



# BFRCMS NEWSLETTER

(The Relay)

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Hopefully, with your Relay you all should find a nice new copy of the latest Flying Field Rules, when you start to read them you will notice that some change have been incorporated since the last formal issue to all members.

Changes to the rules have only been made after considerable debate and in the interest of safety **for ALL**, and are **not just to try and make life difficult**. As you are all aware there is a lot of talk these days about litigation as the result of an accident, and now also talk about risk assessments being carried out at model flying locations.

We have within our club a good record on safety and credit goes to all members over many years, however, we should not be complacent. You are probably aware that we have had informal comments from a local parish councillor about risk assessments and safety, also comments have been made about models flying close to the village.

One area of concern from the parish councillor is the path running down the eastern side of the field and the potential risk to walkers.

It is with all this in mind that we have updated the Flying Field Rules; we **MUST** be seen to have **identified potential risk situations**, and have some form of mitigation in place to address them to the best of our ability.

You will notice that we now require a Safety Marshal to be nominated when three or more models are flying. In an ideal world we would always have a helper or safety marshal, but to try and be as realistic as possible we have elected for three or more models.

You will also notice that the committee's recommendation is for a helper to assist the pilot for the duration of the flight

**Taking action now to update the rules is demonstrating that as a club we are acting responsibly in the current situation. And puts us in a position to produce written proof, if required, that we are aware of potential risk situations, and have put in place as a club all that is realistic to mitigate them to the best of our ability.**

**PLEASE PLEASE** read the rules and help to enforce them, it is **not asking a lot if it helps to prevent accidents / complaints, and keeps our flying field secure for the future.**

To be seen to be acting responsibly as a club we **ALL** should be alert for potential risk situations, and bring to any committee members attention any such issue for further consideration and debate. The committee will provide feedback on any issues raised and update the rules if required.

Happy and safe flying. (Lets hope by the time you read this the weather has improved)

**On a separate note, if you have any questions about the club, the way it is being run, or wish to make constructive comments, then please raise the issue with myself or any committee member.**

**Tx FREQUENCY & Rx CRYSTAL CHECKER** The club has recently purchased a Tx Frequency & Rx Crystal Checker. The checker can verify 35MHz FM transmitter frequencies to 1KHz accuracy. In addition to its use with the transmitter, the checker can also check the frequency of the Rx crystal .A number of transmitters have been checked on the field, however, if yours has not yet been done you are advised by the committee to have it checked. (It may save your model) The frequency checker is available to all club members, if you would like to have your Tx frequency checked or borrow the checker, then please make contact with myself or any committee member

. Graham Ailsby Chairman.

**PS. I have only just today, seen mention about two incidences of flying sites being lost as the result of models flying away. !!!!!**

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2004 -- A different sort of year on the modelling front.

For some reason the mind set has been somewhat changed this year, blowing hot and cold. A bit like the weather but with a load of rain thrown in for good measure. I seem to have gone for weeks at a time without venturing to either the slopes or the flying field, due mainly to bad wind directions, too much wind, no wind but too wet, long grass etc. etc., and then the lethargy creeps in. How do you re-motivate yourself to get back into the groove? Well the motivation for me is usually the urge to want to have a natter with buddies at the field and generally find out what they are up to. (This sort of social activity is usually a great source of entertainment.)

Picking up the threads I learnt that the Committee had cancelled some of the clubs events due mainly to poor support in previous years, and this I thought was quite appropriate. I was quite disturbed to learn of the complaints from the village regarding models being flown in close proximity to the village and the consequent disturbance that this sort of activity has caused. Quite frankly, I have never understood why anyone should want to fly over this area of land no matter what the wind is up to. We as members have a clearly defined flying area so why on earth don't we adhere to it and avoid criticism from outside. I applaud the manner in which the Committee have quietly and sensibly dealt with this problem on the members behalf, as I am sure most members will agree, and we

all should recognise that from such sources of complaint are sown the seeds of lost flying sites. **The Committee have since erected for our assistance a couple of markers in the hedgerow by the public footpath at the side of the field which clearly indicate the approach to the centre of the runway from that direction together with a marker which indicates the limit of the flying area to the south, thus protecting the area from which the complaints have arisen .I think most modeller's take the view that flying the models is a matter of common sense, but I do feel that some of us need a bit of prompting from time to time.**

