

**Dear Beaulieu Permit holder,**

**Our weather !** It's a topic of unending fascination for model aircraft enthusiasts of all persuasions, usually in the form of "**can I fly my model today ?**". Well, as the experienced flyers know, it all depends...on the model, on the wind speed, the wind direction, the visibility, the likelihood of rain,... and of course your own skill level. For example, I've been flying F3A (pattern aerobatic) models in winds of 25, gusting to 35mph, recently, but I wouldn't put a small foamie up in those conditions. On the other hand we've had some idyllic days with barely a breath of wind when the lightest model will float gracefully around. The basic thing is to apply common sense, and ask yourself if you really feel comfortable with the chosen model in the current conditions, and if not, well, just leave it till another time. We've had a wide range of conditions recently, and it's my impression that our weather is getting more unsettled and unpredictable as the years roll on (or maybe that's just old age), so patience is needed - good weather will arrive eventually, enjoy it when it comes!

**The one thing we do need to keep in mind is wind direction.** Beaulieu's East-West runway is fine when the wind is Southerly, Westerly, or Northerly, but it can be tricky when the wind is Easterly. In this case you may have to take off and land towards the pits and carpark area, and understandably many don't like doing this. We've talked about it before, but just to re-iterate, if the wind is Easterly (and a cross wind take off or landing is not possible) then please **take the model well down the runway** before turning and taking off. Take off into wind and then be prepared to turn out to the north or south as appropriate. **Never cross the flight line.** When landing, try to set up your landing approach diagonally across the runway and land early, rather than risk over-running the flight line. Beware of the tree in the top right hand (NW) corner which has claimed quite a few models over the years. And, please, do try to stay in the pilot box at all times (get a helper to assist you if necessary).

**The ongoing saga of Lipo batteries.** We talked about a recent Lipo fire last time, so I won't dwell on it, except to say "be careful at all times". In the rare cases of an incident where a battery is damaged (as a result of a crash, for example) be very careful about picking up the remains until you are sure it won't spontaneously burst into flames. But do make sure you collect up the remains and take it home to dispose of it. We absolutely must not leave old Lipo batteries on the heath as they could be a danger to people and wildlife.

**Another question that is always raised at this time of year is "can I fly at 7 o'clock in the morning?"**. The answer to this is, I am sorry to say, "no". Our licence conditions clearly state that we cannot fly before 8am, and not after 8pm. I know this seems restrictive on long summer days, but it is imposed on us for environmental protection reasons, and we have to abide by this. We are always discussing limitations such as this with the Forestry Commission and Natural England and if we can get it changed we will, but for now, please follow the rules.

**The BMFA certificate day** in August has proved quite popular. Thank you to all those flyers who have contacted us about getting an A or B certificate for RC fixed wing or heli, or a certificate of competence for small planes and drones. 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, or use the website contact form, and then read up on the requirements in the BMFA handbook ! (not to mention practising the flight test). Full details will be published at the beginning of August and we may be able to do some pre-test instruction if you need it.

**Remember, Beaulieu Heath is a public flying area,** the only one in the New Forest, and we are licenced to fly there. No other activity is approved. So please help protect it by following the regulations, encourage other to do so too, and please report any activities which are harmful or anti-social. This year we have helped the Forestry's environmental protection aims, and we have helped the Police prosecute off-road vehicle use. So, if you see something not quite right, **please report it to me !** If it's urgent you should also use the contacts on your permit.

**Dates for your Diary:**

- **11th August** HMS Sultan heli will land and take off between 2pm and 4pm.
- **20th/21st August** BMFA certificate day (see description above)
- **28th August** New Forest Pony Drift - Beaulieu Heath closed in the morning, probably open later.

**Best wishes, and good flying! Richard.**

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*This newsletter is being sent to all current 2016 permit holders.*