



British Model Flying Association **CLUB BULLETIN**

9th February 2018

Issue No 236

**IMPORTANT !!!
SECRETARY PLEASE NOTE**

PLEASE CIRCULATE THE CLUB BULLETIN TO YOUR CLUB MEMBERS. YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THE CLUB BULLETIN FROM THE BMFA WEBSITE (Ctrl + click on the link below, or copy the link below)
<https://www.bmfa.org/Clubs/Club-Bulletins>

TO ALL AREA COUNCIL MEMBERS

There will be a Meeting of the Area Council on Saturday 17th February 2018 at 11.00am which is to be held at: Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrew's Road, Leicester LE2 8RE. Tel: 0116-2440028 Fax: 0116-2440645. Email: admin@bmfa.org

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence.
- 2 Request for Permission to be Absent.
- 3 Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Area Council Meeting held on 8th July 2017.
- 4 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 8th July 2017 that are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 5 To appoint a representative to the Awards Committee for 2018.
- 6 To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.
 - a) Power
 - b) Silent Flight
- 7 Review
 - a) Numbers of Achievement Scheme Examiners in each of the Areas
 - b) The new 2018 online membership payment system
- 8 Area Websites, Social Media and Public Relations.

- 9 Discuss proposal to be submitted to Full Council from ASRC in relation to funding allocated to the Achievement Scheme for a dinner ticket for the Annual Awards Presentation, allocated to the Achievement Scheme.
- 10 To receive reports from committees or co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.
- a) Achievement Scheme Review Committee
 - b) University Payload Challenge
 - c) Education
- 11 To receive reports from Area Committees. (Please ensure your Area prepares a maximum of 1 x A4 page synopsis of your report for the meeting. Photocopying facilities are available at Chacksfield House if required.)
- 12 To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.
- 13 To confirm dates of Areas Council Meetings 2018.
- 14 Any Other Business.
- Note: Items for Any Other Business must be handed to the Chairman of the Meeting **IN WRITING** before the meeting commences. This will be strictly enforced.*
- a) AOB item received from Southern Area for consideration at Areas Council.
 - Altitude management for models >7kg

BMFA National Centre Part time job opportunity

Commencing in Spring 2018 we have a part time vacancy available at the BMFA National Centre at Buckminster near Grantham.

Primary duties are to assist with the day to day running of the centre and to provide cover and key holding in respect of events throughout the year.

The position favours an individual located close to the centre who is willing to work flexible hours with a weighting towards the summer months when the centre is busiest.

The initial requirement is for a nominal 15 hours per week for approximately 30 weeks per year, the position may favour a retired individual and job sharing is an option for the right candidates.

Key duties and responsibilities:

- Assist with day to day site maintenance tasks.
- Assist with grounds maintenance tasks.
- Liaise with event and competition organisers.
- Unlock and lock site and ensure security arrangements are in place.
- Collection of monies.
- Assist with overall development and furtherance of the facility.

Desirable attributes:

- Willingness to be flexible in working arrangements.
- Broad knowledge of model flying disciplines.
- Knowledge of grounds maintenance and machinery.
- Willing and able to engage in some physical work.

Closing date for applications is 28th February, 2018

For further information or an informal discussion contact Manny Williamson on: 0116 2441091.

To formally apply send a CV and brief covering letter to:

M Williamson
 BMFA Buckminster
 Sewstern Lane, Sewstern
 Grantham, Lincs NG33 5RW
 Or by Email to manny@bmfa.org

