

June 2024



# *Airscrew*



The  
N.M.F.C. Newsletter

## The Plot has Been Lost I Fear...

I think we have lost our battle on the model flying front as we have fallen in line with the dictates of the bureaucrats. Even the YouTube channels seem to have gone quiet and dried up. We seem to have lost the will to fight, perhaps because we have little in the way of armour for such a fight. We are dictated to by the corrupt and greedy of the World backed up by a press that continue to malign our hobby with freedom and impunity. With lie laid upon lie, they continue to build the anti model flying feelings of the public against us. Sadly, nobody can say now that this is not by design.

The BMFA have continued to grow from their humble beginnings but instead of being purely a representative body they have now become a fully fledged business triggered by the purchase and centring of Buckminster. Their agenda and their future planning all revolves around this centre, which again is understandable as they are fighting to remain in existence and it now gives them something on which to anchor and focus their attentions, their aims and goals appear to have changed to reflect this. It is called survival. Perhaps their transcendence to a business is why we don't get updates about the fight and what is happening anymore, we really don't know what is going on now do we? We are a hobby, and as I said before, as a hobby we are people that have lives but wish to spend some spare time flying model aircraft for enjoyment and pleasure. We do it as a H O B B Y, not as a business, regardless of the form of model flying that takes our fancy, we do not want or need all the senseless legislation that causes us to spend more time considering our flying than actually doing it. From a business perspective this is perhaps understandable in today's society, but really, for a hobby!? Whatever happened to common sense? Well that sadly is in the cemetery next to the plot reserved for model flying if the stupidity continues. Perhaps Buckminster will be the cenotaph for model flying as we know it.

A quick question for you. Who said "Money is the root of all evil"? You may not believe this but it was the Apostle Paul. All those years back he said "All wrongdoing can be traced to an excessive attachment to material wealth" which transcribes today to "Money is the root of all evil". Due to this evil we have seen numbers in our hobby dropping, this has to be expected as it is a hobby, and the will to fight for the right to do something does not seem to be there these

days. This was sadly reflected in the situation when Mike & I said we were resigning the posts we have held for in excess of ten years each. I could not believe a couple of members admitted the first thing they did was look to see what other clubs were about, and what these clubs had to offer. How very sad this is, I hope they realise now how good a thing we have here when you look at what we have for our club and what we have achieved with it. The willingness to just let it go does beg a lot of questions. I wish I had some of the answers. Luckily Mike and I were not willing to let it go, despite our more pressing commitments. We need to revitalise the will in people to fight for our rights instead of rolling over all the time. It does make my blood boil because like all of us, I was brought up post War, and I am sure that as I was taught so were you, it was drilled into us that our forebears fought for what we have today, don't squander it. I know, I'm rambling on again, most will ignore this but if it sparks a light in someone, who knows? One person can make a difference they keep on telling us. Could that be you?

I hope you all feel that at least you can come back to the real World as we knew it at our club, as it continues to run on common sense.

## Within the Club

Sadly there is not a lot going on within the club at the moment, even flying. It has so far been an horrendous year for the weather. I can truly say I don't ever recall one with so much wind and rain. On a positive note, we have had some members that have managed to get a few hours here and there but the relentless attack on England of one storm after another is not easing up as yet and the summer solstice looms ever closer meaning, we will be heading back towards winter again. Lets hope for an all round improvement soon.

On a positive note we have a member who has rejoined us having left a couple of years ago, welcome back Matt Carlton. We also have two new members, Paul Bowyer and Russell Curtis. I am sure you will make them welcome when you see them and help them to adjust and settle in. Matt and Paul are both fine to fly solo, Russell still requires a familiarisation with the field and our methods. He is a heli enthusiast so is under the guidance of Peter and Vanessa for now.

Our Solar controller finally gave up on us earlier this year, not too bad a return I suppose it has served us continually for about eight years or so. It has been replaced by a new one so we have



12V charging again as well as the mains option. The new 12V system has the facility to charge phones as well.

