

Newsletters are sent to current permit holders and are for information only. If you do not wish to receive newsletters please email and let us know.

To all permit holders: We hear that last month was officially the wettest March for a decade, and it certainly felt like it. We did have some good flying days, but they were few and far between. Just for your interest, I keep a log of my flying days and the flights I do. It shows that by this time last year I had achieved 14 days flying and some 50 flights, whereas this year so far I have only done 8 days and 30 flights - not a good record. You might like to keep your own log - it's worth thinking about.

Sad sight – gate closure in March



The Access Track. As you all know the Forestry Commission (FC) closed the access track from the B3054 Lymington Road, which we use for RC flyers, on 22nd March. Free Flight fliers are not affected. The FC also closed a number of other access tracks to car parks in the Forest because they had all developed serious potholes and were deemed unsafe to use. The track has to be made with "hoggin" - a sand-gravel mixture - because of restrictions imposed by Nature England on the National Park. This material degrades easily due to inappropriate vehicle speeds, subsidence and flooding. The FC will relay it soon, and the airfield is expected to be open in May.

We have this problem in some form every year, and in fact our access track was relaid in September 2017 when it was closed for 3 weeks. The Forestry have apologised to us for the inconvenience which this causes. However, they have stated that it is the access track which is closed, not the airfield, and that we are entitled to continue flying from the airfield during the period of closure, which is expected to be several weeks. Obviously, it is difficult for us to do this since we need vehicle access to the airfield to transport our planes. So, you can fly, but you'll have to carry your plane and equipment and walk in. We have been asked not to park in front of the gate (it is needed for emergency access), and not to park on the road verges where it could cause traffic problems. There are car parks at Hatchet pond and Hatchet Heath nearby. At least one flyer has a bicycle with a trailer - maybe that's worth thinking about.

BMFC response: As most of you know, there is another access to the airfield via the gate on the B3055 Brockenhurst Road, which is normally locked. The Forestry have given us permission to allow RC fliers to use this gate during the closure period. The flying committee are organising access from this gate for RC fliers on specific days when the weather is suitable. When we get a day when the visibility is good, it is not raining, and the wind is moderate (up to 10mph) but not easterly, we can replace the lock with our own padlock and allow fliers to enter. This is described on our website "news" page. Predicting good days is the tricky thing at present.

Pilot behaviour: This is a comment addressed at our newer members, and which all the old hands know well. There is a "pilot box" marked on the runway - and this is where pilots stand ! It may seem obvious, but I've noticed a few people this year who seem unfamiliar with the idea. The marked line on the runway is the "flight line": models fly in front of the line only, and people stand behind the line only. This is standard practice at most flying sites, full-size and model. Additionally, pilots should stand near to each other in the pilot box so that each can hear the calls of "take-off", "landing", "dead-stick", .. or whatever. Please don't wander off to get in position for landing or take-off without ensuring other fliers are fully informed of what you are doing and why. You should be able to take off a model while standing in the box, whatever the wind, and not have to stand behind it, for example. You should be able to land your plane on the runway while standing in the box. If you can't (and with an easterly wind it can be a little tricky) then do consider whether you should attempt the flight.

A fine example of the new generation of large, foam, electric models – Cessna 180



Drone pilots: I will comment more on this another time, but for now can I thank all those drone pilots who are helping by following the location rules, and implore all other drone pilots to do the same - it is working !

Best wishes, Richard. bmfcchairman@aol.com phone/text:07713437082 www.beaulieumodelflying.org.uk

2018 Diary Dates	
Aug 26	Pony Drift – site closed
Aug 31	Pony Drift – Beaulieu Rd
Sept 23	Pony Drift – E.Boldre
Oct 14	Pony Drift -Furzey
Nov 8	BMFC AGM
Dec31	2018 permits expire