

Southern Area www.sabmfa.org.uk

### Minutes Ratified at meeting dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019

## Minutes of Southern Area Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018

#### Venue: - The Ship Inn 41 Old Redbridge Road Southampton Hampshire SO15 ONN

Start Time: 8.00 hrs pm

Present:	S Area Office	Club
Tony Butterworth FSMAE Ken Gale Terry Weeks Peter Turley David Smith Peter Willis Stuart Simpson	Chairman Vice Chairman/ ASC Co-ordinator Hon Treasurer/RC S/F Hon Sec & PRO Area Delegate RC Comp Sec. Fixed wing South Hampshire Operations Support	Waltham Chase Helipad AMC/ASF & Skylarks Delegate CADMAC Positive Pitch Wimborne MAC Hayling Helis/CADMAC
1.0	Apologies for Absence	
Roger Newman Richard Sharman	Free Flight Comp Sec	Bournemouth MAC BMFC chairman

#### 2.0 Review of the Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018 Area Meeting

The Previous Minutes were reviewed and accepted, after minor change.

Proposed: - P. Willis Seconded: - T. Weeks

#### 2.1 Committee Members listing update

2.1.1 Photo of P. Willis required for web Site Committee page

#### 3 Matters arising from previous minutes

#### 3.1 (Agenda Item 3.1) BMFA Long Service Award for 2018

Nominations for 2018 will be considered later in the year.

Action T. Butterworth

Action Complete

#### 3.2 (Agenda Item 3.2) Merryfield, Middle Wallop and Odiham Aerodromes.

This action is to now review the effect of the Hatton report on Merryfield and Middle Wallop aerodromes.

Points of concern are: -

*Merryfield* Limited access only as previously reported.

*Middle* Wallop Middle Wallop: Change of airfield management has taken place. SAM1066 are no longer permitted to hold free flight events on the airfield.



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Sailsbury Plain	Salisbury Plain – Area 8: Access is available to hold Free Flight events, with permission via BMFA FFTC. SAM1066 has held one such event in 2016 SAM 1066 events planned for 2018 are 17 <sup>th</sup> June, 16 <sup>th</sup> July, 30 <sup>th</sup> September and Crookham Gala 2 <sup>nd</sup> September.
Odiham	The licence for the Odiham Gala is now being pursued with a fixed date of 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2018.

We need to monitor the situation of Airfield access for model flying. Action continues

#### **3.3 (Agenda item 3.3) Future Show options (**currently we have adequate events 2018)

#### 3.3.1 Yeovilton Model Show future.

After discussion with RN museum the possibility of a model flying show in the future.

Action ongoing T. Butterworth

#### 3.3.2 Bovington Tank Museum Model shows for 2018

### Autumn Edition 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Hopefully we can persuade them to at least allow us to fly helicopters at the next show. The Chesil Club are supporting the event. Action Closed

#### 3.4 (Agenda Item 2.1.4) Web Site/Southern Area Actions

SA Web site update

Web Site review—Pete (our webmaster) has circulated a test web site for review.

The test website has been reviewed by the committee and plan to introduce it after the SA AGM.

Action T. Butterworth

#### 3.5 (Agenda Item 3.5) Future BMFA/SA activity/meetings (known)

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 Odium Free Flight Gala Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 Esoaring Competition Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018 Scale flying only event at the Wimborne Club site(revised post meeting) Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018 2<sup>nd</sup> Area Council Meeting Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2018 2<sup>nd</sup> Technical Council Meeting Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018 Bovington Model Show Autumn Edition Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Southern Area AGM Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018 71<sup>st</sup> BMFA AGM Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Southern Area Balsa Brain Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January BMFA 2019 1<sup>st</sup> Full Council meeting

#### 3.6(Agenda Item 3.6) flying events at Middle Wallop for 2018

#### Middle Wallop Wartime event is to be held on Monday the 28th May 2018

Concerns were raised that submitted articles were being rejected because they were in the wrong format to the BMFA News for publishing. David Smith has raised the question with the BMFA.

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#### Saturday 7th July 2018 Southern Area Gala at Middle Wallop, report

Peter Willis has prepared a list of attendees and it is attached to the minutes and Terry Weeks has prepared a report and it has been put on our website.

The event was a success, has we been able to given more notice attendance figures would have been higher.

SAM 35 was unable to support the event because it clashed with other events on the day. We will invite them again next year.

