

## **Chairman's Report**

We've come long way over my time in office. We have joined the BMFA which, I think, has established the club as a responsible organisation within the sport. Through the BMFA we now have several members with 'A' or 'B' certificates. We have qualified instructors and examiners. We have extended flying our flying times and gained 7 day flying during the summer months and, courtesy of the BMFA who are funding it, we are in the process of a bird survey which, if all goes well, may allow us to apply for the same extended flying times during the winter. We have also, finally, managed to join CASC which will almost certainly mean we will not have to pay any rates. I am also very pleased to be able to say that we are perceived as a very friendly club.

On the down side, this year in particular has given us some exceptionally poor weather and so our flying has been quite badly curtailed and that, in turn has meant that we have not really had chance to groom some other members to take their 'A/B' certificates – something I hope we can redress next year.

I think that most of the committee at least are agreed that we could improve safety at the field and I know that will be something on which we will be concentrating next year. Can I just say on this point that at some time or another we are all guilty of infringements, whether it is standing on the approach while we are trying get to grips with a new model that has just taken off or we have become a bit disorientated and flown over the pits. The problem is that no-one likes to be told and the poor old safety officer has to risk becoming unpopular if he keeps on keeping on! But as I said we are going to try to improve so please don't take it personally if you are reminded of the rules.

Finally, as you are probably all aware, in accordance with the constitution, I now have to step down as chairman. Before I do that I would just like to say, that while I am looking forward to being just an ordinary member, it has been an enjoyable time for me in the club. I said earlier that we have come a long way. But it's important to realise that nothing has been done without your votes and your support – you have made the club what it is and I think you can all give yourselves a damned good pat on the back!