

## **BMFA Free Flight Tech Committee News. Issue 144**

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### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Please note that all written correspondence by letter or email must be sent to the FFTC Secretary, Simon Dixon, at the above address.

### **FFTC 2026 CALENDAR**

The 2026 Free Flight Contest Calendar has been severely impacted by the extreme fire risk caused by the exceptional weather over the Summer months. In addition, some sites, particularly Sculthorpe has been out of bounds for free flight due to the nesting of Stone Curlews on a protected SSSI. These issues have caused events to be postponed until the fire risk has alleviated and the birds allow us back onto Sculthorpe.

We have drafted a new Calendar to try and complete the contest programme in the latter period of the year. The only event that has been cancelled is the East Anglian Gala. We have the use of Sculthorpe for the Nationals on the 3-4 October, but after that the army are using it for the rest of October. As no alternative venue is available in East Anglia the event will be cancelled in 2026.

#### **BMFA FREE FLIGHT CALENDAR 2026 V4.0**

**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, Q 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.**

**A reminder that we have licence restrictions at some of the sites that we are fortunate to have the use of. This could result in cancellation of the event due to conditions beyond our control in advance of the date at very short notice, or, on the day of the event. Cancellation in advance of the day will be notified by a news bulletin on the FFTC Website.**

**Changes to version (3.0) shown in RED**

**FFTC 2026 CALENDAR V4.0**

| Date                                      | Venue               | Event                       | Classes                                                                                                        | Contact                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5-6 September                             | Slope Soaring       | Team Selection              | F1E Choice of flying days be notified by email by 2 September.                                                 | Ian Kaynes                                                         |
| 12 September                              | Salisbury Plain     | Stonehenge Cup              | F1A, F1B, F1C, F1Q                                                                                             | FFTC Lead John Carter<br>CD Peter Martin<br>ffworldcupuk@gmail.com |
| 13 September                              | Salisbury Plain     | Equinox Cup                 | F1A, F1B, F1C, F1Q                                                                                             | FFTC Lead John Carter<br>CD Peter Martin<br>ffworldcupuk@gmail.com |
| 12-13 September                           | Midland Rocket Club | Space Junior Team Selection | S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9                                                                             | Steve Jones                                                        |
| 19-20 September                           | Slope Soaring       | Team Selection              | F1E Choice of flying days be notified by email by 15 September                                                 | Ian Kaynes                                                         |
| 3-4 October                               | Sculthorpe          | Nationals                   | Please refer to Nationals Information for classes on each day.                                                 | FFTC Lead – Stephen Philpott                                       |
| 11 October                                | North Luffenham     | Nationals Mini              | Please refer to Nationals Information for classes on each day.                                                 | FFTC Lead – Stephen Philpott                                       |
| 17-18 October *                           | Salisbury Plain     | Team Selection Reserve Date | F1A, F1B, F1C, F1Q                                                                                             | FFTC Lead Mark Benns                                               |
| 17-18 October                             | Salisbury Plain     | Space 2nd Team Selection    | S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9                                                                             | Slawomir Zack<br>Slawomic.zack@gmail.com                           |
| 21 October                                | Slope Soaring       | Team Selection              | F1E                                                                                                            | Ian Kaynes                                                         |
| 25 October                                | Area                | 7 <sup>th</sup> Area        | CR, CE, CP, F1A (, Plugge, K&MAA), F1G/F1H (Plugge F1G), E36 (Plugge), HLG/CLG                                 | Area                                                               |
| 31 October-1 November,<br>Or 7-8 December | Buckminster         | Buckminster Gala            | TBC<br>Note: Final date to be announced a few days in advance as site is weather critical.                     | FFTC LEAD Simon Dixon<br>CD Stuart Darman                          |
| 1 November                                | Area                | 8 <sup>th</sup> Area        | CE, CP, CG, , MV (Plugge), F1B (Gutteridge), Co2/E30/P30 (Plugge P30), Classic G/Vintage G (Plugge Vintage G)  | Area                                                               |
| 8 November                                | Area                | 6 <sup>th</sup> Area        | CR (Plugge, Team Farrow), CG, CE, F1C (Buskell), 1/2A/F1J, Co2/E30/P30 (Plugge co2), CRP/VRP/SLOP (Plugge CRP) | Area                                                               |
| 15 November                               | North Luffenham     | Midland Gala                | Classic G/Vintage G, MV, 1/2A/F1J, Co2/E30/P30, F1G/F1H, E36, HLG/CLG                                          | FFTC Lead Phil Ball                                                |
| 15 November                               | North Luffenham     | Space at the Midland Gala   | S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9                                                                             | Slawomir Zack<br>Slawomic.zack@gmail.com                           |

\*Team Selection fall back date

# Free Flight Nationals 2026

Having moved the Nationals days 1 and 2 from Sculthorpe to Salisbury Plain in June we now are able to move it back to Sculthorpe for the first weekend of October. The mini day will now be held on the 11 October at North Luffenham.