For 2019, we plan to have 4 flight lines, SAM35, Electric Glider, Helicopter and powered RC. Action Complete

#### 3.7(Agenda Item 3.7) What Controls are required at club level to limit models over 7kg from flying above 400ft.

Peter Willis advised us that the BMFA Buckminster site to AIS Pilots map.

Peter "W" said that he would like to carry out a review of local clubs, to ask what controls are in place to limit models over 7kg to below 400 ft. work in progress Action Complete

#### 3.8(Agenda Item 3.8) Friday 20th July Farnborough International Air Show - Report

See T. Weeks report on web site.

#### 3.9(Agenda Item 3.9) Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018 3<sup>rd</sup> BMFA Full Council Mtg, preparation

David Smith attended the meeting and his report is added as an annex.

## 3.10(Agenda Item 3.10) Friday 30th November 2018 SABMFA Balsa Brain

Peter Turley has e-mailed Roger Staunton and a suitable date in November has been agreed. Action Complete

K. Gale advised us that he did not wish to be Quiz master or prepare the questions this year.

1.	The Quiz master position is to be reviewed off line.	Action T. Butterworth	
2.	Quiz questions, we plan to prepare 4 x 20 questions.	Action T. Weeks	
	Ken to pass to Terry the question format that could be used.	Action K. Gale	
	Tony has a disc of questions that have not been used from Steve Warren. Action T. Butterworth		
	Peter Willis, may have a set of spare unused questions	Action P. Willis	
3.	Tony is to contact John Hook for purchasing raffle prizes.	Action T. Butterworth	
4.	. Tony is to contact Firebirds to arrange the food and projector availability for the		

Action T. Butterworth evening. 5. Peter is to get prize donated by SMC.

3 of 12

Action P. Turley



Action Complete



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### 4(Agenda Item 4) New Topics for Discussion)

#### 4.1 Latest DOT Drone document review

The BMFA has a new statement and a link to the CAA covering "Future of Drones in the UK"

#### 4.2 PRO proposes a Club Newsletter spring and autumn

To be reviewed after the AGM for a "Spring Edition 2019". Action the Committee

#### 4.3 Southern Area AGM preparations

- 1. It was agreed to start the AGM meeting at 7,30, Peter T to get the AGM advert on our website amended and circulate the AGM agenda, with the new start time to the clubs in the area, with the Balsa Brain Advert. Action P. Turley
- 2. Tony to find a Quiz Master and arrange Questions. Action T. Butterworth
- 3. The refreshments at £50.00 have been ordered for the event. Action Complete
- 4. Prizes to be obtained from John Hook Action T. Butterworth
- 5. Prize donated by SMC to be collected. Action P. Turley
- 6. Ken Gale, wishes to stand down from the committee at the AGM, but is happy to continue as an ACE. One Area ACE's wishes to stand down and another is moving out of our area. For full details see para. 5,5.

#### 4.4 Area delegate, draft report for Council meeting, e-mail dated 27th August. See page 5

Good afternoon gentlemen

The next Areas Council meeting is on Saturday 13 October (bang in the middle of the AHA Charmouth event!). Attached is a draft of my area report for consideration at the SABMFA meeting on 12 September. There are a few events listed that have yet to take place, for which I would be grateful for a couple of sentences each from attendees / organisers in our midst in due course in time for the Areas Council meeting.

Access to club lists: This will appear as an agenda item at Areas Council, but the primary issue of late availability (raised by Peter Turley) will apparently be resolved by the new membership system. Areas will be able to generate their own club listing directly, but if anyone has ideas as to the content of these or how they should be managed, I'd be glad to have suggestions.

**BMFA News**: We are not the only part of the BMFA having issues getting copy into BMFA News, as the ASRC are having similar difficulty. This is also an agenda item at the next Area Council, and I would be grateful for any instances where items have not appeared or communication from the editor has been poor or non-existent (thanks for yours Terry).

