

number of members can be found at the field on a Sunday morning for a social flying session, followed by bacon or sausage rolls when our resident chef (me) is on site! We do have a wealth of experience within the club, from large scale builders, engineers and scratch builders. From April to October we run a Fun Fly Competition once a month, with the emphasis being on fun so that all members of all abilities can participate," said Jon.

The club has models that are used in introductory sessions where a Buddy Box is used to give the instructor control and the student also has control. Often the instructor will control the model on take-off and then let the student take over – always being able to take control if the student has any problems. When first joining the club, you can attend three times before needing to register with the Civil Aviation



electrically-powered models – quieter, cleaner and generally easier to fly. It was also interesting to note that the models are restricted, not by wingspan or size as I expected, but by weight – 7.5 kilograms set by the CAA. Safety is paramount with specific areas designated for the landing and take-off, boundaries for distance and height, the pits area for making the model ready, the pilot box when the operator controls the model and a spectator area where it is safe to

I asked Jon about the finances of the club, and how it covers the costs of running such an operation. "There is a joining fee and a membership fee. Each member is responsible for the costs of flying their model and all relevant running costs. The work looking after the site is done voluntarily by our members, but if anyone reading this has a spare lawnmower that they would love to donate, we would be very happy to accept it!"

There is no doubt that there is a strong element of fun and enjoyment running through the club. Jon told me that last year they ran a small competition to build something completely out of the ordinary that would fly. "We had a ginger-bread man, a flying barbie-doll, snoopy sat on a kennel and a spacecraft, all of which was very entertaining. On occasion, we decide that we would build a plane, and over the winter period all who wanted to take part would get together to do the build and when completed, fly it," Jon told me. There is so much enthusiasm and genuine enjoyment amongst the members, and I do wish them well for the future. My grateful thanks to Jon, together with Roger, Steve and Malcolm.



Authority and then become a member of the BMFA. As you progress in ability, so you can move up a level when the examiner feels you are ready. Models can climb to a maximum of 400 feet and must be in sight while being operated. In terms of what models are allowed to be flown, Jon told me that the only ones that are not allowed are jet-powered models, but there has recently been a large increase in

observe. I was told that in terms of the model taking off it would probably only require six to eight feet before becoming air-borne, and then could reach average speeds between 50 and 70mph, but some can achieve around 100mph.

If you have a lawnmower to donate or simply wish to know more about this club, do please visit its website: bournestorners.bmfa.org where you can find out much more about their activities.