

EXPERIENCE DAY – Sunday 7th September 25

The objective of the Experience Day was to: increase accessibility, raise the profile and give a positive perception of model flying, to the public.

A very successful event which achieved these objectives.

We can build on our experience of this event

Lessons - What went well & Where can we improve

What went well

- a) We allowed ourselves sufficient time to plan & organise.
- b) Posters were displayed in prominent places six weeks prior to the event. Use of social media and external web-sites (i.e. Next Door Neighbour had over 800 views)
- c) Members' personal invites had a good response.
- d) In preparation for the event there was a schedule of actions (planned over a 3 month period), with names and dates, which was reviewed and updated
- e) We got professional help with the poster
- f) Great support from the Members. Five fixed wing and two FPV members giving flights. Over 30 experience flights given.
- g) BMFA flight simulator trailer was in use throughout the day.
- h) The segregation of the flying field, to keep public separated from the models was good.
- i) The BBQ was very well run and very busy.
- j) The effort put in giving Experience Flights in 18mph cross winds was exemplary.
- k) The meeting at the car park & directing was good.
- l) The weather was warm & sunny (although a horrible 18 mph cross wind).
- m) Provision of toilets.
- n) Some very good feedback from members of the public who visited.
- o) Four visitors expressed a keen interest to join the club.
- p) Members of the public who turned up were interested in "having a go".

Where can we improve

- a) Models to be used for experience flights must be the right type of model, they must be prepared (set up and trimmed) prior to the event.
- b) As far as possible the demands on any of the Instructors should be equalised.
- c) An assistant aligned to support an Instructor may be useful.
- d) Other equipment should be checked beforehand. Issue with BMFA generator (low oil)
- e) We did spend too much time with pre-flight talks for those wishing to fly. We need to get these people in the air as soon as we safely can! This will cut down on waiting time.
- f) Experience flights do not need to be long, 5 minutes should be enough, bearing in mind they can always come back for a second go.
- g) Signage provided, but some members of the public found us "hard to find". Off site signage needs to be located throughout a much wider area, to direct the public to the site and to attract greater numbers.
- h) Start and Finish times need to be included on poster.
- i) We need to make it clear that dogs or smoking is not allowed past the car park.
- j) We need to have some SNMFC information available i.e. Application Forms and/or literature. (we need an easy and quick way to join)
- k) Difficulty getting poster of the Event on the Web-site. We didn't get the supporting info on web site.
- l) Management of the Instructors needs to be better. We used an Instructor to schedule the Experience Flights but due to demand he was drawn into instructing.
- m) No contingency for "bad" weather.

- n) As we didn't have volunteers before the event we found it difficult to schedule duties i.e. people managing the car park & simulator.
- o) First Aid – Best to have a identified first aider prior to the day and to ensure first aid kit is to requirements.
- p) We should have a method (i.e. A form to complete or a phone based app), for people who showed an interest and wished to provide the club their details to allow us to forward additional information, invites to events.