

Dear Beaulieu Permit holder,

Was that it ? The first week of May produced some terrific flying weather, and I, for one, got 3 consecutive days of flying. I know many others did too. Was that summer ? Now we seem to be back to windy, showery, chilly weather again! Let's hope the it gradually gets better.

Just to keep you up to date on permits The main rush of permit holders renewing, and new joiners starting, now seems to be over. Most people who intend to fly this year seem to have got their permits sorted. Thanks are especially due to Mark who has been doing a great job in keeping up with checking and sending out permits and documentation. The website has been the major entry point this year - a complete turnaround from a couple of years ago when we started that process! Ian has handled the small number of personal applications, and John has looked after the Free-Flighters. So thanks to all of you who have done it via the website, it has helped us, and we hope we have helped you. And remember to carry your permit with you at all times.

Some of you may have heard about a battery fire that we had recently. I don't want to go into too much detail, but ask us if you need to know more. Basically, a model lost control in the air, crashed on the runway, the battery (Lipo 6s 5000) caught fire spontaneously burning the model to cinders in a few minutes. No one was hurt and the only evidence now is a small burnt patch on the tarmac. Despite extensive discussions we still don't know why the model crashed, but we do know that **the crash caused the battery fire.**

So **it's a salutary lesson to all of us who use high power electric models** (planes and helis) to be vigilant when using Lipos. With modern chargers, properly used, the chances of a fire when charging is remote - but do keep an eye on the charging process. When flying, don't run your battery to exhaustion, bring the model in early if you feel anything is wrong. If you do crash, and thankfully this is not as common as it once was, then take especial care when approaching the model in case the battery starts to combust. If a fire starts then you are probably best to leave it to burn (the flames are very hot, the smoke is toxic). If it sets light to heather or gorse and you can't put it out then call the emergency services (numbers on the back of your permit). There is also a page on our website for other guidance on the use of Lipos, see <http://www.beaulieumodelflying.org.uk/lipos.html> . Also, let me know what happened.

We are organising a BMFA certificate day in August for all those flyers who would like to get an A or B certificate for RC fixed wing or heli, or a certificate of competence for small planes and drones. Peter Carter (Chief Area Examiner) has kindly agreed to come with other BMFA examiners. This mainly applies to the large number of our permit holders who are "BMFA Country Members" and who therefore don't have ready access to a club examiner. Permit holders who are members of a BMFA club should go to their own club examiner first, but are also welcome on the day. Getting an A-certificate is a good step forward for all flyers, and is required for many other flying sites. If you are interested, then please email me to register, and then read up on the requirements in the BMFA handbook ! (not to mention practising the flight test).

Dates for your Diary:

- **9th June** HMS Sultan heli will land and take off around 3pm. We are hoping they will agree to power down and allow us to inspect it.
- **11th August** HMS Sultan heli will land and take off between 2pm and 4pm. No access is agreed, please stay back in the pits area.
- **20th/21st August** BMFA certificate day (see description above)
- **28th August** New Forest Pony Drift - Beaulieu Heath closed in the morning, probably open later.

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. If you want access to it let me know. The home page is <http://www.beaulieumodelflying.org.uk/>

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