



SOARPOINT

Newsletter No. 2/2009 for the East Sussex Soaring Association -April 2009

Subscriptions

I am pleased to be able to report that all BMFA/ESSA members have rejoined the club and there are only about three ESSA only members (BMFA Country members) who have not rejoined so far. This is a better start to the year than in 2008 or 2007.

Fencing on Butts

Many members will be aware of the new fencing that has been erected on Butts, particular on the east slope. The committee has taken the pragmatic view that we are unlikely to get this fence moved but have sought reassurances from Richard Brown that the fence will have suitable access points and that there will be consultation with us if there are any future plans for fencing, particularly on the north slope. I am told that fencing is at present limited to the east slope.

For those who have not seen the fencing it does not rule out the east slope but does make landing more challenging.

South Downs National Park

Members will be aware of the National Park status from April 2010 and I can let you know that we are in contact with the BMFA at an early stage to get their advice on what actions we should be putting in place to protect our rights to slope flying on the Downs.

We ask that all our club members are mindful of this change in planning status and fly safely and with due consideration for other downland users. Electric flyers should be aware that electric, IC and CO2 are all now treated as power by EBC byelaws. However, the byelaws are ambiguous as EBC have not designated model flying areas so strict interpretation means all model flying is permitted anywhere. I am sure that this is not the intention so, electric flyers, please exercise discretion.

Contests

The F3F was called off on Sunday 22 March due to lack of wind so it will go to a reserve date. This gives even more time for new members to practice.

Do not forget the Cross country on 3 May. In line with the aerobatics contest, Julian is organising the event so that there is a steady upward spread of difficulty so nobody has an excuse not to compete and even a raw rookie could get some points.

Contacts

John Phillips – Chairman	07872 603711
Ray Wells - Secretary	01323 483506
Tom Noble – Treasurer	07957 703707
Julian Perrott –Competitions Secretary	01323 489655

27 April 2009