

ADS



ABERDEEN AND DISTRICT SOARERS

Newsletter No.36

Whitlam Farmhouse
Newmachar
Aberdeen

DECEMBER 1988

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

First of all I'd like to thank ex-chairman Graham Donaldson and ex-competition secretary Norrie Kerr for the excellent work in the past year, they will be sorely missed on the committee. Welcome to Richard Holt and Andy Theoirs who join the committee for the first time, many thanks for volunteering.

As you can see by the calendar we've got a good mix of fly-ins and competitions for the coming year so fill those diaries in and get the planes ready now!

Also note that the slope events and thermal comps do not have a predetermined venue. The slope venues will be decided on the day (i.e. phone a committee member) and we are still looking for a suitable flat field site and will advise in due course. On the latter note if any one knows of an available flat field site or has any suggestions please contact me.

Have a Happy Xmas and Marry New Year (I believe its a Scottish tradition to have a very Merry New Year).

Safe flying. Frank Stilbeck.

CLUB FEES

You will notice the membership renewal form enclosed with this newsletter. This will also serve to update our records.

As agreed at the AGM the ADS club fees will remain at £4 for seniors and £2 for juniors. However it has just been confirmed that the SAA fees will increased by £1 to £9 for seniors, junior SAA remaining at £2.

Although SAA membership is not obligatory for ADS membership, some form of insurance cover is required. To this end any member not wishing to join the SAA is requested to send in a photocopy of their current alternative insurance with their 1989 fees.

It would be appreciated if all members could send their fees to me by the end of January 1989, so that I can process the SAA membership and return new SAA insurance cards well before the beginning of the flying season.

Richard Holt - Treasurer.

NEW COMMITTEE

The new committee positions for 1989 were agreed at a recent committee meeting to be as follows:

Frank Skilbeck:	Chairman, Safety Officer	743052
Malcolm Satterley:	Social Secretary	92-62980
Dave Norris:	Competition Secretary	576279
Andy Theoirs:	Secretary	712008
Richard Holt:	Treasurer, Newsletter Editor	933-2777

Ed.

THE 1989 EVENTS CALENDAR

Your committee got together recently and put together a programme of events for the coming year which we hope represents members' interests and encourages plenty of flying.

You may notice a few new entries in the calendar:

On the 19th March we'll have our first club get-together outdoors and try some informal pylon racing. Anyone who witnessed Ron Lock and myself racing along the slope at Cairn O'Mount early this year will have seen what good fun it was, although for safety's sake we'll fly one at a time.....

I've set a couple of scale dates, if only to encourage myself to get the growing collection of half-complete scale gliders airborne!

Given the "switching-on" to electric flight of quite a few of us this year, I propose to run a couple of comps and offer a trophy for one of them. I know of at least ten "lecky jobs" on the go so let's get together and generate some Watts! (OK - no more puns!).

The X-country has been left open for the moment in that depending on the prevailing weather at the time it may be slope or flat field based. We've had one or two interesting ideas on the latter, more info to follow.

I hope to obtain a couple of aerosol - powered horns to use for slot starts and ends etc. in thermal comps. These should be considerably more effective than the car horns we've used in the past.

A major plea - help us find a thermal flying site. Balmedie looks certain to be lost to us. Seaton is OK for fun-flying but one has to be constantly wary of golfers and children etc., making it totally unsuitable for competition flying.

Please do your best to scout around and let committee members know of any potential sites, preferably inland, the club really depends on it.

Finally to round off this piece of babble, the BARCS league results for 1988 have recently come to hand. For those not in the know, BARCS stands for British Association of R/C Soarers, which exists to promote soaring in this country.

Competitors in events organised to BARCS rules can enter their qualifying rounds' scores to the leagues. The best four results are aggregated at the end of the year and the league tables produced. This year ADS were well represented as follows:

Scottish Open League
1st John McConville
6th Norrie Kerr
7th Dave Norris
10th Brian Ord
14th Neil Masson
17th Jim Masson
18th Graham Donaldson

This was out of a total of 19 entries.

National 100S League
4th Norrie Kerr
34th Dave Norris
73rd Brian Ord
91st Graham Donaldson

Out of a total of 113 entries

Well done to all concerned and the best of luck to them and the rest of ADS members for the coming year.

Dave Norris - Competition Secretary

FREQUENCIES

As discussed at the AGM, it has been agreed that in future even frequencies (35 MHz) will be used for gliders and electric power and odd numbers for power and helicopters. All the members should note this and ensure that they are in compliance when flying as a club.

