



British Model Flying Association

CLUB BULLETIN

20th September 2019

Issue No 243

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 12th October 2019 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

A G E N D A

- 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 16th March 2019.
- 4 Matters/Actions Arising from the meeting on 16th March 2019 not included elsewhere on this Agenda.
- 5 Safety Review – Introduction from Peter Halman
 - a) Strategy/ process moving forward with Areas Council
 - b) Discuss Safety matters for 2019/20.
- 6 To receive reports from the Achievement Scheme Controllers.
 - a) Power
 - b) Silent Flight
- 7 Flightfest 2019 and 2020.
 - a) General comments of 2019
 - b) Proposals and ideas for 2020

Agenda cont/...

- 8 Area Council Funding.
 - a) Review pro-forma – content, workability and practicality of the form
 - b) Discuss where funds should be directed, priority, reserves etc.
- 9 To receive reports from committees or co-ordinators related to the business of this meeting.
 - a) Achievement Scheme Review Committee
 - b) Payload Challenge
 - c) Education
- 10 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.)
- 11 To receive any reports from the Office and any Elected Officers specifically relating to Areas Council.
- 12 To confirm dates of Areas Council meetings 2020.
- 13 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.



SOCIETY OF MODEL AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS LIMITED

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, EXHIBITION AND ANNUAL DINNER/PRIZE GIVING
16th NOVEMBER 2019

This year the AGM and annual prize-giving dinner will be held at a new location, the **Mercure Daventry Court Hotel, Sedgemoor Way, Daventry, Northants, NN1 0SG.** This modern, comfortable hotel on the outskirts of Daventry has an excellent restaurant, easy access and parking, and good facilities (including an indoor pool and gym). Being somewhat smaller than Hinckley Island this promises to provide a more personal experience for those attending this important and sociable event in the BMFA calendar.

Signing in will be from 10am.

Exhibitions of models from the various Technical Committees will be on display. Lunch will be available from 12noon until 1.00pm.

The AGM will start at 1.30pm.

The Dinner and Prize-giving will be held in the evening commencing at 7.15pm.

Dinner Tickets will be £30 and the overnight room charges will be £60ppn for a single room and £70pn for a double room all including full English breakfast. For further details please contact Linda Harding Office Manager at the BMFA, Chacksfield House, Leicester LE2 8RE. Telephone 0116 2440028, Email linda@bmfa.org.

AN UPDATE ON THE UK REGULATIONS FOR MODEL FLYERS – A BIT OF GOOD NEWS AT LAST!

I published an update on the BMFA website on 23rd August (<https://bmfa.org/News/News-Page/ArticleID/2608/An-update-on-the-UK-regulations-for-model-flyers>) which provided a summary of our position at that time. This was also going to be the basis of my article for the forthcoming issue of the BMFA NEWS.

However, the very next day I received a telephone call to tell me that the new Secretary of State for Transport (the Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP) had picked up the case for us and would 'be in touch'.

A few days later I received an invitation to attend a meeting with Grant at the Houses of Parliament. This meeting took place on Monday the 9th September and involved me (on behalf of the UK Model Flying Associations), Graham Brown from ARPAS (on behalf of commercial drone operators) and high-level delegations from both the CAA and DfT. The outcome of the meeting was that the CAA and DfT have been tasked to work in collaboration with us urgently to try and find an acceptable way forward.

This is very much work in progress and as such I cannot provide much definitive information at this time. Please monitor the BMFA website and Facebook page for further updates in due course.

However, what I can confirm already is that those who only fly control line aircraft will be exempted from the DRES requirements and I can also confirm that registration numbers can be carried in an easily accessible location (such as within battery compartments) rather than on the exterior of model aircraft. The registration fee is also likely to be subject to a change (for the better). These items are the starting point.

We would therefore encourage members not to rush into registering or taking the test when the DRES is rolled out in the next few weeks, until we have concluded our current round of discussions with the CAA and DfT and issued further guidance to members. For the time being, we would suggest that it remains 'business as usual'.

Both the CAA and DfT have given a commitment to 're-set' their relationships with the model flying community and work with us in close collaboration from this point forward, a very positive development which we greatly appreciate. It's perhaps preferable to being inundated with correspondence from our magnificent members and their MP's! Thanks again to all those members who have supported our relentless campaign so far.

Watch this space!

Dave Phipps CEO

THE 2019 FREE FLIGHT FORUM AT A NEW VENUE.

