

EYNSFORD MODEL HELICOPTER CLUB



Constitution and Club Rules

DEC 2021

Affiliated Club No 0156

CLUB CONSTITUTION

1. TITLE

The club will be known as the Eynsford Model Helicopter Club (E.M.H.C.)

2. OBJECTS

To promote and organise safe Model Helicopter and Multirotor Flying in accordance with, and in association with, the British Model Flying Association.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Generally, membership is open to all; however, the Committee reserve the right to refuse membership, to any applicant, without the need to provide reason.

All Members have the right to attend Committee Meetings as an observer but may not vote on issues or subjects discussed. Observers may be asked to leave the meeting should the Committee need to discuss items of a sensitive nature. Members will not be permitted to take notes at a committee meeting.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscription period will be one calendar year from the date of joining for new members, original members in line with the BMFA, 1st Jan till 31st Dec. Membership subscriptions and joining fees will be reviewed and fixed annually at the AGM.

Current EMHC Membership is £90, this is subject to a loyalty discount of £30 for continuous membership without lapsing.

Any member who has not paid their annual membership renewal fees by the last day of their membership period, will be deemed to have terminated their membership.

If a member fails to renew their membership by the last day of their membership period, will be subject to a new application and continuous membership discount will be lost.

The Committee shall have discretion to extend the date by which the continuous membership discount is lost in extenuating circumstances.

5. RESIGNATION

Any member wishing to withdraw from the Club should notify the Secretary in writing 1 month prior to their renewal date

6. CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Any member failing to renew his/her membership or any member notifying his/her resignation will forfeit all right to claim on the Club, its property or its funds.

7. THE COMMITTEE

A Committee will be established to administer the needs of the Club. The Committee will comprise of 9 members of which 8 are eligible to vote at Committee meetings. The Committee will be quorate if more than half the Committee are in attendance.

9 members,

President (non-voting)

Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Safety and Environmental Officer

Groundsman

Communications officer

Helicopter Liaison Officer

Multicopter Liaison Officer

The Committee may, from time to time, appoint members for specific functions as the need arises. Membership fees for Committee members will be 50% of normal rates to recognise the input involved in running the club.

8. SERVICE ON THE COMMITTEE

Any member wishing to be considered for service on the Committee will have been a full member continuously for a period of not less than 2 years, except for the position of Liaison officer, for which the minimum period of club membership will be 1 year.

9. POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE

If the conduct of any member, who in the opinion of the Committee, endangers safety of any person or property whether accidental or intentional or is considered injurious to the character or interests of the Club, the Committee will require that member to attend before them to justify his/her conduct.

The Committee after hearing the member, or in the event of such member neglecting to attend before them, without good cause, will have the power to expel that member and his/her membership of the Club will be revoked. In every case of expulsion, the decision will be final, and the excluded member will have no remedy against the Club or Committee, or any right of appeal. A simple majority of all members of the Committee will be necessary to order an expulsion. Records of any incident will be kept.

10. FINANCE

All matters relating to the spending of the Club funds will be referred through the Treasurer to the Club Committee. Officers of the Committee may at any time require the Treasurer to report at Committee meetings the details of all expenditure and the current balance of the club's account. The Treasurer will make an annual financial statement to the AGM offering all relevant documents for inspection. Any significant purchase over the value of £100 must be approved by the Committee.

11. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held no later than the first week of December each year. The order of business at the AGM will be:

1. Reports on the general working of the Club.
2. Representation of the Club accounts.
3. Election of Committee Members.
4. Review and agree the annual membership fee.
5. Discussion of any other business of which due notice has been given.

Members are actively encouraged to attend and vote at the AGM and any EGM that may be convened. However, proxy voting is not allowed.

The Club Secretary will notify the membership of the date of the AGM or any EGM.

12. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

An EGM may be called at any time if the Committee so decides. The Secretary will also call a meeting on receiving written request, signed by no less than 13 Club members. The EGM will then take place within 28 days of the written request being received. All members will be given 14 days notice of any meeting called, but without the necessity for detailing any further particulars. Resolution of an EGM will not be valid unless 21% of the current club members are present. Any resolution must be passed by a simple majority of the members voting.

13. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Minutes of all AGM's and EGM's will be published as soon as convenient but within 30 days of the meeting. Minutes of Committee meetings will be made available to all Committee members, for reference at the next similar meeting. Copies of all minutes will be kept for 5 years by the Secretary and are available to all members upon request to the Secretary.

14. DEFICIENCY OF FUNDS

In the event of insolvency, a full financial audit will take place. An EGM shall be called, at which it will be decided whether, (a) any deficit will be made good by an equal payment from each member; or (b) the Club be dissolved in which case Clause 20 of the constitution will take precedence.

15. MEMBERS CONTACT DETAILS

Each members contact details will be recorded in the Club records on JustGo and will be assumed to be correct.

16. DATA PROTECTION POLICY

The Club will hold information in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and REGULATION (EU) 2016/679 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). Information will only be available to (a) Committee Members (with portfolio); (b) Our affiliated partner – the British Model Flying Association; (c) Organisations where there is a legal requirement; (d) The Member to whom the information pertains (upon written request to the Club Secretary).

17. CONSTITUTION AND RULES

A link to the Constitution and Club Rules will be forwarded to each member on joining. These will be published on the club website. These rules will be binding on every member. It is a condition of membership that members familiarise themselves with the rules.

18. INTERPRETATION OF RULES

The Committee will be the sole authority for the interpretation of the club rules and the decision of the committee to any question of interpretation, or any other matter affecting the Club that is not provided for by the rules or constitution, will be final and binding on the members.

19. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION

The Constitution defines the rules for the government of the Club. All alterations to the Constitution may only be adopted by resolution at an AGM or EGM convened according to the Constitution. Such resolution must receive a simple majority to pass.

20. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB

If at any general meeting a resolution for the dissolution of the Club is passed by a simple majority by the membership present, and the said resolution is confirmed at an EGM, held not more than one month thereafter that meeting, at which not less than 28% of the recorded members are present, by simple majority, the Committee will proceed to dissolve the Club. The Committee will, after discharge of all liabilities disband the club and in accordance with the constitution close the clubs accounts donating all residual sums to the Kent Air Ambulance Trust.

21. OBLIGATION OF MEMBERS

To uphold the club's constitution and rules at all times. To actively promote a safe and secure environment for the furthering of our collective hobby. To ensure that all members and the public alike, are treated with dignity and respect and that the club is held above reproach at all times. To ensure that a current BMFA membership is held and CAA policy has been adhered to.

CLUB RULES

1. **New Members:** Before switching on any radio equipment, you must seek out a Committee Member to have your model checked for safety. You will also have to demonstrate your competence.
2. All members must remove their rubbish and strive to keep the field tidy.
3. EMHC membership, BMFA membership and CAA evidence must be shown when requested by a member of the Committee.
4. The Club recommends that any member progressing to a large size model should be in possession of a BMFA 'A' Certificate.
5. All models should be built to such a standard that under normal operating conditions they should not fail. Particular attention should be paid to the ball joints, bolts, nuts, screws, etc. If you are in doubt, the model shall not be flown until the offending parts are replaced.
6. Particular attention should be paid to the radio installation to prevent vibration reaching the equipment. Servos should be mounted to the manufacturer's specifications.
7. Main and tail rotor blades, wooden ones in particular, should be reinforced at the root. Rotor blades must be carefully balanced before a model is flown. Weighted blades must be of a construction that the weights are safety wired within the blade. Do not assume that carbon fibre blade sets are pre-balanced. **DO NOT FLY WITH CHIPPED, SPLIT, METAL OR DAMAGED MAIN OR TAIL BLADES**
8. Regular maintenance must be carried out to prevent failure of the model.
9. Club recommends the use of 2.4 GHz and 868 MHz radio equipment only. If a member is using 35 MHz, it is their responsibility to ensure that if another member present at the club is not using the same frequency prior to powering up their transmitter, channel use is by mutual agreement between members when at the club.
10. Check that all the switches on the transmitter are in their correct position, i.e. idle-up off.
11. **I/C Models.** When starting the engine, or carrying the model hold the rotor head firmly. You should always hold the rotor head whenever the engine is running in the pits area.
12. Models must not be flown to the flight line; this is indicated by a line of cones running down the length of the flying field. Both you and the model must be over the flight line whilst operating the model.