## Free Flight Duration - Open, FAI and Mini Classes

| <b>Sculthorpe<br/>Saturday 3 October<br/>Start 09:00 – 17:00<br/>Gate opens at 08:15 but<br/>no flying before 09:00</b> | <b>Sculthorpe<br/>Sunday 4 October<br/>Start 09:00 – 17:00<br/>NOTE FAI Classes may<br/>start at 08:00 and<br/>extend past 18:00</b> | <b>North Luffenham<br/>Sunday 11 October<br/>Start 09:00 – 17:00<br/>Anticipate access from<br/>08:30 but no flying<br/>before 09:00</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Combined Glider                                                                                                         | F1A Glider                                                                                                                           | F1H glider                                                                                                                               |
| Combined Rubber                                                                                                         | F1B Rubber                                                                                                                           | F1G rubber                                                                                                                               |
| Combined Power                                                                                                          | F1C Power                                                                                                                            | F1J Power                                                                                                                                |
| Combined Open Electric                                                                                                  | F1Q Electric                                                                                                                         | BMFA 1/2A Power                                                                                                                          |
| Classic Rubber/Power                                                                                                    | Vintage Rubber/Power                                                                                                                 | E36 Electric                                                                                                                             |
| Vintage Glider                                                                                                          | Slow Open Power                                                                                                                      | P30 Rubber                                                                                                                               |
| Tailless                                                                                                                | Classic Glider                                                                                                                       | E30 Electric                                                                                                                             |
|                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                      | Mini Vintage                                                                                                                             |
|                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                      | CO2 Duration                                                                                                                             |
| Hand Launched Glider<br>HLG                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                      | Hand Launched Glider<br>HLG                                                                                                              |
| Catapult Glider CLG                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                      | Catapult Glider GLG                                                                                                                      |
| Women's Cup                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                      | Women's Cup                                                                                                                              |
| Frog Junior (J)                                                                                                         | Note F1A,B,C&Q will in<br>Rounds                                                                                                     | Frog Junior (J)                                                                                                                          |

- The maximums will be decided on each day
- Fly offs – to be decided on the day

- 4 classes will be flown at both venues, a competitor can enter twice, once at either site, the Nationals Champion for these 4 classes will be the best score at any one venue.

### Entry and Payments

- Pre entry for all contests is pre-entry online.
- **PLEASE NOTE THE DATE FOR BEING ABLE TO PRE-ENTER HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL 20th SEPTEMBER.**
- Pre entry £10 per day or £15 on the day
- Please bring copy of pre entry form to the event (will ease entry)
- Casual sport flyers £10 per day
- Non flying partners free of charge

### Free Flight Overall Championships

| Overall Championships | Saturday Sculthorpe | Sunday at Sculthorpe  | Sunday at North Luffenham |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Rubber                | Combined Rubber     | F1B                   | F1G & P30                 |
| Glider                | Combined Glider     | F1A<br>Classic glider | F1H                       |
| Power                 | Combined Power      | F1C                   | F1J & SLOP                |
| Open                  | Combined Electric   | F1Q                   | E36 & E30                 |

### Awards

- Certificates and medals awarded for all events, **at the prize giving only**
- The prizegiving will take place as soon as possible after flyoffs on each day

### Facilities and access

- There is no camping or overnight stay allowed on either site
- Toilets will be provided at Sculthorpe but please provide or plan your own needs at North Luffenham
- All contestants and flyers must be BMFA members and should have their membership card with them. Non-flying family members are permitted access.
- Dogs are not permitted on Sculthorpe.

**Locations** Google Map Links

[Sculthorpe PE31 6TD](#)

[Luffenham Entrance LE15 8HY](#)

**NB** All venues can be cancelled by the licence issuer at very little notice