The thirty-fifth BMFA Free-Flight Forum will open at 10 a.m. on Nov. 17th, the day after the AGM, at the Mercure Daventry Court Hotel, Sedgemoor Way, Daventry NN110SG. Even if you're not yet bitten by the free-flight bug, come along and see what it's all about. Among the speakers and topics they'll cover are: George Seyfang - A Novel Way to Achieve Stability and Control; Ivan Taylor - Scale Matters; Alan Jack - What's Important in a Power Model Climb?; George Seyfang – Gurney Flaps; Bernard Guest - Building a Small Kit Manufacturing Company from the Ground Up; Stuart Darmon - A Glider for Every Occasion; Alan Brocklehurst - How Big Should I Build My Next Coupe?

Lunch will be available and the finish will be around 5 p.m. The cost for the session is just £10, with proceeds going towards the expenses of the teams that represent us at World and European F/F Championships. Pre-booking will ensure that you get a seat, so send your cheque, payable to 'BMFA F/F Team Support', to the BMFA office at 31, St. Andrews Road, Leicester LE2 8RE.

Achievement Scheme Review Committee Vacancies

Four members of the existing Achievement Scheme Review Committee (ASRC) will retire by rotation at the end of this year, although they may apply for re-election. There are therefore vacancies on this important committee; do you think that you could be a useful member? If so, get in touch with the BMFA office at Chacksfield House who will give you details and a pro-forma CV. Potential members should be experienced flyers, preferably with background as scheme Examiners and/or Instructors, and they must have a real interest in the aims and objectives of the Achievement Scheme. Successful applicants will be invited to join the ASRC and will be required to attend at least two meetings per year. CV's are required to reach the BMFA office no later than 8th November 2019.

Mark Bennis
BMFA Honorary Secretary

R/C Power Achievement Scheme Controller

The BMFA's **Power** Achievement Scheme Controller (PAS Controller) position becomes due for election at the end of this year, although the existing incumbent is willing to stand. The period of service following election will be for two years. If you wish to apply please get in touch with the BMFA office at Chacksfield House who will give you details and a pro-forma CV. You will be required to submit your CV to Full Council for consideration. Potential members should be experienced flyers, preferably with background as scheme Examiners and/or Instructors, and they must have a real interest in the aims and objectives of the Achievement Scheme. Successful applicants get a standing seat on the Achievement Scheme Review Committee and will be required to attend at least two meetings per year. CV's are required to reach the BMFA office no later than 8th November 2019.

Mark Bennis
BMFA Honorary Secretary

**DATE FOR
YOUR DIARY**

BMFA Buckminster Swapmeet

**In conjunction with SAM 35
Autumn Gala**

20th October 2019

- Over 60 indoor tables
- Outdoor space available
- Pre-booking required for all traders
- Access for traders from 8.00am
- Public access from 10.00am
- On site catering

Prices

- Shoppers pass £2.50
- Indoor table £6.00 (2m x 0.75m) inc two chairs per booking
- Indoor table, wall side £8.00 (2m x 0.75m) inc two chairs per booking
- Outdoor space £6 (approx 2m x 4m)
- Each booking includes 2 access passes and 1 vehicle pass
- Additional passes £2.50

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

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



NATIONAL CENTRE BLOG LATE SUMMER / EARLY AUTUMN

It's been very busy throughout the summer at the Centre and despite a couple of event cancellations due to weather the numbers are looking very good for the year so far, of course there is still plenty of activity to go and we have the Autumn Swapmeet and SAM 35 Octoberfest taking place on the 19th and 20th of October (the Swapmeet is on the 20th and there are still a few spaces available).

Through the summer the Centre has hosted a real variety of events covering a good range of model flying disciplines, we also accommodated some commercial bookings which of course help in terms of revenue generation.

In June we hosted a Jet Modellers Association Fly-in which was very busy with over 40 jets on site and no mishaps to report, late June also saw the CLAPA (Control Line Aerobatics Pilots Association) Champs and the now well-established SAM 35 Retrofest, both busy and successful weekends.

The July Warbirds and Beer festival was a great weekend and as the first attempt went very well, the feedback from all those who attended has been very positive with an overwhelming call to make it a regular event in the Centre calendar, unfortunately the weather played its part and the forecast storms and strong winds on the Saturday led to a significant number of "no-shows" from pilots who had booked in to camp and also a reduced footfall of local people, nonetheless, the event covered costs and will I suspect become a regular date in the Buckminster calendar.

We have also hosted a pylon weekend, some ASRC Fly-ins, the Silent Flight NATS, an RC scale competition and a number of control line combat competitions.

As well as the various pre-booked weekend events there has been a steady flow of midweek flying from season ticket and day ticket holders, it is very positive that the site is seeing such regular use.