**DATE FOR
YOUR DIARY**

BMFA Buckminster Swapmeet

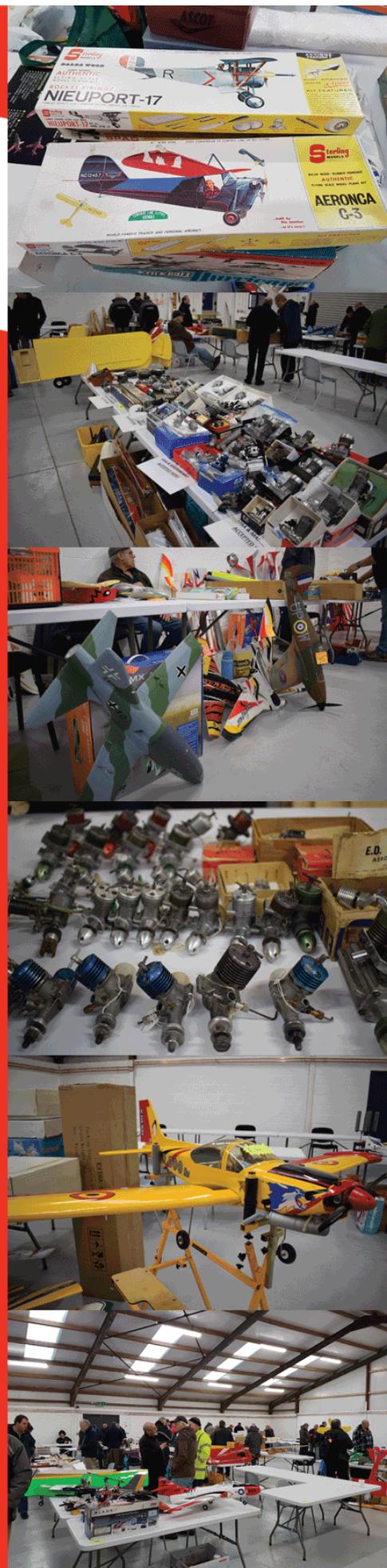
15th April 2018

- Over 60 indoor tables
- 40 plus traders.
- Outdoor space available.
- Traders set up access from 8am.
- Public access from 10am.
- On site catering.
- £2 entry for buyers.

**For further info:
0116 2441091 or
manny@bmfa.org**

**BMFA National Centre
Sewstern Lane, Sewstern
Grantham NG33 5RW**

**For detailed directions see:
www.nationalcentre.bmfa.org**



2018 BMFA Buckminster Season tickets now available

- Price £70.00 Seniors and £10.00 Juniors.
- Tickets valid from date of purchase to December 31st 2018.
- A great way of supporting the
- National Centre.
- Fantastic facilities.
- Less than £6.00 per month.

**Complete application form
or contact 0116 2440028
for further details**

An Introduction to Aerobatics with GBRCAA competition pilot Ashley Hoyland

Wednesday 7th March 2018 at BMFA National Centre,
NG33 5RW - starts at 10am (Buckminster opens at 9am)

www.nationalcentre.bmfa.org

£12.00 per person including refreshments
and sandwich lunch.



A taster session for those looking to improve their basic flying skills and make a start on learning to fly some simple aerobatic manoeuvres. The day will consist of briefings on the basics of aerobatics, flying demonstrations, and the opportunity to fly your own aircraft and receive coaching.

There will be two groups: those who attended the previous event and those who will be attending for the first time. Pilots limited to 10, but no limit on non flying visitors who are very welcome.

Email manny@bmfa.org to book



THE 2018 SCALE INDOOR FREE FLIGHT NATIONALS
See the worlds finest flying scale models in action

Why not compete this year?

KIT SCALE - OPEN SCALE - PEANUT SCALE - and much more!
SUPERB VIEWING BALCONY - SPECTATORS WELCOME

For more information email - gray4990@yahoo.co.uk
 or j.minchell@btinternet.com

Walsall Campus Sports Centre, Sunday 15th April 2018




THE 2018 SCALE INDOOR RADIO CONTROL NATS

Why not compete this year?

TEST YOUR FLYING SKILLS IN A FULL SIZE RAF HANGAR!

SPECTATORS WELCOME!

For more information email - j.minchell@btinternet.com

RAF Shawbury, Shropshire. Sunday 4th March 2018

The Achievement Scheme Review Committee (ASRC) will be running 2 further Achievement Scheme Roadshows in 2018, Saturday 7th April at Pedham Place Golf Centre, Swanley (BR8 8PP) and on Saturday 28th April at BMFA Buckminster (NG33 5RW), these roadshows are open to any BMFA member who wishes to attend, the roadshows will be all day events and tea/coffee and lunch will be provided. There is no cost to attend however places are limited to 100.

Full addresses and directions are below

Pedham Place Golf Centre
London Road,
Swanley **BR8 8PP**
www.ppgc.co.uk

and

BMFA Buckminster
Sewstern
Grantham
Lincolnshire, **NG33 5RW**, For directions see <http://nationalcentre.bmfa.org/visitor-info/getting-there>

Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

It is anticipated that the program for the roadshows will include the following topics

- The ethos and administration of the Achievement Scheme
- Running Examiner/Instructor Workshops
- New Achievement Scheme materials (BPC's FPV Extension etc)
- Screening the First Draft of the Multi-rotor examiners guidance video
- The Mandatory and supplementary questions
- Q&A Session

