



NEWSBEAT

The official publication of the Malta Model Aircraft Flying Association

Website <http://www.mmafa.eu>

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From the Committee—VERY IMPORTANT—PLEASE READ AND NOTE!

As most active members are aware, there have been some developments regarding complaints by the owner of a farm situated some 150 metres North of our site. We are therefore informing all members of these developments, which may seem to be leading to bigger and more serious situations. The President and Vincent Zammit, (technical and field safety) attended all these meetings together with our legal advisor and fellow member Dr Anthony Axisa,

Over the past weeks the Committee was summoned to three meetings relative to the matter at hand.

The first meeting was with Superintendent Martin Sammut at the Mosta police station. It transpired that the meeting was called pursuant to an unofficial complaint by our neighbours, wherein a number of concerns were voiced. A visit to our site was also made during which the Superintendent was shown all aspects of our activity.

This meeting was followed by another meeting with Assistant Commissioner Ray Zammit. In both meetings the Committee outlined several measures that it has taken to enhance the safety of all concerned and also to foster good neighbourliness.

During these cordial meetings, the Committee was also asked to prepare a short paper that outlines the salient points raised by the Committee.

Albeit there will be no legal proceedings at this stage, it is to be assumed that the police are striving to reach some kind of compromise and a plausible solution to the recurring problems.

The DCA then requested a meeting with the Committee. The meeting was exploratory in nature and touched on a wide range of matters that included complaints received by the DCA, safety aspects, standing regulations, applicable legislation, model flying best practices, the flying site and its proximity to inhabited residences, existing and planned facilities.

Given that it was agreed that there is always scope for improvement, further education and further developments, this meeting is to be considered as a works in progress. Accordingly over the coming weeks inspectors from the DCA will be visiting our airfield to familiarize themselves more with the dynamics of the flying of model aircraft. **The DCA have also informed us that they will be performing random inspections on our site with the intention of ensuring that all members are abiding by our standing regulations**

While the Committee does not necessarily view these recent developments as negative in nature, it is fully aware that what triggered this series of events was an escalating stream of complaints. Accordingly it would be irresponsible not to highlight the fact that the Association and its activities are under intense scrutiny more than ever before.

In view of this, all Members are once again exhorted to abide by the Association's regulations, to respect our neighbours' rights and in order to do so, to use common sense and to act prudently first and foremost. If we are to enjoy our hobby for the years to come, all Members need to become more disciplined and the Committee will also have the unenviable task

of enforcing regulations more rigorously. In order to do this, changes to our regulations and flying activities might be necessary.

While we will be keeping you posted with further developments, may we ask your full and unconditional cooperation, as and when required. The Committee is doing everything in its power to quell doubts, address complaints and give the required assurances. However, we will not succeed unless all Members cooperate fully.

CCTV system

A monitoring CCTV system will shortly be put in operation on site. While thanking Laurence Dalmas for the supply and installation of the equipment free of charge, the scope of this project is to monitor better members' activities and at the same time enhance the security of the area.

And while on the same subject, we have received reports of the entrance gate being left open overnight - this is unforgivable and any member caught avoiding this simple requisite will be heavily penalized.

Charcoal Bins

For the convenience of members organising BBQs on site, two metal bins (1/2 45 gallon drum) have been put on site **ONLY FOR THE DISPOSAL OF BURNT CHARCOAL**. These bins are not to be used for normal garbage. Our thanks go to Ruben Mifsud who took the initiative to prepare these bins.

The Committee



MAJJALATA 13 JULY 2013

STANDING REGULATIONS AT TA' QALI (June 2013 update)

- 1. The Malta Model Aircraft Flying Association consists of a majority of members flying radio controlled fixed wing aircraft and a minority of members flying rotary wing aircraft, helicopters. IT IS AN ESTABLISHED SAFETY PRINCIPLE THAT FIXED AND ROTARY WING FLYING DO NOT MIX. A member flying helicopters and VERTICAL MULTI-ROTOR POWERED MODELS (QUADROPTERS, ETC) must therefore utilize ONLY the FIRST 15 MINUTES OF THE HOUR AS GUIDED BY THE AUDIBLE ALARM ON SITE.**
2. Upon arrival at Ta' Qali members should park their cars in the marked parking docks on the Club House side and the models and equipment should be taken on the pits area behind the railings. Members' children and the public are strictly forbidden to enter the pits area. Identify yourself with fellow members and determine the pilots' positioning according to wind direction. On departure, the last member to leave the flying site should ensure that the Club House, Toilet and the Gate are closed and all umbrellas are returned to the clubhouse. Membership proof for the current year must be shown to any Committee member on demand.
3. Before commencing flying every member utilizing the 35 and 41 Mhz band must pick up his frequency tag from the frequency Board. Members caught flying on these frequencies without a frequency tag will be penalized. Only internationally approved spot frequencies are allowed—these are the 35Mhz, the 41 Mhz band and the recently introduced 2.4 Ghz band. Beginners are to note that they can only occupy the Channels numbers 81 to 90 on the 35 Mhz band. Beginners will not be permitted to fly on their own before their competence is determined by a Committee member.

