

BMFA Free Flight Tech Committee News. Issue 130

All correspondence re this news to the FFTC Secretary:

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The FFTC held a Zoom meeting from their homes on 27 June 2024.

FFTC 2024 CALENDAR

BMFA FREE FLIGHT CALENDAR 2024 V2.1

Please note that Space events appear on this calendar as they are the responsibility of the FFTC.
They are not part of the Overall British Free Flight Championship

The F1A, B, C Team Selection, Women's Cup and Junior at the Nationals and Buckminster Gala
are excluded from the Free Flight Championships.

Please also note that ONLY Team Selection events are subject to postponement due to unsuitable
weather.

Changes to version (2.0) shown in RED

Date	Venue	Event	Classes	Contact
21 July	Area	6th Area - KMAA Day	CR, F1A (Plugge, KMAA), F1Q (Plugge), F1J, Vintage RP, SLOP, Mini Vintage, P30, H/CLG, Tailless (Plugge)	Area
3-4 August	Sculthorpe	East Anglian Gala	Saturday - CR, Vintage RP, Classic Glider, Tailless, E36, P30, HLG/CLG Sunday - CP, CE, CG, MV, Classic RP, Co2, Vintage Glider Nationals Bowden Trophy	Mike Woodhouse
3-4 August	Sculthorpe	East Anglian Space	Open Team Practice, all FAI classes	Trevor Seabrook
18 August	Salisbury Plain	Southern Gala	CG, CR, CP, CE, F1H, F1G, F1J, H/CLG, E30	Chris Redrup
1 September	Area	7th Area - Team Rubber Day	CG, CR (Plugge, Team Farrow), CE, F1C (Buskell), 1/2A, E36, Classic RP (Plugge), Classic G (Plugge), H/CLG	Area
7-9 September	Near Melton Mowbray or Peak District	5th F1E	F1E Team Selection and Sheffield Magnet Trophy. 1 or 2 days according to weather.	Ian Kaynes

14 September	Sculthorpe	Stonehenge Cup	F1A, F1B, F1C, F1Q	John Carter
15 September	Sculthorpe	Equinox Cup	F1A, F1B, F1C, F1Q	John Carter
14-15 September	Sculthorpe	Stonehenge/ Equinox Space	Space Team selection fall back dates - S1-B, S3-A, S4-A, S5-C, S6-A, S7, S8-EP, S9-A.	Trevor Seabrook
21-22 September CANCELLED	Sculthorpe	F1A, B, C, Q Team Selection Reserve	F1A, F1B, F1C, F1Q	Phil Ball
28-30 September	Near Melton Mowbray or Peak District	6th F1E	F1E Team Selection. 1 or 2 days according to weather.	Ian Kaynes
6 October	Area	8th Area - Team Glider Day	CG (Plugge, Team Model Engineer), F1B (Plugge), F1J, E36, SLOP (Plugge, Frog Senior), Mini Vintage, P30, H/CLG, E30	Area
19 October *	Barkston Heath	Midland Gala	Combined Mini (F1H, F1G, F1J), 1/2A, SLOP, Mini Vintage, P30, E36, H/CLG, CO2	Phil Ball
19 October	Barkston Heath	Midland Gala Space	S1-B, S3-A, S4-A, S5-C, S6-A, S7, S8-EP, S9-A.	Trevor Seabrook
3 or 17 November	Buckminster	Buckminster Gala	TBA	TBC

RULE CHANGES FOR 2025

With ever more restrictions facing model aircraft (UAV's) the FFTC have been debating for some months the best ways in which we might adjust our methods and practice to try and align with CAA Regulation. To this, we unanimously agreed to make it mandatory for all free flight models flown in competition that weigh 250grams or more to be fitted with a radio DT system (RDT).

Further it was also unanimously agreed that if a 250gram models competition flight was likely to be lost from visual line of sight (VLOS) that model should be immediately DT'd as always assuming safe to do so.

We will also be encouraging all who fly free flight models, not just those competition models, to consider RDT but this will not be deemed mandatory.

We acknowledge that to some this will cause angst and frustration, others we know accept this as part of an ever-changing system. In response to CAA Regulation we feel that this small sacrifice toward a safer model flying environment will safeguard our model flying without losing the spirit of free flight.

Now is as good a time as any to obtain relatively low cost RDT systems, and we are currently working with some of those suppliers/ manufacturers to seek special discounts for BMFA members and will announce once we hear further.

The new 250+ gram rule will come into effect for the start of the 2025 Free Flight season.

If you wish to put forward proposals to be considered for rule changes in 2025, please submit them in writing to Simon Dixon at the address above before the end of August 2024.

The proposals that were withdrawn last year due to procedure not being fully adhered to will be resubmitted again this year.

LATE CANCELLATION OF SITES

There is always a possibility of last-minute cancellation of permission to use the military sites that we fly on. The authorities that grant us use for these sites always take priority over their use. There have been recent occasions at Barkston Heath, Salisbury Plain and North Luffenham that events have been cancelled at very short notice. While this is disappointing we must remember that we are fortunate to have the use of these sites and they could be withdrawn at any time.

BMFA ARTICLE 16

The article 16 exception obtained by the BMFA on behalf of its members requires a competency test to be completed by its members. The test can be carried out on line

The Registration Competency Certificate is proof of your competency to remain lawful take the test at <https://rcc.bmfa.uk/rcc>

and upload the certificate to the Achievements section of your profile at <https://bmfa.justgo.com/>

If you have taken the CAA Flyer ID Test direct with the CAA, please respond by email and confirming you have done this. Keep a copy on your own files.

The test is straightforward and is based on safety considerations. Answer each question with safety in your mind as the driver to the correct answer.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact.

Helen Feaver

Membership Secretary

Tel: 0116 2440028
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Members are exempted from the CAA Registration and Competency requirements if they only operate:

control line aircraft under 7.5kg

aircraft weighing less than 250g

indoors

model rockets

STONEHENGE AND EQUINOX CUPS

The Stonehenge and Equinox Cups will take place at RAF Sculthorpe in Norfolk on the 14th and 15th of September. You can enter on line at the following web address:-

<https://freeflight.bmfa.uk/2024-stonehenge-equinox>