



**** NEXT EVENT ****

**Christmas Party
Thursday 12th December**

**** MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL ****

Dear All

Welcome to the Firebirds December 2019 Newsletter!

Recently I read an old Newsletter from February 2014 written by the then Newsletter editor Geoff Scott, it made interesting reading and described then many of the difficulties that we are still having today.

One section read...

"PADMAC have decided to keep going, but have not ruled out an informal Firebird proposal to share their site. The advantage to PADMAC is that we would share the cost of the site. In turn, we would benefit from access to a decent 7 days a week site at a lower cost than renting a second site just for ourselves."

How things have changed in a few short years, as big thanks again go to PADMAC for allowing us use their flying site throughout 2019.

So as this difficult year comes to an end we can only hope that next year brings us more of the things we wish for.

See you all at the Christmas Party, but for now here is the last 2019 newsletter..

Chris

Old newsletter can be viewed here ... <http://firebirds.org.uk/index.html>



**** IMPORTANT ALL MEMBERS ****

Registering yourself to use a drone or model aircraft

As you may be aware you are now required to register your model aircraft or drone before you can fly. To be to do this you must show that you are competent and there are a number of ways to do this

1. If you have an A or B certificate you can ask the BMFA to get your CAA IDs for you (paying the BMFA the extra £9)
2. Complete the CAA registration and competence test at <https://register-drones.caa.co.uk/individual>
3. Or take the BMFA equivalent test at <https://rcc.bmfa.uk/rcc>

The clubs advise is: take the CAA test now, and pay the CAA directly for the registration. I know that this is putting another unnecessary step and cost into our hobby, but you have to comply with the current regulations, this is the easiest route for both you and for the club and the test is easy so there is no obstacle to doing it.

Several Firebirds club members have already done this and can confirm that it is straightforward and even useful. The new law also requires that each model must carry an identification label containing your CAA Operator ID. The label must be visible on the model but for scale models it can be within a compartment that can be easily accessed without using a tool.

Notes: Compliance will be advisory rather than a condition of membership.

It is the individual member's responsibility to comply to relevant laws.

It is unlikely that BMFA insurance will be valid for unlawful flying.



Committee News

Here's the latest from the committee room.

PADMAC flying times (once initial introduction done with a principle / committee member).

	Power	Electric/Silent
Mon to Sat	10:00 to 18:00	10:00 to Sunset
Sunday	11:00 to 18:00	11:00 to Sunset

PADMAC rules can be found here. http://www.padmac.info/PADMAC_flyingsite_rules.html

No Cows for now ... a message from PADMAC

Guys,

just to let you know that the cattle have been removed from the field. We do not expect any livestock until spring next year, so the battery for the electric fence has been removed. Please leave the fence in place so that it can be switched on quickly when needed next year.

Ken.

No more flying at Woodlands.

Due to lack of members using the woodlands school site and the increasing unavailability due to for football matches over the winter season, it has been decided to not renew our agreement with the school from November.

***** DO NOT FLY at WOODLANDS SCHOOL. *****

Come spring when the weather is better and the football season is over we can perhaps try again. Thank you to Sadie and the team at the school for their help in 2019.

Firebirds club fees for 2020

At the December committee meeting it was decided to recommend to members that the club fees be held at the same rates as last year for existing members re-joining under the current circumstances. The fees will include continued access to PADMAC site and social events.

The suggested fees will be presented at the Christmas party for a vote by members. At the rates to be proposed (subject to renewal numbers) the club will again likely run at a loss during 2020 then relying on its reserves. The committee are still actively looking for an official / permanent site and it is therefore proposed that the membership fee will be reviewed when a new flying site is secured. Any increased fee would only affect new /



lapsed members, those members already re-joined will not pay any revised fee until the 2021 season.

Due to the reduced amount proposed there will be no option for 2 payments (post-dated cheque for half of the fee) as in the past.

Important - Members not renewing before December 31st cannot fly at our sites from January 1st. Any member not paying their membership before the 1st April will be considered as a having not re-joined and have to re-apply to join the club.

** You can pay at the Christmas party if you bring your cheque book ! **

Advance notice - AGM 2020

The Club's AGM will take place at 8.00pm on Thursday 16th January 2020 at the Hamble Club. An Agenda and Minutes of the last AGM will be circulated by email before the meeting. The Agenda will include a vote to elect the 2020 Committee so if anyone is interested in standing, please contact a current committee member.

Other items for the Agenda must be forwarded in writing (an email will do) to the current committee by 2nd January 2020 at the latest. Only items on the Agenda will be discussed at the meeting.

Poorly club member

Continuing thoughts and good wishes from the committee to all poorly members.

FUTURE CLUB NIGHTS - Advance notice

Christmas Party Thursday 12th December

At the Hamble club a buffet will be provided.