Whilst on maintenance, the model runway recently looked like it had been through a bombing strafe. It is the time of year where the birds, mainly Crows I believe, come to feed on the leather jackets and they have decimated some parts of the runway and the helipad with holes a good few inches deep. We also have the return of the dreaded moles. I have spent a fair number of hours filling the holes but I would request all of you to do an inspection before flying and fill any holes you find, and perhaps kick the soil off the mole hills to spread it out so that it can wash back into the ground. There is a bucket and spade in the storage box suitable for a hole filling session, please do feel free to use it. If it is done regular it only takes minutes. There is plenty of soil available on the edges of the adjacent fields or from the mole hills. Just remember it is your undercarriage and model at risk! :)

If you have been into the caravan lately you will hopefully have noticed that the build up of old magazines has gone and a lot of rubbish removed. One of our members who has recently moved to pastures new asked if he could have the magazines as he is spending a lot of time at home with an ill family member and wants something to read. We were happy to oblige and they have gone to a good home.

We have decided that as we were having a clear out there were some items we no longer use as a club as our path and methods have changed to match the times. We have decided to sell the generator, it does run but needs servicing, £330 new inc p+p, sold for £100. This is obsolete now that we have the mains hook up and as a result it has not been used for several years. We will also be selling the club trainer planes, the Bixler 2 £95 new, selling for £50, this will go to any new member student who may be interested. After the sale of the Bixler 2 we are left with the Bixler 1.1 which was given to the club in remembrance of Bob Whitbread. This will be retained in memory of Bob and will be used for students of choice to reach solo and then passed to the next until it's demise. I am sure Bob and all would agree with this course. The two Hitec radio's, the Aurora 9 and the Optic 6 Sport are now advertised for sale on our website.

One of the starting benches collapsed when moving it to allow grass cutting, on evaluation it was found a lot of the wood had rotted and it really was past repair. It has been removed from service and chopped up and has gone for a Viking funeral. A couple of the other benches are going the

same way. We have been given a picnic bench by Kevin as they have replace theirs up at the cafe with some nice new ones. This is in place we just need to work out the siting and if we are keeping both of the old ones. They could do with cleaning up and painting if we decide to keep them. Besides the bench collapse the two tables, the solar one and the work bench have both reached the end of their life and are deteriorating rapidly now. We are still on the lookout for two tables to replace them.

The Binham events are still on for this year. There are four booked. Details can be found on the club website events page. The format has changed, there is now a charge of £5 per day to fly. Sadly I could not get away for the first one of the year and no one took any pictures. Fingers crossed for the rest of the year.

It appears that Spektrum have introduced a feature to their computerised radios, the iX and NX series which gives telemetry for RSSI (Received Signal Strength Indicator). This gives you a percentage display and warnings and when it first happens it is very disconcerting. Believe me it is. I took off to do a normal circuit for a maiden on a new model, as I headed out across the full size runway I started to get warning of signal strength 12% followed by reducing percentages as I headed further away. This caused the brain to initiate a sphincter response and a yell of 'Shit' as it hit 2%, followed by an immediate return to our runway and a safe landing to breathe again. The initial range check had not shown any error messages but a subsequent one did. Apparently the first should have as well I am told. Anyway I tried another receiver and got the same result. So it was meant and was normal it seems. After numerous web searches and phone calls to dealers it seems that the percentage readouts are not problematic. Perhaps this is still experimental, but to me as a layman a reducing percentage signal strength should indicate a problem. If it isn't and it doesn't then what the hell is it doing there? The bottom line is currently - just ignore it! Still a worrying feature. It seems you can go into the system menu and change the setting from RSSI to dBm. You will need to read up on this and see if it makes any difference. I have changed the setting on my ix12 but as yet have not had a chance to fly and test it out.

I think that's all folks, keep flying them as if you stole them and enjoy the flying not pondering the crap the CAA keep on proliferating. :)

