



# Editorial

Mick Davis

The running of this Society is undertaken by a very small percentage of the membership. As we try to promote the Society to a wider, younger audience the

workload has increased, and extra help is necessary. The workload problem will be compounded by the forthcoming retirement of Graham Chisnall and Peter Cowlan from the Committee. We urgently need replacements for them and plead for volunteers to come forward. In addition, help with the compiling of the journal would be welcome, particularly with scanning and cleaning up photographic images. Alan Simpson had been helping out with the photos but has had to withdraw and so the burden has fallen onto Committee members Colin Huston and David Fuller.

The date of our 2023 Annual General Meeting is 22 April. Once again, it will be a virtual meeting, via Zoom, and registration will be available from Andy Kemp (membership.secretary@crossandcockade.com). The starting time is 14.00 but attendees should log in before this.

Prior to the meeting, our chairman should receive any nominations for posts on the committee. The AGM will follow the usual format and be followed by the Leaman Lecture at 15.30. Those who only wish to attend the lecture should join the Zoom waiting room at 15.15.

The lecture is by Jon Guttman. It is titled *The Flying Boat War over the Adriatic* and covers the men and machines of both the Austro-Hungarian and Italian navies. There will be time for a Q&A session after Jon's talk.

Jon's talk is part of our new online lecture programme, now available to all our members and *Wind in the Wires* subscribers. By the time of the AGM, two such talks will have taken place. David Hassard presented *Thomas Sopwith and his Sopwith Aviation Company* on 21 February and Brigadier General R.G. Head gave *Oswald Boelcke: Germany's First Fighter Ace* on 16 March. April will be covered by Jon Guttman's AGM presentation but will be followed by David Marks' *Let the Zeppelins Come, I Don't Care* on 18 May and *The Early Flying Pioneers at Lark Hill* by Tim Brown on 13 June. July and August will see a summer break before *Hawker, the Story behind the Film* by Daniel Arbon and hosted by Bob Jones on 6 September, and *Air Power in Gallipoli* by Graham Mottram on 21 September. Provisionally, future talks are *Pre-war Ballooning* by Martin Main in November and *Breaking Racial Barriers in the RFC* by Jon Guttman during early December.

It is intended that these talks are recorded, with the speakers' permission, and placed on our website, in the Member's Area, for access to all our subscribers.

As can be seen from the contents page, the London meetings are again running and the contact details for David Marks are given. Hopefully, the York meetings will be revived but nothing has been heard from John Barfoot and so the situation regarding the Essex Chapter remains a mystery. Can anyone throw light on this?

Another of the stalwarts of WWI aviation history has passed away. Leo Opdycke, who single-handedly ran *World*

*War One Aero* and *Skyways* has died at the age of 93. He did much to promote interest in our subject and will be sorely missed. A fitting obituary, provided by Ted Sacher, appears on the inner rear cover.

## This Issue

Stewart Taylor's latest contribution looks at the career of a 65 Sqn pilot, Harry Symons. As ever, Stewart uses his article to cover other pilots of the unit and we gain an insight to the personalities of some well-known names. 65 Squadron hasn't received a great amount of coverage in the past and so the details provided are most welcome.

I produced a history of 36 Squadron for CCI 49/1 but since then have been gathering further information on the subject. The purchase of the medals and albums that had belonged to Captain J.C. Griffiths, a flight commander in the squadron, prompted me to put together a supplementary and mainly photographic follow-up to the original article. Too late for inclusion was this recently acquired photo of a late FE2b at Seaton Carew, and Blackburn Kangaroo behind.



It's been a while since we've carried an article about night bombing and so David Hearn's biography of Reginald Binckes is most welcome. David had researched his subject as a piece of family history, but it should make interesting reading for all our members as it covers not only the pilot's short operational service but also his training. David was able to draw on photographs from the album of Donald Tullis who was on Binckes' fatal flight. An interesting painting appeared in Tullis' album and this is reproduced on the outer rear cover.

One of the most famous British aeroplanes of WWI was BE2a No.50 which is synonymous with that great aviator Charles Rumney Samson. Paul Hare provides a detailed history of this machine. Paul had also provided a look at the RFC's BE2a's that were equipped with wireless and this is included as a 'Logbook' feature.

## Next Issue

David Méchin has produced a study of the Sopwith 1½ Strutter in French service, a subject about which very little has been published in this country. As ever, David has provided artwork which will appear on the rear covers. Brigadier General R.G. Head will have given his CCI talk by now and his article on Oswald Boelcke will be a good follow-up. Steve Mills has already given us an article about the RFC's aerial drones and he follows this up with the history of experiments in the use of aircraft to control remote control boats. Rod Henderson's short biography of A.E. McKeever will also appear.

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