



British Model Flying Association **CLUB BULLETIN**

13th April 2006

Issue No: 162

**WHY NOT CHECK OUT THE INFORMATION ON
www.bmfa.org**

**IMPORTANT !!!
SECRETARY PLEASE NOTE**

**THIS IS THE ONLY COPY OF THE CLUB BULLETIN SENT TO YOUR CLUB.
WOULD YOU PLEASE ARRANGE FOR ITS CONTENTS TO BE DISTRIBUTED,
AS APPROPRIATE TO YOUR CLUB MEMBERS**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT AN UPDATED COPY OF THE "EVENTS AND CONTEST
CALENDAR" IS AVAILABLE FROM CHACKSFIELD HOUSE ON RECEIPT OF A
STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**

TO ALL FULL COUNCIL MEMBERS

**There will be a Meeting of the Full Council on Saturday 6th May 2006 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.**

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Request for permission to be absent.
3. To verify voting strength of the meeting.
4. Correction and adoption of the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 7th January 2006.
5. Matters/Actions Arising from the 7th January 2006 meeting which are not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
6. To receive the financial report from the Honorary Treasurer to include:
 - a) Progress towards the year end Accounts.
 - b) To confirm reduced membership fees from July.

7. To receive a joint report from the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer.
8. To receive a proposal from the Chairman "That this Council adopt the rules governing the nomination of candidates for the Society's Awards as detailed on the appended paper."
9. To receive a proposal from the Chairman "That this Council debate and adopt the voting policy to be used for the 2006 election of Society Officers and Technical Committee Members."
10. To receive a report from the Vice-Chairman.
11. To receive a report from the Honorary Secretary to include:
 - a) To receive the Affiliated Club List.
 - b) To receive dates for Council Meetings in the year 2007.
12. To receive a report from the Technical Secretary.
13. To receive reports or updates from Technical Committees to cover all BMFA National Championships.
14. To discuss Free Flight and Space Modelling Nationals. (*Comp Sec*)
15. To receive a report from the Competition Secretary to include the presentation of the following proposal:
"That Stuart Lodge, ratified at the January 2006 Council Meeting has withdrawn from the team and Ian Dowsett will replace him".
16. To receive a proposal from R/C Power Technical Committee "That Alison Harrop (089395) be appointed as F3A Team manager for the 2006 season."
17. To receive a report from the Records Officer to include the following proposal from Control Line Technical Committee:
"That the Davis B trophy, currently awarded for 'B' Team Race at the Power Nationals, be re-allocated to Barton 'B' Team Race at the Nationals."
18. To receive a report from the Public Relations Officer.
19. To receive a report from the FAI Delegate, to include acceptance of the report on the recent CIAM Meeting from the FAI Delegate Alternate.
20. To receive a proposal from South East Area that "Anyone working on behalf of the BMFA and having written or verbal contact with outside authorities or organisations, e.g. local or national government, MPs, or press, must always use consistent and full descriptions of the type of model aircraft or flying in question, for example, 'free flight model', 'radio-controlled model', 'control line model', 'silent radio-controlled model' and so on."
21. To receive a proposal from South Midland Area "That the BMFA should investigate hiring a professional PRO on a full or part-time basis, to enable a more professional approach to fund raising and raising the image of the BMFA."
22. To receive any reports from the following Delegates (reports should be brief and preferably prepared in advance).
 - a) Royal Aero Club (RAeC)
 - b) General Aviation Safety Committee (GASCo)
 - c) Joint Air Prox
 - d) Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR)

23. To receive any reports from the following:
- a) CAA Team
 - b) UK Radio Control Council (UKRCC)
 - c) Education Working Group / Flight Challenge
 - d) Computer Sub-Committee
 - e) Safety Review Committee
 - f) Achievement Scheme Review Committee
 - g) BMFA News Publishers
 - h) Flying Site Adviser's Report

24. Any Other Business:

Please note: Items for Any Other Business should be handed or sent to the Office Manager in writing before the meeting commences. This will be strictly enforced. Any questions to be asked under A.O.B. should be previously advised to the Office Manager to allow preparation of replies.

