

## THE “AREA POSTALS” for 2018

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: (Please notice that I have slightly increased the dates available, & hence the opportunities for finding good weather.)

- **“March Wynde”**.....for Vintage Lightweight Rubber. Rules on website: separate class award for best non-Senator. Dates are 4<sup>th</sup> March (2<sup>nd</sup> Area), 25<sup>th</sup> March (3<sup>rd</sup> Area) or 30<sup>th</sup> March (Northern Gala.)
- **“Summerglide”**..... Classes for Classic and Vintage, plus award for the best “Lulu.” Line length 50 metres for all classes.. Dates are 20<sup>th</sup> May (4<sup>th</sup> Area) and 24<sup>th</sup> June (5<sup>th</sup> Area) and any Gala or Rally in between those dates **excluding the Nationals**.
- **“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 16<sup>th</sup> Sept (7<sup>th</sup> Area) and 14<sup>th</sup> Oct (8<sup>th</sup> Area) or any rally or gala in between.

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.) You could also pay by Paypal, to me at [editor@peterboroughmfc.org](mailto:editor@peterboroughmfc.org)

Then choose your date. I have offered two Area Centralised Sundays for each event and have added some opportunities in between, 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.

The annual SAM 35 F/F Calendar is available from me (or on the website in the “Free Flight Updates” section), all our events are open to all insured BMFA members. An information sheet on them is also available in the same part of the website. Please keep in touch with the “Updates” 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