

January 2025



Airscrew



The
N.M.F.C. Newsletter

Things They Are A Changin'

I will apologise to start with, my aim is to keep this newsletter relative to club life but sadly things outside of the club can and do have a profound effect on our hobby and do sometimes wind me up, sparking a need of mention. Why do the powers that be have to take any control over a hobby that has been one of the foundation stones of the British Aviation World for as long as flight has been an aspect of life, we have always been self policed by common sense and have a good safety record? I doubt we will ever know the true answer to this question as Government today is incapable of telling the truth or answering direct questions without spin or sidetrack, PMQ's is a classic example of where you never hear an answer to a question. My view, and keeping the answer simple, they need total control over all airspace for their big money backers and partners. Taxation of a hobby will eventually kill it and that has to be their aim. This to me is very much the same as the Government and Farmers fiasco. Taxation will kill Farms and mean they have to sell up to pay their taxes. In will step big business buying up these farms cheap, meaning all farms will eventually be run by commercial enterprises. This has been happening quietly over the years but will now escalate. Control of our Airspace and our Farming are just two faces of the same coin. A sad state indeed.

Club Life

Not sure what we can say about the last twelve months. I think if we were asked to sum it up in one word it could only be 'Crap'. To top it all even the weather has been against us with winds and rains continuing to hit the UK and Summer never really arriving until mid August, and if you blinked you would have missed it. Flying hours for everyone are down and members I fear have lost the impetus to get to the field and fly. Not sure how we get that back, perhaps a long spell of nice weather would help. Any ideas? It seems that we are also awaiting the arrival of the effects from El Nina, the northern hemisphere version, El Nino, the southern. This usually happens between September and November. However they have been blaming conditions on these all year, and then as I write this, Storm Bert has just hit us, I have lost track of how many storms we have had whistling through this year, perhaps the CAA has a new weather machine and that's where all our money has gone :(.

We keep on saying that the work table and the solar panel table need to be replaced. Initial thoughts were to go with stainless steel. However as time progressed this seemed less suitable the more we looked into it, and what was about. We are still pondering this one :) We were already talking about replacing the one starting bench which we had to scrap, with a plastic one. The plastic used is apparently made from recycled plastic drink bottles. There were mixed views on this so we replaced the two small picnic tables with one plastic one first so that everyone could have a look. I think everyone was suitably impressed with the quality and it was better than most expected. Shortly after this we took the plunge and decided we would build the one starter bench



in plastic and see what the opinions were and how well it fares. Kevin allowed us to build in the Hangar which was a God send as the day of building it rained really heavy and was blowing a gale, ain't that a surprise :). Six hours later we had what looked like a starting bench to drop down our site. Not cheap but it has a life expectancy under normal use of twenty five years plus. A lot better than the wooden ones we have become used to. We did leave the uprights a bit long and we did leave the moulding pips on the end. I wondered if these could possibly be used for rough C of G checking? If it doesn't work we can trim the tops down a bit.



Towards the end of October we had one of those now famous BMFA emails that seemed to confuse everybody :). This one was all down to the Registration Competency Certificate (RCC). This is the CAA's Flyer ID Test. On the one hand it

seemed to be saying that if you hold a BMFA qualification you don't need to do the RCC, on the other it was saying that everybody required to do it. Well that's how we all read it ;). It turned out if you hold a certificate i.e. A or B etc, pre 2020 then you still don't need to do the RCC and a Flyer ID should be issued in due course. If you don't and your Flyer ID is expiring you need to do another test. We had a few up in arms as they thought this had been slipped through without any by your leave and we had yet another nail added to the coffin. I queried this with the BMFA and we sorted it as above. It does seem however that next time around it is expected that the BMFA achievements will count as nowt for the CAA, reverting to their status as a personal goal. So everyone will have to do the online Flyer ID test (RCC). It is not difficult just another CAA pain in the arse. I am sure in the meantime they will continue to keep on increasing the taxation they charge us for the privilege of screwing with us and our hobby. Such is life these days where everything is ruled by money and how much you can screw with peoples lives or rip people off for. On this note our Club subs will be remaining the same for this year. :) £70 for Seniors and £45 for Juniors. This will reduce to £50 and £30 respectively on the 1st September. CAA fee's will go up on the 1st April to God knows what as yet, and the BMFA will rise on the 1st January 2025 to £49.