In addition it was agreed that we use another form of frequency control other than the peg-board, and a system of peg-boards similar to that used by George Whelan's new club will be used. This places the onus on the individual to make his own peg-board, however these are easy to make and very cheap, so no excuses.

George's letter and description of the peg-boards are included in the newsletter.

Although this only shows a sample of a 35 MHz board, I suggest that the boards are made for 27 MHz with the colour of frequency in use and the number 27 put in place of the frequency number. (All 35 MHz boards should be orange).

This system will be used at club flying sessions (i.e. Tuesday Nights) and fly-ins. Fly-ins and competitions open to other clubs will use the peg-board system as before.

ADS 1989 CALENDER

SUNDAY COMPS.

19.03.89 Slope fly-in & informal pylon race.
16.04.89 Slope fly-in, Scale & slope certification.
23-04.89 Fourdon fly-in plus power certification.
07.05.89 Open % plus electric certification.
21.05.89 X-Country.
11.06.89 Open % plus thermal fly-in & thermal certification.
02.07.89 Open % plus electric certification.
16.07.89 Slope fly-in.
03.09.89 Thermal fly-in & back-up for previous comp.
24.09.89 Fourdon fly-in.
29.10.89 Slope fly-in plus scale.

Sunday events to start at 11am. Contact Dave Norris on 576279 for confirmation of venue on the day.

TUESDAY NIGHTS

02.05.89 Fun comp. - Seaton
30.05.89 Mackie Academy
06.06.89 Fun comp. - Seaton
27.06.89 Mackie Academy
04.07.89 Fun comp. - Seaton
25.07.89 Mackie Academy
29.08.89 Mackie Academy

OTHER EVENTS

27/28/29.05.89 Radioglide at Pitreavie.
17/28.06.89 Montrose fly-in.
20.08.89 Aberdeen Aeromodellers fly-in at Banchory Devenick.
26/27/28.08.89 British Nationals.
5/6.08.89 Scottish Soaring Nationals.
17.9.89 Vintage & fly-in at Montrose.
01.10.89 Talyor Trophy at Elgin.

SOCIAL EVENTS

14.02.89 Bring & Buy plus Video at Cammachmore.
21.03.89 Indoor Comp. at Cammachmore.
13.10.89 Dinner Dance at Cammachmore.
14.11.89 AGM.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The chairman opened the meeting with apologies for absence from Tom Hamilton, Andy Thoires and John McConville.

The Minutes of the 1987 Annual General Meeting were then accepted.

Chairman's Report

G. Donaldson reported that the club has had a good year with a healthy membership and organised fly-ins have had a good turn out. He also noted that after the good weather earlier on in the year (May/June) that the latter part of the summer was similar to those in recent years, i.e. very poor.

N. Kerr was congratulated on his excellent performance in the 100S at the Radioglide and the Scottish Nationals (Second and First place respectively) and the high turn out of ADS members at the Scottish Nationals was noted.

Also mentioned were the enjoyable Dinner Dance and mentions ADS had been given regarding our Tenth Anniversary Fly-in in the national magazines.

Secretary's Report

No Secretary's report this year.

Treasurer's Report

M. Satterley reported that the club finances were sound and a small profit had been made in the year. This was particularly gratifying as the club had, in the past year, purchased several items which brought the number of functional power winches up to three. All the Social events had been well attended and self supporting.

The ADS currently has £230.42 in the bank.

Competitions Secretary's Report

Norrie Kerr reported that the competitions held this year had been disrupted by the weather but even those that had been held were not well supported. The move agreed at last year's Annual General Meeting to hold some competitions on Saturday had not improved attendance and it was mainly the same faces that turned up to each competition regardless of the day.

Norrie did note the good attendance of ADS members at the Scottish Nationals.

Also noted was the very enjoyable Dinner Dance and a vote of thanks was proposed to the Cammachmore Hotel for staging the event.

Safety Officer's Report

Frank Skilbeck first of all thanked Norrie and Graham for covering the social activities.

It was reported that 1988 had been a good year from a safety view point and good flying practice had been observed. It was stressed that we must continue to maintain this record and look at all aspects of safety.

Some concern was raised about the Seaton Park flying site in view of the general public and number of children about. It was agreed that we had to be especially vigilant when flying at Seaton and it would be preferable if we could find another site for flat field flying within easy reach of members. (This latter topic was also discussed separately).

Election of Officers

A new Committee of F.Skilbeck, D.Norris, M.Satterley, R.Holt and A.Thoirs was elected. F.Skilbeck was elected Chairman with remaining positions to be decided by the Committee.