**Models >7kg**: Pete Willis, could you update me at some point before Areas Council as to progress with this, which was a SA agenda item back in February. Mark Benns states that he is 'getting assistance from Manny and Andy (Symons)', but I am unclear as to who is the prime



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mover and whether a draft document has been produced. Mark says that he expects to have something ready for Areas Council in October! Best wishes, David

## 5.0 (Agenda Item 6) Officers Reports)

#### 5.1 Tony Butterworth Chairman

Attended the Middle wallop fly for fun event that was a resounding success in my view. Of the many positive that arose from this event I felt the following are worthy of note ---

- a) The airfield management were exceedingly helpful in supporting us the grass runway was well prepared and we were given free access to set up
- b) The number of pilots that attended was excellent considering this was the first event of its type at this venue.
- c) Very positive feedback after the event seems Peter Willis's organization was well received and many enjoyed the laid back approach of the event.
- d) The site has great potential for the future, can easily support additional flight lines to enable different events to be held on the same day.
- e) Feedback from Middle Wallop management was that next year the organization will be considerably easier indicating will be welcomed back in 2019.
- f) There was a good spread of pilots from many clubs, some we have not met before, this helps us improve communication
- g) Lastly the more pilots we attract the greater the revenue collected by the Museum any way we can help the museum should be encouraged

So a great introduction to future Southern area events at this venue---

I have also received an offer to consider a Southern Area event at another local airfield. This request came from a colleague who knowing of our success at Middle Wallop felt our expertise may help in holding another event elsewhere in our area – for discussion later.

Completed my usual task of campsite organisation at the power Nationals – went well this year with all facilities arriving on time and with our well drilled team all targets were met. Pleased to hear the BMFA received a very positive message from the Barkston CO thanking all for the care taken over the airfield during the event and with compliments for the cleanliness of the site when he returned ... bodes well for further events next year.

Have talked with Waltham Chase club reference annual subscriptions and have produced notes which will be shared with all. Suffice to say that for the 2018/2019 season Waltham Chase have organised some 36 indoor events which cater for free flight – RC and drones. After completing this review feel they have supported the local indoor scene very well or many years now.

#### 5.2 Ken Gale Vice Chairman

I attended the Southern Area Gala day at Middle Wallop on the 7<sup>th</sup> July. Very good weather and very good location, it was a shame that myself and David Smith (Southern Area rep) were the only helicopter attendees.

Having been involved with the Southern Area committee since 1998 (club rep, Newsletter Editor/PRO, Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator, Area Chief Examiner (H) and Vice Chairman) I



have decided to stand down at this year's AGM in November from both Vice Chairman and ASC. I am prepared to stay on as ACE for Helicopters if the area committee wish to ratify me at the AGM.

Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator's report.

Again, fairly quiet over the last few months with only a couple of club members being tested. Both were successful, one for Heli examiner on Jersey and the other for Multi-rotor A in the north of the area. I had an interesting email from a silent flight flyer from Trowbridge, but who fly's near Devises and is a country member who was looking to take a B test. It is nearly impossible to find out exactly where our Southern Area borders are, not helped by the fact that the 'official' border seems to follow the county line between Hampshire and Wiltshire, but several Southern Area clubs are in Wiltshire which is Western Area. I eventually spoke to the co-ordinator for the Western Area who actually knew about the particular group of flyers and agreed to get one of their Silent Flight ACE's to get in touch with him.

I had a long conversation with Mike Rondel from Jersey a couple of weeks ago who told me that he wishes to stand down from the position of ACE and the Jersey club have put forward his son Peter to take over the roll. Peter is both a helicopter and fixed wing club examiner.

#### 5.3 Terry Weeks Hon. Treasurer

Please refer to the balance sheets, it shows the predicted balance as at the end of March 2019 **Notes on the accounts:** (All are taken into account in the balance shown except item 4.)

1. We continue to hold the £125.00 for the 2018 Odiham Rally. This is a S. A. Event, and although this event usually breaks even, I need to have authority to pay the licence fee in advance of their receiving the entry receipts. This is to avoid anyone having to use their own money in future years (This year it was covered by Roger.).

2. The 2018 Balsa Brain event now set for the 30<sup>th</sup> November has been budgeted to cost the Area around £385.00 but I anticipate the actual cost will be in the region of £235.00 after the collections.

3. As recently discussed by email we have spent far more than this year's grant not least due to the unexpected reduction of it, but due to our forward planning we can absorb this deficit.

4. I would like to propose we buy some "Really Useful Boxes" for the Marquis panels, c£60.00. Reason: This would make them easier to store and handle than the current brown bags.

Refer to the data sheet I have brought to the meeting for details: 2 x 84L & 2 x 64L will probably do, but I will assess this prior to the purchase.

