

BEAULIEU MODEL FLYING COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION

1 Purpose

The Beaulieu Model Flying Committee, hereinafter the BMFC, is an independent not-for-profit organisation whose purpose is as the sole body responsible for managing all aspects of model flying at the Beaulieu Airfield on behalf of the Forestry Commission, hereinafter the FC, whose land the airfield occupies.

2 Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the BMFC are to:

1. to represent the aims and objectives of all model flyers, with respect to the use of the airfield, to both the FC and the public. Model flyers may be individuals, or members of a club.
2. negotiate acceptable terms and conditions with the FC and pay any fee agreed,
3. establish and maintain a set of site rules governing the activity of model flying at the airfield with respect to the safety and enjoyment of both model flyers and the general public,
4. issue a permit to fly models to any model flyer on reasonable request,
5. inform permit holders of any information relevant to the use of the airfield and its availability, as far as possible,
6. hold an Annual General Meeting, AGM, each year, having given reasonable notice to the permit holders. Hold an Extraordinary General Meeting, EGM, if exceptional circumstances arise, having given at least one months notice to the permit holders.
7. attempt to ensure that Forestry Commission's requirements and the New Forest Bye-laws are respected,
8. be affiliated to the British Model Flying Association, hereinafter the BMFA, and encourage the use of its procedures and recommendations.

In the event of the dissolution of the BMFC all bills will be paid, if there exist funds to cover them. Any surplus cash and assets will revert to the BMFA.

2.1 Liability

The BMFC accepts no liability for loss, damage or personal injury resulting from the activity of flying model aircraft.

2.2 Constitution Amendment

This constitution will be reviewed annually. Amendments to the constitution can be proposed by permit holders and voted on an AGM. The process of constitution amendment is:

1. Proposed amendments should be sent to the secretary or chairman at least one month before the AGM,
2. Proposed Amendments will be made public at least two weeks before the AGM,

3. Permit holders may vote by post, by proxy, or in person at an AGM.
4. A two-thirds majority is required to accept proposed amendments.

2.3 Annual General Meeting

A General Meeting will be held each year.

The agenda for the AGM should include:

- chairman's report
- treasurer's report
- secretary's report
- election of officers
- any other business.

2.4 Officers

The BMFC will be managed by FIVE officers:

- Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Radio Control/Safety Representative
- Free Flight Representative

The Officers should hold a current Permit to Fly at Beaulieu.

Each officer should serve for a year, which may be renewed by re-election at the AGM.

Officers will be elected by permit holders at an AGM or EGM. Permit holders may vote in person, by proxy, or by mail. The chairman will administer any proxy votes submitted.

Nominations for election to one of the above posts should be sent, with the name of a seconder, both of whom should be existing permit holders, to the Secretary or Chairman at least two weeks before the AGM.

The committee may also contain additional members. The additional members would have no specific duties, but be prepared to assist any other committee member on any topic related to the running of the committee. Additional members are appointed at the discretion of the Committee.

2.5 Permit Holders

All persons wishing to fly models at Beaulieu must be in possession of a current permit. The BMFC will not discriminate on the grounds of ethnicity, racial or sexual preferences, and will not tolerate any discrimination by permit holders.

Permit holders should:

- show their current permit to any Officer on demand.
- display the permit in a place appointed by the officers, while flying,
- show the permit to an FC official if demanded.

Permit holders have the right to vote at an AGM or EGM.

The BMFC does not offer any flight training, model building or other facilities to permit holders who must find these services elsewhere, for example in a recognised model club. Flight training may be performed at Beaulieu but only if both instructor and pupil are permit holders.

3 Duties of Officers

3.1 Chairman. The Chairman will:

- Manage the AGM and any EGM,
- Present a report on the last year's activities and any future actions that may be necessary.
- Be the principal point of contact with the FC,
- Negotiate renewal of the FC permission document on behalf of the committee and the permit holders,
- Sign the annual permission document.

Note that many decisions on policy are applicable to negotiations with the Forestry and these should be taken after discussions between the officers.

The chairman should seek opinions and ideas from permit holders at any time if and when appropriate.

3.2 Treasurer. The Treasurer will

- Be responsible for the control and accounting of all money in the possession of the BMFC. Money may be used for administration, payment of fees and maintaining the Forest.
- Present a report of the annual accounts,
- Be responsible for an inventory of assets and equipment owned by the Committee.

3.3 Secretary. The Secretary will:

- Handle all BMFA affiliation matters and associated correspondence,
- Issue permits on request by post, email or other contact,
- Handle any other correspondence from other flying clubs, or the public
- Keep all relevant records.

3.4 Radio Control/Safety Representative. The RC representative will:

- Check that all model flyers in attendance at the airfield are in possession of a valid permit,
- Encourage the observance by permit holders of all site regulations,

3.5 Free Flight Representative. The FF representative will:

- Encourage the observance by FF permit holders of all site regulations,
- Be a focal point for issuing permits to the Free Flight flyers,

4 Permits

Every person wishing to fly models at the site must be in possession of a permit which will be issued by a member of the committee. The conditions for issuing a permit, which will be managed by the committee include that the person applying for a permit:

- should be a bona fide model flyer
- should be a member of the BMFA and in possession of a current membership and insurance document. No applicant without adequate insurance, including Public Indemnity Insurance, will be acceptable. Members of other major flying organisations, or foreign country organisations, which may have their own insurance arrangements may be permitted and should apply to the officers for clarification.
- If the person is a Junior, deemed here to mean under the age of 18, they may hold a permit but must be accompanied and supervised by their parent or guardian who will act as the “responsible adult” for the Junior at all times. Officers and other permit holders may not act as responsible adults for Juniors unless they have that responsibility independently.

The cost of the permit will be determined by the officers and approved by the permit holders at an AGM or EGM. The officers have an over-riding right and duty to establish an economically efficient level of permit cost having given due consideration to the FC charges, cost of issuing permits, and any other costs related to running the BMFC.

4.1 Discipline

Permit holders are required to abide by the rules of behaviour which the officers will establish and publicise. Failure to abide by the rules should be reported to the officers who will:

- investigate the incident to the best of their ability to determine the facts of the case,
- if proven, then issue a written warning to the offending party or parties,
- on a repeat offence the officers may withdraw the permit of the offending party or parties,
- Any withdrawn permit will stay withdrawn for the remainder of the current permit year, unless in the opinion of the officers there is a valid reason to re-instate it.
- The officers decision in the issue or withdrawal of permits is final, and can only be challenged at an AGM.

4.2 Competitions and Events

BMFA Free Flight Events will be organised under the discretion of the Free Flight representative. Dates will be notified to the FC , via the Chairman .

BMFA Radio Control events will be organised under the discretion of the officers.

Other events may be organised by agreement with, and at the discretion of, the Officers.

4.3 Note: Restrictions on types of model flying

The following general restrictions to model flying apply:

- An aircraft may be free flight or radio controlled,
- Classes of aircraft allowed include fixed wing, and rotary wing craft,
- All models must weight less than 7Kg.
- Any propulsion method is allowed, except Rocket, Jet and Gas Turbine.
- The use of control-line models is not encouraged.

=====**end of constitution**=====