

Invicta Model Flyers Sept 2017 Bulletin

Something new - New Website

Simon Warran-Smith has been very active as our new treasurer and is reorganising our banking methods with a view to simplifying subscriptions with on-line money transfers. Not content with that, Simon has also developed a new website which will be hosted by the BMFA. The benefit of moving to BMFA site is that it is free, whereas we have to pay for our current site to be hosted. The new site should hopefully be going live soon, but in the meantime the new website can be found at imf.bmfa.org Please visit the site and feel free to make suggestions/ comments to help with the development. Thanks and well done Simon.

Something old

Peter Bennett from North Kent Nomad has sent this which may be of interest. I recognise that a Vulcan at full chat hardly qualifies as silent flight, but this talk is a good opportunity to understand what it was like to fly in this magnificent machine. See the flyer (no pun intended) at the end of this bulletin.

We have organised a talk by Flt Lt Paddy Langdown (RAF Ret'd) who flew Vulcan's from 1963 – 1976 on the 14th Sept (see flyer attached) if any of your members would like to attend they would be most welcome. This promises to be a very informative talk and should not be missed.

Regards, Peter Bennett

Site Rules & Safety

Continuous Improvement: Earlier this year, the committee issued site rules for the Invicta flying sites. The last point on the rules requests that you let the committee know if anything untoward happens. I would like to develop this a little further by requesting that you also let us know about close calls as well as any actual instances. Understanding near misses help us to develop safe practices and refine our rules. So, if you see anything that you consider a close call, please let us know.

AGM & Subs for 2018

As mentioned in the 2016 AGM minutes, we will bring the AGM forward to early December. This will enable us to set the subscriptions for 2018 and process renewals before the year end and you will be insured from Jan 1. We will set the date for the AGM shortly.

Kent Interclub Events

Invicta is an active member of Kent Interclub which comprises eight, like-minded clubs who work together to provide a range of mostly silent and electric flight competitions across Kent. The competitions are friendly gatherings and new-comers are most welcome. The main competitions are:

Electric: Interclub has two electric glider only events in the calendar. We also share these events with the Essex-based Bartletts league events. These continue to be the most popular with pilots flying a range of models from traditional construction through to models with more carbon fibre than an F1 car.

Glider: There are four gliding events to suit both pure gliders and electric using a multi-launch format which works very well. Pure gliders must be launched on a towline not exceeding 150 metres (if winch launched 150 metres to the turnaround pulley) and the electric gliders must be fitted with a height limiter set to cut off at 175 metre maximum height. This may sound like it favours the electric models, but the competitions have been won by both classes.

7.5 PG: For those of you who started with simple diesel powered models, the good news is that we still fly them. I am sure that in some cases the models and motors are originals from yester-year. I have had some success with an original Mill 75 and find the nostalgic smell of diesel still appealing. Robin, our previous chairman, used to have an original Parker jacket (I told you this was a throwback event), this was somewhat diesel-soaked and he needed to hide it in the garage to prevent Mrs Sleight finding it and consigning it to the bin.

Curious/interested? As I said earlier, these are friendly events. Do not be put off by the thought of not being competitive as these events do cater for all abilities and are a good way to meet other flyers and learn from others to improve your skills

So if anyone is interested in attending any of these events, or wishes more information on the venue, format, timing, rules etc, simply contact one of the committee. Also note that there are bound to be spare height limiter devices you could borrow on the day.

More information / Dates

A full listing of Kent based events, and “Bartletts” league ELG events are available and may be found on the Invicta web site. A more complete calendar of events is also published on the BARCS website (see forums >electric & F5J)

Kent Interclub also has its own Facebook page. On Facebook search for Kent Interclub Model Flying and request to join.

Droning on.

You are no doubt aware that drones are featuring in the news for all the wrong reasons. Are you also aware that the planes that we fly are in the same classification? There is also legislation being prepared that targets the safe use of drones. I have attached an article from the BMFA that gives both the link to the consultation document and also an interpretation on how this applies to us and our activities. Hopefully a sensible approach will be taken.

