



GREAT DEAL FOR JUNIORS

THE British Electric Flight Association held their AGM last month and confirmed an arrangement which we hope will prove irresistible to all juniors. As part of their arrangements for the Millennium Celebrations in 2000 and in support of the BMFA policy of encouraging all young people to experience model flying as a hobby, BEFA agreed last year to allow free membership of BEFA to all Juniors. In 2000 this was a provisional arrangement to test the viability of the scheme, but we are delighted to announce that it has now been adopted as a formal part of our membership arrangements, and that all junior members of the BMFA are now additionally entitled to:

FREE MEMBERSHIP OF BRITISH ELECTRIC FLYING ASSOCIATION

which includes all of the facilities available to our members, Magazine, fly-ins, technical advice, competition leagues, etc.

If you are a junior member of BMFA and would like to take advantage of this offer then please contact BEFA Membership Secretary: Bob Mahoney, 123 Lane End Road, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP12 4HF with your BMFA Membership Number, D.O.B., name and address, etc. and he will register your membership.

If you are not a junior but know of one who might be interested then please pass this information to them. Of course you can still join us as a Senior, but there is an annual subscription for that.

BOB SMITH
BEFA Secretary

White Horse Model Club Training and Certification weekends

By Duncan McClure

OVER the period of last years flying season the White Horse Model Club ran a series of what proved to be very enjoyable and successful training and certification weekends. The object of these was to raise the profile of the BMFA training and achievement schemes, which we have run for many years and to encourage members to have a go at the various flying proficiencies available. This was particularly true for a variety of new members who had joined us, some with flying experience, but who were unfamiliar with our site and operations.

IDYLIC FLYING SITE

Since its inception in the mid 1970's the White Horse Model Club has enjoyed the use of an idyllic flying site situated on top of the north downs just outside the famous racing village of Lambourn. Although the site is well suited to model flying it does have a short section of road close to one boundary and the historic Ridgeway path on another. As a result the club has implemented



WHMC members with training equipment - SIG Kadet Senior - Muliplex Pico Jet - Hobby Jets GT Delta 2000 (Gas Turbine) and WOT 4. Left to right: Martin Spackman (Newsletter Editor), Sam Burford (Club Secretary), Andy Massey (Chairman), Jan Easterbrook, Duncan McClure (Event Organiser), Andy Syme (Treasurer). (All photos supplied by Duncan McClure)

a variety of initiatives over the years to improve the standard of flying at the site. An important element of this has been the active promotion of the BMFA training and achievement schemes and one of the rules of the club is that members cannot fly unsupervised until they have passed the relevant 'A' test. We felt that having dedicated training and certification events scheduled in the club's programme might prove to be a very effective way of focussing attention and so it proved to be. This was no doubt assisted by

the fact that remarkably, and in complete contrast to some of the other planned club events last year, these weekends were blessed with superb weather and proved to be a tremendous success in terms of numbers and enjoyment!

ACTIVE INSTRUCTION

Like many other clubs we have BMFA registered instructors and examiners and run an active training programme. This is co-ordinated by a dedicated member of the committee and largely follows the tried and tested 'godfather' system. This effectively pairs a pupil and instructor for the duration of the training process. This has proved to be very effective in our club and has worked well for many years. The training follows the 'Up and Away' syllabus and is backed by a number of club aircraft with 'buddy box' facilities if required.

SUCCESS

The Training and Certification weekend dates were advertised heavily in the club newsletter and our plan was to aim to provide a constant supply of instructors and examiners throughout the period. This we achieved by preparing a roster with those involved choosing the amount of time they were able to commit. Most volunteered for at least half a day and many were there all day for both days! The attraction of this system to the members was that they were virtually assured of the availability of an instructor or examiner at any time during the weekend and the relaxed training atmosphere did much

to relieve the tension of those who were taking one of the proficiency tests. In addition to ab-initio instruction, the examiners and other experienced flyers present were able to provide assistance for those solo flyers who were seeking to improve their aerobatic skills, or wanting guidance on flying the 'B' schedule.

Originally two weekends had been planned, but because of the popularity of the event another was slotted in to the schedule at the end of the season. Not only were they a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all parties they also proved a great success in terms of the number of successful 'A' and 'B' test passes. At the end of the season an additional seven members had achieved 'A' test passes and a further four members had successfully passed the power 'B' test, a marked improvement over the previous year. These figures bring us to a total of over 55 members having 'A' certificates or above, which equates to some 60% of our membership. Whilst we are pleased with this figure we still strive for improvement and as you may have guessed we have already scheduled training and certification weekends for the coming season.



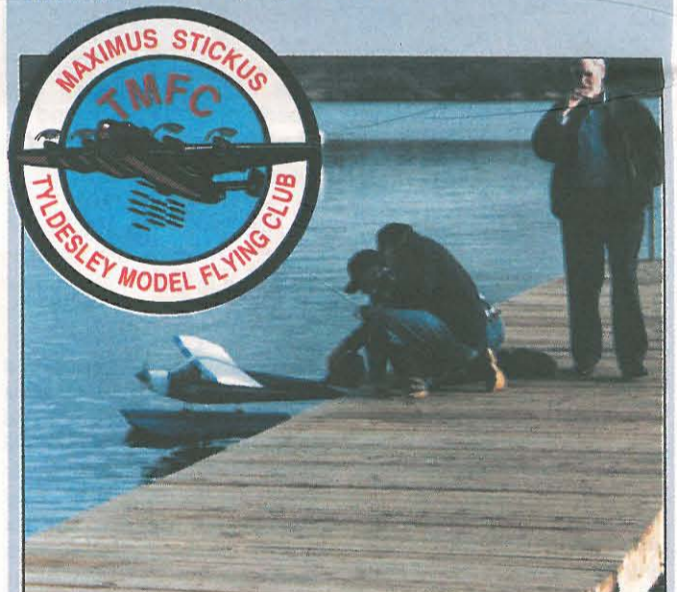
Duncan McClure (Area Chief Examiner and Club Instructor) with one of the successful 'A' candidates David Taylor (right).



MODEL SEAPLANE ALTITUDE RECORD

By Andy Ellison

On Sunday a team of aeromodellers from the Tyldesley Model Flying Club in conjunction with the Leigh and Lowton Sailing Club set a new British record for Radio Controlled Model Seaplane Altitude of 3480 feet. The photographs say it all. Editor: Yet another record for the Tyldesley Model Flying Club!!



Duncan again with 'Buddy-Box' training underway for Jan Easterbrook.



Jan Easterbrook undergoing 'Buddy-Box' tuition from Martin Spackman one of the club's instructors/examiners - note training takes place all year round!

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