

Dear Beaulieu Permit holder,

I spoke too soon ! We were expecting some reasonable weather, and hoped for some good flying over the Easter break. Good Friday was very fine and many turned out to fly scale, aerobatics and sport models. But after that the sustained spell of high winds effectively ruled out reasonable flying for the rest of the weekend and bank holiday. Well, that's model flying in the UK for you ! Since then we've had very mixed conditions: rain, winds, and sunny intervals: rather poor for good flying - mild, but few good days. Just keep hoping!

Firstly, let me welcome our new permit holders. Beaulieu is a great place to fly models, low horizon, extensive space, no nearby habitation, open conditions, etc., and we are relatively free of problems. It is bleak (it's an old wartime airfield after all) and it's sometimes a harsh place to fly. But the wind you feel in your face is the wind up in the sky where your model flies. Some model flying fields have shelter from trees or buildings and it's easy to feel that conditions are good, only to launch your plane to find that the gusts at height are unpleasant. At Beaulieu what you feel on the ground is what you get in the air. I take wind measurements every time I go and my rule of thumb is: below 10mph enjoyable; 10-15mph good; 15-20mph only for the bold; above 20mph find something else to do. Check the weather forecasts before you go !

As many of you know, there is a small nucleus of us who fly F3A (competition aerobatics) and we welcome any others who fancy developing their skills to contact us and try their hand at it. The task is to fly a set series of aerobatic manoeuvres in a given time, judges rank the flyers. There's more on the GBRCAA website or in BMFA News if you are interested. We have last year's BMFA national champion at Intermediate level, and the previous years BMFA Master's champion, so that's impressive. This year competitions start on April 17th but due to the weather we haven't had much practice time.

Thank you to all those who have been flying so far for honouring the rules. It really works and makes a great difference to everyone's safety and success. Also, remember the basic etiquette: **take turns, take care, do your checks**. I said a lot in the last newsletter which I won't repeat, if you haven't read it you could take a quick check on the website where they are posted.

A new innovation suggested by Steve Bunney, is to have a flight box on the right of the flight line for use by scale pilots when the wind is in the SOUTH-EAST. In this case ONLY stand in the new box and:

- **to take-off** taxi your plane out on the right of the runway a reasonable distance, turn and take-off towards the near left corner (south-easterly). There should not be anyone in a dangerous position in the middle of the flight line if your take-off path wanders a bit.
- **to land** do a right hand circuit and position your model over the far right corner (where the large bush is) approach and land towards the near left corner (south east). There shouldn't be anyone in a position at risk to your left in case the touch down wanders a bit.

Let's see how it goes, and if it's a success we may make this a permanent feature.

Dates for your Diary:

- **21st April** 15:00 hours: HMS Sultan full size helicopter will land. Model flying will be temporarily halted at this time.
- **28th April** (as above)
- **9th June** (as above)
- **11th August** (as above)
- **20th/21st August** BMFA certificate day (more about this later)
- **28th August** New Forest Pony Drift day - Beaulieu Heath closed.

Finally, our website has new pages of information and news which I hope you will look at. We also now have a private Members-Only area where we can share things between us with your own login/password. More information on that next time, but if you want to help test it let me know.

<http://www.beaulieumodelflying.org.uk/>

Best wishes, and good flying! **Richard.** email: bmfcchairman@aol.com phone or text: 07713 437082

This newsletter is being sent to all current 2016 permit holders. If you don't want to receive these newsletters please send me an email and your name will be removed from the distribution list.