

Newsletters are sent to current permit holders and are for information only.

To all permit holders: Well, that was the year that was ! I hope you all got all the opportunities you wanted to fly your models, because if you didn't it's a bit late now ! The days are short and dark now that we approach the midwinter solstice, although on a good day there is still plenty of opportunity around midday to have a good session. On the other hand the sun is low in the sky even at midday and the visibility can be poor especially in that hazy area around the sun. Even away from the sun there is a tendency for the model to be silhouetted and not terribly clear. Maybe it's my eyes, but I tend not to like flying much at this time of year on account of the poor visibility.

Ponies feel lonely looking for modeller to annoy



Also, the weather is against us. There has been a spate of stormy days recently with winds of 16-17mph and gusts of up to 30mph out of the heath. While high performance models can still fly in these conditions it isn't very pleasant. Combined with temperatures in the region of 4degrees - feels like -1deg. you have to be dedicated or mad to want to do it! Remember, on the 21st December (shortest day) the

permitted flying hours (under Forestry Rules) are 08:33am till 15.33pm - it gets longer each day after that.

A note on 2018 permits. As most of you will know, the permit process for 2018 is now well underway. Many thanks to all those who have already used the online permit application process on our website. This is helping us keep up with the renewal process and avoid having a large backlog when some people want to fly early in the new year. The permit fee is unchanged and the process is quick and simple, so if you haven't renewed and want to for 2018, please get your BMFA membership and insurance sorted first, then go for the new permit.

The permit fee you pay contributes towards the charge for our "permission" which we negotiate each year with the Forestry Commission (who manage the Crown Lands we fly on). I am pleased to report that there were no issues from them for next year, and so we have duly renewed our permission and paid the (very large) charge. Our numbers (we had over 300 permit holders last year) means we are a major activity group in the forest, and our presence at the airfield is appreciated. It also means that the cost per individual is very low - where else could you get access to a (admittedly de-commissioned) airfield for daily use ?

Beaulieu Airfield conditions. Each year the access track deteriorates, due to the large number of vehicles which enter the site, and the fact that a few tend to drive too fast, creating potholes. After some discussion the Forestry agreed to re-lay the access tracks in September. As they are only permitted to use "natural" materials the new surface has already started to degrade again but is holding up well so far. The track has been narrowed to help slow the traffic down, and the ditches deepened to help the run-off. Please drive slowly and help preserve the state of the track.

The "model of the year" - a 4engine (IC) Lancaster built and flown by Ian Timms, helper here Ian Hammond



Events for 2018 After the successful F3A (pattern aerobatics) competition at Beaulieu in September, run by the GBR/CAA (the national body for organising such events) we have agreed to host another one in 2018 on May 6th. Additionally we will be arranging a scale event in June or July. Details of these events will be posted as soon as more is available.

So I look forward to another eventful flying season in 2018 and I hope you do too. Perhaps Santa will even oblige with some helpful items. May I wish everyone the greetings of the season, and wish you well to next year.

Best wishes, and good flying! Richard.

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