A vote of thanks was expressed to G.Donaldson and N.Kerr for their sterling work over the past few years.

1989 Budget

Due to the healthy finances of the club it was proposed and agreed that club fees are held at £4 for the next year.

No SAA fee has been set for 1989 yet and there was some discussion as to what the SAA insurance actually covered. Points raised were:

- i) Does insurance cover flying from private flying sites.
- ii) Do club flying sites have to be SAA approved for insurance purposes.

The Committee agreed to investigate these matters and report back. (See later).

SAA Safety Awards

Although the membership were in favour of the safety achievements scheme there was confusion in several areas:

- i) Are awards mandatory before members can enter a SAA competition of fly-in.
- ii) Are awards required for every category. i.e. can a person with a thermal soaring award fly in a slope competition and vice versa.

G.Phillips advised that it was intended that SAA awards would be required for public displays (but not the Bon-Accord as this is not a SAA event), but was unsure of the competition requirements.

The Committee are to investigate and report back. It was agreed however that we should organise some flying where members can be examined.

Flat Field Sites

It was generally agreed that a further flat field site was required, and this should be somewhere south of Aberdeen and inland, (better for thermals). If possible the site should be suitable for aero-towing.

Several suggestions of contacting the Council and local farmers' organisations were made.

It was agreed that all members should be on the lookout for a new site and this is something we should actively pursue.

Frequencies

Further to recent articles in the press, whether to adopt the B.M.F.A. (formerly S.M.A.E.) recommendation to fly gliders and electric power on even frequencies only (35MHz) and power on odd frequencies was discussed. It was decided to follow these guidelines on a trial basis for one year and the policy will be reviewed next year.

In addition the need for a different frequency board system was discussed and it was agreed that we would adopt a system based on that used by George Whelan's new club, whereby each member provides a small board with his name and frequency number on it and this is displayed in a designated area whilst the member is flying.

Details of the boards are given later in the newsletter.

ADS Constitution

Much heated discussion was given to updating the constitution, particularly Clause 2 (Object) whereby it was proposed that the word glider be omitted to reflect members enjoyment of all forms of flying. This motion was defeated, as the majority of members thought that the Club existed primarily as a gliding club.

A proposal to add the words "and to enjoy all aspects of Aeromodelling" was put forward to reflect that many members also fly aircraft other than gliders. This proposal was adopted.

Other changes were made to the constitution but these were of a less contentious nature and the revised constitution is printed over the page.

A proposal to add a Clause &, making all members join the SAA was deferred until the SAA insurance situation is resolved.

Rising Star of 1988

The award for the most improved flyer of 1988 was given to Richard Holt (well deserved too I might add).

REVISED CONSTITUTION

1. Name

The club shall be known as "Aberdeen and District Soarers", hereinafter referred to as ADS.

2. Object

The object of ADS is the advancement of all aspects of model radio controlled glider flying in the Aberdeen area and to enjoy all aspects of Aeromodelling.

3. Membership

The membership of ADS shall be open to any person with an interest in radio controlled glider flight. The Committee shall have the right to reject applications and suspend or expel existing members, awaiting a final decision by a general meeting.

4. Committee

Members of the Committee having been elected at a general meeting shall serve a maximum period of three consecutive years. They shall not be eligible for re-election until at least one year has elapsed from the time of standing down.

5. Safety

Before flying each member will have current insurance cover. A correct frequency pennant is always to be displayed whilst flying. A frequency control must be used and no transmitter is to be switched on unless frequency is displayed. Low flying over compound, spectators or other pilots is not allowed. The SAA Code of Practice for Display Flying, will be followed.

6. Country Code

All members must respect the Country Code. Care is to be taken crossing walls and fences to avoid damage. Gates are to be securely closed and all litter and debris should be removed.

SAA AGM

The SAA area AGM was held at the Hydroboard club on Saturday 5/11/88. Sadly it was poorly attended, managing only four in all. Clubs represented were 1xADS, 2xElgin, 1xMontrose from the attendance one can only assume that all must be well within the SAA membership, and you have absolute confidence in all decisions made on your behalf.

- 1 - Items raised, Discussed were safety standards awards - general effort should be made for clubs to arrange qualifying dates and encourage members to have a go on the day.
- 2 - Insurance was raised firstly to ascertain the fee for 1989 and secondly to ensure that all clubs have a copy of the cover available for all club members to see as required. Also that a resume of the cover is added to the SAA membership card which is to be reviewed. Unfortunately cost of subscription to SAA is as yet not known, but is not expected to cost more than £1 above the 1988 fee. Final cost will be dependent on the cost of insurance which may be with a new company for 1989.