It seems the CAA currently have their attentions set on the professional drone flyers. They have published their latest document with more numbers plucked from the ether to justify their actions and as we now expect these numbers seem to bear no relation to fact as we know it. When asked to back up the numbers they have used, as their document will be the basis of legal foundations they have done like the Government Ministers and become stuttering gibbering wrecks, and have evaded answering the questions. I wonder if they have staff that have perhaps presented false CV's to get a post as well? Seems we will have to await someone there activating a brain cell and taking the reins. I think we are in for a long wait so I will not be holding my breath. In the meantime this is all their attempt to justify doubling the charges for commercial drone flying. Totally corrupt and without justification. I believe this really does now confirm that they really do want to close down model flying and all it's associated parts. Has to make you wonder when they will start focusing on other aspects of recreational flying or worse other aspects of our lives. Control gone mad. I fear we are now officially a Dictator State.



The Airfield has been really hammered by this little b*****d and his family/mates. Moles. This year, apparently due to the extra rain we have had making the ground ideal for them and attracting more

bugs into the thatch, they are in their version of heaven we are told. We are persevering with levelling the hills and spreading the soil and with the setting of traps. They are clever little buggers and avoid the traps or even push them out of the ground. :) We have not admitted defeat - yet, and are still working on their removal. Let me know if you want to have a go. LOL.

We don't get much to laugh at but occasionally someone comes up with a gem.

Here's one for you to have a laugh at. We were contacted by email in the second half of the year by a PC Andrew London of the Norfolk Constabulary with a

numerous line signature announcing his position in life and career but basically for us, he is the Drone Officer. I initially thought WOW someone with some ideas

perhaps and want's to get involved and get to know the clubs, but alas, as I read on he shot that idea to pieces. He is claiming there are a lot of illegal model flights being made exceeding the 400 foot limit and asking us to report ourselves and fellow members for such flights. What a plonker, perhaps we should nickname him 'Rodney', LOL. I emailed him by return, in a very restrained manner, and suggested perhaps he should get out of his office and come and visit the clubs, introduce himself to us, have a chat, get to know us and to get a feel of what exactly is going on and to get some hands on experience to base his claims. This is obviously not in the remit as I have heard no more from him. A sad reflection of the times and the lost art of conversation and for meeting people face to face. I bet he has been inundated with emails from us all reporting each other, and cannot leave his warm secure little office in the bowels of a station somewhere because of all the paperwork. ROFLOL. Oh dear, am I getting more cynical by the day. Don't answer that it was rhetorical.



Due to our lack of hands on this year we have had a few occasions where members and guests have flown well past our limit of the main runway, and on a couple of occasions can you believe, well past the full size wind sock! We all appreciate there is a problem sometimes with the perspective or on the very rare occasion a model control problem, but some do seem an excessive distance even with these excuses. If you see someone flying **WELL** over the apron please react and check they are not having problems and tell them they are out of order. We do not have many rules but the one's we do have are there for a reason, safety. Please ensure compliance, we are all safety officers and need to react accordingly. Nuff said.

We have escaped lightly over the years with fingers etc meeting spinning props. Sadly this year we

have had two incidents where the participant needed to seek medical attention all because of a momentary lapse in concentration. As soon as your model becomes active, concentration is paramount until you disconnect and cease the session. Then you can relax. We could all fall foul of such an incident so easily, it is painful, embarrassing and all the other cliches. All we are aiming for is safety and enjoyment so please be careful out there. (A bit of Hill Street Blues there, who remembers that TV Series I wonder :)).

Back to a more serious part of Club life. Our A.G.M. was held on Sunday 1st December 2024 in the Airfield Diner. Our one and only official meeting of the year. No, we resisted the urge for an annual dinner and dance scenario, mind you Cherie did provide Tea and cake, does that count? You have all had a copy of the minutes which were compiled to the best of our recollection and a copy is in the club archives in the members area of our website for future reference. The attendance numbers were very good, we thank you all for that. No one was interested in the position of Chairman and Treasurer so Mike and I were voted back in unanimously.



Don't forget that Kevin has a range of airfield logo embroidered clothing to help promote the field and more importantly to help you keep warm. The logo is the airfield winged crab. We have the NMFC iron on badges if you wish to personalise as well. If you have recently changed your car what about adding a club windscreen badge? Both are cheap, excellent quality and add a little to the club coffers.

A bit of good news to close, it appears that Super Custom Engines, better known as S.C. have been purchased by new owners and have re-opened for business. I am sure it will take a bit of time to get dealers back on the books but engines are starting to become available again.

I think that's about all until next time. Keep well and fly 'em as if you stole 'em.

