



Hemel Hempstead Model Flying Club



Newsletter November 2020

Hello, members!

It's been a great year for flying so far despite everything else that's going on in the world. Unfortunately, David has taken a step back from flying and was unable to continue with the newsletter. So first of all I would like to thank him for his contribution to the club and a great first edition newsletter. His boots will be hard to fill, but hopefully my size 14's will do the trick.

We are unfortunately saying goodbye to Gerry Somers who is moving to sunny-ish Cornwall, we would like to thank you for your contributions to the club. Everyone would like to wish you the best of luck and we'll be in touch soon with our orders of Pasty's.

STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES

A Covid-19 Update - BOTH PATCHES CLOSED 05/11 to 02/12

The virus has now been with us for a while and I know that all our members are making a conscious effort to stay within government guidelines. While the number of positive Covid cases continues to rise again, a lockdown was unavoidable. It has now been confirmed that we are going to have a lockdown. The BMFA has made the decision to stop all flying and the committee has no other choice but to shut both patches to meet government guidelines. **There will be no flying from the 5th of November 2020 to the 2nd of December 2020.** This is subject to change as the lockdown may be extended so we will keep you all updated.

This is a hard time for everyone but luckily it's happening when the weather may not be in our favour. So get your simulators ready and keep flying!

If anyone is struggling or in need of assistance please reach out to another member, we are all here for each other.



England

Model Flying in the club environment

The Government has ordered that certain venues must close, including indoor and outdoor leisure and sporting facilities. We therefore see little option for model flying clubs to continue operating during the period of lockdown and they should close.

Therefore, our advice is for members to stay at home and make an early start on their next masterpiece.



What's New and Upcoming

Annual General Meeting (AGM) - The AGM is on the 7th of December 2020, due to government restrictions this will be held via Zoom. If anyone struggles with technology please ask for help setting it up as we would like to have as many members attending as possible.

If anyone has any proposals please get in touch with Doug - secretary@hmf.co.uk

Cameras - We have both cameras set up at Puttenham and Shenley. Doug has worked extremely hard to work out all the glitches and hopefully now they will continue to run with no issues. This will now free Doug up for other projects such as installing LEDs on the lawnmowers...

Indoor Flying - Everyone is keen to keep flying throughout winter. We remain hopeful to do some indoor flying but with new restrictions it looks doubtful before the new year.

Work Benches - We now have work benches at both sites. The work benches have been fitted with USB ports to



September 14th — Phil's Memorial Day

Those that knew Phil Wade say his passion for the hobby was unmatched; he could fly anything, build and fix anything, and would always lend a hand to those who needed it. A memorial bench has been installed at Shenley and there was no better way to carry on his memory than a day's flying and a BBQ. Phil - we hope you enjoyed the show!



2nd Place in the BMFA National Championships!

Congratulations to one of our members, Allan Huke, for finishing 2nd in the BMFA National Championships. It was Allan's first competition, and he made the trip to Buckminster on the 19th of September competing over two days at Clubman level.

Allan is doing a great job representing our club and promoting aerobatics. He is keen to help anyone who is interested in aerobatics so please get in touch with him if you have any questions.



Allan took some time to give us an insight of his experience.

How did you get into F3A Aerobatics?

I think we all like to try some aerobatics when we fly – a loop, a roll or two, perhaps even an outside loop (or ‘bunt’) or some inverted flying – to keep our flying interesting. However in September I decided to take it a step further and enter into the arena of F3A aerobatics competition. Scary stuff.

What is F3A?

“F3A (also known as pattern flying) is an aerobatic competition where pilots fly a fixed set of manoeuvres and are awarded points out of ten for each manoeuvre by a set of judges based upon marking criteria set out by the FAI (Fédération Aéronautique Internationale). There are 4 classes, ranging in difficulty from Clubman (easiest) to FAI (international / top pilots).”

How would you explain your experience so far?

“It’s not easy. And nerves and crosswinds don’t help. An experienced caller is invaluable (there are lots of volunteers willing to help). It’s quite a bit of driving for not much flying (the Clubman Schedule takes around 3½ minutes to fly and the competitions take up the whole day). However, all at the two competitions I’ve entered so far are very friendly and extremely encouraging. In particular, the judges and more experienced competitors are willing to provide instant feedback and much needed advice – so much is learned – far more than by practice alone. It’s great to fly at different fields and the quality of flying of the higher classes is really good to watch.”

Would you recommend it?