After review by the committee, it was agreed that Terry, should go ahead with the purchase of the storage boxes. Action T. Weeks

5. The £90.00 cheque for the Gala licence (not cashed as at the 8<sup>th</sup> September). Posted 13<sup>th</sup> July!!



#### 5.4 Peter Turley Hon. Sec. report.

Supported the Middle Wallop Gala Event and took a selection of static models along.

Concerns over why the BMFA are not allowed to circulate the current year's club listing until 5.5 months into the year, after the Full Council meeting held in the "May" of each year, is to be raised by David Smith at the next Area Council Meeting in September.

D. Smith advised that Area Sec's will have access to club contact details on line from next year.

The BMFA Club listing dated 10/09/2018 list 4 secretaries without an e-mail address and no alternative contact. Phoning the BMF, I was advised that they use another committee member as a contact. I plan to contact the BMFA to say that the "club list" for all areas must show a club contact e-mail address, so that the Areas can use.

In the past the BMFA have sent us the xls spread sheet with all of the club committee members and their contact details.

The Power Nationals, I supported Tony Butterworth, in helping to setting up and running the Camp site and a FOD walk of the runways Monday afternoon.

CADMAC took along a selection of models for a static show at the Thorney Families day on the 8<sup>th</sup> September.

#### 5.5 ASC co-ordinator Ken Gale

Achievement Scheme Co-ordinator's report.

Again, fairly quiet over the last few months with only a couple of club members being tested. Both were successful, one for Heli examiner on Jersey and the other for Multi-rotor A in the north of the area. I had an interesting email from a silent flight flyer from Trowbridge, but who fly's near Devises and is a country member who was looking to take a B test. It is nearly impossible to find out exactly where our Southern Area borders are, not helped by the fact that the 'official' border seems to follow the county line between Hampshire and Wiltshire, but several Southern Area clubs are in Wiltshire which is Western Area. I eventually spoke to the co-ordinator for the Western Area who actually knew about the particular group of flyers and agreed to get one of their Silent Flight ACE's to get in touch with him.

I had a long conversation with Mike Rondel from Jersey a couple of weeks ago who told me that he wishes to stand down from the position of ACE and the Jersey club have put forward his son Peter to take over the roll. Peter is both a helicopter and fixed wing club examiner.

#### 5.6 Peter Turley PRO

I have made up 4 mail listings to cover club listing for mail drop and sent out the Gala Notification.



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### 5.7 David Smith Area Delegate

Supported Ken Gale at the Southern Area Gala in July, running the Helicopter Flight line.

Attended the Full Council meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> September and my report is added as an annex.

Area delegate, draft report for Council meeting, e-mail dated 27<sup>th</sup> August, has been sent to the committee for review.

#### 5.8 Roger Newman Free flight comp.

A lovely summer with good opportunities for very pleasant flying on quite a few occasions. However, sods law being what it is led to the second cancellation of the Croydon/SAM1066 Wakefield Day due to awful weather. Other than that, we have hosted successful meetings on Area 8 of Salisbury Plain as well as the regular Area meetings at Beaulieu.

Three meetings left this year. Terry will give an input on the Southern Area Gala at RAF Odiham in terms of my concerns regarding funding issues, otherwise all is ok. The last meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> Sept (Croydon/SAM1066 coupe day) now includes an extra comp for 4oz/8oz Wakefield's, with the SAM1066 Jaguar trophy being given to the best placed Jaguar – as it was this model that won the Wakefield Trophy for the UK in 1948. The last occasion it was won by the UK.

I have been in touch with Mark Goodwin (Airfield Manager) at Middle Wallop & I am meeting him in early October to discuss possibilities for holding free flight events during 2019. There is a new Airfield Operator (CO) in post & Mark says that he feels much more confident of making a good case, particularly as I told him that SAM1066 is planning to review possibilities for a changed focus on comps next year in light of the current Government consultation on drones This to take advantage of the proposal that models of 250 grams or less are totally free of restrictions under planned legislation, as they are not considered to represent a threat or danger.

This is also the same case for proposed EU regulations.

