



M.M.A.F.A.

Official newsletter of the
Malta Model Aircraft Flying Association
Website <http://www.mmafa.eu> email :info@mmafa.eu
Postal Address PO Box 22 Balzan BZN 1000

Issue 5/2014
May

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

My fellow members,

How time flies !

Just over 100 days have passed since the AGM in January and your committee has been working very hard to re-organize and strengthen the Association with the help and support of its members . It is only the weather which mainly did not cooperate to allow more flying ! Your committee has already met eleven (11) times with full agendas each time. Some positive results were immediately visible like the very successful 65th Anniversary Exhibition and the very well attended Fun Fly (after many weather delays). More events are planned for the near future. Paid up membership is also the highest in the last three years. Members will also soon begin to note the fruit of plans in hand to refurbish and give a much needed face lift to the present Club Facilities. Plans are in hand to upgrade the facilities to make them more practical and comfortable for members. (See page 7) . The emphasis of course continues to be the all important SAFETY in practicing our hobby. Please refer to pages 2 – 4 for your committee 's view and direction to members on this extremely important aspect.

As your President I ask for the full cooperation of ALL FLYING MEMBERS to attend these information meetings in groups when called. The Association is duty bound to satisfy the authorities that each and every FLYING MEMBER is fully AWARE of the standing rules and the FLIGHT CODE , has UNDERSTOOD and AGREES to comply. The Civil Aviation Directorate is expecting a 100% commitment by our members to flight safety .

It is in the members own interest to support these measures . Meanwhile may I urge you to once again familiarize yourselves with our safety guidelines (printed in April Newsletter) to avoid time wasting during the short information sessions which are to take place. Thank you all once again for your full support in this very important exercise.

Happy Landings in Safety , Martin.

MMAFA - The Way Forward

Dear MMAFA Member,

As you may be aware, the Committee have been very busy these past few months and all along we have been taking stock of the situation of our Association with the main objective to preserve our hobby and our flying site.

We have impressed the relevant authorities with the quality of our models and the level of expertise which our members demonstrated in the indoor exhibition last March. Nevertheless they have very clearly stated that we should be careful not to allow *'bad apples'* to ruin the achievements of the Association.

We all are aware of the nature of the hobby – we are dependent on various factors such as weather, equipment and flyer judgement; however you will agree that **safety awareness is our main tool to avoid any incidents**. We should always be aware of the state of the equipment, our ability to control different types of models, have respect to fellow modellers and most importantly adhere to the Association's regulations and flight safety rules. In spite of this, a number of incidents which occurred in the past few years have put our Association in a difficult situation. We all know that such incidents could easily be avoided with the application of good sense and adherence to regulations.

There is no doubt that it is the responsibility of the Committee of the Association to ensure that all measures are taken to avoid any kind of incident as a result of our activities. Accordingly, we have put in place a set of regulations with the sole intention to reduce the risks involved. There is also no doubt that it is the **DUTY** of all members to follow these rules.

It is now very clear that due to a series of circumstances, some of which have been piling up for a number of years, the committee is duty bound to take a series of concrete measures to achieve Flight Safety which will serve the Association to attain a more secure position with the Authorities and to reach the objectives of our statute.

A comprehensive **Flight Safety Policy** must include the following elements:

- (i) Adequate Flight Safety Regulation
- (ii) Implementation and enforcement of Flight Safety Regulation
- (iii) Competency of flyers
- (iv) Integrity of model Aircraft

These may appear to be challenging measures, however in practical terms these measures boil down to the application of common sense in setting up and maintenance of model aircraft, and flying our models./ cont'd page 3

/.....We are sure that most of you agree that model aircraft flying at our site is no place for irresponsible flyers.

We have already achieved the first step, and we are pleased to say that the majority of flyers are familiar with these rules and are abiding by them; the next important step is to ensure that ALL members (including any new members) clearly understand the regulations and basic safety requirements and that the Association can show documented proof to the Aviation Authorities to this effect on demand as is their right by law.

Members are reminded that as a responsible Association we are answerable to the Civil Aviation Directorate, under Article 47 of the Air Navigation Order ANO S.L.499.09 2010 which unequivocally states “a person shall not recklessly or negligently cause or permit an aircraft to endanger any person or property ”

It must be made clear that NO model aircraft of any size or weight is exempt from Article 47 .

