



Gordano Model Flying Club Newsletter Winter 24/25

A letter from the Chair....

Welcome to the first GMFC newsletter of 2025. I hope that you and your families are well, and ready for a 2025 of warm sun and light winds. We didn't get the best of weather last year, so hopefully nature will balance out in 2025. Despite the poor weather as Chair overall, been a pleasure to see the club continue to progress in 2024. With your support, involvement and assistance I'm sure it will continue. As always in any club, it's the effort provided by the membership that delivers that change, so please engage, suggest and offer the effort you can.

As a first comment, I'm pleased to note the membership suggestion to change the name of the club to Gordano Model Flying Club has succeeded. We've already had a couple of new members who for the first time haven't needed to have the AMARC acronym explained – Gordano MFC made a lot more sense. To go with that relaunch, we have a range of club branded merchandise. Having looked (and ordered!) it is good quality, and for branded clothing, good value. Please have a look and order as required. We'll use the ad hoc invoicing in MemberMojo to collect payments, giving an easy online option.

Flying – it's what we are therefore after all - has seen many model types in the air. I'm glad to say there were no major accidents or injuries, and that overall, the rate of "successful" landing on our own patch appears to be going up. I suspect some of this is driven by ever more dominance of electric vs i.c. power – there's little doubt that an electric powerplant is more reliable, and dead sticks are really not part of the electric mix. In fact, its basic issues such as unsecured batteries dropping out or (in my own case) loosely joined connectors pulling apart that have caused many of the issues. Those are utterly avoidable with sufficient checking, so unfortunately, we have less and less excuse for saying the model did it to us!

There's no shortage of skill within our members. In the last year we've had members successfully representing the UK in winning BMFA teams (well done Thomas and Stu), others such as Gary and James taking great positions in domestic heli events and we've even had one of the youngest ever BMFA "A" test successes from our BMFA news star Stanley. Equally, but not advertised, we've had regular members achieving their BMFA tests after putting in the practice. Well done to all, and to those who have simply enjoyed the field, its facilities and flying, – that's what the club is there for. Enjoy and support it. To those who turn out every time to help with maintenance, genuine thanks. As an example of the savings, we can make we were quoted £350 + arising parts for a basic service of our ride on mower. Instead, it made its way to my garage and Mike Brown's welding yard, and will be re-emerging next week for another season of use, with an engine service, new carb, ignition switches, belts, welding and paint completed for less than £150. If you can help us save this way, please do.

With the last couple of years having been about the facilities, 2025 maintenance will need to focus on a few of the smaller infrastructure pieces – such as the flight benches and tables, where we are continually looking to better match the needs of the membership. And we know the potholes on the lane aren't getting any smaller. The committee have thoughts on that issue, and will be progressing those with the lane owners during the year. When thinking through the last season, its good news to note we've had much more stable relationship with neighbours in the farm and village. When, occasionally a model has ended up in the adjacent fields, it has been possible to get an agreed retrieval organised with Mr Fowler. For understandable reasons (as farm equipment theft is a huge challenge) access to that land isn't public, and we need to get the farm's assistance in opening gates. I'd be really grateful for your continued support with that approach in 2025. Access road maintenance will require our neighbour's help.

Continued on the next page.....

This coming year we'll hopefully assist in a continuing positive trend of new members to grow numbers. You'll see from the BMFA newsletter that a fairly direct individual, RC member numbers are falling, but with the advantages we have of an outstanding owned site we have been reasonably successful in gaining new members. That's simply essential if we are to keep the site well maintained, as like it or not costs do increase year on year. Also, only last weekend a member of the Mendips RC car club visited – club, they are losing their site, and he was really interested in the buggy track we have. There are 10-15 members of that club in the Nailsea /Portishead / Clevedon area. There is room for this sort of use without any impact on flying and “surface” memberships will help with keeping the club and site going, so its an area we'll explore more of this year. But don't relax on mentioning the club and hobby wherever you can – there are many, many people in the local area utterly unaware of the club or what we do. If one in 7 members managed to attract another to join the club, we'd easily increase our numbers in 2025.

Being a fairly direct individual, I feel it's worth mentioning that I have heard concerns of some members feeling displaced by a noticeably greater helii volume in the last season. I offer my own thoughts on this. First, active, attending aeromodellers of any discipline is what the club was set up for. Those flying heli's are a bit less weather constrained than fixed wing fliers, so they tend to be there on the benches a lot more than others. But at no point (and by no policy) are heli's prioritised over fixed wing – there remains room for both. Bring down any model, set it up and talk to your fellow members- everyone has to make sure all can get onto the benches and the flightline. All members are there to fly, and as Chair, the fact we have active fliers onsite is the best thing to see when arriving – the shape and size of the model isn't that important to me. (Most of the rotary wing guys do fly fixed wing too on occasion – all types have their place). So come on down and fill the sky with gliders, EDFs, scale or sports models, drones and helis- that's what the club is there for.

