

Newsletters are sent to current permit holders for information only. Last one to 2019 mailing list.

First, a very good welcome to all model flyers for 2020 ! Let's hope that the weather shines (literally) on us, and that any troubles of 2019 are overcome.

This is the first newsletter of 2020 and is again mainly concerned with one topic -- ***how you get your Beaulieu Flying Permit for 2020 !*** I have had conversations with the Forestry on the changes to the legal status of flying at Beaulieu and it has been accepted that all flyers must abide by the current law, which now requires CAA registration and certification. The Forestry also requires insurance, because we operate in a public area, so that is why we are where we are, whether we like it or not. For a revision of the requirements please take another look at the last [newsletter #48](#).

Over a hundred of last year's permit holders have already applied for 2020 permits, mostly via our website, so thanks to them for being quick off the gun and getting it done. Your secretary, treasurer, and chairman have been working hard to implement the new rules and validate the permit applications. It is a bit more tedious and time consuming this year, and unlike many clubs we have a very large number to cope with, so your patience is required. We are getting through the backlog as fast as we can.

Of that hundred about half have done the CAA registration directly with the CAA, and have renewed their BMFA membership to get the necessary insurance. So they are legal, with no problem and they should be receiving their official permits soon, if they haven't already. They are valid to fly now, assuming the conditions allow of course.

The other half of that hundred may experience a delay because there is some uncertainty over whether they meet the requirements. There a number of reasons for this which I will describe:

1. ***CAA certification:*** If you have a BMFA A-certificate (or better) you can get the BMFA to get the certification for you. You have to pay the £9 CAA fee to the BMFA, and tell them that is the case. At present the online BMFA membership system does not show this as clearly as it might, so often it is hard for us to tell. We are working with the BMFA to clarify this, but until this is settled your permit may be delayed.
2. ***If you don't have a BMFA certificate*** you can take the BMFA's own test, [the RCC](#) (Registration Competency Certificate) instead. Just doing the RCC alone is not enough, as you must also pay the CAA fee as well. Some have gone this route, but we are sometimes unable to know this. This may delay your permit.
3. ***The BMFA is going to submit the list*** of members it is asking for registration to the CAA on 31st January, and the CAA will validate them and issue Operator and Flyer identifiers at some stage, in February we assume. If the BMFA tells us that it is doing this for you we, the BMFC, will accept that and you will be valid to fly now. But if they don't then we cannot issue the permit until we have proof.
4. ***After the 31st January*** you will have to do the [CAA registration and certification](#) whether you have a BMFA certificate or not, since it is not clear at the present what BMFA help may or may not be available. When you apply for a permit, if you haven't already done so, you must tell us what your BMFA number is, and what your CAA IDs are, otherwise we will be unable to issue your permit.

Unfortunately, that is not the end of our woes, since when you actually go to fly you must take with you:

- your BMFA membership letter (to prove you are insured),
- your CAA registration letter (to prove you are legal),
- your permit (to prove you are valid to fly at Beaulieu)

AND have put a label on your plane, heli, or multi-rotor, showing at least your Operator-ID in letters at least 3mm high. I have generated a set of stickers printed on sticky label paper which I can easily put on mine.

I hope you will enjoy the 2020 model flying season, and have some interesting new models to fly !

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