25. Date of next meeting.



THE BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION

CONGRATULATES THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS
WHO HAVE BEEN HONOURED BY THE FAI AND
ROYAL AERO CLUB WITH THESE HIGHLY
PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

BERNARD HUNT – THE FAI ANTONOV DIPLOMA

**ROBIN (BOB) BAILEY – THE BRONZE MEDAL OF
THE ROYAL AERO CLUB**

**MRS JO HALMAN – THE CERTIFICATE OF
MERIT OF THE ROYAL AERO CLUB**

DANIEL BILLAM – THE ROYAL AERO CLUB PRESIDENT'S
ROLEX TROPHY



Following on from our successful 2005 attendance, the BMFA will be present at the 2006 Fly London at Earls Court on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of April.

The BMFA stand (L133) will include Aeromodelling information and exhibits as well as a children's model building workshop.

Youngsters will have the opportunity to come along and construct a BMFA Dart with the assistance of one of our Education Volunteers. Further information and ticket details can be viewed at www.londonairshow.co.uk

CONTEST UPDATES

DON'T MISS.....
BMFA SCALE INDOOR NATIONALS 2006
23RD APRIL NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY
SPORTS CENTRE, NG7 2RD 8.30AM TO 6.00PM
SPECTATORS WELCOME
BAR AND ALL DAY CATERING
INFORMATION 01865 873020 OR
charlie@newman737.freemove.co.uk

BMFA BRITISH FREE FLIGHT
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
27 - 29 May 2006

BARKSTON HEATH, NR GRANTHAM

UNIVERSITY PAYLOAD CHALLENGE
ELVINGTON AIRFIELD 10/11 JUNE 2006
SPECTATORS - PRIOR NOTIFICATION ESSENTIAL
PLEASE CONTACT DAVE KERSWELL 01653 699537

BMFA TOP GUN 2006
8-9 JULY BARKSTON HEATH, NR GRANTHAM

BMFA BRITISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
26-29 AUGUST 2006
R/C, C/L, SCALE- BIGGEST MODEL FLYING
EVENT IN EUROPE
BARKSTON HEATH, NR GRANTHAM

BMFA BRITISH NATIONAL SILENT FLIGHT CHAMPIONSHIPS
26-29 AUGUST 2006
SWINDERBY, NR LINCOLN

Park Flyers - is there a problem for clubs?

The current availability of completely ready to fly R/C model packages and the recent explosion in their popularity has thrown up a number of concerns for existing RC Flyers and Clubs and several have asked for a BMFA response to the situation.

The first point of note is that to date, we have not received a single incident report, insurance claim or even a complaint from a Local Authority or the general public concerning this type of aircraft. Considering the level of activity, this is remarkable.

In very general terms, it appears that the more 'toy' oriented 'out of the box' models are being flown on 27 MHz, and most of the 35 MHz equipped models are flown by more experienced flyers who realise the problems they may cause and act accordingly. Neither of these cases should be of great concern to existing clubs.

However, there are two situations that clubs and individuals should be aware of.

Illegal Equipment

There is an enormous amount of illegal R/C equipment out there, virtually all of it either not CE marked or illegally CE marked. In addition there is equipment on frequencies that are illegal to use in the UK but which can still be sold in the UK because it is legal to use somewhere in the EU and we are bound by EU free trade agreements.

The BMFA has already taken steps to try to reduce the problem and the sale and operation of these aircraft has been discussed with the CAA, OFCOM, Trading Standards and the United Kingdom Radio Control Council.

Measures have been put in place where possible and these include official links with eBay to remove illegal items and liaison with Trading Standards to address the sale of illegal items on the high street when these are brought to our attention. We are also approaching several importers with a view to including CAA and BMFA leaflets in their product boxes and are liaising with the CAA on the production of a CAA sticker for use on the boxes of all models sold in the UK.

Ready-to-Fly models on 35MHz

This situation is relatively new and is much harder to address and it is the issue that probably represents the largest potential for problems.

To be quite clear, it is perfectly legal to import, sell and use ready-to-fly aircraft and helicopters on the 35MHz band and a good number of this type of model are currently being imported. These aircraft can be purchased from any of a number of outlets, from toyshops to fashion outlets and food chain stores to model shops. They are being sold by the thousand, often to individuals with no idea of the implications of flying a model aircraft and no thought as to the effect of their flying on others.

This would almost certainly not have been a problem if they were of 27 MHz but 35 MHz is a different matter.

So where does this leave the average model flyer and member of the BMFA?

The first thing to remember is that the BMFA is aware of the problem and acting to strengthen our position where possible.