Next year's fees will be confirmed during this meeting and renewal fees can be paid on the night. Anybody not renewing before the end of December will not be able to fly from the 1st January. We will also be presenting the yearly awards.

AGM Thursday 16th January

Please let a committee member know in advance if members would like to any specific items discussed.

Table top sale / small indoor models Thursday 20th February



Is it just me or is this a really stupid question?

To make sure I comply with the legislation, and to make sure I know what I am talking about I have taken both the CAA and the BMFA competency tests. Trust me neither of them are difficult, and you can still pass if you don't get 100%.

Many of the questions are so simple, obvious and basic things like ...

To keep healthy Should you ..

A. drink Bleach or..

B. Not drink Bleach.

The answer is B. by the way, drinking bleach will not do much for your health!

So, this is one of the question posed by the CAA in their competency test..

Question 10 of 20

Nick is out flying a drone when it starts to snow.
What does he need to consider to stay safe?

Select one

- That other people can still see his drone.
- That the snow might obstruct the view of the camera.
- That he is not getting too cold to be able to use his controller.

What would you answer?

If you want to know the correct answer then ask me at the Christmas party.

P.S. I got it wrong !!!

Congratulations, you passed

You scored 19 out of 20.

You can review any answers you got wrong below.

The following may help you with the competency test



Quick Start Guide

to model flying/operation of unmanned aircraft



bmfa.org



YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE

- ⦿ If you are operating an unmanned aircraft, you are legally responsible for ensuring that the flight is conducted safely. It is therefore essential that you are aware of the laws which apply.
- ⦿ You must not operate an unmanned aircraft for any commercial purpose, without permission from the CAA. Failure to operate lawfully could result in criminal prosecution.



LINE OF SIGHT

- ⦿ If you are operating an unmanned aircraft, you must keep it within visual line of sight to allow you to see and avoid any other hazards within the area of operation.
- ⦿ If you are operating an unmanned aircraft using first person view, then you must have a competent observer next to you who maintains visual line of sight with your aircraft.



HEIGHT LIMITS

- ⦿ The legal height limit for all unmanned aircraft is 400ft (120m) above the terrain, but BMFA members have permission to operate their aircraft (other than multi-rotors) which weigh less than 7Kg higher than 400ft.
- ⦿ BMFA members are also permitted to operate sailplanes over 7kg, (but not exceeding 14kg), higher than 400ft above the terrain, provided that the aircraft is not flown at a height greater than 400ft above the pilot.
- ⦿ Model aircraft weighing more than 7Kg, or any multi-rotor aircraft, must not be flown higher than 400ft without permission from the CAA.



AIRCRAFT SAFETY

- ⦿ The general aviation principle of 'see and avoid' applies and you must do everything possible to avoid conflict with any other aircraft.
- ⦿ It is illegal to fly any unmanned aircraft within a Flight Restriction Zone (FRZ) around an airport/airfield without permission from air traffic control at the airport or, if air traffic control is not operational, from the airport itself.
- ⦿ To ensure that you are not operating within an FRZ, please see <https://dronesafe.uk/restrictions/> or use a phone app like NATS Drone Assist (<https://dronesafe.uk/safety-apps/>).
- ⦿ Endangering the safety of an aircraft could result in a five-year prison sentence.



BE AWARE

- ⦿ You must not endanger the safety of any uninvolved person or any vessel, vehicle or structure not under your control when you fly your unmanned aircraft and you must always maintain a safe distance.
- ⦿ For aircraft fitted with cameras, you must not fly within 150ft (50m) of any uninvolved person (reduced to 30m for take-off/landing) or any vessel, vehicle or structure not under your control and you must not fly over or within 500ft (150m) of any congested area or an organised open-air assembly of more than 1,000 persons.



REGISTERED & COMPETENT

- ⦿ From 30th November 2019, the law requires that anyone operating an unmanned aircraft outdoors which weighs more than 250g is registered as an Operator with the CAA and able to provide evidence of their competency. BMFA members are exempted from the requirement to register as an Operator until the start of 2020 when they renew their membership.
- ⦿ From the 30th November, those without a recognised BMFA Achievement should take the BMFA's Registration Competency Certificate or the CAA's online test before they fly.

For details of the full requirements, please visit www.be-lawful.bmfa.org



The CAA Drone & Model Aircraft Registration and Education Scheme (DMARES)

The law has changed. From 30th November 2019, if you operate a model aircraft or drone (weighing more than 250g) outdoors, then you must be registered as an operator with the CAA and be able to provide documented evidence of competency. The BMFA has agreed a very simple process to help members comply.

You must be registered as an Operator with the CAA (if you are over 18) and pay the £9 fee

BMFA members are exempted from the requirement to register by the 30th November and can register when they renew their BMFA Membership for 2020.