Elsewhere with the newsletter, you'll find a calendar suggestion. Not all months have an event – if there are items you would want added, or you can help progress , then please let any of the committee know. We'll be kicking off with a Bring and Buy (or rather a Flog and Fly if weather is good enough) in March. We'll have other monthly events through the year – but the simplest, most enjoyable thing is just to come out, fly what you can, have a natter to the other members who are at the club, and go home hopefully slightly more tanned and a lot more relaxed. So, get that build finished, work out where you left your Tx charger, and I'll see you down at the field soon.

Here's to safe smooth landings in 2025

Doug





Club Merchandise



Order Yours
Now!

Club merchandise is now available to order. These are very well-made items and can be personalised to your taste. Lots of colours available.



Please see the website for more details, sizing, prices and ordering.





Important Member Information

GMFC and the CAA Awareness for Members

One area we'll need to encourage more this year is CAA regulations. The Air Navigation Order obligations on anyone flying anything over 250g (or less if with a camera) are law. Your BMFA membership assumes compliance. So please, if you haven't already read the latest position with respect to Flier ID (summarised in the January BMFA newsletter – paper or online) get your Operator ID on to every model, and ensure you have gained a flier ID by undertaking the RCC test via the BMFA site. You might be wondering why I make this request now. Well, first – its BMFA policy and the law. However, in November the club was contacted as an “interested party” in a CAA / National Police Air Service consultation. They propose to trial large (200kg+) unmanned helicopters as a means of replacing costly police helicopters for surveillance/ search activity. Airspace over the Gordano valley is proposed to be included in that trial, and if implemented as proposed it would cause a total ban on weekday model flying for a period in late summer 2025. Every flier in the area would be affected. We have responded with a suggestion of how a minor change in the defined boundary of the test zone could eliminate any chance of collisions with GMFC fliers, and that this is the sensible way to limit any theoretical risk. But bottom line, if a CAA Official visits the club to understand how reasonable our suggestion of airspace use is, it would be better if they observed we followed their current regulations. Although it has never been policy up til now to check, any of us could be asked to demonstrate that model or show our flyer identification to CAA reps at any point. We'll obviously keep members aware of any updates to this consultation – I'm hopeful pragmatism of our suggestions will be successful and therefore our operations will be unaffected.



GMFC Christmas & Evening Awards

A good evening had by all at The Albion for our Christmas get together, with good food, good laughter and some awards to hand out.....



David Hazell was presented the 'Rhubarb' award, in recognition of his technique in managing the ground rushing up to intercept his aircraft!

Ben Hooper was awarded recognition for his performance and skills this year, transitioning from Drones to Heli's.



Stanley Brain was awarded recognition for his performance and skill, and passing his BMFA fixed wing A test in September.





2025 CALENDAR

February 15/16th – Club Day TBA



March 22/23rd – Club Day & Bring and Buy

April 5/6th – Club Day and AGM

May 17/18th – Club Day and Afternoon Tea



June 21st – Family and Friends Day

June 22nd – Club Day

July 19/20th – Club Day and Fun Fly July!



August 16th – Club Day

August 17th – Charity Endurance Fly



September 20/21st – Club Day TBA

October 18/19th – Club Day TBA



November 15/16th – Club Day TBA

December 13th – Christmas Evening & Awards

Please see the website
for more details on events.



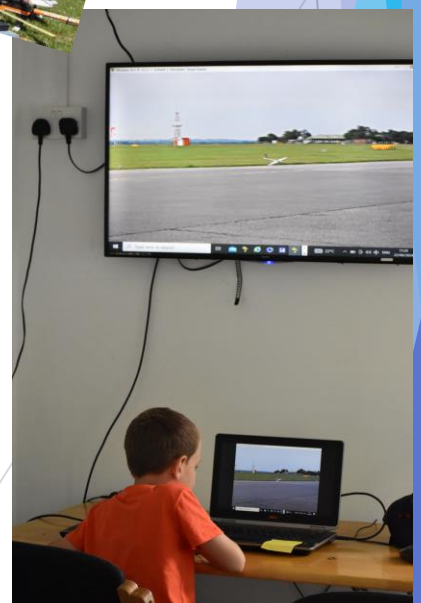
Friends & Family Day 2025

Saturday 21st June
10am til late



A day of fun for Friends and Family. Bring your deck chairs and umbrella to ensure we have enough. Plenty of flying, company and space for your models to fly and show them off.

The clubroom will have the simulator up and running too, and the car track will also be open so bring your models to drive 😊





Activities For Club Days

This year we have decided to include some activities to our Club Days. These are open to all and we would love to see as many of you as possible taking part and having fun.

There will be a range of activities from Afternoon Tea to a non-competitive Fun Fly event.

Please see the calendar for which activity will take place on which Club 'weekend'. The Club Website has more information for these events.