Mal Satterley

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

The Annual Dinner Dance was held on the 22nd October, 1988 at the Cammachmore Hotel and was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, so I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank a few people who helped out.

CAMMACHMORE HOTEL Thanks to the Cammachmore for doing all the organising, coping with the fluctuating numbers (I must have rung them up 3 times during the week with different numbers and then they were slightly different on the night), and laying on such a superb buffet, there was enough food to feed an army. Thanks also for donating a bottle of booze for our raffle.

ARMSTRONG MODELS Thanks for donating the "Osprey 100" glider and various sweatshirts and hats to the raffle.

MALCOLM SATTERLEY Thanks for remembering to buy some raffle prizes and bringing the raffle tickets! Thanks also for manning the door on the night and collecting the revenue.

Finally thanks to all the members who supported the event and made it such an enjoyable evening.

Frank Skilbeck

T.V. FAME

Graham Philip advises that whilst flying at Montrose, Grampion T.V. were doing some filming on model flying for a programme series called "OUT AND ABOUT" to be shown in the New Year. So keep an eye out for it, you may see some ADS members.

NEW MODEL SHOP

If you aren't already aware (were have you been!) there is a new model shop in Aberdeen - ARMSTRONG R/C MODELS at 15 Rosemount Viaduct tel 633933. The shop is very well stocked and they are giving 10% discount to clubmembers. They are also open 7 days a week which means you can get that thingy you need any day of the week.

One of the proprietors (Colin) is learning to fly power, but I expect we'll be able to introduce him to the delights of glider flying at some point in the future.

The shop is well worth a visit even if its only to stop for a chat and a cup of tea/coffee (yes they have tea and coffee in the shop).

WARM HANDS AND FEET

For those hardy soles (fools?) who like to fly all the year round, the cold in the winter (and summer?) really can be a problem. This is particularly so in respect of hands and feet. So here are a couple of items which I have found which will increase the joy of cold weather flying.

1. HANDS- I don't like wearing thick gloves when flying. I find my fingers get cold even when wearing fingerless gloves. Recently, I've started to wear some thermal undergloves which have proved to be ideal. They keep the digits warm whilst still allowing full 'feel' of the sticks. This type of glove is available from Damart or any good motorcycle dealer.
2. FEET- Even when wearing thick woolly socks, my feet have been getting very cold inside my wellies. During a recent trip to G.A.Wilson in Lumpanan to buy my wife some gloves, I spotted some sheepskin shoe inserts. These cost the princely sum of 75p and have proved to be excellent.

Suitable kitted out, one can experience such joys as flying float planes in the snow or aerobatic gliders in 30-40kt winds on Brimmond or Durriss.

REPORT FROM GEORGE WHELAN

The following letter was received by Graham Donaldson, from ex ADS member; George Whelan who is now living in Southport:

Graham.

A few ideas for the newsletter. I think it might be an idea to propose the peg board adoption at the AGM. This is on the grounds of safety. It takes the onus off some muggins having to cart the club peg board around and puts it onto the model flyer. It also means that however many people are flying, a frequency control system is in operation.

Each person requires 1 board per frequency they fly, but these are cheap and easy to make. At the site the boards are stuck into the ground in numerical order, like frequencies placed one behind the other, each with a peg on. As is normal practice the peg is removed before switching on. My current club insist no board - no flying. Over the years they have been using this system they have never had an incident due to frequency problems.

On a general point the Southport Club fly from 2 sites, RAF Woodvale and Ainsdale beach. This latter site is about 7 miles long and 1 mile wide when the tide is out or about 7 miles by about 50 feet when the tide is in. It is however bounded along one edge by royal Birkdale Golf club and some good thermals have been had this summer. This is a general RC club although I am the only Glider Guider, we do also have some free flight flyers and a strong interest in control line flying.

I am also with a club out at Skelmersdale who fly gliders. One of the leading lights in the club is mike Francis of Optimist fame. If you want to be in with a chance at this club you need a model of 14 ft+ with ailerons, 15 feet is better. The philosophy being that you have over 16 square feet of wing area under FAI so use it. Also in still air conditions when it becomes a pure gliding match aspect ratio seems to win every time. I've visited a few club comps and this seems to be bourn out. (Sheffield, Derby, Chester) to name a few. Living in this area we set ourselves a 100 mile radius for travelling to club comps so you could compete every week if you wanted to, (and the wife lets you).

