



SOARPOINT

Newsletter No. 3/2008 for the East Sussex Soaring Association - May 2008

Subscriptions and new members

There are still some members from 2007 who have not paid up for 2008. I hope you are still wanting to fly with us this year but do remember that if you are a BMFA member through ESSA then you will not be covered by insurance until you pay your subs. I will not be sending out any more reminders but if you have decided not to rejoin it would be helpful to me to know why especially if it is some aspect of the club that is not satisfactory.

Please send cheques to me for £40 to include BMFA or £12 if you are a country member or get BMFA membership through another club. My address is 17 Wannock Lane, Eastbourne BN20 9SB. Existing members do not need to fill in an application form but they are available for new members and can be obtained from me by email - Ray.wells@virgin.net or phone 01323 483506.

Potential new members

Brian Renshaw

I am sorry to have to report that our newest member in 2007, Brian Renshaw, died in January 2008. Some of you may remember him as he was the only new member for 2007 who came to the AGM.

He was also a member of Hastings MFC but suddenly decided to try slope flying and told me he loved it.

I have, of course, on behalf of the club sent condolences to Mrs Renshaw.

Insurance

We hope no one has an incident that might result in a claim against them or the club but it may be worthwhile reminding members of the procedure to follow if this should happen. Firstly, do not admit liability and do not make any payments to any third party. Secondly, ring BMFA at any time and ask for an incident form or leave a message. The number is on your BMFA membership card.

Turn the form round ASAP and do not get into correspondence with a possible claimant.

Butts Brow parking

Just to remind any members who are not Eastbourne residents and do not have a permit that this car park does seem to be regularly patrolled on a Sunday morning by a jobsworth in a reflective jacket – so be warned.

In praise of Foamies

As a recent returner to slope flying one of the best bits of advice that I have had recently was from Julian. After watching me take a model home in a bin bag (again) he said “Why don’t you get a foamie for practice – In fact I will lend you one.” So he did and I was a bit taken aback at first, not least at the knife and tape method of installing the radio and servos etc. I also thought foamies were cheating, being brought up on balsa, spruce, ply, nylon and dope etc But he was right. It’s the way to get in stick time.

A newish member said to me “where’s the building fun in that?” My reply now would be that it is better to use your time for flying and building something special rather than using this time for repairing and repairing.....

And finally to the last item which is actually the raison d’etre for this news letter

Cross Country Competition 25th May 2008 - Long Man SW Bowl

Report by Julian Perrott

The rains of the previous evening subsided politely to allow the competition to proceed. The wind was a variable, thermic SSW direction from between 5 and 15mph, a fairly desirable speed for the discipline.

Four turning points were set up. 1 was near the gate approaching the SW bowl, 2 further towards the normal pits. 3 was further round the bowl and 4 was set with the hope that this would prove difficult to get to due to the wind direction. The spot landing was in its normal place by the pits and the low pass was designated to happen in from of the pits.

This year the rule to deduct 2 points for each landing whilst on the course was employed.

Eight competitors turned up with a variety of models ranging from 48" foamies to Toms Starlight which was out to play in its first competition and looked lovely!

Competitors set out on the course with a marker after the scoring rules were explained to all in the pilots briefing (well nearly all...).

The conditions meant that the higher performance planes managed to scratch around whilst waiting for some thermal activity but foamies were struggling to maintain any altitude in the variable conditions.

John Phillips seemed determined to stall his Wizard whilst performing thermal turns and had a couple of land outs but flew well as ever with a model not best suited to the discipline due to his thermal machine not accepting a charge. Colin flew what he could of the course, his attendance is always appreciated. Jim flew his Cito which seemed to take up a lot of sky in his efforts to "keep it up" and also had a couple of land outs which caused some centre

panel damage. Alan started off by flying a foamie, but after accumulating a score of -6 without making any turning points elected to change planes (actually I am convinced he left the hill, went home and scratch built his next steed before returning to the hill...), the next plane a large thermal rudder elevator model was much more suited to the task! Ray also flew a large rudder elevator model and made it to all 4 turning points. Gary flying his revenge scorched round the course (with one eye on hopping over the fence for a bit of DSing no doubt!). Tom brought his Starlight out for only its second visit to the slopes and spend a while getting used to the handling and started to dial the model in, but it looked excellent. I had my yearly outing with my 2 metre Highlight and had to scratch around a little for lift but was probably flying the most suited model for the task it having such a tight thermal turn which could be employed easily behind the turning points. Every year I ask myself why I do not fly this model more as it is just so precise...

So the Results were...

Pos.	Name	TP 1	TP 2	TP3	TP4	Spot L	Low Pass	Penalties	Total
1st	Julian Perrott	18	16	16	12	10	10	0	82
2nd	Tom Noble	16	12	14	10	10	10	0	72
3rd	Jim Taylor	18	10	14	10	10	10	-2	70
4th	John Phillips	14	10	10	10	10	10	-4	60
5th	Gary Harrison	10	10	10	10	10	10	-2	58
6th	Colin Lennox	10	10	10	0	10	10	-8	42
7th	Ray Wells	10	10	10	10	0	0	-4	36
8th	Alan	10	10	10	0	0	0	-6	24

ENDS

Competition dates for 2008

30 March	Aerobatics
27 April	Speed (F3F)
25 May	Cross Country
29 June	Fun Fly to be followed by a lunchtime BBQ
3 August	Reserve 1
4 October	BMFA 60" league (This is not a club competition)
5 October	BMFA F3F league (Ditto)
12 October	Reserve 2
2 November	Reserve 3

Do try and support the club competitions even if you are a newcomer. There is nothing wrong with coming last and you may surprise yourself. If you happen to be reading this newsletter and you are not a member but would like to take part do contact me (RW)

Contacts

John Phillips – Chairman	07703 452534
Ray Wells - Secretary	01323 483506

Tom Noble – Treasurer	07957 703707
Julian Perrott –Competitions Secretary	01323 489655

26 February 2008