



# Plymouth Model Flying Club



## Plymouth Model Flying Club Newsletter

January 2006

### Dear members,

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year and are getting detoxed after all that drink. I Apologise for the turn around time for this newsletter but the previous sentence must explain why. Anyway, down to business.

### Minutes of 9th December Meeting

Started 20.10, 9 members present, apologies received from Richard Boulter, Pat O'Brien, Roy Eveleigh, Dave Plunkett and Dave Kew who explains that owing to a medical condition, he will no longer be able to fly and will have to leave the club.

The minutes of the previous meeting (December Newsletter) were taken as read.

### Mailers Arising:

Alan stated that 10 gallons of Southern Modelcraft fuel (equivalent to Flair Orange 5%) had been purchased and was available on site for £11.00 gallon (£2 cheaper than Flair AND the club shows a profit per gallon sold). The committee expresses thanks to John Pyburn for going to Liskeard to pick it up.

We must see Colin Hender to give him and his good lady their Christmas consideration from the club.

Chairman reported that he and secretary had attended a meeting at Sports South Hams (SSH from now on) that had been extremely tedious, lasting for about 3 hours and being of a very political nature.

A South Hams council officer from Parks & Leisure gave a long presentation about the leisure centres being privatised. Following on with much more discussion, SSH very nearly got wound up because of lack of officers willing to fill various posts and without whom, S. Hams council would not recognise SSH and would withdraw their facilities at Follaton House and funding. Under great duress, the chairperson agreed to stay on and two brave souls put themselves forward for sec. and treasurer. The attending S. Hams council Officer accepted this arrangement and agreed SSH goes on another year. A proposal was raised that subscriptions be changed so that gold accredited club pay £30, silver (us) will pay £20 and bronze pays £10 p.a. (In due course, the full minutes will be available if you are that interested).

Frank suggest that we stick with the SSH for the next year although we are unlikely to get help with, for instance mower repairs, money could be forthcoming for training equipment. (New club trainer?). We have had £200 from them also being a member of SSH might carry a bit of clout if we have any problems with our site.

SSH also offer help and training seminars about the vulnerable and young persons act and offer assistance with CRB clearance which will soon be necessary for continued BMFA affiliation.

A work party needs to be organised (suggest W/E 14 – 15 January) to re felt shed roof, creosote same, do a general tidy and make & mend and strim around. Also the mower is overdue for oil and antifreeze change and a grease up wouldn't go amiss. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED The BBQ will be fired up.

Dave Bullock of the Eddystone club is through the Sports Forum (like SSH) trying to get Plymouth City Council to allow model flying at Chelson Meadow and is looking to us for support by joining the Forum at £10 p.a. He envisages a dedicated public RIC site including tarmac strips, areas for helicopters, cars and boats. Obviously immediate concerns are for frequency control let alone general safety discipline. It could enable Woodsprings type events to be held in this area which could raise interest in our hobby but could also detract from our membership. The whole concept is very much open to discussion and we feel we must join the forum to get our views across. Frank is to register with the forum and will support Dave's proposal in theory.

I received a letter from Loris Goring (now ex-PRO SW. area BMFA) which in part I reproduce here.

**Radio Interference from 3G Masts:**

It has been admitted that "3G" masts can emit a total blanking signal which causes both PCM and PPM receivers to lose the TX signal that causes a crash. I wrote to Futaba Japan to ask what they would do to ensure that receivers were safe to use in the vicinity of all types of these problematical masts.

My concern is that the "3G" problem will eventually affect many other sites as more and more transmitters are erected. I was told 13 are scheduled for Torbay alone.

On page 18 of your handbook B.MFA made the suggestion that wrapping tinfoil round receivers would suffice to cure the problem.

As a temporary measure, this works but 1 seriously question whether under Consumer Law (Sales of Goods Act) our receivers are now of "of merchantable quality".

For the time being we have to accept foil wrapping as a "sticking plaster" job but as the BMFA promotes safety it must surely fight for a proper solution from the manufacturers. We absolutely do not want a situation that could end up in a serious accident if fliers are unaware of a new mast or do not achieve a perfect wrapping job.

A Futaba engineer advised me that there could be other problems caused by foil wrapping which do not seem to have been addressed although we await a report from Graham Lynn Chairman of the UK Radio Control Council. Another concern is that the toy trade is selling toys on 35MHz band. If they are operated near club sites Presently no one has any control whatsoever over this problem but it will surely have to be addressed and all clubs would be well advised to use a Frequency Analyser to monitor their site. My personal concern is that the Government will set up a licence Fee scheme For 35MHz which none of us want and is unlikely to over come the "toy aeroplane" problem.

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Colin Hender had visited the field and remarked on the weeds growing and would like to see it all tidied (Since the meeting, when we presented Colin with his Xmas gift arrangements were made to have the hedges etc. cut in early Spring. Also Colin assured us there would be no rent increase)

No further business **NEXT MEETING 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 06.**

Meeting ended 21.10 Adjourned to bar for laid on food.

**A final reminder that Subs are due in and early payment would be very much appreciated.**

To those not rejoining this year we look forward to seeing you again in future years.

Best wishes for the New Year, *Chris*.

Chris Dennis  
Secretary  
Plymouth Model Flying Club

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