

THE “AREA POSTALS” for 2017

The principle behind these events (three contests, each over two Sundays) is that we can meet and become involved in relatively low-key competition, or just turn up and sportsfly, without the need to travel long distances to centralised events. Sports flyers always have been welcome at BMFA Area venues during contest weekends but many have been reluctant to turn up. Now we have a reason to be there, by invitation of our friends on the FFTC.

I'll just mention the contests categories themselves briefly, before explaining the procedure for taking part:

“March Wynde”.....for Vintage Lightweight Rubber. Rules on website: one class for Senators, one for “Anything But Senators.” Dates are Sunday 5th March and Sunday 26th March.

“Summertime”..... for gliders under 52”, with classes for Classic and Vintage. Line length 50 metres for both classes.. Dates are Sunday 25th June and Sunday 16th July.

“Autumn Trophy”....this is just for the popular P30 class and therefore not a Vintage event, but I hope it will make a strong end to the outdoor flying season as the P30 has become a popular category for those who want a duration contest without excessive technology. Dates are 17th September and 15th October.

I hope the mix of purely Vintage, Vintage and Classic, and contemporary classes will appeal, as the success of this concept will ultimately depend upon the numbers of flyers who take part.

PROCEDURE:

This is how it works:

To enter, please write to me, any time before the second contest date, with contact details and £3. I'm at 164 High Road, Weston, Spalding, Lincs. PE12 6JU. All entry fees will be spent on trophies so their value will be in proportion to the number of entrants. I shall send timekeepers' cards by return. (Please note that if there are two classes, one entrant may enter both.)

Then choose your date. I have offered two Area Centralised Sundays for each event because of the vagaries of our weather, and also because there may be other calls on our time. Checking weather patterns in advance is, and always has been, an integral part of Free Flight.

Arrive at your chosen Area venue. If uncertain as to field availability, admission, etc, it may help to contact BMFA Head Office or your Area Secretary in advance: this information is on the BMFA website. Also, the contest calendar in BMFA News normally provides a contact phone number. Bring friends and sports flyers with you if possible: the whole point of these events is that as many folk as possible get to enjoy a day's flying.

Report to the field Contest Director, pay the field “sports flying” fee (normally £5 for a day's use of the field) and become aware of any local regulations (such as launch line if used) that may apply.

Fly your three qualifying flights in the normal way. If you max out, fly an unlimited flyoff at the same time as the first regional flyoff takes place (that's normally two hours before sunset, or just after six pm, whichever is the earlier.)

Send (or scan and e-mail) your scorecard to me. Expect the results on the SAM 35 website's F/F Results page within ten days.

That's it. Complicated? Only on the first occasion, after which, hopefully, we shall all become familiar with this procedure. If you like the idea, please come and add your name to the list of entrants. If you don't like it, come along anyway and enjoy some flying: we can discuss improvements another time. Whenever possible, the awards will be handed out at prizegiving at a subsequent event, by arrangement with the winners.

The annual SAM 35 F/F Calendar is available from me (or on the website in my “Updates” section), all our events are open to all BMFA members except for the two “pure” postals. An information sheet on them is also available in the same part of the website. Please keep in touch with the “Updates” page on our website (go to “Events” and scroll down) for any corrections and alterations. New events are being added. Things are moving quickly in our world, quicker than the deadline dates for the SAM 35 magazine allow for.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CEE DEE: he is supporting you!

.....John Ashmole

