

Oxon Helicopter Collective

CONSTITUTION

Oxon Helicopter Collective was formed in 2004 to cater for the interests of members whose particular sport was flying model aircraft. The club is affiliated to the BMFA and the standard insurance requirements of the members is arranged by the club through this organisation. Oxon Helicopter Collective is not a limited company.

Although the club is a non-profit making body, the position may arise where there are surplus funds, due to an accumulation of subscriptions or as the result of fund raising activities, at the end of the financial year. This will not affect the club's non-profit making status and any such surplus will be placed in a contingency fund as a buffer against unexpected circumstances.

In the event of the club being wound up, the surplus assets shall, after payment of any outstanding debts, be divided equally among the paid up members.

Club meetings will be held as required for the purpose of informing members of Club events and any other matter which affect the interests of the Club members. Meetings will normally be held on the third Thursday of each month at 8.00pm. During the months of May to September the club meeting will commence at 9.00pm instead in order to allow better use of daylight for flying before the meeting.

The AGM will be held on the monthly meeting following the BMFA AGM, and at this time annual subscriptions become due. Voting at the AGM will be by show of hands, postal and/or proxy votes will not be accepted.

The level of subscriptions will be proposed by the Treasurer to the Committee at a meeting prior to the AGM and confirmed to members at the AGM. The club subscriptions do not include the BMFA membership fee which is additional and should be paid at the same time. Failure to pay subscriptions before 31st December following the AGM shall be sufficient to cancel membership, except in special circumstances. Members who fail to renew their BMFA membership before 31st December are not insured and shall not be allowed to fly before they do so.

New members which join the club after 1st May shall be entitled to a discount on their first year subscription fees. Such discounts shall not apply to late renewals of membership or applicants who used the club facilities as guests for over one month before joining. Discount to BMFA membership is also available according to BMFA rates. The subscription for membership applications received after 1st May is 75% of the yearly subscription, rounded down to the nearest £2.50. The subscription for membership applications received after 1st September will be 33% of the yearly subscription, rounded up to the nearest £2.50.

The junior club subscription will be a percentage of the senior at the same ratio as BMFA subscription for the full year.

The subscription for family memberships will be an additional 20% for each junior and proportional to BMFA subscription for family partners.

Members who joined the club between Oct 2004 and Nov 2004 will be asked to pay 3 months membership in Oct 2005 which will bring their club membership in line with their BMFA membership.

The club reserves the right to refuse any application or renewal of membership.

CLUB ORGANISATION

The committee will consist of five elected officers and shall serve for one year, commencing at the completion of each AGM.

The duties of the elected officers to be as follows:-

CHAIRMAN - will be required to lead meetings, sign approved documents, including minutes, after acceptance by the members and to ensure that members understand any agenda. The Chairman shall also ensure that the members understand the sense and content of motions upon which a vote will be taken. The Chairman's voting right is restricted to that of a casting vote in cases where this is necessary.

SECRETARY - will be responsible for producing agenda, recording minutes, dealing with correspondence and other matters concerned with the general running of the Club. There should be close liaison between the secretary and the Committee on all matters.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETERY – will act as the contact point for enquiries from prospective new members and will manage the subscription process. In the event of the Chairman or Secretary being absent the Membership Secretary will undertake the duties of the absent member.

TREASURER - shall comply with the agreed financial arrangements which have been approved by the committee. The accounts shall be made available for inspection at members' reasonable request.

CLUB DELEGATE - shall represent Oxon Helicopter Collective at South Midland BMFA area meetings and shall report on these meetings to club members.

It is assumed that all official positions are honorary and unpaid. Expenses incurred in the interest of the club by any committee member may be repaid.

CLUB FACILITIES

Flying is carried out on the designated field at Grove Farms. Other fields on the farm shall not be used before a committee member has negotiated this with the land owner.

There are currently no time restrictions for flying. However members should not cause noise at times that local residents may be disturbed.

Members shall immediately comply with any requests from the land owner or local residents, particularly on noise related issues. Any noise complains should be reported to the club

committee at the earliest opportunity by the club members involved or being present at the time.

CLUB RULES

The following rules are for the general safety of all members and must be adhered to at all times on the flying field and must be conveyed to visiting pilots.

- All members must comply with the BMFA Safety Code (see BMFA handbook).
- Powered models must be flown within the designated flying area, as shown on the attached flying site plan, and at no time are to fly behind the flight line or over spectators or other field users and farm staff. Any member unsure of this rule should seek advice from a committee member.
- The flight line is to be established parallel to the road and at least 50 meters away from the pits.
- Cars shall not be parked on the layby which is to be used for pits area. A secondary pits area may be established adjacent to the road on the opposite side of the layby.
- Transmitters shall only be switched on when the appropriate peg is in position on the peg board. The pegboard (Peg on) system must always be used if two or more pilots are on the field. Pegs are to be clearly marked with the pilot's first name in full, surname which can be abbreviated to one letter and frequency channel. List of channels not yet in use is available from committee members. New members are encouraged to choose one of the available channels as soon as they join the club. Other channels may only be used after prior negotiation with the primary channel user.
- Casual visitors must provide proof of adequate insurance (BMFA insurance or equivalent) and demonstrate competence before permission to fly solo is granted. Any visitors must agree to abide by the rules & regulations of Oxon Helicopter Collective and BMFA guidelines. Casual visitors may fly as the guest of a member to a maximum of two visits and may be asked to join the club by the committee.

- New members must demonstrate competence before flying unsupervised by an instructor.
- Club members are reminded that flying helicopters can be dangerous and strongly advises all members not to fly alone. Always bring a friend with you if you know that other members will not be present.

Discipline Procedure

Any request/instruction given by a committee member to a defaulting member, on the field, must be complied with immediately. Any resulting grievance may be resolved at a later date.

Any deliberate breach of the BMFA Safety Code or club rules could result in a verbal warning from a committee member. Persistent offenders will receive one further verbal warning, prior to being given a written notice which will request attendance at a committee meeting.

All club members have the right of appeal, to the committee, against any decision made against him/her. The committee's decision will be binding.

Any bans or suspensions upheld will expire as determined by the committee, or, at the end of the current financial year, whichever is the soonest.

TRAINING OF NEW PILOTS

New pilots should always fly in the presence of an instructor. The instructor shall provide guidance and will determine when the pilot is competent to fly solo. Typically this will require the pilot to be able to hover the model in a controlled manner over the training patch for any amount of time.

New instructors can only be appointed by unanimous vote of all existing instructors or by unanimous vote of the committee members.