“Definitely. I’ve met some really good pilots and I’m in two separate F3A WhatsApp groups, with invitations to fly at other clubs for practice sessions. My flying has improved and there is always something to practice when I go to the flying field. Whether you enter a competition or just practice the schedule or some of the manoeuvres, I’m sure your flying will improve by giving it a go..”

How can people contact you and what are your plans for next year?

“If anyone wants any further information contact me via HHMFC WhatsApp group. I mentioned above I entered two competitions – both were in September at Clubman level. I came third (out of six) at the GBRCAA competition at Knettishall, (near Bury St Edmunds) and second (out of seven) at the BMFA National Championship at the BMFA centre, Buckminster. Very pleased, but even better is that I achieved promotion scores so I’m moving up to the Intermediate Schedule next year, which is a whole new ball game. Practice, practice and more practice.”

Useful links: www.gbrcaa.org – this is the Great Britain R/C Aerobatics Association website, providing details of F3A, the various schedules and a forum which is full of useful information.

COMPETITION TIME!

The committee has come together to introduce a competition over the winter break. As night flying is becoming more popular by the minute, we would like members to go L-E-D CRAZY!!! Be as creative as you can, LED up your planes, helis, quads, but also any equipment or even your car if you want.

Here are the rules:

- 1) You don't talk about flight club
- 2) You must be able to take it to the patch
- 3) All entries must be submitted to James Lewis at editor@hmfco.co.uk, Please send pictures of your entries by Sunday January 10th, 2021.

We will then hold an evening session at both patches for competitors to show off their work with pictures and videos to be posted and a vote held for the winner.

There will be prizes! There is some serious inspiration below, so have fun and get building...



**We've had some TREE-mendous flying!
Welcome to the graveyard!**



Crashes are unavoidable but we take great pride in bringing planes back from the dead!



A BIG Welcome to Our New Members

One of the main goals for our committee and members this year was to focus on recruitment. This was not only to help the growth of the club, but also to introduce the hobby so many of us enjoy to others.

We have been extremely successful in this area and would like to thank everyone for their contribution and for making this club as great as it is. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome myself, James Lewis, to the club, and can honestly say I've been a pleasure to fly with since I joined in June.

The club would also like to welcome:

Marcus Goldsmith, Leigh Osaer, David West, Christopher West, Krishna Patel, Daniel Seabrook, Kai Seabrook, Graham Hudson, Matthew Kay, Adam Castle, Gary Starkey, Stuart Sargent, Douglas Santos.

I apologize to anyone we've missed or any misspelled names, but welcome nonetheless.



Buddying

There are members at both Puttenham and Shenley that can assist with buddy box training/flying.

Buddy boxing isn't just for beginners. Maybe you're trying manoeuvres you haven't tried before. Maybe you have a new plane and you're not confident to fly it alone yet. Well don't leave it in the shed! Please feel comfortable enough to ask for a buddy. The following members will be happy to arrange a convenient time and site:

Ed the Chairman

Allan Huke

Lawrence North



Allan and Lawrence have kindly stepped up to take some pressure off of Ed with the buddy boxing.

They are all very approachable. However the only thing to be aware of is that Lawrence has been known for the occasional bite or nibble after working up an appetite with a long day's flying...So bring snacks!

Buddy boxing has already been very successful in helping a number of new members, both junior and senior, with developing flying skills and confidence.

If you know anyone, family or friends, who might be interested, why not bring them along and let them have a go!?



QR Code

Some of you may have spotted these displayed at both sites. For those members not familiar with this type of technology, they are very similar to bar codes. Simply point the camera on the code from most mobile phones, or with the appropriate app. This will enable quick access to our website. We hope this may encourage interest from passers by who might want to consider getting involved in the hobby and becoming a new club member.

Please Try >>>>>



New First Aid Boxes Working Well!

The first aid boxes couldn't have come soon enough. We have had a few minor injuries on site and while tinkering at home.

It's so easy to get complacent even for more experienced members, so please be careful.

If any contents of the first aid box's are used please inform a member of the committee so these can be replenished.

Obviously I won't name and shame anyone but H please don't touch any more props while they're rotating...



We hope you have all enjoyed the newsletter!

If any of you would like to see a particular type of featured article in future editions or perhaps include your own (on such things as a new model build, any technical information or similar) which you think may be of interest to our members, please contact any member of the committee.

Below are a selection of pictures collected recently.

Please also send us your pictures or videos and we will see what we can do to publish them as well.

Some of you may have noticed some members' models for sale on our social media. We are also happy to include an advertisement section in our newsletter editions if you have any models, engines or any spares you want to sell. If you have anything you are looking for, we could also include a 'wanted' section.

Until the next edition, stay safe and fly well!

