



## British Summer Time at last !!

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### Chairman's News

British Summer time at last!! I don't know about you but winter seems to have been around longer than ever. Normally you can rely on some very cold, still days, but this year has seemed wetter and windier than most. Nether the less there has been activity down at the field with the helicopter guys flying in near gale conditions. Some how they don't seem to be affected by the wind so much.

We are still looking for a suitable venue to hold club meeting, so any suggestions most welcome. Until we find somewhere, I suggest that we hold ad-hoc meetings at the field on a Wednesday evening from 1800 on wards, no formal agenda just turn up and fly. We are also after volunteers to help paint the container. Paint and rollers will be provided, and shouldn't take more than a couple of hours to complete. The down side of summer approaching is the need for the grass to be cut, at the moment this is kindly undertaken by Dennis, but it would be very

much appreciated if we could draw up a rota and share out this task. A list will be available on the container for you to sign upto.

Ok so what else has been happening, we were approached by Bernd Beschoner, a model pilot from Germany staying at Cranfield on a training course and asked if he could use our field to train over the 4 weeks he was here. Bernd is in training for the German Aerobatic championships, and has quite an impressive list of achievements to his name, he was 2nd of the F3A German Aerobatic Championship 2003, 9th of the F3A World Aerobatic Championship 2003 in Poland, 10th of the last TOC2002 (Tournament of Champions) in Las Vegas/USA, and is in the TOP 3 Aerobatic Pilots in Europe. If you managed to see him at the field, his flying was very smooth, and amazingly quiet. In fact the electric Zaggi's were noiser ! Bernd really appreciated being able to train at our field and we wish him luck in his championships.



Bernd's Webra powered Tucano



## Web Site – [www.mkmaa.co.uk](http://www.mkmaa.co.uk)

The web site has had a make over and we now have our own domain name, which should make finding it easier. So far no major changes, mainly cosmetic but with the addition of a for sale section. So why not have a rummage around in your garage/workshop and have a clearout for the new season. For those of

you without access to the internet, we will also include for sale items in the news letter. If you have any pictures of your current models in flight, static or even in the process of being built, please email / post them to me and I will get loaded on to the site.

## Information from the Secretary's desk.

**Dean Blesser** has volunteered to become a club examiner and is waiting to be examined by the BMFA.

Further to the last newsletter, we have now received a policy, procedures and guidelines document regarding "the promotion of welfare and care of children and vulnerable adults in model flying". If you have received your most recent BMFA paper you will have seen an article regarding it in there.

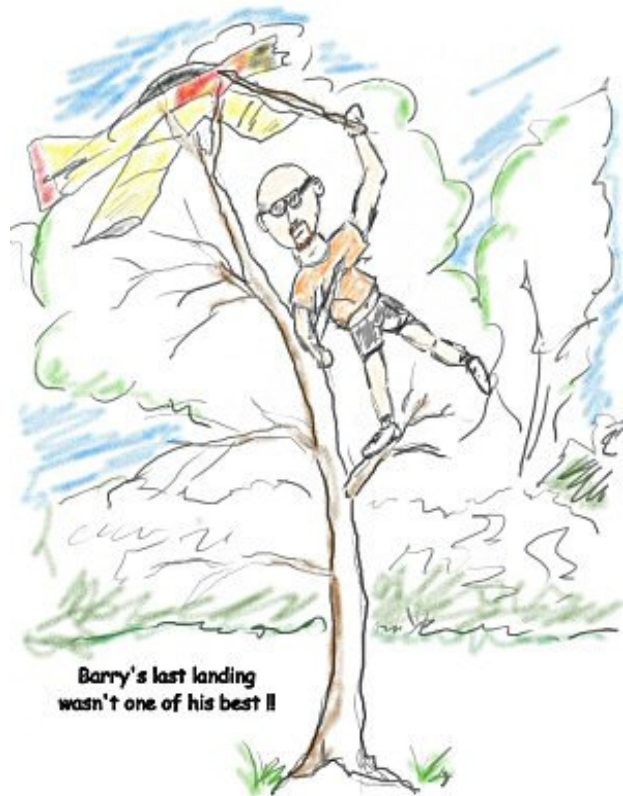
The document has been read and if anyone else would like to read it or have a copy of it please let me know. In the meantime, although probably published with the best intentions, it has been issued without to much thought to individual situations and appears on the face of it to be a "insurance" exercise by the BMFA to cover itself should an incident occur.

The matter has been discussed with the Chairman and at the moment, it is not intended to implement the document in any form. We currently only have two junior members and no vulnerable adults that we are aware of. One junior will be with his parent who is a member, and the other with a trusted member of the club with permission of the parents when flying. There does not currently appear to be a time when the situation will arise which will require this to be reviewed.

Should any member wish to discuss anything in regard to the above, please do not hesitate to contact, either myself or the Chairman

## Sandown 2004

We have had notification of this and leaflets are available from a folder pinned to the container down at the flying site. It is to be held on 22–23 May 2004 at Sandown racecourse. Savings on ticket prices can be made for advanced group bookings





## **BMFA 2004 Top Gun UK**

Will be held this year at Rougham Airfield, Bury St Edmonds on 17-18 July. There will be trade stands and a swapmeet on the Sunday.

## **Flying Report**

The weather has been a bit hit and miss recently, going from arctic to positively balmy. So it has been a bit of a lottery as to when to fly. The usual faces have been present when weather has permitted flying to take place, and the odd new model or discipline is now appearing. The heli boys have taken to mass flying of electric zagi,s, with close calls a plenty, but no tears yet.