By running the **Flight Safety Information Meetings** the Association will be in a strong position not only to state that we have adequate regulations in place , but we will send a clear signal to the Authorities that all our members have understood these regulations and are committed to the spirit of Article 47 of the ANO by following them faithfully when practising our sport. We should all be proud to belong to an Association which values flight safety above all else while still enjoying our hobby.

The other measures mentioned above will continue in due course and the MMAFA will be able to ensure further conformity with safety requirements and have a stronger foothold at Ta' Qali.

The time has come for concrete and visible action to be taken to safeguard the future of our flying site, and not to allow any ‘bad apple ’ to ruin our hobby .

Your Committee

FLIGHT SAFETY INFORMATION GROUP MEETINGS

Every flier member will soon receive either by email (or by post) a request to attend.

Please note carefully the date of YOUR group meeting.

As a FLIER MEMBER of the MMAFA you will be required to attend the information meeting on Club Rules and Safety to be held at our flying site on weekdays from 6.00pm to approx 7.00pm (actual day to be advised to each member individually).

This meetings are an integral part of the implementation of the Association's flight safety rules at our site as required by the Civil Aviation Directorate (CAD).

Please note that no flier member of our association is exempt from attending these information sessions on flight safety.

At the end of each information session all participants will be asked to sign a compliance certificate confirming that they are aware of , and will abide by all safety regulations issued by the MMAFA . This signed declaration will henceforth become mandatory for any flier member (incl. newcomers) to operate from our site in Ta' Qali as part of necessary documentation in support of ANO Art.47

All participants will receive an official MMAFA Certificate of Attendance

Please be punctual as meetings will start at 6.00pm sharp. Light refreshments will be served to participating members .

In case of difficulty please contact any committee member or email info@mmafa.eu

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Martin Mifsud | 99496033 |
| Michael Curmi | 99493415 |
| Stephen Galea | 99462962 |
| Josef Gatt | 99490045 |
| Mario Micallef | 79241318 |
| Wayne Galea | 79455174 |
| Ronald Carbonaro | 99427449 |

Limbo Fun Fly Event

As you are aware we had to postpone the Limbo fun fly for a number of times due to unsuitable weather conditions. Well, it was finally held on 12 April 2014 and we must say that it was well worth the wait. For those members who opted out of the event fearing to damage their model, for next time please note that the Limbo was made of delicate crepe paper so there was no chance to damage the model in the event of a cut. A total of eleven members turned up anyway ready to test their flying skills at the Limbo, have some fun and enjoy the company and not necessarily in that order either!

Members who participated:

Victor Saliba

Stefano Saliba

Wayne Galea

Ronald Carbonaro

Tonio Debattista

Richard Jackson

Josef Gatt

Martin Mifsud

Jesmond Azzopardi

Stephen Warrington

Contest Director was Stephen Galea assisted by Vince Zammit.

The rules of the game were simple; 10 points were awarded for each pass while zero points were added for either the wheels touching the ground or overflying the limbo. 3 points were deducted for passes which cut the limbo tape.

The aim of the Fun Fly idea was to encourage the participation of pilots with all levels of flying expertise so for the first pass the Limbo was set at a height of around 2 metres. Most flyers had no problems to pass this setting so the line was lowered to about 1 metre and then to 50 cm where things started to get interesting. We saw flyers that passed serenely under the limbo and others who struggled and then there was someone who did it inverted only to have some "unknown force" (*GI..ULI !*) pull his model to the ground – still inverted of course. A total of three rounds for each flyer were made with the result that the first place was shared by Wayne and Victor Saliba, so a fly off between these two was made with the limbo set at ground level with barely 30 cm from the ground. The top three positions were as follows:

| Position | Name | Points |
|----------|---------------|--------|
| 1 | Wayne Galea | 110 |
| 2 | Victor Saliba | 97 |
| 3 | Martin Mifsud | 80 |

All those who participated and those watching from the pits can confirm that this was indeed a fun fly where all enjoyed an afternoon of great flying and a good laugh. *Prosit* to Wayne who celebrated his win by performing a daring inverted pass under the lowermost limbo setting. Outside the competition and no extra points gained of course!! (a selection of photos of the event next page)



MAJOR PROJECT at our Flying site

In keeping with its declared objective to upgrade the facilities at our flying site for the benefit of all members, your committee is pleased to announce plans to install a purpose built, open sided, flat roof steel tube and sheet shelter (*tinda*) covering the major part of the pits area. This will provide welcome protection for members and their models from the blazing sun in summer and rain in the winter months. Details to follow but an indication of structure dimensions will be approx. 6 metres wide x 3 metres high x 36 /40 metres length along the major part of the pits in front of the clubhouse.

