



## **SAA Newsletter Bulletin Dec 2019**

Dear Members, as a way for providing updates the SAA will be providing a newsletter/bulletin to clubs, highlighting ongoing items and news, we feel of value to everyone.

### **Drone Registration Education System**

It's been quite an eventful month since the DRES went live and everyone has been eager to understand what they should do to remain flying. All the model associations have been issuing their interpretation of the guidance and advising their members. The processes are still not 100% clear, however our advice is,

- Make sure you have an achievement award or sit the on line test by 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019.
- Pay your £9.00 to the SAA or direct if you use the DRES on line.
- Complete the SAA Registration form provided to the club by the SAA and return this to the SAA Membership Secretary by 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020.
- Fly legally - Please note that to be insured you must fly lawfully for this you should register with the CAA. No Operator ID or (Flying ID or copy of the General Exemption plus an achievement award) may mean no insurance.
- Label your aircraft once you have your Operator ID.
- Passing the DRES/Drone test does not circumvent the SAA achievement scheme e.g. Bronze.
- Clubs should ensure members are registered and flying safely at all times, this includes ensuring membership cards are available when intending to fly as well as operator and flyer registration.

Please also note: Aircraft Safety: Endangering the safety of an aircraft could result in a five-year prison sentence. Failure to comply: could result in a fixed penalty notice or prosecution if challenged by the Police should they suspect you of flying unlawfully.

### **Limited Company**

As agreed at last year's SAA AGM the SAA will be moving to a limited company. This involves transferring funds and ratification of the constitution. Anyone needing further information please contact us or attend this year's AGM where this will be discussed and members updated.

### **Insurance 2020**

We are happy to report that we have gained cover and it is in place for everyone in the SAA to be insured for 2020. We would like to bring to your attention the following statement from our insurance providers regarding the outline requirements for your insurance cover.

*“Members should be aware that most insurance policies are limited to cover ‘lawful activities’ and therefore the best way to ensure certainty of cover is to comply with the CAA’s registration & competency requirements if you operate any unmanned aircraft for which they are a legal requirement. It is also important to note that any legal costs and/or punitive financial sanctions incurred by an individual member under criminal law as a result of non-compliance will be outside the scope of cover”.*

We are also reminded that our SAA insurance cover relies upon the fact that members are “undertaking model flying activities under the auspice (support or approval), control or direction of the SAA” this involves following the SAA Safety Achievement Scheme.

### **Safety in clubs and the SAA Handbook**

There is always a debate in clubs about safety and following the SAA Handbook guidance. In theory we would expect everyone to fly sensibly and legally, this means following at this time CAP 658, the drone code, park management rules and or local by-laws and the SAA safety code and the CAA online test if required. Due to the DRES and times changing (e.g. newer models/Lipo batteries/complex electronics) the Safety Committee will be meeting early next year to look at where we all stand to ensure member are flying safely and legally to protect their insurance cover in the event of an incident. Please follow your current Handbook guidance, ensure members are following this to the best of their ability. Clarity can be provided by contacting our Safety Officer.

### **SAA Membership On–Line (Joining and Renewing)**

At the moment our Membership Secretary is working flat out with getting everyone’s insurance documents sent out. On top of this he will be dealing with the work that is involved with registering members for DRES. Once this clears in January/February the committee will be moving on to look at a possible online Joining and renewing system. This needs to be investigated as there are many options available and to ensure funds are correctly administered with a project of this size. Further details will be cascaded as the project is scoped out.

### **Other Areas**

There are many jobs on the to do list just now and to save going in to lots of detail some are listed below. The Committee will endeavour to update and progress items in the best interests of the membership where they see fit. If you have any suggestions or great ideas feel free to send them in, unfortunately we will not be able to reply to respond to every individual, but will read and take on board where we can.

- Training and Testing Programme
- Events and Flyins
- Merchandise and Advertising
- Airtime Magazine and Bulletins

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS**

