

Newsletters are sent to current permit holders for information only.

To all permit Holders: Lots of flying has been happening this month with the onset of some very fine weather with gentle winds. Well done to everyone who has been out and let's hope this is a good omen for the summer.

To our new permit holders: Please read the Regulations and other relevant material on our website. If you are not sure of the meaning or intent of some of the points listed then please email us and we will be happy to explain.

For everyone, Each flight category, Radio Control, Free Flight, Multi-rotors, Control Line and Research has its own separate area to operate in and conflicts should not arise. Please stand in the Pilot Box when flying! We have repainted the box outline for better visibility. Do remember the "pilot's check" ...*am I fit to fly this model in these conditions ...??* If not, then don't!

Do remember to carry both your BMFA membership card, and your BMFC permit with you when at the airfield. You should all have a yellow tag which you can attach to your transmitter, neck strap, flight box or whatever is most convenient.

On the legal changes to model flying: The UK Government is bringing in new laws that affect all model flying: there are 2 main topics at present: (1) Height limits, and (2) Registration. Please read the short notes below and be prepared to help by supporting the rules which help us, and commenting on the changes that don't.

(1) Height Limits (see [newsletter #44](#) for the story so far). The **BMFA has now got permission from the CAA** to allow models under 7kg to fly above 400ft in uncontrolled airspace (i.e. us). Because we are located under a controlled airspace (Solent CTA-2D for Southampton) and because Beaulieu is a VRP (visual reporting point for light aircraft) we have agreed with Southampton ATC that we will stay below 1000ft to avoid interference. 400ft is fine for sport flying - you probably want to stay low to see the model. Also, 1000ft is high enough to allow some gliders and F3A to operate normally but pilots should be ready to divert immediately if light aircraft appear. The BMFC now has a height detector and we will be monitoring the heights of both models and fullsize aeroplanes if there is any doubt about valid heights.

(2) Registration. The UK Government recently published its [intention to bring in compulsory registration](#) for model aircraft and drones, at a cost to you of £16.50 each, starting in November 2019. The full [UK government announcement statement](#), CAP1775, is in consultation until 7 June and will be reviewed in July before becoming law. You can comment on the changes and you are encouraged to do so. I have already made a response on behalf of the BMFC, but your individual comments will help to show the government what our reaction is.

The BMFA has also been working with other model aircraft associations (LMA, SAA, FPVUK) on your behalf and has posted [a call to action](#) as there are a number of issues which make these change hostile to normal traditional model flying. CAP1775 seems to make serious restrictions on model flying by Juniors, the requirement for testing, and ease of registration, which are more demanding than the EASA initiative requires, and more invasive than other countries (France, Germany, etc) are implementing.

The [Call to Action](#) succinctly puts the case that the proposed changes are not *proportional, consistent or transparent*. They do not *target* the right community and need to be *accountable*. You are encouraged to respond by going to <https://consultations.caa.co.uk/finance/drone-registration/> and make your comments.

It will help us all if the changes, some of which are good and necessary, are made appropriate and do not unfairly restrict us. Please let me know if you do respond. If you can't respond, then tell me and I will coordinate a response from us all.

Newsletters are on the website in the members area. There is also information there on drones, Achievement Scheme and other subjects. Otherwise, now the good weather has come, enjoy some flying!

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The Pilot Box



The Solent ATC area

