

## Inside This Month

- Notes on FPV Basics;
- Looking to the future management of the Club (see p.3);
- Offer of plans.

Also any other news as it comes.

The next Club event will be:

## *The Multimedia Masters*

On

# *Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2018*

*At 8:00 pm*

*And will again be at  
the Royal British Legion,  
Common Road, Flackwell Heath*

There will be three entry categories this year: **Model Aircraft / Real Aircraft / Aviation Video** and the rules will be much the same as previous years.

- Photos
  - Photos must have been taken by the entrant;
  - No fancy editing of the photo is allowed except for cropping, contrast and brightness.
- Videos
  - May be up to 3 minutes duration (depending on how many entries are received videos may be cut short during the initial rounds but the full videos will be shown in the final);
  - Must be taken/owned and edited by the entrant;
  - The clip may be a compilation of shorter clips;
  - Audio may not be included in play-back.



All entries to be submitted with a brief description of the entry (subject(s), location, event, etc).

Entries **must be submitted before 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018** either by email to [mrp\\_guy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mrp_guy@yahoo.co.uk) or as a link to a downloadable file.

Even if you really do not want to enter please come along and see the works of art produced by your fellow members and vote for your favourites.

## FPV - The Basics

I guess that FPV isn't something that we all aspire to, I certainly hadn't until I got a setup for practicing formation flying – and then I found FPV more interesting than formation flying!

The first question is “What are the rules?” Well, the rules are very specific and can be found on the BMFA web site at <https://bmfa.org/Info/Model-Flying-Types/First-Person-View-FPV>, but seeking some realism I asked a BMFA expert and he reckoned that flying alone is acceptable as long as you can switch to line-of-sight flying at any point in the flight, perhaps using a screen, so that you can easily look round at the model. This is refreshingly sensible advice as after all no one wants to plant a model let alone into an unknown location or worse a car or crowd of people. *(Note that operating a small unmanned aircraft out of line of site without special permission is illegal. Ed.)*

### What do we need?

For a basic pure FPV system all that is require is: a camera, a video transmitter, a video receiver, and a screen. I didn't have a clue what I needed so I asked Mitch and he quickly got me kitted out with the necessary equipment. I didn't quite understand what I was buying but suffice to say that, for the most part, it wasn't the latest equipment but none-the-less good quality and more than up to the job.

### How do we set it all up?

The camera and the video transmitter are connected with a “Y” lead, the signal wire carries the video signal and red and black power both units. The black and red wires are connected to three of the cells on the flight pack, if the model is ic powered then a 3s LiPo will be required. Location of the camera is dependent upon the model, I fitted my system to a foam warbird which conveniently came with a centre-line drop tank into which the camera and transmitter could be fitted and has the advantage of being easily removable. The power lead was routed through the underside of the fuselage so that it can be easily connected to the balance lead of the main flight pack.



The video transmitter and receiver obviously need to be set to communicate on the same channel. On my system the transmitter and receiver each have a bank of 4 dip switches which need to be set to match each other. Mitch kindly set these up for me but it seems logical enough.

The receiver has both audio and video connectors but the audio is pretty much redundant (I'm not really interested in hearing the motor sounds) so only the video needs to be connected to the screen. Both the receiver and screen run off 3 cell LiPo packs; I used a pair of packs just in case it caused a ground loop. The screen is fitted to a camera tripod and has the receiver stuck on the back with Velcro. The power packs are stuck onto the tripod legs also with Velcro. The screen is exceptional, it can be viewed with polarized sunglasses and, although it comes with shade, still has enough contrast to be viewed in sunlight.

And this is what it looks like.



### What do we see?

Pretty much what you would expect namely the scenery that you are flying round. The video camera needs to be adjustable so that it can be set for the best view while you are flying. This will probably be slightly downward so that you can see a bit of ground while in level flight. That way you should know where you are.



This is my view of the approach to the Flackwell field from the East.

Air-to-air picture of my brother's Hurricane as we flew in formation. The picture also shows a nice little add-on which overlays lots of nice extra information like an artificial horizon, ground speed (left), altitude (right), and compass heading (top) – but that little lot is another story!



Brian

### Talking of Mitch...

We must congratulate him on being the first club member to pass the multi-rotor "A" test. Well done.

### The Club and the Future

Following on from last month's call for people to serve on the Committee we thank those who responded with comments or offers. The whole subject was debated at length at the last Committee meeting and it is clear that we have to look at a significant reduction in the size and composition of the Committee and organised activities.

It is clear that we have to seriously consider dropping many of the Club's peripheral activities such as the evening meetings. These used to be well attended but the numbers of members coming to them has dropped to such an extent that they are no longer viable. It is also clear that there is no appetite for formal competitions either within the Club or with other clubs, who also have similar problems.

So in future we are likely to concentrate mainly on the basic functions of the Club such as providing quality flying facilities and field activities. At the same time, of course, we still have to ensure that governance activities are properly performed as appropriate to our company status. A Committee will therefore still exist but its size and involvement in activities will likely be much reduced.

If these or similar changes are to be implemented then there will need to be a change in our Constitution at the AGM in November. This is one meeting that will still take place each year.

The Committee would welcome comments on the above or any other aspect of the future running of the Club. They would also still welcome any offers of help.

## To all of you who like building from plans

Recently I offered my collection of RCM&E magazines to anyone interested. A number of you responded asking for specific editions because you wanted the plans. This led me to think that the plans are worth keeping so I have extracted all the plans and their instructions and offer them to club members. They are in ring binders in the club container at Flackwell. Many of the plans look like interesting projects so for anyone interested please browse through the collection and help yourself to any you would like to build.

Mike Winston

*(If you take up this offer and build something then how about some notes for the Newsletter please. Ed.)*

## Committee Members for 2018

Office	Name	E-mail	Telephone
Chairman	Stephen Berry		
Deputy Chairman	Daren Brand		
Treasurer	Malcolm Connell		
Secretary	Guy Pickett		
Membership Secretary	Mike Winston		
Events Organiser			
Training Rep	Jonathan Harper		
Flackwell Rep	Ron Spencer		
Chinnor Rep	Brian Seymour		
BFMA & Safety Rep	Mitch Mabbutt		
Newsletter Editor	Malcolm Connell		
Web Site and Communications	Malcolm Connell		

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My thanks to those members who have contributed to this and other Newsletters recently.  
Have you got something that you could contribute?

## Meetings and Events in 2018

Date	Day	Event	Location
19 August	Sunday	Summer Fly-In	Flackwell
27 September	Thursday	Multi-Media Masters Photo Competition	RBL
25 October	Thursday	Talk - Speaker and subject to be advised	RBL
29 November	Thursday	AGM and Subs payment	RBL
2 December	Sunday	Hamper Competition <i>(Reserve date 9 December)</i>	Flackwell