



M.M.A.F.A.

Official newsletter of the
Malta Model Aircraft Flying Association
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IMPORTANT DIRECTIVE FROM THE COMMITTEE

Flying Positions, Safety and No Fly Zones

As all members should be fully aware, MMAFA Standing Regulations for fixed wing models allows for three pilot positions on the runway; two on the clubhouse side of the runway (depending on wind direction) and one position on the Mdina side of the runway. The Mdina position was retained mainly as temporary solution to allow those RC pilots who were not yet comfortable to operate from the clubhouse side ample time to gain confidence in flying from this position.

It is the opinion of this committee that the clubhouse side is by far the safest and most recommended of flying positions all factors considered.

As has been explained previously, it has been established that flying from the clubhouse side:

1. Eliminates the need for modelers to cross the runway in the interest of SAFETY
2. By flying facing Mdina , the risk of flying over the Pits area is eliminated again in the interest of SAFETY
3. Makes it easier to avoid flying over the sensitive NO FLY ZONE on the north eastern side of the site.

It is a fact that when flying from the Mdina side of the runway facing the clubhouse, pilots are restricted to a narrow corridor of only about 80 meters in which to fly the models with little room for error. The committee has on various occasions drawn the attention of several flyers that they had infringed the NFZ since it is very difficult (**many experienced pilots have admitted this**) to accurately judge the position of the model, irrespective of pilots ' abilities and any technology applied.

In fact, whenever the committee received reports from our main neighbor, of alleged incursions over the NFZ it was found after investigation that the flyers involved were always operating from the Mdina side of the runway.

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..... While the Committee acknowledges that the majority of members are generally abiding by the regulations and do their best to avoid the NFZs, however it is our opinion that flyers operating from the Mdina side (facing the clubhouse) would be either risking to unknowingly straying into the NFZ (by miscalculating depth of field) or just as risky be continuously operating at the edge of the NFZ at the NE side and consequently still being a nuisance to the neighbours.

In view of the above the committee expects that :

1. Members must do their utmost to gain flight training to become confident with both right hand and left hand circuits and approaches to be able to fly from the Clubhouse side on all occasions irrespective of the wind direction. Please stop using the sun as an excuse. It is a fact that when the wind is from the SE practically everyone flies from the clubhouse side, sun or no sun. While acknowledging the difficulty it is not insurmountable with practice as many pilots have found out and it is still better than the risk of crashing into the Pits or NFZ through miscalculation with greater consequences for all.
2. Gain enough experience on trainer type models before moving onto faster, more high powered models with higher wing loading and inertia in order to be confident to fly from the recommended positions irrespective of the model being flown.
3. All flying instruction and encouragement to newcomers should from now on be given from the clubhouse side without fail. Instructors must be competent to fly from the clubhouse side in all circumstances.
4. Members should refrain to continuously fly at the edge of the NFZ especially at low level (in particular high speed beat ups) except for landing.

The committee thanks the great majority of members who have cooperated and observed regulations which serve to address flight safety requirements and reduce friction with neighbours which in the recent past had created a very serious threat to the MMAFA. Whilst stating that there currently appears to be no particularly alarming difficulties, this threat has not gone away and the Association cannot permit situations where the selfish or careless behaviour of any member risks jeopardizing the enjoyment of the hobby of all members as a whole. As mandated by the statute, the Committee is prepared to take all the necessary action to address any negligent behaviour by any member that puts the Association at risk.

The Committee.

Resignation

Chris Bonaci, committee member since February 2015 responsible for memberships and data administration, has tendered his resignation from the committee . He gave no formal reason for his resignation.

Clubhouse

The committee draws the attention of all members that the clubhouse refreshment area is not to be used as a “ workshop ” and moreover the charging of any type of battery and the testing of powered motors within the clubroom is strictly prohibited for obvious reasons of safety and hazard prevention. Thanks to all for your cooperation.

Garbage Bins

Please assist the committee and site manager to keep our flying site clean and tidy.

Please use the many garbage bins available to throw away your litter. Please do not just dump in the grass. Any discarded material not strictly litter such as household domestic waste should not be emptied into our bins. It costs the Association money to empty the bins. Thanks to all for your cooperation.

AUCTION OF MODELS—EDWIN VAN DER MAAT

The Committee notifies that arrangements are being taken in hand to auction off the beautiful models generously donated by our colleague Edwin to interested club members with all proceeds to be donated to club funds.

While once again thanking Edwin, full details will be announced in due course.

CONTINUING FLYING SITE UPGRADES



.....MORE TO FOLLOW

"Please keep our site tidy"

MMAFA MEMBERS OFFICIAL BARBEQUE

**The annual BBQ has unavoidably been
postponed to**

FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER

Free chilled wine and table accommodation will be made available on a first come first served basis and all members may bring along their own varied choice of food, meat cuts and BBQ's and additional loungers etc. Let's have a good time!



POSTAL ADDRESS

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