The Department for Transport (DfT) has now published the outcome of their consultation on the safe use of drones in the UK. The document can be viewed

here: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/631638/unlocking-the-uks-high-tech-economy-consultation-on-the-safe-use-of-drones-in-the-uk-government-response.pdf

The document has evidently caused some concern within the model flying community and has set some 'horses running'. As such, I thought that it would be useful to comment on the DfT publication and clarify the situation.

The DfT document sets out their thoughts on the basic plan for the future regulation of unmanned aircraft in the UK. However, the details of how any new regulations will be developed and implemented are still to be negotiated which will take some time, so nothing will happen instantly.

The DfT proposals generally align with those developed by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA). The general principle is that (for those operating outside the framework of an established model flying association) the regulations for unmanned aircraft will be more restrictive than those currently in place with additional requirements for training, registration and a 400ft/120m height limit. This is comparable with the 'Open Category' requirements proposed by EASA.

Within the EASA proposals, established model flying associations would operate within the 'Specific Category' under an authorisation granted by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) which would essentially allow us to operate as we do today. The DfT's proposals do not change this. Essentially, the CAA would issue us with an authorisation (or exemption) defining our agreed operating parameters which would reflect how we operate today (including operations above 400ft/120m).

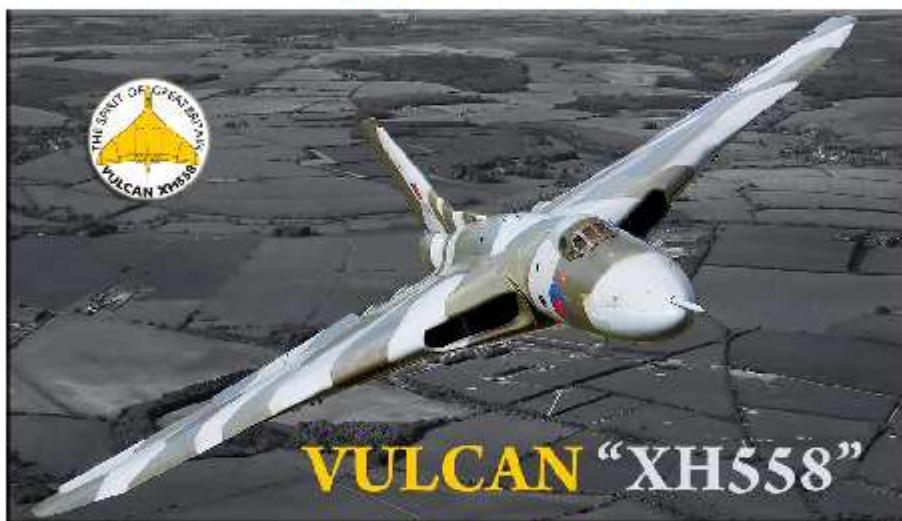
In terms of registration requirements, we maintain the position that membership of one of the UK's established model flying associations provides an appropriate form of 'registration' and the DfT/CAA remain amenable to this option as referred to in the publication:

"The Government will work with model aircraft flying clubs to examine ways in which it may be possible to exempt members of model aircraft flying clubs with adequate safety cultures and practices from certain elements of registration and other educational requirements, or where their club will be permitted to undertake regulatory requirements on their behalf. Flyers of model aircraft who are not members of a club, or are members of a club not deemed to have adequate standards will, however, not be excluded from registration or other requirements."

Negotiations are continuing with the DfT/CAA on a positive basis, to try and ensure that we are allowed to operate largely as we do today and keep the impact of regulations written principally to deal with the 'drone issue' to a minimum for UK model flyers. Dave Phipps CEO



Glentworth Ex-Service Club
154 Lowfield Street, Dartford, DA1 1JB
Thursday 14th September 2017
Starting at 19:30 Sharp!



THE LAST FLYING VULCAN BOMBER
By Flt Lt Paddy Langdown (RAF Ret'd)
who flew Vulcans from 1963 – 1976

Contact Peter Bennett

secretary@nomadsmc.co.uk or 07759915820

All Donations to 'Vulcan to the Sky Trust'