You can easily comply with the law if:

- ⊙ As part of the BMFA Membership renewal/joining process, you opt in to the CAA Operator registration and pay the £9 fee.
- ⊙ You register directly with the CAA and pay the £9 fee.
- ⊙ You register with another CAA recognised Association and pay the £9 Fee.

The CAA will email your Operator number to you and you must display this somewhere easily accessible on or within your aircraft.

You only need to register once. Please do not register and pay multiple times as you may not receive a refund.

YOU MUST BE COMPETENT

After the 30th November, you must have evidence of a recognised competency when you fly. You can easily meet this requirement if:

- ⊙ You have an existing BMFA Achievement.
- ⊙ You take the BMFA Registration Competency Certificate which can be completed through the membership portal, via the website (<https://rcc.bmfa.uk/>) or on paper (please contact the BMFA Office).
- ⊙ You take the CAA's Online test (<https://register-drones.caa.co.uk/individual>) or hold another CAA recognised competency.

SOME ACTIVITIES ARE EXEMPTED

If you **ONLY** fly certain types of aircraft, the law does not require you to register with the CAA or take a test. The activities/aircraft exempted from the requirements are:

- ⊙ Control line models
- ⊙ Model balloons
- ⊙ Model rockets
- ⊙ Aircraft operated indoors
- ⊙ Aircraft weighing less than 250g

WHAT ABOUT FREE FLIGHT AIRCRAFT?

Operators of FF aircraft weighing more than 250g will need to comply with the new registration and competency requirements and should only fly:

- ⊙ On sites that are clear and open with adequate open space downwind of the launch point. (With a strong wind this distance could be considerable).
- ⊙ In good visibility.
- ⊙ After you have ensured that any spectators are clear of the intended initial flight path of the model.

- ⊙ With due consideration for other people and property.
- ⊙ Outside of FRZ's other than with permission.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY DATA IF I REGISTER WITH THE CAA?

If you register with the CAA through the BMFA (or via the CAA/other Associations), the CAA will store your information securely. It is not shared with any other parties.

Information may be made available to the Police in relation to specific individuals who are subjects of an investigation or prosecution. The Police do not have access to the full register and cannot search all registered individuals in a certain area.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T REGISTER OR HAVE EVIDENCE OF COMPETENCY?

If you are engaged in activities for which registration and competency are legal requirements, then failure to comply could result in a fixed penalty notice of up to £1000 or prosecution if challenged by the Police should they suspect you of flying unlawfully.

WHAT ABOUT INSURANCE COVER?

Members should be aware that most insurance policies are limited to cover 'lawful activities' and therefore the best way to ensure certainty of cover is to comply with the CAA's registration & competency requirements if you operate any unmanned aircraft for which they are a legal requirement. It is also important to note that any legal costs and/or punitive financial sanctions incurred by an individual member under criminal law as a result of non-compliance will be outside the scope of cover.

The BMFA's affiliated clubs will remain fully protected by the BMFA's insurance in the event of a claim made against them, should individual members be found to be non-compliant.

WHAT ABOUT JUNIOR AND FAMILY MEMBERS?

For BMFA Family memberships, only the Family Senior needs to register and pay the £9 fee. Family Juniors and Family Partners will just need evidence of competency such as an existing BMFA Achievement or take the new BMFA Registration Competency Certificate.

Individual Junior members (under 18) will need to have evidence of competency and someone over 18 as their CAA Registered 'Operator'.

THE BMFA MAKES IT EASY

You can register with the BMFA as a CAA Operator (and pay the £9 fee) when you join or renew your BMFA membership.

If you have an existing BMFA Achievement or take the new BMFA RCC, then you have a CAA recognised competency. Job done.

It's as simple as that!

For details of the full requirements, please visit www.be-lawful.bmfa.org



Patrick Parsons is back on form:

So my daughter wanted a wheelbarrow for Xmas, so I said I would make her one, little does she realise this is it,

... made from scrap bits in my cave, less than 6 inches tall, well she can at least put a plant in it, spade, rake and prong all made with scrap bits, bang goes my prezzie.



Well with the wheelbarrow building at an end, back to the 'sensible' side of modelling, Sir Jasper is now on the bench, and the covering is progressing.



So let's get some good weather and I will be back to the flying field soon,

And here is a picture for ... 'Clarkie' eat your heart out! Gate guardian at Gibraltar's airport



Pat



A Great Video and YouTube channel...



Even the best get it wrong sometimes... <https://youtu.be/QZvJzJjVx6M>

Martin Hughes sent this ...

