

BMFC: Free Flight Report for 2020

A very different year, with the onset & continuation of Covid-19 & its accompanying rules totally restricting all flying activities from March onwards. Two Area meetings were held early in the year, prior to Covid-19 restrictions being implemented, both badly affected by poor weather. The year was further disrupted by the ground nesting bird restrictions imposed by the Forestry Commission until 1st August. Since that date, two further Area meetings have been held but with significantly reduced attendance. Sport flying has almost disappeared throughout the year with the number of sports fliers who use Beaulieu continuing to further diminish, but for those few of us that regularly take advantage of Beaulieu permits, it remains a pleasurable & satisfying hobby, especially on a warm & calm summers day.

Future activity is uncertain, with some form of review of New Forest activities being carried out by the Forestry Commission which carries the potential threat of yet more restrictions or worse.

In spite of all this, the remaining free flight community are most grateful to the BMFC Committee for their continued support to those of us who persist in the world of non technological modelling – other than with assistance of RDT & trackers as modern retrieval aids to ageing legs!

Thankfully drone legislation has not caused any disruption to free flight.

Roger Newman