

Stansted Model Flying Club Newsletter

December, 2016

**Our next meeting will be at Ugley Village Hall on
Monday 2nd January at 8PM**

“Show us wot you got for Christmas!”

Mike's Chat:

Not much doing on the field these days, but I understand that Linda ventured forth and when asked if it was cold she replied EXTREMELY!

However, there was a good turnout for the AGM, with lots of mince pies being consumed along with the chocy biscuits, and of course the FREE raffle!

The subject of safety was raised again. Mark told us of an incident where an electric model (untethered and "On") was casually placed on the ground, where it took off on its own and could have killed a spectator. This was at an organised "Fly-in." Any "live" electric model MUST be restrained to avoid a very dangerous situation, so please remember that when getting ready to fly and connecting the motor battery.

The "Buddy-box" training system was mentioned as a good example of developing safe habits and has been very successful. The club trainer has put the system to good use and Bill will always give you a "Go", time permitting.

Club membership has reached 73 and attendance at club "meets" seems to be Increasing

The Alan Banks trophy was awarded to Roy for being the most helpful Club member, (he has taken me under his wing many times and does his best to restore confidence) The trophy for building skills was awarded to "Pinky"

The village hall then seemed to start moving in some form of anxiety spasm as members began jostling to offer themselves as club officers. There was a loud sigh of relief when the existing officers offered to continue running the club (on a temporary basis of course) - and so it goes on.

Cheers Dears

Mike

Forthcoming Club Winter Events:

Jan 2 nd	Post-Xmas "Show and Talk" – a chance to display your Xmas loot!
Feb 6 th	Chuck Glider Fun Competition
March 6 th	Bombing Simulator Fun Competition
April 3 rd	TBN - May be held at the Flying Site if the weather is suitable

Annual General Meeting.

The Club's Annual General Meeting took place on 5th December at Ugley Village Hall. The Minutes of the meeting can be seen at <http://stanstedmfc.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/SMFC-2016-AGM.pdf>

The main items were:

The grass cutting contract was going well and the flying site was in better condition now than it had been for many years.

The new Club Trainer was in use and the associated "Buddy" system was also being used to help members who had become less able to continue to fly their own model aircraft solo.

There were 73 members in 2015, as against last year's 76 members.

The club's expenditure remained at slightly less than its income for the year.

The current "Drip Feed" approach was proving effective in continuously raising safety standards. However, it was noted that some pilots were still not been standing at the concrete markers on the field, which are positioned to establish the minimal separation recommended by the BFMA from the pits and parking areas. It was pointed out that pilots should stand together to facilitate communication between them. Also, the motors on electric models should be treated as "live" as soon as the motor battery is connected and so the model should be restrained.

The "Alan Banks" was awarded to Roy Spence in recognition of his enthusiastic and practical support to other members at the flying site. The "Nigel Smith" Trophy was awarded to "Pinky" Thompson in recognition of his continuing production of impressive scale models.

Whilst it is hoped to run a Training Day, a Scale Day, and a Families Day during the summer, additional short "fun" competitions, such as glider duration, spot landing, and "limbo dancing", were discussed - without coming to any conclusion!

BMFA Achievement Scheme Update:

From April 2016 it is a requirement of all tests (excluding C certificate tests) that candidates must answer correctly 5 questions taken from the list of mandatory questions based on legal aspects of model aircraft flying. **If the candidate does not know the answer to any question the test must be considered as a fail.** The examiner will then proceed to ask a minimum of 5 (A tests) or 8 (B tests) questions based on the BMFA Safety Codes for General Flying and local flying rules and for the 'B' certificate the 'Safety Code for Model Flying Displays'.

The BMFA has now published the 20 Mandatory Questions on its website at:

<http://achievements.bmfa.org/mandatory-questions>

and has created a couple of quizzes to enable prospective examinees to test their knowledge at:

<http://achievements.bmfa.org/quizzes/fixed-wing-a-certificate-and-bpc-quiz>

And Finally:



Have enjoyable and safe model flying in the New Year!

Laurie