



BMAA News 04/06/2020

Dear BMAA Member

Hello everyone. Once again on behalf of the Directors and Staff of the BMAA I hope that this newsletter continues to find you well and managing to cope with the difficult conditions that we all find ourselves in.

Getting back to flying England, Northern Ireland and now Scotland

Scotland was the latest country of the UK to allow recreational flying to start again after lockdown. I have published the response to our requests for clarification from the Scottish Government on the BMAA website. If you are going to fly in Scotland please read the detail to make sure that you are complying with the particular policies for Scotland. The link to the news item is here.

<https://www.bmaa.org/information-library/news/bmaa-news/flying-can-resume-in-scotland>

I have been asked by Colin McKinnon of Strathaven to advise all members that Scottish Islands are not open for visitors. Access to the ferries and to Loganair flights is limited to island residents and certain key workers, with appropriate paperwork. And the residents are not keen on visitors at the moment either.

So, while it will be very tempting to fly to Bute or Mull and camp for the night, these airfields are not open - and may not be NOTAMed as closed,

I continue to ask the Welsh government for their position and will advise members when I get an answer.

ATC & Flight plans

Because many air traffic controllers have been put on furlough the CAA has asked that for any flight that intends to enter controlled airspace the pilot submit a flight plan in advance. This is to help manage the load and in doing so increase the likelihood of getting a clearance. If possible, please avoid airspace and don't assume that just because commercial activity is reduced the airspace has become a free for all. There have been several airspace infringements since flying started, please don't let it be one of our members next. Read the NOTAMs before you fly; it helps.

Flying schools

The Government social distancing rules still prevent dual flying and so dual instructional flights. I am working with DfT and CAA to help us get back to flying including flight training as soon as possible. It is very high on the agenda, it is not being forgotten.

A reminder that recently the CAA issued guidance to schools for preparing to get back to flight training. CAP 1924. It is available from the CAA website. There are two parts within the document which I consider misleading and have raised with the CAA. The first is about the installation of modifications designed to help prevent in-cockpit cross-contamination. It refers to them as Standard Minor Modifications and says that they can be signed-off by the owner/operator. Any modifications to BMAA aircraft must be approved by the BMAA Technical Office and only after approval can they be fitted and then signed-off by a BMAA Inspector. The error in the document does not change the actual requirements.

The other misleading parts are two passages which imply that the extensions offer in ORS4 1378 are no longer available. This is incorrect. If your Certificate of Revalidation, Instructor Certificate, Examiner Authority were current on 16 March and have expired because you have been unable to fulfil the requirements to revalidate, they can be extended by briefing up until 30 October. If you are still in need of an extension to your pilot licence certificate then the guidance for how to get it is published on the BMAA website at the following link. <https://www.bmaa.org/information-library/pilot-licensing/pilot-licensing---instructors-and-examiners/ors4-1378>

Preparing to fly again

In the time since recreational flying has been allowed, we have seen several aircraft damaged following what may have been partially the result of poor judgement which in turn led to the accidents. Please remember that after a lay-off even the most experienced pilots will have suffered a loss of skills and that means that you just won't be as good as you were. Please don't let that deterioration cause an accident.

Skills deteriorate and it's important that as pilots we recognise this and prepare. Guidance has been prepared and published on the BMAA website. This is the link <https://www.bmaa.org/after-covid-19> Please spend a few minutes reading the guidance.

600Kg

We have had a meeting with the CAA to discuss the responses to the consultation which asked "should we opt-out of EASA regulation?" so that factory-built aircraft up to 600kg could be regulated by the UK CAA not EASA, and "if we do, what should they be called?" We are expecting a final Comment Response Document to be published by the CAA in a week or so time with answers to both questions.

Expanding the use of amateur built microlights for training.

We have a meeting with the CAA on 11 June when we will find out the result of the public consultation on expanding the use of amateur built microlights for training and next steps.

BMAA Staff

We have brought back onto the staff strength Aaron, Kelly, Roger and Rob. The flood of Permit revalidation applications that started as soon as flying was once again allowed in England to start with has been handled with now an expected turn around time of up to 48 hours. The Technical Office is working through all the modification applications and have started on some of the major projects.

With no dual flight training taking place at the moment NPPL applications are very rare, but Aaron can now directly handle training queries and is helping with Permits.

A reminder that due to health measures that we have put in place we cannot accept any visitors to the office, so if you have an application to drop in please either put it through the letterbox or post it to us. We won't be able to lend the weighing scales out at the moment.

Events

Most flying events have been cancelled this year. We are still planning to go ahead with the SDR Rally in some format at the end of July, although it will depend upon Government guidelines at the time. Please keep an eye on the BMAA events calendar for any further information. This is the link.

<https://www.bmaa.org/information-library/events/bmaa-freedom-rally--ssdr->

Meet the BMAA

The next members' ZOOM meeting is on Wednesday 10th June at 1900. If you would like to take part please go to the page on the BMAA website linked below and complete the form. Please submit any questions so that I can prepare the answers. I will send out the Zoom invitation around midday on the 10th June.

<https://www.bmaa.org/information-library/member-s-q-a>

Finally

I hope that you find these newsletters useful. We will try to keep you up to date with any news as it happens. We also share it on:

Facebook [<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BMAA1/?ref=bookmarks>]

The BMAA website [www.bmaa.org]

The BMAA Forum [<https://forums.bmaa.org>]

Twitter[<https://twitter.com/BMAAUk>]

and of course, through both *Microlight Flying* magazine and the electronic newsletter *eMF*

Stay safe.

Geoff Weighell

CE BMAA