

Newsletters are sent to current permit holders for information only.

This is the last newsletter of 2019 and is mainly concerned with one topic only -- **how you get your Beaulieu Flying Permit for 2020 !**

As you will all know by now, *this time it is different* because the UK government has brought in changes to the law regarding the flying of UAVs, unmanned aerial vehicles such as model planes, helicopters, and multi-rotors, in the lower airspace. This is *what* we fly, and *where* we fly. The government has done this to attempt to control the illegal use of drones. We are affected by the changes whether we like it or not. Please read on and I hope to explain how it affects us.

Basically, the government now wants to know who owns the UAVs, and who flies them. To do that they have authorised the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) to:

1. *set up a registration scheme* for owners (also called operators) and charge them £9 each year to register, <https://register-drones.caa.co.uk/individual>
2. *create a test of competence* on the subject of air law (which is free) for pilots (also called Flyers) which must be renewed every 3 years. This is probably a good thing, especially for newcomers to model flying, and it is helpful for all flyers to be aware of the law.

As before, the **BMFA** (British Model Flying Association) provides its members with insurance for the annual membership fee of £38. The BMFA's advice on the current state of air law is at <https://rcc.bmfa.uk> Joining/renewing BMFA membership is at <https://bmfa.org/Join-Renew/Join-the-BMFA> . The BMFA requires its members to act lawfully, which means you must be CAA registered and competent.

As usual, the **BMFC** (Beaulieu Model Flying Committee) is negotiating the renewal of our Model Flying Licence with the FC (Forestry Commission), which it does every year. Without the Licence no flying of any sort would be allowed anywhere in the New Forest. Because the licence is expensive the BMFC is empowered to issue individual permits, currently £10 per year, to recoup the cost.

The BMFC permit renewal process has been revised to take account of these changes and is at <http://www.beaulieumodelflying.org.uk/permits.html> . Please read the notes there carefully, and when you are ready you can apply for your **2020 permit** from 1st December 2019 onwards. These are your main options:

1. If you have got your CAA OperatorID and FlyerID AND have renewed your BMFA membership for 2020 then go ahead and apply to renew your Beaulieu permit straight away (or apply for a new one if you are a newcomer).
2. If you don't have your CAA identifiers, BUT have your BMFA membership AND at least an A-certificate AND you have asked the BMFA to get your CAA IDs for you (paying the BMFA the extra £9) then you can carry on and apply for your Beaulieu permit as normal. [tell us by email](#) if you do this.
3. Otherwise you will need to EITHER do the CAA registration and competence (as above), OR take the BMFA equivalent test at <https://rcc.bmfa.uk/rcc> . If you do this and have your BMFA membership (insurance) by Jan 31st you will be ready to apply for your Beaulieu Permit.
4. Alternatively, you could pass the BMFA A-test and then get the BMFA to handle your registration and competence approval, but you will have to do this before January 31st 2020 which is rather a tall order as the weather is poor at this time of year, and examiners will not be keen to run a test at this time of year.

Our advice is: take the CAA test now, and pay the CAA directly for the registration! Yes, I know this is a pain, but it is the easiest course, both for you and for us. The cost is low (lower than the permit cost!) and the test is easy so there really is no downside to doing it. Several of us (including me) have already done this and we can confirm that it is straightforward, and even useful.

Also, the new law (DRES) requires that **each model that you fly must carry an identification label** containing your CAA OperatorId. The label should be easily visible on the model, but for scale models may be inside the model, for example inside the battery box.

To all permit Holders: Well, I hope you have enjoyed the 2019 model flying season, and hope Santa brings something good for 2020 !

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A recent fly-in at the airfield