#### 5.9 Terry Weeks Alton Silent Flyers, Club-delegate reports.

The Alton Silent Flyers have now run three of the planned S.A Esoaring competitions, on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, 17<sup>th</sup> June and the 22<sup>nd</sup> July. The final event of the series is planned for the 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

I attended the S Area Gala on the 7<sup>th</sup> July, and I believe for a first attempt it went very well considering the competition we had on the day, World Cup ¼ finals, F1 Qualifying and Wimbledon. A few lessons were learned that can easily be rectified for next year that should be a much better attended event with better publicity, not least by those that attended this year's event and enjoyed it.

I attended the Farnborough "Futures Day" on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> July helped by Chris Bradbury, Peter Carter and Mike Fantham. I went on the Thursday evening to set up the stand and was pleased I did as there was a little jockeying for space. A very worthwhile although tiring day was had on the Friday the stand being visited by many youngsters between the ages of 11 and 21. We even had several of the Red Arrows pilots visit and have a go on the simulator with varying



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success. Paul Tallett the BMFA's new PRO visited the stand for some of the time between his networking visits to the various companies promoting the BMFA and seeking commitments regarding sponsorships. I found Paul to be an interesting guy who has many ideas that fall well within the S Areas thoughts on the way forward for the BMFA already being aware of the many pitfalls that we feel need addressing.

I attended the RAF Odiham's "Families Day" with Peter Carter and many of the AMC members on the 29<sup>th</sup> August; this was a much bigger event than in past years due to the RAF 100 celebrations. Once again we provided an excellent static display of models covering most aspects of the hobby and much interest was shown by those visiting us.

#### Aldershot Model Club, Skylarks & Alton Silent Flyers Club-deligate reports.

The latest situation with the AMC is that are still without a site with few prospects on the horizon. Now also a member of the Skylarks Model Club I will keep them informed on all S A BMFA matters as their delegate.

The Alton Silent Fliers are pleased to report that our Junior Alex Savill (12) passed his "A" test on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September following instruction throughout the last year by Terry Pelling. Club examiner Tony Ridler undertook the test. Various members of the club have donated equipment to him to help him get started, a full report has been sent to our web-master.

The last Esoaring event is planned for the 23<sup>rd</sup> September when the trophies will be presented.

#### 5.10 Peter Willis Fixed Wing Comp. Sec. report.

Peter, in addition to running the Powered Flight Line at the Southern Area Gala in July, is to hold a Scale flying only event at the Wimborne Club site on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018

#### 6.0 Any other Business

Richard Sharman, Beaulieu BMFC chairman, I apologise in advance: I cannot make the planned committee meeting as I am away this week.

For your information, here are few topics:

(1) BMFA achievement scheme tests at Beaulieu have proceeded slowly this year doing some A tests and some B tests. However, the combination of adverse weather at first and extremely busy attendances later when weather was better, has limited the time available for this. I am continuing to offer test opportunities, but the applicants are slow to come forward.

(2) The "Battle of Britain: Model Squadron" activity which we declined to support earlier in the year did take one Winchester/Beaulieu flier (Roy) who appeared on the film as broadcast tonight (9th September 8pm channel 4). It was not as bad as we feared, although it was somewhat ambivalent about the safety/sensibility of model flying and not at all realistic as historic re-enactment, in my opinion.

(3) I have responded to the UK Government drone consultation exercise on behalf of the 300 Beaulieu Fliers making responses similar to those suggested by the BMFA. I have circulated the documents to all Beaulieu permit fliers with a recommendation to send their own responses, and a significant number already have already done so (not sure of actual number as yet).



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(4) I apologise also that I won't be available for SA AGM and the Balsa Brain this year as I will be spending some time in NZ over the winter (their summer) where I hope to link up with the NZ F3A community as I did two years ago.

Best wishes for a successful SA committee meeting. Regards, Richard Sharman, Beaulieu BMFC chairman

The meeting finished at 10.50 pm.

The next Southern Area Meeting will be AGM on Wednesday 7th November 2018

7.00pm for 7.30pm

#### Venue: - The Ship Inn

## 41 Old Redbridge Road Southampton Hampshire SO15 ONN

(Meeting will be in the skittles room)

Peter Turley BMFA SA Hon. Sec Home: 01243376861 Mobile: 07971498726 E-mail address is: peter.turley@sabmfa.org.uk

BMFA Southern Area Committee Meeting Attendees dated 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018 **Committee position Club Membership** Name TERRY NEERS TREASURER & S/FIGHT A.S.F. 9 PETER WILLIS FW COMPROP. WMAC. Struct Signon Committee. CANMAC & Hay HAVID SMITH Area Delegate HELIPAD. K. GAME ACC. Ken GALE ASC HELIPAD TONY BUTTERWORTH CMAIRMAN Wathan Chase alerondelly



## Southern Area BMFA Gala Attendance Stats - 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Fixed wing pilots 32 (including S Area BMFA committee members who flew)

(Estimated spectators about 10 - 14 people mostly accompanying flyers but at least three cars with spectators only.)

