

**BLACKPOOL & FYLDE
RADIO CONTROLLED MODEL SOCIETY
CONSTITUTION**

Issue 8

Version Control

ISSUE No.	DATE OF ISSUE	REASON FOR ISSUE
1		Original Issue
2	12/05	Review and change to word processor format
3	8/11/06	Review and reconciliation with flying field rules
4	23/05/07	Honorary membership for spouses and partners added.
5	2/12/2015	Updated to address missing elements after comparison with recommended BMFA template constitution.
6	19/10/2020	Updated to incorporate agreed amendments to section 11 at the 2019 AGM
7	09/12/2021	Updated to include a statement on members obligations to fly within the law and in particular acknowledgement of compliance with CAA Article 16.
8	02/03/2023	Fixed an incorrect reference in the GENERAL MEETINGS section.

1. The Society shall be called the Blackpool & Fylde Radio Controlled Model Society, hereafter called “The Society” and will be affiliated to the British Model Flying Association.
2. The club’s principal aim shall be the promotion of safe and responsible model aircraft flying. The Club caters for all radio-controlled model types including fixed wing, helicopters and multi-copters with the exception of those models operated through First Person View. Models which operate through a pre-programmed 'computer' controlled flight are also excluded.
3. The Society will endeavour to improve its flying facilities by way of raising funds to pay for continuous improvement of the flying site, also to improve family friendly facilities. These funds will be held in a committee agreed bank or building society account and any interest gained will be added to the funds for the above use. There must be at least two agreed signatures to draw on these funds. Monies paid by the Treasurer by Bank transfer shall be agreed with the committee.
4. The officers of the Society shall consist of:

Up to a maximum of 10 committee members, as a minimum, consisting of:

Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, Membership Secretary.

One of these officers shall be elected as “Safety Officer”. This role would normally be performed by the most suitability qualified officer to carry out the task.

The Society may also select a News Letter Editor.

5. MEMBERSHIP

- a. Membership shall be open to all members of the public. The Committee has the right to refuse membership to new applicants. New members will be required to serve an initial probationary period of 12 months. During this time, they will not be eligible to serve on the Committee and may have their membership terminated at the discretion of the Committee.
- b. Membership will be at the discretion of the committee and shall become effective upon receipt and acceptance of the appropriate subscription.
- c. The membership numbers may be limited at the discretion of the Committee.
- d. A junior member shall become a senior on reaching 18 years of age
- e. A membership card will be issued to each member
- f. A copy of the constitution/club and flying field rules shall be displayed on the club notice board.
- g. Subscriptions are due on or before the 1st day of January. Membership then runs till 31st December. Members paying by 31st January will be entitled to a deduction for that year agreed at the previous AGM. Any membership renewed after this date will be charged at the full club fee.

Members may only fly after paying the membership fee.

- h. Spouses and partners of senior members will automatically become social members of the club. Social members will have no flying privileges or voting rights at the AGM.

- i. All members, without exception, must comply with all club rules. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the Club which may lead to dismissal.
- j. All members, without exception, are accountable for flying within the law and in accordance with CAA Article 16 Authorisation. Members must confirm that they have read and understood Article 16 by completing the registration on their online BMFA profile. Support is available from the committee to achieve this.

6. INSURANCE

All members who intend to fly models, must be appropriately insured by the BMFA insurance.

7. CLUB SUBSCRIPTION

The annual Club subscription will be recommended by the committee, proposed by the Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and will be voted on by the membership where changes are proposed.

8. RULES, DISCIPLINE AND SAFETY

- a. Additions and amendments to 'Flying Field Rules' are at the discretion of the committee.
- b. Any complaint concerning any member must be made in writing and signed by the complainant(s). The written complaint must then be forwarded to the Secretary so that the matter can be addressed at the next Committee meeting.
- c. Where an allegation of misconduct is made against a member, the member may be suspended from all club activities while an investigation is carried out.
- d. The Committee may impose a suspension from club activities including

attendance at the club flying site. The period should not exceed 28 days upon any member in the event of misconduct. Any suspension must be accompanied by a verbal and/or written warning as deemed appropriate.

- e. The Committee may consider removal of membership where conduct on the field or elsewhere is considered to be prejudicial to the club. Dismissal will be in accordance with the following procedure in order to comply with the laws of natural justice:
 - i. The member is to be given a verbal warning by an authorised Committee Member in which the member is made aware of his/her misdemeanour and what he/she is reasonably required to do to make amends.
 - ii. If the member does not respond, he/she is to be given a written warning by an authorised Committee Member to advise the member of his/her misdemeanour and what he is reasonably required to do to make amends.
 - iii. If the member still fails to respond, the Committee should invite him in writing to meet with them at a previously agreed date and time to discuss the situation advising they are considering withdrawal of his/her membership.
 - iv. If the member still fails to respond to reasoning or fails to attend without reasonable cause, the Committee can advise the member in writing that his/her membership is withdrawn, stating the reasons why this decision was reached.
 - v. When the member is advised of withdrawal of his/her membership, the member must be given the right of appeal.
 - vi. This appeal must be received in writing by the committee within

21 days. If the member opts to appeal, this will be to the Club membership at an EGM which the Committee would call on the member's behalf at a previously agreed date and time.

