



Editorial

THE OCTOBER COMMITTEE MEETING saw two of our latest recruits join the rest of us. Graham Chisnall has been co-opted and has volunteered to help in the strategic review that will

be undertaken next spring. Hopefully, there will be plans put forward to the membership at April's AGM. Brian Slater was also present and will take over from Gordon at the turn of the year. Brian's contact details appear on the contents page.

One item that is proving to be a problem for committee members such as Marcus and Colin & Barbara is the amount of stock that needs to be stored. Plans are afoot to reduce the print run of the journal, which should eventually, start to help matters but we still have a problem with books. Some of those received for review are retained by Colin, for the Society, as reference sources, but the majority just take up shelf space. We also receive bequests of former members' collections and these, inevitably, duplicate copies already held. What the committee would like is a volunteer who could take this stock and dispose of it to the Society's benefit; i.e. either sell them or arrange 'good homes' in other aviation organisations. Naturally, all expenses would be covered.

I've mentioned the AGM and Marcus had arranged speakers, including R.G. Head who will talk about Boelcke, the subject of his recent book. Details appear on the contents page. One further thing is a nudge re subscriptions which are now due for 2017.

Journal Matters

I'd like to thank Barbara for the front cover artwork. I wanted something with a wintry feel and had a photograph of 15 TS machines in the snow at Spittlegate. Barbara used Photoshop to create the nice colour rendering. Similarly, thanks to Arvo, Roger and Barbara for the Camel profiles on the rear cover, produced at quite short notice.

Stewart Taylor's wealth of research material never ceases to amaze me. Although there have been previous C&C (GB) and CCI articles about 45 Squadron in Italy, this one provides some further insight to its operations and, as ever, there are some new photos of men and machines: those taken during the unit's time with the Independent Force and the views of F5235 are well worth a look.

Phil Jarrett can always be relied on to produce well-researched and excellently illustrated article and that about V.G. Austen is no exception. Not only does it provide a good understanding of training during 1916, it also presents some 'gems' of photographs, such as those of the PB.23E and PB.25.

It's always refreshing to receive contributions about non-British subjects. The Serbian piece in 47/3 is a good example and this issue contains yet more from Pietro Lando about early aviation in Venice and its environs. Again, there are some great photos.

Mike Kelsey continues to feed us with information about the air war over Macedonia and his Hydemarck piece shows us that careful digging can reveal new information.

The Benoist feature concludes Paul Leaman's series based on the Atlas of German and Foreign Seaplanes. CCI readers now have access to most of the required information about those machines. Paul isn't resting on his laurels and has provided an in-depth study of the G Series machines captured by the British. There are hundreds of illustrations to accompany this and it will appear as a partwork.

I've more material in stock than ever and so am almost spoiled for choice when it comes to selecting content for next years' issues. In addition to Paul's contribution, other major features will include not only Ray Vann's look at the RFC/RAF in India, but also his detailed history of 26 Squadron in East Africa; both illustrated with rare images from the collection built up by Ray and the late Mike O'Connor.

Our President has put together an exhaustive study of the sites used by the support units with the BEF, illustrated with photographs and plans. Peter and I had talked about marking their locations on contemporary maps, in a similar manner to OS maps used to illustrate the Gazetteer of UK flying sites. That would be a useful exercise itself, but we've now decided to take it a step further and try to incorporate all the sites used by the RNAS/RFC/RAF, probably with the support sites marked with a different symbol or in a different colour. The maps will appear as inserts to the journal.

Editor's Choice

Colin continues to acquire images for use in the journal and has recently obtained this delightful view of the Royal Review on Perham Down in 1914. This Fuller of Amesbury photo shows immaculate HF.F.20s 352, 351, 274, 363 and BE2as 242, 316, 249, 250, 232, 347, 233 and probably 327 lined up for inspection. The BE2as include replacements for 2 Squadron's recent losses.

Mick Davis



The Society acknowledges the Copyright of all photographs in this journal, published for the purposes of historical research, which have come either from private collections, or from the various official bodies which maintain a regulated photographic print library from which copies may be obtained.

AWM: Australian War Memorial, Canberra FAAM: Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton IWM: Courtesy of the Imperial War Museum, London
MOD: Ministry of Defence - Crown Copyright NAHC: US Naval Aviation Historical Center NARA: US National Archives & Records Administration
RAFM: Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon SHD: Service Historique Défense, Paris TNA: The National Archives, London