Hi,

There is a 7ft span partly built (from plan) hurricane for sale on Facebook for £25 in Hedge End - includes cowls, cockpit, wings and fuse basically finished - plans also included. I decided its tooo big a project for me at the moment but wondered if you could forward this email to the club members

If you search "model Airplane" on facebook marketplace it should appear.

Cheers

Martin Hughes

HMFA Swap Meet

Several members went to the HMFA Autumn Swapmeet on Sunday 17th November. Our Russell took a photo !! and bought an new model !! (we look forward to seeing more information for the Newsletter soon).





Getting ready for the next quiz...

Maude 'Lores' Bonney became the first woman to fly from Australia to England in 1933, surviving storms, crashes and a herd of water buffalo

Maude Rose "Lores" Bonney, AM, MBE (20 November 1897 – 24 February 1994) was a South African-born Australian aviator. She was the first woman to fly solo from Australia to England.[1]

For her Australia–England flight, Bonney was appointed a [Member of the Order of the British Empire](#) by King [George V](#). The Bonney Trophy which she presented in England is still awarded annually to an outstanding female British pilot. The Australian Women Pilots Association has established a trophy in her honour. Lores Bonney was inducted into the "Ninety-Nines", the American society of women flyers who had pioneering roles in aviation. Her name and her wings were placed on the wall of the Flyer's Chapel at California's [St. Francis Atrio Mission](#)^[2] alongside the names of [Charles Lindbergh](#), [Charles Kingsford Smith](#) and [Amelia Earhart](#). [Griffith University](#), Queensland, awarded her an honorary doctorate for her services to aviation.



The Perfect Christmas present ...? (FAA registration not required)

It is rumoured that following the success of the skittles evening, the Newell family (creators of the annual quiz night) have had an idea, and a rather excellent idea it is too... they have suggested..

“.. a competitive evening of micro-flying with a purpose built obstacle course!!”

Date to be confirmed.

So this inexpensive tiny quadcopter might just be the perfect Christmas present ...? Practice now to make sure you are ready for the big event..



CLICK THIS LINK to BUY ONE NOW .. https://uk.banggood.com/Eachine-H8-Mini-Headless-Mode-2_4G-4CH-6-Axis-RC-Quadcopter-RTF-p-975808.html?gmcCountry=GB¤cy=GBP&createTm=1&utm_source=googleshopping&utm_medium=cpc_bgcs&utm_content=garman&utm_campaign=pla-gbg-rm-all-purchase-pc&ad_id=323612825005&gclid=CjwKCAjwo9r1BRAdEiwA_WXcFsE0WVtIE6kIjBwSMTAnKX59_jedFoQk58FHWRgLvKUfoiWxcoNUkhoCCdAQAvD_BwE&ID=23342482&cur_warehouse=CN

Firebirds Model Club

News, Views & Information - December 2019



Club Information

This section gives a summary of club services and contact details.

Glow Fuel, Glue and other bits and pieces available

Fuel is available through the club and supplies are held by the club. All grades of fuel are available to order. Russell holds many other useful items: glo-plugs, propellers, glue, fuel tubing, wing bolts etc.

Russell Lewis

023 8056 1397

russell@pilot1.co.uk

Club Meetings

Our meeting venue is the Hamble Club at this address:

Beaulieu Road
Hamble, Southampton,
Hampshire, SO31 4JL



The Club requires each member to sign in at every arrival using the book usually kept at the bar. There is a way round this and that is to join the club. This is not expensive, particularly for OAPs who pay £8.00 for the first year, and if you live locally it provides a cheap night out!

External Events

If you need more details on any particular event, then go to <https://bmfa.org/Contests-Events/Contest-and-Event-Calendar>. **BMFA Bulletins are available on-line at this [link](#) ...**

Firebirds Model Club Committee

The following are the contact details for the Committee. Each has given permission for their phone number and email addresses to be included in this Newsletter.

Chairman	Russell Lewis	023 8056 1397	russell@pilot1.co.uk
Vice Chair	Dave Hoppe	07704 826343	davehoppehome@gmail.com
Treasurer	Alan Shergold	07973 221915	alanshergold@hotmail.co.uk
Secretary	Rob Cope	07795 996549	copest02@ntlworld.com
PRO	Peter Clark	07867 557964	psclark911@hotmail.com
Flying Site Rep.	Vacancy		
Safety Officer	Geoff Griffiths	023 9265 5931	gctriffiths@hotmail.com
Membership Sec.	Keith Warwick	07887 486040	keithw11@hotmail.co.uk

Firebirds Constitution and Rules.

The Firebirds constitution and rules document can be found at the bottom of the 'about us' section on the web-site or by clicking the following link.

<http://firebirds.org.uk/onewebmedia/FIREBIRD%20CONSTITUTION%20%26%20RULES.pdf>.

Remember... Safe flying is no accident.