The practicalities at the flying field are more in the hands of the pilot. Whilst it is impossible to be totally sure that your frequency is clear, some steps can be taken to this end. If you feel that your club is at risk then think about employing a frequency scanner at every flying session. Whilst this only indicates that your frequency is clear at the start of the flight it is a step in the right direction.

Be vigilant on your flying field. Although there is always the possibility of interference from unidentified flyers, these individuals don't usually hide from public view. They simply don't realise that they may be causing problems. Keep a look out during your drive to the club. You know your local area and the potential locations that someone may be tempted to fly their new electric model, at every opportunity talk to these people and try to educate them and invite them to attend the club field.

Several clubs have had success in identifying lone flyers by the membership working together (networking?) and some of these have gone on to become keen and valid club members.

Another way in which the membership can help is to notify me at the office when you have a problem of this nature, in this way we can keep a record of **genuine** conflicts on file which may be of use in any future negotiations.

Whilst this problem has the potential to increase over the next few years, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Technology is rapidly beginning to overtake the problem, as the radio equipment that we use becomes more refined and selective all the time. Sets are becoming available (for instance on 2.4 GHz and soon 869MHz) that use channel hopping technology (in a similar way that a mobile phone does) and only transmit on clear frequencies. This technology could very well be the ultimate answer to all of us in the battle against interference.

The components to produce this type of equipment are readily available and in general use in other applications, some manufacturers already developing equipment along these lines.

Obviously it will be a few years before everyone owns this type of equipment and until then we must remain vigilant in order to protect ourselves, the BMFA as the national governing body is working at all possible levels to address these issues.

Manny Williamson
Development Officer



FOR SALE

MICK REEVES SPITFIRE WITH ASP 61

FLAIR FOKKER D7 WITH OS FS70

SE5A WITH SAITO FS45

ATTILA

TIGER MOTH WITH SAITOFA 45

GALAXY TWIN WITH 2 ASP 20

GRINGO WITH ASP 61

BY-FLY 25

PLANS SKY DUSTER

PLANS BI-PLAINE ACROBITS WITH OS61

4 SETS OF JR RADIO

CONTACT DEREK PEARSON 02380 694100

OR EMAIL syluaderek@aol.com

LOST & FOUND

**FOUND IN DEEP BRACKEN WHILST WALKING FROM PEAK HILL, SIDMOUTH,
DEVON.**

**DELTA WINGED, ELECTRIC POWERED MODEL CALLED SAS WILD.
IT HAS A BMFA STICKER AND HAS A 2 ON EACH WING AND A 68 ON THE
NOSE CONE.**

**CONTACT B J CLARK, 28 GEORGE STREET, EXMOUTH,
DEVON. EX8 1LL.**

ACHIEVEMENT SCHEME UPDATE

**2006 UPDATED VERSION OF THE ACHIEVEMENT SCHEME
BOOKLET NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE BMFA OFFICE
CHACKSFIELD HOUSE, 31 ST ANDREWS ROAD,
LEICESTER LE2 8RE
TEL 0116 2440028 / EMAIL admin@bmfa.org**

**OR
DOWNLOAD FROM THE BMFA WEBSITE
WWW.BMFA.ORG**

INSURANCE CLAIM PROCEDURE **– PLEASE READ THIS AND PASS IT ON TO YOUR MEMBERS**

Would all members and clubs please note that should an injured party (the third party) claim against a member who has caused them damage (the first party), then a claim has to be actually made! The accident notification form that we request completed by the first party, IS NOT a claim form. It is simply a notification to the insurers of a POSSIBLE claim.

This procedure applies to all claims including a member to member claim. The fact that the third party may be a BMFA member is irrelevant, as it is the first party's insurance cover which is being invoked.

Should the third party's damaged property be independently insured, e.g. a car, then we advise that the third party contacts their own insurers to settle the claim on their behalf in exactly the same way if they had a road accident and they held the other party responsible.

Remember, the fact that the first party has submitted an accident report does not mean that a cheque is going to miraculously appear in the post for the third party. Insurance, no matter which type, simply does not work that way. The insurers will always want to satisfy themselves that the first party is indeed responsible for the accident so it is up to the third party to demonstrate why they hold the first party culpable and to state what they are claiming for, preferably in writing.

It is imperative that you get it right, particularly member to member claims, which will assist in the expedience of claims!