If you would like to attend please complete visit the link below and submit the form:

http://achievements.bmfa.org/event/achievement-scheme-roadshow-south-swanley?instance_id=25

EASA PUBLISH THEIR TECHNICAL OPINION AND DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR UNMANNED AIRCRAFT

The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has now published the Technical Opinion and Draft Regulations for Unmanned Aircraft. All of the documents can be found on the EASA website here: <https://www.easa.europa.eu/document-library/opinions/opinion-012018>

Model aircraft remain within the scope of these Regulations, but thanks to the lobbying carried out on behalf of the model flying community by Europe Air Sports, the Basic Regulation (which underpins these regulations and specifies what they should regulate) does include an article which offers our established activities some protection:

(20c) Model aircraft are considered as unmanned aircraft within the meaning of this Regulation and are used primarily for leisure activities. The delegated and implementing acts adopted under this on the basis of Regulation and concerning unmanned aircraft should take into account that such model aircraft have so far had a good safety record, especially those operated by members of model aircraft associations or clubs which developed specific codes of conduct for such activities. In addition, when adopting those delegated and implementing acts, the Commission should take account of the need for a seamless transition from the different national systems to the new Union regulatory framework so that model aircraft can continue to operate as they do today, also by taking into account existing best practices in the Member States.

The other important change agreed to the Basic Regulation is that it no longer mandates the registration of each individual aircraft – just the pilot.

The Basic Regulation gained political agreement on 22nd December, 2017 and is expected to come into force in Summer 2018.

It is anticipated that the EASA Opinion and Draft Regulations for Unmanned Aircraft will be adopted by the European Commission in the final quarter of 2018 with the final 'Decision' scheduled for the first quarter of 2019.

There are three options available for model flying within the regulations:

Operation within the Open Category

This Open Category is intended for those operating as individuals outside of an association or club. Model flying will fall within subcategory A3 (away from uninvolved people) of the Open Category and can be conducted with aircraft up to 25Kg within the C3, C4 or 'privately built' classes.

The C4 class was specifically developed to reflect conventional model aircraft and imposes a minimum set of technical requirements (the aircraft should not be capable of automatic flight and consumer information to raise awareness of the regulations must be included).

The minimum age restriction has now been removed (this is to be left to Member States to decide) as has the requirement to register individual aircraft, but the height limit of 120 metres remains. There is also a requirement for some form of online competency training with an online test to try and ensure that the pilot is aware of the law and the requirements for safe operation.

Electronic identification and geoawareness (probably involving the use of a phone app) is only mandatory if 'required by the zone of operation'.

Operation within designated 'Zones'

Article 11 provides Member States with an option to designate specific 'zones' for model flying to take place, primarily for those pilots who are not members of a model aircraft association or club. These zones could define different operating parameters to those required by the Open Category (such as an increased altitude limit for instance). The relevant paragraph from Article 11 reads:

2. Member States may define airspace in which UAS operations are exempted from one or more of the 'open' category requirements of this Regulation, and in which operators are not required to hold an authorisation or submit a declaration.

Operation within the Specific Category

In recognition of the good safety record established over many years by model flying associations throughout Europe, the proposed regulations allow competent authorities (in our case the Civil Aviation Authority) to issue an operational authorisation (within the Specific Category) to model associations and clubs which can define deviations from the regulations to reflect established custom and practice and operating parameters (such as altitude limits). This is outlined in Article 6:

For UAS operations conducted in the framework of model clubs or associations, the following apply:

- 1. the competent authority may issue an operational authorisation, in accordance with UAS.SPEC.040, to a model club or association without further demonstration of compliance, on the basis of the model club's or association's established procedures, organisational structure, and management system;***
- 2. operational authorisations granted under this Article shall include the conditions and limitations of, as well as the deviations from, the requirements of the Annex (Part-UAS) to this Regulation;***
- 3. this authorisation shall be limited to the territory of the Member State where the authorisation was issued.***

It is anticipated that the associations currently recognised by the CAA (BMFA, LMA, SAA and FPVUK) will operate under this type of authorisation and our hope is that this will enable us to continue to operate as we do today. To benefit from an authorisation of this type, the regulations do place some responsibilities on model clubs and associations, but these are now slightly less onerous than those proposed originally:

UAS.SPEC.055 Responsibilities of model clubs and associations

Model clubs and associations that hold an operational authorisation defined in Article 6 of this Regulation shall:

