

## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

To all Southern Area BMFA affiliated clubs.

The Southern Area committee has continued to hold meetings throughout the year to ensure we progress area business. These meetings unfortunately due to Covid have been held using ZOOM software thereby ensuring social distancing and meeting government guidelines. On the 11th November we will be holding the 2020 Southern Area BMFA AGM which will be conducted via an electronic forum ie ZOOM, however it is important that all area clubs are given the opportunity to contribute to this AGM and hence this email requesting your input to the meeting. This year has obviously affected all our area clubs and club flyers ability to enjoy our sport , it has also affected our use of numerous facilities in the area and I'm sure has added many additional problems to managing club flying fields and the rules local pilots need to abide by. That said many have coped admirably and it appears that most have been able to enjoy some time in the air whilst meeting fellow club members to partake in the flying field banter we all look forward to. So looking forward to 2021 is there anything that you would like to request from the area committee, has this year added pressure on your club that is causing concern, during the lockdown period have you thought of any ideas that might be of value to the area or as a result of the lockdown have new issues been identified that you consider require attention. We welcome all your concerns as well as ideas for the future as this Covid is going to be a fact of life and must be considered in our plans. All input is welcomed, and we promise to help wherever possible and debate all options provided. We will respond to all request submitted and if possible, include you in the meeting.

To advise of activities currently being progressed by the area in 2020 please see below --

- 1) Early in the year we met with the management of Popham airfield who identified their desire to develop an annual 2-day model show in the South. Progress has been made with the 8-9th May 2021 identified as the date for the first event. Popham have offered room for camping, facilities that include marquees for static model displays, space to run a swap meet, potential for at least 2 flight lines and room for large RC models as well as facilities for control line flying. Adequate car parking space, night-time flying plus canteen and toilet facilities are on site with the added attraction of many various full-size aircraft to view. Already we have support from many groups covering large RC scale powered models and gliders, classic jet displays, e-flight displays, SAM 35 slot, club pilots etc and the trade. The intent is to develop this venue over the coming years and grow this event, an event for the club flyer and professional flyer alike.
- 2) The Southern Area has always supported local clubs and tried to develop facilities/events that will hopefully continue into the future. Often finance has been a constraint however our past efforts have been noted and as a result this year our annual grant has been increased enabling us to increase support to area clubs and events where value add can be identified .
- 3) Last year we lost the opportunity to hold events at Middle Wallop , however until Covid arrived we identified a replacement venue at Abingdon. With Popham providing support and Odiham still an opportunity we once again have options within the area to organise events for control line, RC, and free flight. The documentation and cost of obtaining use of such sites for area flying events is increasing however it is still within our capability and something to look forward to in the future.
- 4) Balsa Brain has unfortunately been cancelled this year; it will return once current problems are under control. Same problem has hit our indoor venues this winter, we hope to have some positive news for 2021.
- 5) Development of our web site continues with a Facebook page also progressing well - be good to link all area club web pages with S. Area BMFA site and vice versa. Options for improving communication between all clubs in the area as well as local awareness of BMFA are still being investigated
- 6) Lastly, we do have all basic committee posts filled this year but we have always enjoyed input from external interested members. If you wish to offer support, or just become involved and contribute to the meetings you will be welcomed. No report writing or presentations required just round the table discussions on local area issues is all that's necessary, and from this year some level of expenses is offered.

So please submit any ideas concerns that you feel need addressing at the AGM , and stay safe or  
2021