Beginners may consequently request that the Committee allow them to use a different channel once they have acquired total flying skills on the 35 and 41 Mhz bands. The Committee will consider this request and after ensuring that the member is sufficiently proficient, allocate another channel for their use. Any Frequency allocation, however, remains at the sole discretion of the Committee.
4. If the frequency tag is in use, await your turn until the corresponding transmitter is switched off and the tag returned. Each flying session must not exceed 20 minutes. It is strongly recommended that the principle of impounding transmitter between flyers using the same frequency on the 35 and 41Mhz is adopted. Transmitter antennae must be retracted (where applicable) while in the pits and while taxiing out. **FOR SAFETY'S SAKE, NO MORE THAN SIX FLIERS MUST BE FLYING AT ANY ONE TIME.**
5. Flyers are to coordinate their flying and group together in the predetermined spot, and within the marked yellow lines. Call your landings and take-offs. Clear the runway as quickly as possible after landing. Avoid crossing the runway unless absolutely necessary. Avoid flying low over transmitters whatever the frequency. **Flying over the pits, spectator areas and nearby buildings is strictly forbidden.**
6. All flyers are to land immediately if a full size helicopter or microlight aircraft is seen approaching the area. Actual flying should be restricted to a radius of approximately 500 metres from the centre of the flying area and a maximum of 400 feet altitude. Avoid flying over any building within the area mentioned.
7. Running in of engines is to be performed away from the pits and flyers in the designated area. Effective silencers are compulsory on site. A maximum level of 85 dB at 7 metres is being imposed on all days of the week. Flying of models powered by electric motors may commence at 7 am any day of the week. Starting of internal combustion engines and turbines must take place after 0830 hours on any day of the week.
- 8. JET TURBINES AND ENGINES ABOVE 26CCS MUST NOT BE OPERATED (START OR SHUTDOWN) IN THE PIT AREA. MODELS WEIGHING ABOVE 20KGS REQUIRE A SPECIAL PERMIT TO FLY FROM THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES.**
9. The committee reserves the right to suspend any member of the Association should his actions or flying constitute a hazard to other members and the public.
10. Mobile phones must not be operated on the runway as they have been reported as causing interference to modern computerized transmitters.
11. Flyers teaching their sons/daughters to fly on the 35 and 41 Mhz bands may use their own frequency until total proficiency is attained by the pupil in accordance with clause 5. Responsibility in such cases falls on the parent.
- 12. Keep in mind that the main objective of the Association is for recreational and educational purposes. Every effort should be made not to spoil other members' enjoyment by dangerous flying or in an unpleasant way.**
- 13. Do not show off—fly safely**

Our Website—www.mmafa.eu

As it seems that many members have not browsed or ever used our site, I think it is about time to explain again some facts about it. This information was originally given in the issue of Newsbeat of April 2010

As a current member, you should have received an e-mail informing you of your username and password to allow you to access the members' only facilities. Those that have not yet provided us with an e-mail address will not, however, remain in contact with the Association as Newsletters are no longer being sent by post, but by email only. So providing a valid email address is now very important.

Accessing the website

The new website is found at <http://www.mmafa.eu>

Accessing the Members' Only areas

To access the members' only area you need to:

- Click on the "Login" option which is found underneath the banner
- Enter your username
- Enter your password (note this is case sensitive)
- Click Login

If this is the first time you have logged in, you will be asked to change the password to a new one. Please follow the instructions as shown on screen.

Members Only Functions

Currently there are four main areas that are accessible only to members, which are:

Frequently Asked Questions	<i>Members Area > FAQs</i> Here you will find answers on how to use the site and other questions relating to the association membership
BLOGS	<i>Members Area > FAQs</i> Here members can create their own area on the site which could include information on a model they are building or a project that they are undertaking relating to our hobby
Channel Allocation	<i>Members Area > Channel Allocation</i> Show the current records for channel as allocated to members. If there are any changes required please send an e-mail to info@mmafa.eu
Club Rules	<i>Members Area > The Rules</i> Includes statute and standing regulations
Newsletter	<i>Membership > Newsletter</i> Includes the latest copies of the Newsbeat

Other member only functionality, such as a "Classified" area where members can list their items for sale, is also available. If you have any suggestions or material for the site (e.g. old photographs or articles) please send these to info@mmafa.eu at your convenience.

IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO

MMAFA PO Box 22 Balzan BZN1000

NEWSBEAT

The Official Newsletter of the
Malta Model Aircraft Flying Association

FOR SALE

High wing trainer complete with futaba Tx , rx and all servos, irvine46 engine—in very good condition—400 euros

Phone 99862978

Michael Baldacchino

FOR SALE

Thunder Tiger 1/6 Bearcat, brand new and unflown. fully assembled including all-round hi-tec servos, and mechanical retracts including retract servo. Also has a used OS120 4-stroke engine. I took this in part exchange but do not have the time for it. Span is 70 ch, wings are plug-in with a very substantial carbon fibre wing joiner. I have not done anything to the model so would recommend it is checked over before flying.

EUR 450 but am open to offers

70 inch pattern model, the Elation 140. This has a Moki 135 with tuned pipe, Towerpro servos all round, dual input/output receiver regulator with 2 x 1500mAh lipo batteries (all Dualsky).

EUR 450 but open to offers.

Contact Chris Poulton on 99426989

Calendar of Events

17 AUGUST	OFFICAL BBQ NIGHT
21 SEPTEMBER	MULTIPLEX AEROBATIC TROPHY
12 OCTOBER	John EARLAND SCALE TROPHY
26 OCTOBER	JET MEET
09/10 NOVEMBER	WINGS OVER TA-QALI
22 DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS DRINKS
27 DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS DINNER

MAKE OUR WEBSITE

www.mmafa.eu

**Your home page on your pc so you can keep up to
date with news and events connected with our
hobby**