- 1. make available to their registered members appropriate procedures to comply with the conditions and limitations defined in the operational authorisation issued by the competent authority;**
- 2. assist UAS remote pilots, who are registered members of the club or association, in achieving the minimum competency required to operate the UAS safely in accordance with the procedures defined in paragraph 1;**
- 3. take appropriate action when informed that a registered member does not comply with the conditions and limitations defined in the operational authorisation and, if necessary, inform the competent authority;**
- 4. provide, upon request from the competent authority, the documentation required for oversight and monitoring purposes.**

Conclusion

From the outset, we argued to exclude model flying from the scope of these regulations but could not gain political support for this. However, a compromise was reached with recognition being given to model flying within the Basic Regulation. The result of this was that EASA was then compelled to incorporate more favourable provisions for model flying within their regulations for unmanned aircraft.

Whilst not an ideal outcome, the draft regulations are perhaps a little more proportionate than those originally proposed. The provisions within the 'Specific Category' provide the majority of Member States with sufficient flexibility to allow model flying to continue largely as it does today, but this will ultimately depend upon interpretation and implementation within individual Member States and the level of co-operation from governments and national regulators.

As such, representatives from the UK Model Flying Associations are working in co-ordination to negotiate with the Department for Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority to try and ensure that any changes to UK regulations are fair, proportionate and based on a genuine assessment of the level of risk. These negotiations remain ongoing at the present time.

What about Brexit?

At present (as with all things Brexit) it is unclear whether the UK will remain part of the EASA regulatory system or not. At present the indications are that the UK will either remain bound by the EASA rules or will choose to replicate them in national law.

Dave Phipps

8 February 2018

We are pleased to announce that following a unanimous vote of the Royal Aero Club Council, the 2018 Queen's Cup for Air Racing has been awarded to one of the British Model Flying Association's Specialist Bodies – The British Miniature Pylon Racing Association (BMPRA).



BMPRA Chairman, Geb Jones commented: *"The British Miniature Pylon Racing Association is delighted that the Queen's Cup for 2018 has been awarded to the sport of Model Aircraft flying and in particular to Radio Control Pylon Racing. The BMPRA will be the organizing body of the competition that will be held for the newest International pylon racing Class, FAI-F3T where models race around a course at speeds exceeding 200mph. This is a rapidly growing racing class in the UK. The competition will take place during the 2018 BMFA Nationals weekend in August when the top UK placed competitors at the Nationals will compete in a separate knockout event for the Queen's Cup on the final day"*.

The BMFA National Championships will take place at RAF Barkston Heath over the August Bank Holiday weekend (25th-27th August). For more details please <http://bmfa-nats.org/power-nationals>

Her Majesty The Queen approved the gift of the trophy to the Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom in 2010 and events were held in 2011 (British Aerobatic Association), 2012 (British Microlight Aircraft Association), 2013 (British Balloon & Airship Club), 2016 (British Model Flying Association) and 2017 (Helicopter Club of Great Britain). The trophy is of Irish silver and dates from around 1719 and sits on a wooden base. It has the Royal Arms on one side and the words "The Queen's Air Race Challenge Cup" on the other.



2017 Queen's Cup Winners - Hugh Barklem and David Monks

East Anglia Area

Cordially invite

All Area and Club Examiners, Instructors and
potential Test Candidates

to a

Fixed Wing 'A' and 'B' Instructor & Examiner Workshop

Kindly hosted by Chelmsford MFA

(just off the A1060 near Roxwell, west of Chelmsford)

on **Saturday 12th May 2018**, commencing at 10 am

Directions for the site will be sent to all attendees nearer the time. Please book-in early as the numbers will be limited to about 20.

The Workshop is being held in support of the BMFA Achievement Scheme and is designed to help Instructors & Examiners to improve consistency.

The purpose is to allow Pilots, Instructors and Examiners the opportunity to gain experience, share information and discuss the requirements of the Fixed Wing 'A' and 'B' tests in a relaxed and informal environment. Delegates will be asked to 'score' the aspects of the mock tests, being pre-flight checks, from the pits to the take-off point, all of the elements of the flight, the retrieval and the post-flight checks - note: the demo flights will have various deliberate errors incorporated.

Following this, there will be a group critique of the test in which the Demonstration Pilot will participate. At the conclusion of each section, the Demonstration Pilot will fly the schedule to the required standards.

Refreshments and barbecue will be running from about 10.30 until we run out of food.

For further details, contact the Event Organiser, Phil Gutteridge, East Anglia Achievement Scheme Co-Ordinator on philg44@sky.com or 07810 547 406