



NEWSBEAT

The official publication of the Malta Model Aircraft Flying Association
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Supplement

Introduction of flight proficiency certificates

In accordance with local and international standards, the association will shortly be introducing proficiency certificates for all its members.

There will be two types of proficiency tests—A certificate and B certificate. The first phase of this project will be the mandatory A certificate.

These tests will be conducted in a very informal manner, and whenever a member feels like it.

The test will be repeated as many times as is necessary

The A Certificate will consist of the following:

Part 1

- (a) Carry out pre-flight checks as required by the MMAFA
- (b) Takeoff into the wind and complete a left (or right) hand circuit away from the pilot, and overfly the take-off area.
- (c) Fly a 'figure of eight' course with the crossover point in the front of the pilot. Height to be constant all the time.
- (d) Fly a rectangular circuit to the right (or left) hand, constant height. Right or left depends on wind direction on landing. Circuit direction must be decided before the test.
- (e) Fly a rectangular circuit in the opposite direction to (d). Approach with appropriate use of throttle and perform a landing on the designated landing area.

Part 2

- (f) Take-off and complete a left (or right) circuit and overfly the take-off area.
- (g) Perform a simulated dead stick landing with the engine at idle, beginning at a safe height (approx. 200ft) heading into the wind over the take-off area. The landing to be made in a safe manner in the designated landing area. Landings must be done from both SE and NW of runway
- (h) Remove model and equipment from takeoff/landing area.

NOTES

1. Two examiners, appointed by the committee will perform the tests
2. A small number of questions will be asked by the examiners during the tests. These questions, together with appropriate answers, will be published in the Newsletter.
3. **More details will be given through meetings with members and future Newsletters**
4. No member will be allowed to fly alone after a future date (to be announced) unless he has obtained his A certificate.

Examiners/Instructors wanted

“The tests will be repeated as many times as is necessary”

As this exercise is envisaged to be lengthy and slow, the committee would like to hear from members who are willing to act as instructors and or examiners on a voluntary basis.

Requirements for these posts are as follows:

Instructors—Members who are willing to instruct and help other

“These tests will be conducted in a very informal manner, and whenever a member feels like it”

members regarding the proficiency tests must be a seasoned flier who has been active in the hobby for a considerable period and has handled a good number of different types of models.

Likewise examiners should have a considerable number of years to their credit as active fliers who have handled various types of models. An examiner must also be able to take over the control of a model during the proficiency test if the member feels uneasy, disoriented or asks for help.

Our site—Developments

As most of you are aware, the committee has been having meetings with the Police and civil aviation authorities regarding our site and our activities. These discussions are still going on. In fact the committee has requested to meet the Parliamentary Secretary for Sports, Dr Stefan-Buontempo. This meeting took place this week and Dr Buontempo has pledged his allegiance with our demands and is ready to help the Association in any way he can. More meetings are scheduled. In the meantime another appeal is being made to all members to follow our stand-

<p>“Follow our standing regulations without exception EVEN WHEN YOU ARE ALONE ON THE FIELD”</p>	<p>ing regulations without exception, EVEN WHEN ONE IS ALONE ON THE FIELD. Every effort should be made to gain confidence in your flying by practicing and practicing your left and right hand circuits, landings ,etc. In coordination with other members present , and when the wind is blowing from the south, one should also try to perform his flying ALWAYS FACING MDINA AND MTARFA WITHOUT TURNING TOWARDS THE PITS.</p>
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In conclusion, it is indeed a pity that the committee has to act as police watchdogs on certain members who egoistically do not follow the Committee’s standing regulations and thus prejudice the Committee’s efforts in persuading the authorities that our activities are safe and do not infringe on our neighbour’s rights.

CCTV cams

As you are also aware, a number of CCTV cams have been installed for the specific purpose of detecting irregular or illegal activities on our site. Unfortunately, however, this measure was not approved by member Brian Busuttil, who chose to take drastic and abusive action by threatening the committee that if the cameras where not removed he would report the matter to the authorities and even demanded a deadline of when this would be done, and did his best to incite insurgency among members by posting incorrect statements in Facebook.

Following a request by the committee to delete such matter and revoke the erroneous conclusions arrived at, which Mr Busuttil refused to do, the Committee has unanimously agreed to suspend the membership of Mr Busuttil for the rest of this year. The Committee will not stoop so low as Mr Busuttil did by posting this information on social media such as Facebook, but will only divulge this information to paid up members.

Finally the Committee would like to clarify that it is perfectly happy to accept suggestions, complaints or any other constructive criticism so long as it is done through the proper channels. Mr Busuttil’s energies would have been better expended in lending a hand to safeguard our hobby, rather than taking unilateral action, without having had the decency of raising the issue with the committee in a civilized manner.

It is also pertinent to mention that the installation and use of surveillance cameras on our site is perfectly legal. This has been confirmed in writing by the Directorate for Data Protection.

The Committee