Site maintenance and development

The site continues to look in top order thanks to the volunteer team and the recent addition of some feature tree planting in front of the office (Supplied as part of a sponsorship package from Ad-Manum Consultants) has really helped to create a great first impression along with the very popular flower planting in the troughs in front of Reception.

The shower block has been somewhat delayed in manufacture and is now likely to be an autumn project as there is still the drainage and power supply to address (in reality, completely ready for next spring), the bases for the unit to sit on are dug and will be concreted in the very near future. The work on the building closest to reception continues slowly and will largely be a winter project once the grounds maintenance requirements diminish with the onset of shorter days.

Recently we have fitted exterior power sockets close to the Reception side door and a charging bench which permits visitors to charge flight batteries in a safe environment, this is a great addition but really forms the first step of a longer-term plan to provide further exterior charging points.

The runway and general grass areas have done well over the summer and conditions have been fairly favourable this year (compared to last year when we were continually filling holes and cracks due to the long dry summer) the only downside to the wetter summer has been the amount of clover that is growing on the runway but having consulted our tame grass expert it is the same everywhere, it is likely that we will have the grass areas sprayed for broad leaved weeds either during the autumn or early spring next year.

On a positive note the summer growing conditions (supplemented by an application of nitrogen) produced a good hay crop, this provides a useful additional income to the Centre and of course comes with a free grass cut.

Hedge cutting is due to commence on the site perimeter hedges over the next few weeks and the aim is to have this work completed before the wetter weather arrives.

Tethered Car Track

Some exciting news in relation to the tethered car track, the drawings and specification have now been completed and initial excavation works have commenced.

The tethered car track is now a separate project to the control line circle which is destined to be located at the south eastern corner of the site (originally it was aimed as a joint facility with the car track in the centre of the control line circle, however, it is now two separate projects in separate locations).

The tethered car track will be located behind the Goldsmith Hangar which will be an ideal location as it is close to facilities and amenities with hard parking and also the indoor space can be usable as a pits area in the event of bad weather event.

There is a strong tethered car community within the UK and it is very positive that SAM 35 have adopted tethered cars as part of their core activity, hopefully the National Centre will become the home of tethered cars and it will represent a valuable additional activity and income stream, more reasons to visit the National Centre.

The circle is entirely self-funded by the tethered car community and they are to be congratulated on the level of commitment exhibited to get the project moving forward.

Control Line Circles

The hard circle project has been somewhat delayed due to the difficulty in obtaining meaningful quotes, it is a significant project and the Hard Circle Working Group have struggled to identify contractors willing to undertake the work.

CLAPA (Control Line Aerobatic Pilots Association) have made a donation for the creation of two hard centres to the existing grass control line circles, work will be started on these as soon as there is absolute agreement on the location of the hard circle, perhaps the next step is to set out the three centres as a first step to the hard circle development and the further development of the general control line facilities at the Centre.

Upcoming Events and winter operation

The recent Blades Over Buckminster helicopter event was a significant success and replaced the original 3D Champs which was cancelled by the organisers, it looks like the Blades Over Buckminster will become a regular feature in the National Centre annual programme with next year's date already booked in.

Looking at next year, bookings are already coming in well with some regular, established events plus some interesting new additions, keep an eye on the calendar for something to whet your appetite in 2020.

We will be moving to winter opening hours from the 1st of November, but the Centre will remain largely open for flying through the winter months, and there are still a number of events taking place before the end of the year, for more details take a look at the National Centre website.

In the next few weeks we have:

- September 27th 28th 29th JMA Autumn Jet Fly-in.
- October 5th 6th C/L Combat competition.
- October 6th R/C Scale competition.
- October 12th 13th 14th Free Flight Gala.
- October 19th 20th SAM 35 Autumn Gala.
- October 20th Autumn Swapmeet.
- October 26th Pylon Skills workshop
- October 27th British Miniature Pylon Racing Association AGM and race meeting.
- November 9th/10th Remembrance Fly-in
- November 17th E2K and C32 Pylon Race Winter League meeting.

Season Tickets and 2020 Prices

At this early stage the pricing schedule hasn't been established for 2020 but the current aim is to keep prices very similar to this year with little or no increase.

For 2019 we have 87 season ticket holders which is very positive and an important part of the annual income model, again the price will remain fixed for 2020 and we will be looking at additional incentives to purchase a season ticket (such as a reduced fee for those living further away).

Thank You

Thank you to all those who have visited the National Centre, flown with us, purchased season tickets, made donations or volunteered.

The Centre is becoming a significant success because BMFA members are making use of the facility, thank you.

Visit, fly, support.

Manny Williamson, National Centre Manager.

Telephone 0116 2441091 or

Email manny@bmfa.org