13. Be aware of other models operating in the flying area. Pilots must not fly over people, animals, or restricted areas.
14. Do not fly a model back to the pits. It should be landed a safe distance away from the flight line and the engine stopped. Do not approach the model until the main rotors have slowed or preferably stopped. Do not leave the model unattended with its engine running at any time.
15. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU FLY OVER THE PITS AREA AND/OR THE CAR PARK AREA. THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS VIOLATION OF THE CLUB RULES.**
16. All Instructions issued by a Committee member must be followed.
17. Cars must be parked in the designated areas.
18. If you are the last to leave the field, ensure that the gate is locked correctly behind you.
19. ***Beware of all low flying aircraft. If you become or are made aware of a low flying full size aircraft, you must land your model.***
20. Members' machines must pass the relevant BMFA sound level test at any time. Records are kept of each test.
21. All FAIL SAFE equipped receivers must be set in accordance with BMFA regulations. Members will have to describe and demonstrate the failsafe facilities of their particular machine.

22. Rules specific to Helicopters

- a) Helicopters should be carried out from the pits area with the flight battery disconnected and it should only be connected when the model is within 1 metre, or over the flight line. The model **MUST** be considered as live as soon as this is done, and great care is needed during this procedure. Electronic switches are not recognised as a point of battery motor isolation.
- b) An electric model can start up with full power and torque immediately. Therefore, when setting up an electric Helicopter it is imperative that the electric motor is disengaged from the transmission. This can be done by disconnecting the motor, disconnecting the opinion or disengaging the gears. This procedure must also be followed when adjustments are made to the ESC.
- c) Operators of TURBINE and GASSER Helicopters must carry an operational 2kg CO₂ fire extinguisher.

- d) Operators of turbine powered models or models of 7kg and above, must be in possession of at least a BMFA 'A' certificate.

23. Rules specific to Multirotors and FPV

- a) Members must take precautions when powering up to ensure the safety of others and themselves. If other pilots are flying, then say 'Powering up' before turning on a VTX
- b) Powered flight must take place in the area designated by the Committee.
- c) Failsafe's must be set to make the model drop following a loss of control signal
- d) Communal equipment for racing should be stored in an orderly fashion within the Club hut. Any equipment damage should be reported to the Committee so repairs can be made.
- e) FPV equipment should be used in accordance with guidance provided by Ofcom.
- f) Models flown by FPV must follow CAA Article 16 Authorisation.

24. All models should display the CAA operators ID in accordance with the CAA regulations.

25. A Club Instructor cannot be held responsible if a model is damaged during instruction

26. Guest fliers are permitted to fly on 2 separate occasions under the invite of a club member. The method of invite is with the permission of 2 Committee members. The guest must have proof of valid BMFA insurance and the club member issuing the invitation must be present and supervise all flights.

- a. A repeat Guest flyer will have used both (2) guest visits, they are still subject to guest rules, they will be subject to a £10 per day charge, they must have proof of their BMFA membership and pay on attendance.

31. FLYING TIMES (AMENDED 2021)

Flying times will be strictly enforced for model type and size. If you are unsure, ask BEFORE you fly.

- *Electric helicopters with rotor blades of up to 365mm and multi-copters with a maximum size of 365mm diameter, measured diagonally between motor shafts, will be permitted to fly from 10:00 hrs until 20:00hrs or dusk, whichever is earlier, 7 days a week, with the exception of Christmas day when no flying is permitted.*

- *Electric helicopters with rotor blades over 365mm and multi-copters over 365mm diameter, measured diagonally between motor shafts are permitted to fly from 10:00 hrs until 20:00hrs or dusk, whichever is earlier Monday to Friday, From 10:00hrs until 18:00 hrs or dusk, whichever is earlier Saturday, Sunday or Bank Holidays, with the exception of Christmas day when no flying is permitted.*
- *IC, turbine or gas/petrol permitted flying times are 10:00 hrs until 17:00 Monday to Friday, 10:00 hrs until 16:00 hrs Saturday, Sunday and Bank holidays (with the exception of Christmas day when no flying is permitted).*
- *The flying hours may be adjusted by the committee at anytime.*