



BMAA Open Series

FLIGHT SKILLS MODULE

POINTS

This is a **FLIGHT SKILLS** module for

 **BRONZE**

 **SILVER**

 **GOLD**

 **DIAMOND**

HOW TO BOOK

First, register for the event or events you'd like to attend and simply go along. There are briefing sessions online to introduce the Open Series to pilots new to them.

If you're not certain about what you're required to do then you could come along and you don't even have to fly the tasks to join in as there is always a demand for people to help Marshall each event which is a good way of seeing what's involved.

Full details of the event schedule for the year can be found at <https://bit.ly/BMAAOpen>

If this is your first foray into Open Series events, then it is

OBJECTIVE

Launched for the first time in 2019, the BMAA Microlight Open Series has been designed to offer a fun flying weekend to all pilots of all aircraft types and experience level.

BACKGROUND

The BMAA Open Series events are fun weekend competitions based on some of the more fun parts of the National Competitions Series but without the complexity.

The Open Series has been designed to take the best bits of some competition tasks and make them better, use the fun side of any task and dispense with the over complicated parts, reconnect each task element with the actual flying skill it was originally designed to promote to include precision landings, short field operation, strong navigational skills and of course good effective use of GPS navigation tools.

SYLLABUS

Complete information about the Open Series can be found here <https://bit.ly/BMAAOpenHome>

There's also a Facebook Group you can join for the latest info: search for **Microlight Flying Open Series**. On here you will also find details of online pre-briefing sessions to find out more about the events and to get some simple local tasks to try, if you wish, before the event.

There's a lot of support for pilots new to competition. An example weekend would include

-  Welcome & Safety briefing on Friday evening

also worth contacting the event director directly. If you have any competition flyers at your local club, talk to them. Then just turn up and have FUN!

COSTS

Events are held at locations up and down the country throughout the flying season, each one is organised by a small team of volunteers who Marshall the event, organise food and refreshments all weekend and of course run back and forth to fuel stations to keep everyone topped up as they require.

Each event will levy a small entry fee to cover the airfield costs such as landing fees and camping facilities and then of course you will be required to just pay for the meals you want whilst at the event.

Typical cost for the weekend would be around £15 entry fee and maybe a further £20 to £25 for all your Breakfast, lunches and evening meal.

- ✈ Saturday morning – task 1, breakfast, which is usually cooking on a griddle, followed by task briefing.
- ✈ task 2: navigation with a route and a series of photos to locate. Aircraft are provided with data logging devices to track precision on ‘gates’ along the route. Fights are set off in speed order to minimize congestion and land away at an ‘unknown’ destination. This finishes with a precision landing challenge to land within marker tapes on arrival.
- ✈ Usually, a sandwich lunch and some great cakes and conversation at the destination airfield.
- ✈ Task 3: return flight to home base using ‘IFR’ – I follow Roads – another navigation challenge often with a self-declared speed to achieve.
- ✈ Back at home base more precision landings and more food.
- ✈ Dinner is usually in a local hostelry.
- ✈ Sunday usually finishes at lunch time following more similar short tasks.

You’ll find the ‘old hands’ very keen to support people coming along for the first time and, don’t worry, no one will confiscate your GPS if you prefer to keep it running in the background. It won’t give you an advantage!

You’ll find a lot of camaraderie in the Open series for flexwing and fixed wing alike. You might not win a prize but you will make new friends.

COMPLETION

In order to submit this as a Wings skill, you need to fly as PIC for the weekend and complete a minimum of one navigation and one precision landing task for Bronze/Silver level (these may be in the same flight if the precision landings are done at the end of the flight) or two navigation tasks and two precision landing tasks for (Gold/Diamond).

You should ask the organiser to verify that you have done so by signing your Wings application form. This can then be submitted to wings@bmaa.org