#### Breakdown of FW Pilots by Club;

Salisbury MAC	8
Alton Silent Flyers	5
Chichester & District MAC	3
Christchurch & District MFC	3
Wimborne MAC	3
Aldershot (Popham) MC	2
Hornets MAC	2
Newbury & District MAS	2
Petersfield MAC	2 plus 2 spectators
Basingstoke MAC	1
Waltham Chase	1
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I did hear someone mention a flyer from Beaulieu group but can find nothing on the register for this.

#### Breakdown of Heli Pilots by Club;

Helipad Model Club 2



#### Notes from BMFA council 8 September 2018

#### Finance

Most of the meeting was given over to accounts for 2017-18, and the proposed budget for 2018-19. The paperwork for these was only tabled at the meeting, which I complained gave no time for proper scrutiny. BMFA membership is down by 1000 senior members for 2018 compared to 2017, resulting in an overall £20k loss of income when reduced insurance premiums and postage are factored in. The insurance rebate for our good claim record has reduced from £30k to £26k due to increased claims this year; there is a risk that we may lose this altogether next year (2-fold increase in car damage claims and 4-fold increase in claims for damage to models). The Treasurer proposed a £4 increase in senior subscriptions to £38, with junior fees at 50%. This was agreed and will be tabled at the AGM.

The new membership system will save on postage, membership cards, and staff time. In addition, a change to mainly electronic distribution of AGM paperwork will further reduce operating costs. BMFA News is a significant cost, but members like the print format and advertising revenue is increasing.

There is an overall surplus of £80k in the Areas accounts, which merits review.

#### **National Centre**

The accounts for 2017-18 will just about break even, so it is unlikely we will be able to afford the proposed £10k support to the National Centre this year. However, revenue generation has passed expectations, and a significant bequest has enabled phase 1 to be completed. A cut down phase 2 is under way to provide a bunk room and showers, hopefully augmented by £70k Leadership funding from the EU if the application succeeds. Charitable status is being explored., both for the Centre and for the BMFA.

#### Safety

The safety review will now form part of the Area Council mandate, not Technical Committees. This should allow better transfer of information to clubs on the impact of insurance claims on our annual rebate and hopefully reduce reckless parking (too near the pits or flight line) and crashing into models in the pits. There have been issues with 'mix and match' radio systems when transmitter software is upgraded and third-party receivers are no longer recognized.

Some low power Bluetooth wireless trainer modes (e.g. FrSky) can lose contact when there is a body (or two) between the two transmitters.

The RAF Low Flying Safety Centre is accessible by those clubs flying near military airfields for information on planned military low flying: 0800 515544 or www.gov.uk/low-flying-in-your-area.

#### Airspace regulations

A proposal has been tabled to modify the EASA drone regulations, deleting all text relating to model aircraft flying and replacing it with a simplified wording that allows national regulators to implement rules that maintain the *status quo* for model flying.

An amendment to CAP 658 has been proposed to allow gliders between 7-14kg to operate up to 400' above point of launch, rather than AGL, to keep slope soaring legal.

A specific drone racing exemption to CAP 658 is being considered to allow for temporary loss of visual contact when flying around bushes and trees.

Amendments to the ANO next year will focus on training and competence.

#### AGM venue

The 2019 AGM will be held at the Mercure Daventry Court Resort and Spa.

#### Membership database

The new system goes live on 21 September, with access via a link on the BMFA website. There has been stringent testing of the system on multiple platforms, although the email and payments facilities can only be tested when the system goes live. Members will be encouraged to set up a Direct Debit for automatic 1 January renewals, although bulk renewals via clubs will also be available. The system will allow better mapping of members and clubs to Areas, and a 'live' reporting facility for e.g. club lists. Membership cards will no longer be issued, but will be downloaded as a PDF; a QR code facility is being considered to enable storage on mobile devices for ready availability of membership details at fly-ins and competitions.

David Smith, SA delegate 9 September 2018