From my last visit to the site I learnt of some criticism's from members, some of which was aimed at lack of communication from Committee to members and lack of newsletters. With the cost of sending news letters/ information to members being what it is, a sensible level of transfer has to be taken added to which the Editor will seldom be provided with news from members from which he can edit something of interest to members. I personally have found the best channels of information to be found from Members/ Committee on site during flying / socialising sessions! Anyway, my last fly of the flag is that I think the few people who look after our interests are doing a great job, for which we should all be grateful that they put in as much time as they do. Members have a right to criticise and I feel sure that tactful criticism is welcomed, but let us not forget that we are dealing with friends of the same fraternity.

Well the absence from flying required some effort on my part to get myself back into the groove. Trying to fly one or two of my small light craft in south winds did not help the process and I broke a couple of them. The long grass did not help much either but what can be done about it when the ground is so wet?

I thought it nice to see so many great achievements from the group of learners this year, particularly the younger new members and once again it was the same small group of people who put the time in to teach them .Now that we have a few more "A" cert. Members from amongst this group, we may see some more interesting models appearing on the scene as I am sure they must get fed up of keep flying the same old trainers.

We are rapidly moving towards the end of another season and I don't feel like I have achieved a great deal so far this year so I am going to wish for you all what I wish for myself-----some decent flying weather and some more of the on site comradeship that all goes to make this hobby worth while.

Happy flying,  
Alan "Birty" Birtwell.

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The committee has taken the decision to close the membership due a recent unprecedented influx of new members and problems arising from the village (see chairman's letter). It is concerned that existing members flying time will be curtailed due to having to wait a significant time for the frequency peg and even, an available station (max. of 4) in the pilot's area. Until the situation can be properly monitored and, hopefully, determine that these fears are unfounded or otherwise, the membership has been closed off. In addition, for those wishing tuition, there are more students than we can handle at the moment since we have only a limited number of instructors.

Alan Wormwell, Secretary.

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**The indoor meetings start on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2004 and will continue every first Wednesday in the month until May 2005, the only exception being our Hot pot and quiz night, which will be held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.**

**The Glider towing event is to be held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September, Start time is 10 a.m. Normal club flying will be allowed and there will be the usual barbecue. Non-club members must bring proof of insurance**

**The indoor calendar is as follows: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October, Bring and Natter (The frequency checker will be available on the night so bring your tranny and have it checked out). Wednesday November 3<sup>rd</sup> John Bridges (Theory of Flight) John is a past president of the club and gives a very interesting and amusing talk so come along and give him your support, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December is the A.G.M. your chance to air your views, grievances or stand for the committee. Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December is Hot Pot and Quiz night. 2005 calendar T.B.A.**

**A few members have voiced their concern over the appearance of for sale signs on the hut, when these notice's are removed it is pulling the paint off the hut, as one of the few who gave their time and effort to paint the hut I agree with them. If you want to display for sale notices we have no objection to them being posted on the inside of the window, there is a key under the hut behind the table. Any notices posted on the outside will be removed. (As there seems to be a need we will be having a notice board made in the near future and affixed to the side of the hut)**

**It seems there has been some confusion over the signs in the hedge by the footpath, if you read the highlighted paragraph in Alan's writings all will become clear**

**Congratulations go to Andy Carson and Mick Holden who both passed their club proficiency test recently. Well done!**

**Lets hope for some better weather in the next few weeks so we can get the field back into good order and get some flying in before winter arrives.**

**See you on the field                      John.**

**P.S. Just to remind you this is my last year as Relay Editor. (Is that cheering I hear)**

