

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

**To all permit holders:** Time gets on! February already and so little flying done! I have been out 4 times in January, some others even more, on the few good days, and did some nice flying - in, it has to be said, bitterly cold conditions. Let's hope it gets better as the year goes on. Daylight is increasing so flying time is from 8:00am till 16:30pm this month (check Regulation #6 if you are unsure of the reason).

**Newsletters:** This is the first newsletter sent only to 2018 permit holders. If someone you know doesn't get one it's because they are not on the current permit holders list. If they should be then they just have to renew for 2018 by going to the website and following the online application (see below for the web link). I hope you find the newsletters useful, perhaps even interesting - if you have anything you think others ought to know then all you have to do is send in a note, a picture, whatever, and we'll include it next time if possible.

Highland cattle – stay clear !



**Permit Renewals:** Thank you again for everyone getting ahead of the game and doing their renewals early. This year has been a record, much better than last year, so most are getting the process cracked - well done. I understand a few people have had some glitches with the internet payment page, but most of those issues are out of our control. If you are not a regular internet user do please remember to "refresh" your browser's page if you don't think you are seeing the latest version.

Where is everyone ? 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018!



**For your Information:** With nearly 200 permit holders so far this year you have told us that 86% are Fixed Wing fliers, 11% are Multi-rotor and 3% are heli fliers. Of the Plane fliers, so far 55% are electric, 27% ic, and 18% free flight. The balance of BMFA Country Members as opposed to club members is more realistic now. The breakdown of types of flying shows 55% sport fliers, 38% Scale and 7% aerobatic. So the big change from a few years ago is that whereas then we were mainly ic plane fliers, now we are mainly electric.

**Planes seen flying this year:** Quite a selection of ic and electric, sport and scale, seen flying already this year, as you can see from these pictures. I'll report more on sport flying and aerobatics next time.

Steve Bunney's ic Spitfire



Ian Hammond's ic Focke Wulfe



Ron Claridge's electric Hellcat



**BMFA A-certificates:** I've had lots of interest from those people who want to get an A-certificate, but conditions being what they are in the winter (cold, dark, wet days) it's not quite the time to get out and practise, let alone run the tests. However, it's getting better now, so please read up on the "safety rules" and check out the "law questions". Links to all these are on our website at About>Achievement Scheme. I'll be running some familiarity sessions just as soon as it gets a bit warmer, but if you want to get going sooner, just let me know (links, below).

Also: we will soon be able to do B-certificates on demand, so watch this space !

**Remember:** We had a good year safety-wise in 2017, with only a few minor mishaps - let's make it better this year by **watching that prop; tethering your model** while starting, and flying with **due respect** for all others !

So I look forward to another safe flying season in 2018 **Best wishes, Richard.**

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