



# Editorial

Mick Davis

The AGM on 22 April was an enjoyable day. The guest speaker, Ian Castle, gave an excellent talk on the 1917–1918 Gotha and Giant raids, a talk made all the more interesting by Ian's ability to impersonate the voices of eye witnesses, something I hadn't heard before.

The AGM itself ran smoothly and the minutes are included with this issue. Readers will note the work being undertaken by Graham Mottram and Graham Chisnall on our behalf and they deserve thanks for the time and effort they're spending on this important task.

Someone else who deserves thanks is Gordon Atkin, who has now retired after 17 years of serving as our Treasurer. A quick glance at the accompanying financial statement shows how safe Gordon's hands have been in managing our funds. Brian Slater is now our treasurer and I'm sure he will be continuing the good work. As a token of the Society's gratitude, the Committee have offered honorary membership to Gordon.

## This Issue

Paul Leaman's series on captured German aircraft gets into stride with the information on machines in the original G series. It provides the opportunity to present many photographs and sketches to show the markings applied to those machines.

Mike Meech continues with his material on co-operation between aeroplanes and ground troops with his take on the use of the Klaxon horn. One thing that Mike's work teaches us all is the need to look closely at photographs because many contain details that are easy to miss.

The RFC/RAF use of the SPAD X.III was short-lived and unspectacular but Stewart Taylor has produced his article about two of the 23 Squadron pilots who flew the type in action before it was, understandably, replaced with the Sopwith Dolphin. For those interested, I have added a serial listing for the SPAD X.IIIs used by the RFC/RAF.

I'm always keen on articles relating to the flying service of other nations and David Méchin's contribution to this issue covers two countries, Japan and France. The aviation links between the two are something I hadn't previously seen covered in detail and so considered it a must for this journal.

Another aspect of military aviation that has been neglected is the British involvement in North Russia after the collapse of the tsarist regime. Phil Wilkinson's article had

previously appeared in the RAF Historical Society's journal but very few of our members are part of that organisation and so I consider its inclusion worthwhile. It was made available with the help of Jeff Jefford. Thanks should go to Gareth Morgan, of our sister Australian society, for help in providing extra images.

As promised in the last issue, this one includes the first of Joe Moran's reports on current modelling news and a review of a recent kit release.

## Future Issues

I've quite a lot of stock to hand but, in order to provide a balance of subjects in each issue, will always welcome more. Among the features to be used in the rest of this year's issues is an account of airmen from Bratislava who served in the Austro-Hungarian air services during WWI. I don't receive many articles in topics relating to the Central Powers and would really like to see more.

There is also a David Méchin biography of Georges Madon, the high-scoring French 'ace', which is accompanied by some excellent photographs and more of David's colour profiles.

Equally colourful is a piece by Lorne Bohn about the advertising of early aviation that includes some wonderful Michelin post cards.

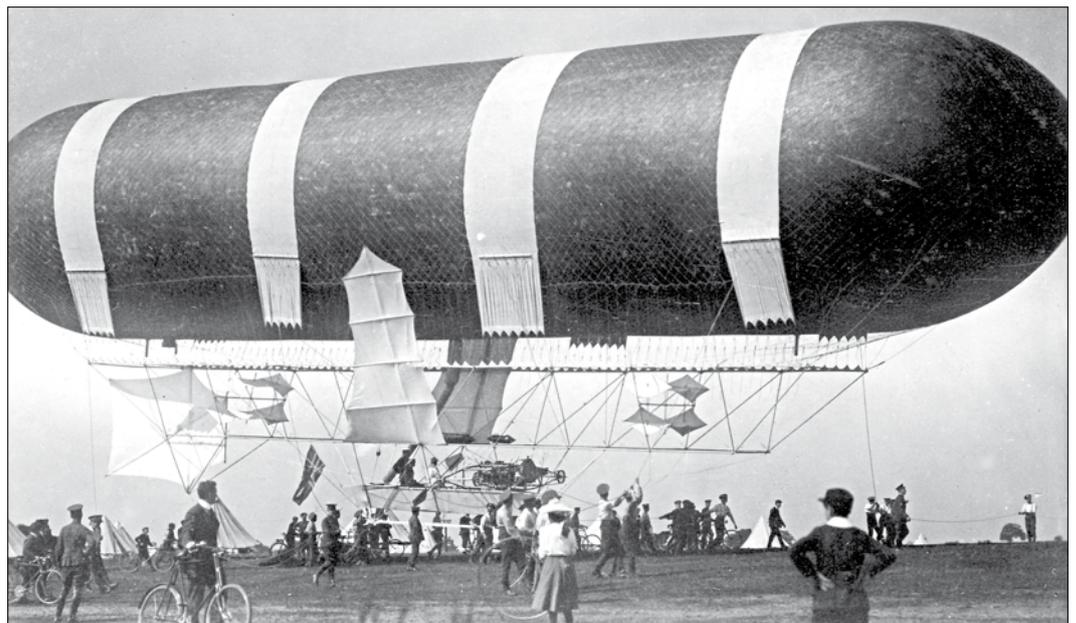
Ray Vann has provided two detailed articles, based on research conducted in co-operation with Mike O'Connor, a history of the RFC/RAF in India up to 1919 and another for 26 Squadron in East Africa. As ever with these two researchers, the articles include detailed unit rosters.

The next Stewart Taylor piece will feature a 60 Squadron SE5a pilot who had the misfortune to land in Holland.

In addition, there will also be articles of a more technical nature. Peter Cowlan, for example, will take look at the Canton Unné engine. There is also a detailed look at Sopwith Camel night fighters, which might appeal to modellers. Modellers may also like something provided by Barry Gray, a contemporary study, including plans, of the various sheds and hangars used by the German air service.

## Editor's Choice

I don't know about other members, but I buy some photographs simply because they have an evocative feel about them. One such is this delightful shot of Nulli Secundus.



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