

East Devon Radio Control Club

Membership Policy

(Issue ~~4/09~~3/09)

1. BMFA Affiliation

The club is affiliated to the BMFA. Therefore the club requires its members also to be members of the BMFA, and to hold either the insurance cover provided by the BMFA or equivalent cover obtained separately that is recognised by the BMFA.

2. Benefits and obligations

Membership of EDRCC provides opportunities to:

- fly at the club site,
- obtain flight training free of charge when available,
- ~~receive a copy of the club newsletter,~~
- exchange help and advice with fellow modelling enthusiasts,
- attend monthly club meetings between September and May,
- participate in and bring guests to social events for both information and enjoyment,
- participate in the national modelling scene through contacts with the BMFA.

The responsibilities which attach to these benefits are that members must:

- abide by the club's constitution and rules,
- always act on the principle that safety is paramount when at the flying site.

3. Application for membership

Application for membership is open to anyone with an interest in radio control modelling.

In addition to an application form potential applicants should be provided with copies of the club Constitution, Rules and Membership Policy before they decide to make an application.

An application for BMFA membership (and subsequent annual renewal) will be made by the club on behalf of the applicant unless it has been obtained separately by the applicant (and proof supplied).

Applicants under the age of 18 must have their parent, guardian or carer's approval for their application. The parent, guardian or carer must be given copies of the "Children and Vulnerable Adults" policy, the "Guide to the Children Act" and, where the applicant is expected to undergo training, the "Consent to Physical Contact Proforma".

Applicants must complete and sign a membership application form, which must also be signed by a proposer who is an existing member.

An ex-member of the club who wishes to rejoin need not complete an application form provided that his/her up to date personal details remain in the club's records.

Acceptance or rejection of an application will be decided by the committee on the basis of the application form, the comments of the proposer, or if necessary, an interview with the applicant.

4. Membership categories

For legal and other purposes members are either:

Senior – individuals of the age of 18 or over at the time of joining, or

Junior – individuals under the age of 18 at the time of joining.

Both Senior and Junior members have full membership status.

For subscription purposes members may also be placed in one or more of the following categories:

- Country – those who have obtained their BMFA membership other than through EDRCC,
Family – (applies only to BMFA membership) those who belong to a family living at the same address and consisting of a Head of Family, a spouse and any number of juniors,
Honorary – those elected by the committee in recognition of outstanding service to the club.

5. Membership year

The club membership year is synchronised with that of the BMFA and so runs from 1st January to 31st December.

6. Subscriptions

EDRCC subscription fees, which are additional to the BMFA subscription fee, will be reviewed annually and determined by the club's AGM.

Subscription fees are due in advance, i.e. for a full year, on or before 31st December for the following year. There is no joining fee. For the current fees payable please contact the membership secretary.

The full annual fee will be payable for all subscriptions received between 1st January and 30th June in the year of membership.

Applications received on or after 1st July in the year of membership will be subject to a discounted subscription fee.

Once subscriptions have been accepted and insurance obtained (or confirmed in the case of country members) the member will receive an ID card as proof of membership and insurance for the membership year. A valid ID card must be displayed on every occasion the member flies at the club site.

7. Flying qualifications

The club recognises the BMFA RC Achievement Schemes Certificates as qualification to fly at the club site. The club also recognises that members with long experience and known abilities are qualified to fly at the club site.

Before being allowed to fly unsupervised, new members who are experienced but do not hold an 'A' or 'B' certificate will be subject to a check flight supervised by a club examiner or experienced member.

Whilst flying, and until they have obtained their 'A' certificate, or until they have achieved a standard judged adequate by a club examiner, new members must be supervised by an experienced senior member.

The club encourages members to obtain the 'A' certificate and will endeavour to make available any necessary support to achieve this.

Note that there is no compulsion for any member, senior or junior, to take an 'A' certificate test.

8. Flight Training

The club will endeavour to provide flight training for any new or existing member up to the 'A' certificate standard. An officer of the committee will be responsible for coordinating flight training. Training will be carried out by volunteer members.

Any member intending to supervise or train juniors must be cleared to do so by the Criminal Records Bureau before acting in this capacity.

Details of training policy and procedures are given in "EDRCC Training Policy".

9. Treatment of juniors

All junior members are to be supervised at all times by either the parent/guardian/carer or an adult member of the club by agreement of the parent(s). The level of supervision can vary, depending on age, experience and maturity, but must be commensurate with the well being of the child.

Parents must be informed of the club's arrangements for dealing with juniors.

No junior will be allowed to undertake any activity likely to compromise safety.

Club members are not obliged to accept responsibility for supervising juniors. However, should they do so, they should encourage the parent/guardian/carer to remain in attendance at the flying site, or otherwise ensure that arrangements for returning the junior to the care of the parent are made in advance.

Club members supervising juniors should ensure that the act of returning responsibility to the parent is unambiguous.

Physical contact should be avoided unless the junior's safety is at stake or it is a necessary aspect of training procedure (see "EDRCC Training Policy").

Junior members under the age of fourteen years shall not start an engine or carry a model with the engine running unless under the supervision of a responsible adult member.

For further details see "EDRCC Policy on Children and Vulnerable Adults" and the "Guide to the Children Act".

10. Discipline and Dismissal

If a member has engaged in conduct considered by the Committee to be contrary to the Constitution or Rules of the club, the Committee may decide to discipline, or in extreme cases, dismiss that member. In the event of such a decision the Committee is obliged to act in accordance with "EDRCC Policy Note No2 (14/1/04) Procedures for Discipline and Dismissal of a Member from the Club".

11. Disabled members

The club acknowledges the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and subsequent related legislation and will make the following provisions to accommodate any disabled member.

It is the disabled member's responsibility to inform the club of any assistance or support that may be required. In cooperation with the disabled member and his/her advisers the committee will make an assessment of his/her needs and accordingly make whatever arrangements are practical for him/her to enjoy the benefits of membership. In doing so the club will not make any exception to its normal standards of safety, and it will continue to comply with the Air Navigation Order articles ~~63-74, 73 & 98~~ & 64.

The above arrangements will include provision where practical for access to the flying site. The club accepts the responsibility for seeking approval from CDE for whatever changes are necessary to provide access.

The club will provide any funding that is necessary to implement the above arrangements. The disabled member will not be liable for any costs incurred by the club that result from his/her disability. The club may appeal for financial help for these purposes from the Millennium Awards Scheme, Council grants, or Local Government community development schemes via the local authority sports development officer.

The club has no obligation to provide any specialist equipment (eg modified Tx) for use by the disabled member.

The club holds a copy of the BMFA publication "Guide Lines for BMFA Affiliated Model Clubs with Disabled or Special Needs Members" from which the above provisions have been extracted, and which gives further information and useful contact details.