- vii. The motion to uphold the membership withdrawal, or reverse it, must be in accordance with the voting procedures set out in the Club Constitution.

9. MISCONDUCT

In the event of gross misconduct, immediate dismissal without warnings may be considered but the member must still be accorded his rights to present his case to the Committee and be given a right of appeal in accordance with sub-paragraphs c, d and e above.

In the event of dismissal the Committee will arrange for the member's current residual membership fee (excluding BMFA subscription) to be reimbursed.

10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a. Annual General Meeting and election of officers The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of December for the purpose of:
 - i. Chairman's Annual Report.
 - ii. Passing of the Secretary's report
 - iii. Passing the Treasurer's statement of accounts
 - iv. Safety Officers Report
 - v. Revision Constitution if or when necessary.
 - vi. Election of Committee members.
 - vii. Appointment of Accounts Checker.
- b. At the AGM all members, except social, junior and honorary, will be allowed to vote and each member shall have one vote for each proposal.
- c. The election of officials shall be by secret ballot. In the case of a tied

vote, lots will be drawn to decide the result.

- d. The officers and committee shall retire annually and shall be eligible for re-election.
- e. Nominations for office will be accepted in writing prior to the AGM and verbally at the AGM.
- f. Proposals of change to the Constitution must be notified to the Secretary in writing not later than the 3rd Wednesday in October.
- g. In all matters relating to change or amendments of the Constitution, a two-thirds majority of voting members present will be required to approve the change.
- h. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt members to their committee for a period not exceeding one year or to the date of the next AGM, whichever shall be less.

11. GENERAL MEETINGS

- a. Decisions of the Committee shall be reported to members at the next general meeting.
- b. Where the Chairman of a meeting considers any matter before the meeting to be of a highly controversial nature, notwithstanding the carrying of a resolution that the matter to be put to the vote forthwith, he may defer the vote until the next regular meeting so that all members may fully examine the matter. In that event, the matter shall be brought to the attention of all members by Email or where required, by letter.
- c. Where a member considers a matter, to be urgent, he is entitled to raise it as a matter in “any other business”. The Chairman having regard to the provisions of rule 11(b) shall decide whether to put the

matter to vote. The ruling of the Chairman of the meeting on the application of these rules is final.

- d. Insurance claims must be submitted to the Secretary at the earliest opportunity and must be ratified by the Committee. The Member will pay excess as decreed by the insurance company.
- e. Visitors are welcome to attend three indoor meetings but then must become members if they wish to continue attending.
- f. If it is deemed by the Committee and membership that the club should be dissolved, any outstanding debts or grants must be repaid in full. Any remaining assets will be divided amongst senior members having held three full consecutive years of senior membership prior to the date of dissolution.
- g. The honorary post of President may be accepted by a person of distinction, who directly or indirectly will be of moral and/or material benefit to the Society and is accepted for such a post by the elected committee.
- h. The Executive and non-Executive positions on the Committee shall be held by active members having held a minimum of two consecutive years of senior membership. After serving on the Committee as a non-Executive Officer for one year, members can then apply for the Executive positions on the Committee.
- i. The process of annual renewal of membership will require all members to confirm, in writing, that they have read, understood and agree to abide by, the Society Constitution, and the latest issue of the Flying Field Rules.

12.VOTING AND CONDUCT OF GENERAL MEETINGS

- a. All general meetings will be run to a written agenda and minuted.

- b. A quorum of any general meeting is to be at least one third of the membership.
- c. All proposals must be seconded and voted upon. At least 2/3 of those present are required to carry any proposal. The exception to this rule is for the election of committee members where majority or unchallenged position will be accepted.
- d. Voting will normally be by a show of hands. Proxy and postal votes will not be permitted.
- e. Amendments to proposals must be voted upon first.
- f. An audio recording of meetings may be taken by the secretary only, for the sole purpose of producing accurate minutes. The audio recording must be deleted once the written minutes are approved.
- g. Non club members may attend Club meetings as observers as invited guests of a club by applying to the Secretary at least 14 days before the meeting. Any non Club member may be asked to leave the meeting subject to approval from the Committee.
- h. The Committee, through the Chairman has the power to ask a person to leave any meeting in the event of that person disrupting the meeting.
- i. Patrons of the club have no voting rights but are free to attend all club meetings.
- j. All full members have the power to vote.
- k. Social members, Junior members and any member holding honorary status are not entitled to vote.