This is of course a major investment for our club in terms of material and installation costs and would deplete our resources if funded from existing club funds and would leave less reserve for future contingencies this year.

In this respect your Committee through its President has already started a FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN among members to show their generosity to support this worthwhile initiative by asking each member to contribute at least €20 (or more if you wish) towards this really worthwhile investment. Any shortfall will be made up from club funds. The initial response of members approached so far has been most encouraging and your committee is counting on the remaining members to donate their fair share. A receipt for every donation will be issued.

To further cut costs we have already been approached by a number of members who are very willing to help in the assembly of the structure when the time comes. This is going to need MANPOWER so all are welcome to pitch in when the time comes. The committee will ensure that members who volunteer to help construct the shelter will not go hungry or thirsty as “refueling” will be provided.

The plan is to try to complete this structure in time for the hot summer months which are soon upon us so please donate, donate, donate!

(Please speak to or sms Martin Mifsud 99496033 or treasurer Mario Micallef 79241318 who are compiling the list of donors).

Thank you for your generosity and help in advance!
Your Committee.

Members are reminded that smoking in our club house is strictly prohibited out of respect towards our fellow members and also under the following Govt. legal notice:

“Govt. Legal Notice 23 of 2010

TOBACCO (SMOKING CONTROL) ACT

(CAP. 315)

Smoking in Public Places Regulations, 2010

Para 3.

(1)

No person shall smoke any tobacco product in any enclosed area.

(2)

It shall be the duty of the responsible person not to allow smoking of any tobacco product to be carried out in any enclosed area within his premises.”

While on the subject of smoking, members are reminded of the dangers of smoking around highly flammable fuels and vapours and it is their personal responsibility to refrain from doing so to avoid putting themselves and others in harm’s way.



**AMENDMENT TO STANDING SAFETY REGULATIONS
(rev. May 2014)**

(d) OTHER UNIVERSAL PRE-FLIGHT AND IN-FLIGHT SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS.

Pulse Jets

(xvii) Pulse Jets – The use and operation of pulsejets is prohibited at our flying site by virtue of a specific “exclusion clause” in the Association’s insurance policy which states that no third party insurance cover shall apply to these power plants.

FOR SALE

Krill 37% Yak 55M model 2.94M wing span, 170cc DA petrol engine with canisters, smoke system, power box system, JR digital servos all round. Asking price €4000.00 for complete model but could split model, engine and electronics if requested.

Contact Mario Micallef mjm@onvol.net or

Johann Micallef johannmicallef@hotmail.com



FOR SALE

Negotiable prices, all models take quale, less receiver and batteries
Contact F. Zammit Haber on 9947 1193



Svenson Feiseler Storch,
from kit, 96in wingspan, all
servos, flaps, OS91 four stroke,
true scale
Good condition
€400



Great Planes Stinson
105in winspan from kit, all
servos, flaps, cockpit inte-rior,
DLE 30cc petrol,
Excellent condition
€650



Nieuport 28
from Proctor kit, 85in wing-
span, all servos, Saito 150 four
stroke, on board glo system
Vintage looking finish
€450

NEXT EVENT

SATURDAY 17TH MAY

2.00PM ONWARDS

SCALE FLY IN

All types of scale models are welcome including ARTF's
and scale helicopters.

Let's make this another fun event.

"Dear Mr. Weather PLEASE don't spoil the fun!"



POSTAL ADDRESS

MMAFA PO Box 22 Balzan BZN1000

Official Newsletter of the
Malta Model Aircraft Flying
Association

Make our Website your homepage so as to keep up to date with the
Association's Activities

<http://www.mmafa.eu>

email: info@mmafa.eu