A few other general observations from south of the border:

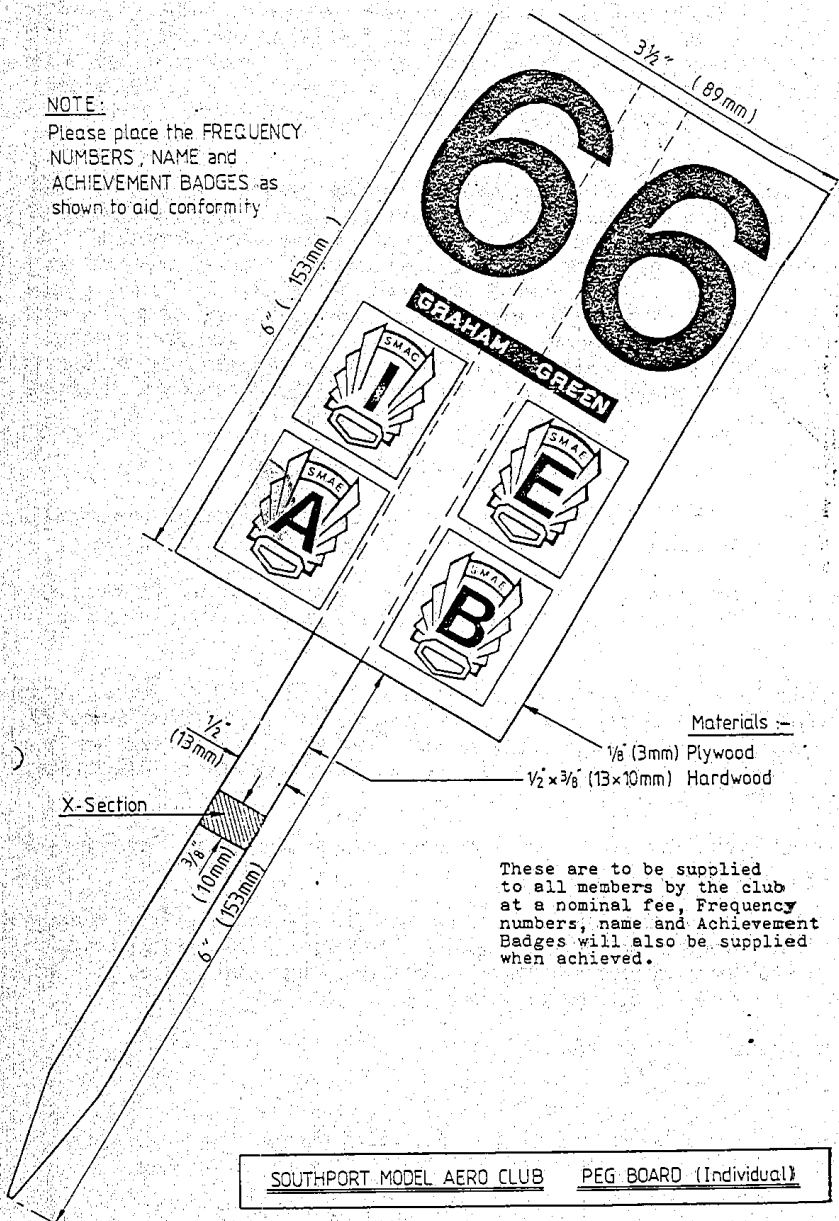
- a) 3 piece wings are an advantage due to the large size of the models and you can build the highly stressed centre piece in one.
- b) Nose sheaths give good access to the radio gear and as the receiver, battery and servo's are built into the crutch it gives better crash protection.
- c) Lighter tow lines (50 lb) despite bigger models. This gives more stretch, (more height), less drag on launch. The trick is to terminate the tow line to a heavy duty pennant line with the tow ring on, via some sort of small bobbin. It seems the vast majority of line breaks are at the knot.
- d) Lots of glass cloth on wings and some Kevlar or carbon fibre in the spars. Available locally.

I don't want to give the impression that every body south of the boarder flies high tech monster gliders, but using these materials and construction methods makes for very durable models, therefore more flying time and less repairs, which surely is what its all about.

Best Wishes to all at ADS, George

NOTE:

Please place the FREQUENCY NUMBERS, NAME and ACHIEVEMENT BADGES as shown to aid conformity



These are to be supplied to all members by the club at a nominal fee, Frequency numbers, name and Achievement Badges will also be supplied when achieved.

SOUTHPORT MODEL AERO CLUB PEG BOARD (Individual)