



SOARPOINT

Newsletter No. 1/2010 for the East Sussex Soaring Association –February 2010

Subscriptions for 2010

Members may have seen in the BMFA newsletter that senior subs have gone up to £29 for 2010. ESSA subs remain the same at £12. If you have not yet rejoined do send me a cheque and do remember that if you get BMFA membership through the club you are not covered by insurance until you give me a cheque for the Subs. If you are not sure if you have paid (and this does happen) do give me a ring.

Committee 2010

There is no change in Chairman, secretary, treasurer or competition secretary but Chris Bell, Matt Herbert and Allen Elliott have joined the committee.

New members

Since the last newsletter five new members have joined the club. These are Jes Collier, Rob Cotter, Jon Stiles, Jon Smith and Martin Spellman. The two Jons are regular slope flyers and I think Jon Stiles is rejoining after a gap of a few years. One or two of the other new members may be new to slope flying so if they turn up on the slope do give them all the help that they need.

If existing members are able to enlist any new members I am sure that it would be beneficial for ESSA. As far as I am aware we are the only BMFA affiliated club that flies exclusively on Sussex downland and with developments such as the National Park, enlarged membership can only help with maintaining flying rights in the future

Honorary membership

Several members may not realise but for the past few years Terry Parris has been an honorary member. This was agreed some time ago and was done in recognition of the significant contribution that Terry had made to the local flying scene in general and to ESSA in particular. He has now generously agreed to relinquish this honorary status and I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the club to thank him for his contribution to ESSA over the years.

Newsletter by post

If you get the news letter by post and you have an email address, do let me know as it makes life easier for me and reduces our costs a little.

Crowlink

We are still in discussion with the National Trust about reinstating our agreement to use Crowlink for flat field flying. We are now waiting for a meeting with ESSA, NT and the farmer who has a grazing license. The latter, a Mr Gorringe, may need convincing that our activities will not in any way interfere with sheep farming. I believe that the NT is supportive of our plans and if you look on the NT website you will see a policy statement by the NT supportive of unpowered model flying on NT land. In any event there will be no flying until the agreed end of the lambing season.

Colin's Outings

Colin Lennox is again arranging a trip to Ringmer this summer for some full size gliding. He is also looking to arrange a trip to the Shuttleworth Collection of Historic Aircraft in Bedfordshire. He hopes to arrange this to coincide with a flying display in June. If you are interested in either trip do see Colin on the slope or give him a call on 01424 845498.

Competitions

Club competition dates for 2010 are as follows

28 March	Aerobatics
2 May	Reserve
6 June	Cross Country
11 July	Fun Fly
5 September	F3F
3 October	Reserve
24 October	Reserve

Allen Elliott is planning at some time this summer a non slope cross country event at a location in East Sussex to be finally decided. Watch this space.

The final event of the winter club F3F league will take place on 14 March. So far only one round has been held so let's hope the weather allows a competition on that date. The highlight of the abandoned contest on 14 February was a demo flight that JP did for the partial benefit of my 4 year old grandson, Sam, who wanted to see a landing. John landed with his usual flair and panache on the pathway at the top of Butts North Slope. However, the path was covered in snow and ice. John managed to slide his model for about 30M with hardly any drop off in speed before the model veered, limped of the edge of the slope and managed to get airborne again. Sam was most impressed. Rumour has it that there may be a photo or video clip of this achievement.

Contacts

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

18 February 2010