

Highlighted points from BMFA Area Delegates meeting 23rd Jan 2025

- **Renewal dates on the BMFA Just Go Portal** - There have been problems for some club officials with incorrect membership renewal dates and CAA renewal dates extracted from the BMFA portal. Andy Symons at the BMFA is working to get these fixed.
- **Rolling membership** - This continues to be a hot topic. Whilst there is some opposition from club membership secs, rolling 12 month memberships already exist for BDF members and gift subscriptions. In reality there is nothing to worry about as existing members will renew on 1st Jan as always and it would only apply to new members, many of whom do their own renewals with no effort required from clubs.
- **Rules vs Fun** - We need to emphasise the fun aspects of the hobby rather than the rules!! There aren't really that many rules or hoops to jump through. Members who complain about the rules should try to get things in perspective – most of us fly quite happily without even thinking about the rules. Some older members may even remember when to operate RC equipment we had to have a licence from the Post Office that cost 5 shillings a year....
- **Insurance** - However, in the event of an insurance claim, it would be best to be flying legally with Flyer ID and operator ID etc, although our insurers do not have a history of trying to get out of paying claims by proving non compliance.
- **Flyer IDs and the RCC test** - Those who had Flyers IDs issued because they had an Achievement Scheme A or B test will now have to do the Registration Competency Certificate (RCC) test before November as the CAA have changed their minds and no longer accept A or B tests in lieu of the RCC. It is a very simple multiple choice test that most flyers will pass without doing any revision. It only has to be done every 5 years and is free.
- **Doing the RCC test** - Members can find the RCC test on the BMFA website by clicking the "MORE" link at the top. After successfully passing the RCC, members need to follow the instructions that are sent to them with their certificate to upload their completed RCC test certificate to the BMFA portal. Andy Symons is working on improvements here to avoid having to upload the RCC, and a new website is getting more imminent!
- **Area Funding** - We have agreed an increase in area funding this year – this will go back to previous levels, but areas will have to justify the amount they want. The BMFA is in a better financial position this year than last year.
- **Club of the year award** – This will be announced shortly. There will be a simple application process and an emphasis on clubs having fun and being welcoming to new members.

- **Achievement Scheme Tests** - There is a completely updated, standardised and simplified set of documents for the 30 or so BMFA Achievement Scheme tests. This will help to make the scheme easier for everyone involved.
- **Informal BMFA Records** - A new proposal will be coming out to allow clubs to set their own informal records which will then be published so that other clubs can try to better the records – e.g. most FF models in the air or most loops in a minute etc. A records list will be published by the BMFA so clubs can have a go at beating previous records. This is a fun initiative rather than anything else.
- **Safety Reports** - There will be a meeting of the Safety review committee shortly, following which a summary, with conclusions, and where appropriate recommendations to help avoid reoccurrences of any identified trends, for dissemination to Areas and Clubs before the May meetings of the Board and Areas Council.

Alan Paul
Area Delegate
28th Jan 2025