vinyl stickers. The BMFA offer these to their members and Brian agreed to liaise with them regarding the supply of some with the SAM logo.

**Any Other Business** Ian Lever mentioned the Miss 35 competition instigated to coincide with the SAM35 engine. This event finished on AGM Day with Colin Hutchinson the eventual winner of SAM engine number 35. Paul Hogan then addressed the members using a PowerPoint presentation concerning plans for celebrating the SMAE centenary in 2022, beginning in July and hopefully incorporating substantial support from SAM35. These include:

- The FF Nats to be a Festival of Free Flight
- A Flight-Fest in May
- Area Events
- A promotional 10-minute film
- A full week of events at Buckminster

**Date and Venue for the 41<sup>st</sup> AGM.** To be advised, but most probably at BMFA Buckminster.