Dennis has recently test flown the "large" spitfire and with a few tweaks this will be seen about a lot more this year.

Roland has had two marvelous helicopters out recently. An airwolf in NASA experimental colours and another as a model of the Milton Keynes Air Ambulance, both performed and we hope to see more of them soon.

If you have any articles or items for sale please send them over and we will endeavor to include them in the next newsletter.

See you flying soon.

## **RC Flying Simulators**

I thought I'd put the question to fellow club members about whether any of you guys have tried any of the RC SIM programs currently available. During the winter months when the weathers a bit rubbish these SIMS may (or may not) help to keep the skills in tune till the weather brightens up? I'm still a very novice flyer and as I've not been able to do much flying this year I've been trying a few of these programs out and thought I'd pass on my findings.

### **FMS**

Firstly I've found that they don't need to be expensive. One that is actually FREE is an excellent program called FMS (Flying-Model-Simulator) this is written by a couple of German blokes and has an enormous following on the internet. There are 2 versions to choose from:-

Version 2.0 Beta 7. This has been around for a while and there are literally hundreds of planes and helis to download from all around the world. The only drawback with this version is that there is no wind.

Version 2.0 Alpha 8.1 This has only just been released and does have wind, but as it's new

there are only a couple of helis and a few planes to choose from at the moment.

The program and some very good documentation can be downloaded completely FREE from [http://n.ethz.ch/student/mmoeller/fms/index\\_e.html](http://n.ethz.ch/student/mmoeller/fms/index_e.html).

The documentation even has circuits for building basic interfaces if you want to use your Transmitter instead of a joystick, which is by far the best option. I opted to buy a pre-built interface for my SANWA RD6000 from a company on the internet called [www.customelectronics.co.uk](http://www.customelectronics.co.uk) . This works great but only with FMS.

### **easyFly**

I splashed out and bought easyFly from a model shop. This included the software and the interface cable, which has an adapter that works with FUTABA and JR as well. This program works very well and caters for planes and helis.

Neither easyFly or FMS allows for changes to be made to the physics of the aircraft within the program, so you can't play around with C of G for example. If you are into computing and such you





can change things by altering files but I can't be bothered with that.

### **RC Plane Master**

A new program I came across recently is called RC Plane Master written by a bloke in Wales at [www.realitycraft.com](http://www.realitycraft.com). This is only for planes at the moment but you can alter the physics of the planes. You can change wind settings and also set random failures to engine, structure and servos. These sort of abilities are normally only available in very expensive RC SIMS. This program is available as a FREE downloadable demo. It doesn't come with an interface but there are links on the website to a company that makes a USB one at [www.rc-electronics.co.uk](http://www.rc-electronics.co.uk).

With all these programs on my PC I was running out of places to plug the interfaces to, and also getting fed up changing leads, so I eventually bought a USB

interface which is seen by the PC as an ordinary joystick, so it works with any SIM that allows the use of a joystick. I went again to [www.customelectronics.co.uk](http://www.customelectronics.co.uk) for this. I found this to be the best all round solution especially when using Windows XP as it's a bit fussy about things plugged into the serial ports, the simpler interface circuits in the documentation of FMS for example will NOT work with XP.

Well that's my findings but what I'd like to know from you experienced flyers that have tried RC SIMS is, do you think they are a worthwhile training tool or a waste of time?

David Houghton

## **For Sale**

1	JR Apex7 computer, 7 Channel transmitter without battery plus user manual		£45.00	<a href="mailto:jmillward@bigfoot.com">jmillward@bigfoot.com</a> 01604 702556
2	4 Channel 27Mhz Macgregor Transmitter, receiver and 4 servos		£20.00	<a href="mailto:jmillward@bigfoot.com">jmillward@bigfoot.com</a> 01604 702556
3	I am looking at selling my Copter it's a Raptor V2 30 with an OS engine with the radio gear starter chargers learning under carriage and ready to run.		£550ono	<a href="mailto:stuartb@hot-uk.co.uk">stuartb@hot-uk.co.uk</a> 07989 706069
4	Delta airframe, mechanical mixer suitable for 40 size. Tatty but flyable		£15.00	<a href="mailto:jmillward@bigfoot.com">jmillward@bigfoot.com</a> 01604 702556
5	Katrina waterplane, with v tail suitable for 25 size. Only flown a couple of times, built from free magazine plan. Airframe only		£30.00	<a href="mailto:jmillward@bigfoot.com">jmillward@bigfoot.com</a> 01604 702556
6	Easy Fly RC Simulator plus add on disk and controller		£50.00	<a href="mailto:barry@stewart123.freeserve.co.uk">barry@stewart123.freeserve.co.uk</a> 01604 764480
7	Funfly for sale, please contact him on for details (pictures will be posted on the web site soon)		TBA	Jeff Thompson 01234 743817





**CONTACT NAMES: PLEASE CALL BETWEEN 11AM AND 9PM**

If you need a training session or discuss matters of modeling, please call or e-mail

Name	Phone	Comments
James Millward	01604 702556	Club Chairman, instructor <a href="mailto:jmillward@bigfoot.com">jmillward@bigfoot.com</a>
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Barry Stewart	01604 764480	Club Secretary, instructor <a href="mailto:barry@stewart123.freeserve.co.uk">barry@stewart123.freeserve.co.uk</a>
Dean Bleser	01604 642432	Safety officer, instructor
Dennis Owen	01908 322944	Instructor, (helis & planes) and club examiner

That's its then guys, remember to keep it safe whilst flying!!

Happy landings

JAMES MILLWARD