

A report on the 2018 Southern Area Gala at Middle Wallop on the 7th July:

For some years now the Southern Area committee have been planning to hold a Southern Area Gala where all of the areas' clubs could attend to share a day of model flying, the only holding factor being a suitable location. Several sites were found and assessed for suitability but for various reasons did not match the criteria we were looking for.

Some years ago we were invited to support the "Wartime Wallop" event held annually on the May bank holiday by the Museum of Army Flying at Middle Wallop. Initially providing a static display the event developed in 2017 to include a model flying display and in 2018 this activity increased to become a much appreciated addition to the day's activities.

On the back of this support we approached the Middle Wallop airfield manager regarding the use of the site for the S A Gala and got a positive response in the allocation of a date in their calendar, so the first event for many years became a reality.



All photographs by kind permission of Peter Willis and Richard Tambling.

Even though in the event we were competing with England in the ¼ final of the World Cup, the British Grand Prix and Wimbledon, we still had an attendance of 34 Pilots with many more spectators from around 13 clubs, not bad at all for a first event. Having had some very favourable comments regarding the event we expect next year the attendance will be considerably higher.



Pictured above the two flight-line HQ's

Following registration at 10:00am the flying commenced and I have to say what an amazing array of superb models were put through their paces beautifully captured by the many photographs taken by Peter Willis and Richard Tambling.



A few lessons were learned, next year we must better advertise the event through the Helicopter fraternity, and I believe it would be better to either have a separate flight-line for gliders or run the fixed wing flight-line with Power / Glider slots, both easily remedied in our plans for next year.



In summary all had a great day in brilliant weather and we look forward to inviting you all back next year, thank you all for your valued support. Please look out for future activities run by the area such as the very popular "Balsa Brain Quiz" all would be improved with your support.

The website also gives details of the availability various "Talks" and general support for your club, please keep in touch.

The S Area BMFA Committee