

BMFA Free Flight Tech Committee News. Issue 138

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FFTC 2025 CALENDAR

FFTC 2025 CALENDAR V3

Date	Venue	Event	Classes	Contact
12 October	Area	8 th Area	Open, FAI (Mick Duce, Plugge), Vintage/Classic, Mini (Plugge), HLG/CLG.	Area
19 October	Buckminster		Free Flight Conference	Simon Dixon BMFAFFTC@outlook.com
25 or 26 October	North Luffenham	Midland Gala	Vintage/Classic, Mini, Micro, HLG/CLG.	Phil Ball phil.ball@ntlworld.com
15 or 16 Alternate 22 or 23 November	Buckminster	Mini Gala	Combined P30/ Coupe d'Hiver, Classic A1 Glider, BMFA Classic Glider (50m. line), E36 (5 sec. run), Mini- Vintage, HLG/ CLG	Simon Dixon BMFAFFTC@outlook.com CD TBC

FREE FLIGHT CONFERENCE

Date: Sunday, 19 October 2025

Time: 11:00 – 17:00

Location: BMFA Buckminster

Housekeeping: Tea and coffee only will be available.

Over this season the FFTC has been gathering information and the views of our free Flight Competitors on how the 2025 format is working. It is clear that the current format requires amending to try and respond to a majority of views, therefore the FFTC has worked closely with Chris Redrup and Steve Philpott to consider a more balanced approach. The approach which we have attached is one that the FFTC, Chris and Steve agree with therefore we are proposing at the Conference that this format is adopted from 2026. The group has had a great deal of deliberation and debate, and we believe that we should not revert back to the 2024 season nor continue with the current 2025 season but adopt the proposals we put before you.

We would urge all competitors to attend the conference at Buckminster on Sunday 19th October to make their views known, if however, you are unable to attend or would prefer to write we would welcome your comments on our proposals (email bmfafttc@outlook.com) in order that these can be heard and responded to at the conference.

If it is identified at the conference that there is an overwhelming opinion to return to the 2024 format or even stay with the 2025 format, then this will be

recognised. If you wish to suggest tweaks, amendments etc to the new 2026 proposal we will gladly receive these (email bmfaffc@outlook.com) , we will present and discuss at the conference and if agreed make necessary revisions. Responses by 16th October.

We reiterate that we all believe that this amended approach will be met positively and should form the basis for our 2026 season.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Conference

PROPOSED CATEGORIES

2026 Programme Classes, organized by category:

Combined Groups

- **Combined Glider**
- **Combined Rubber**
- **Combined Power**
- **Combined Electric**

Combinations

- **Classic Glider / Vintage Glider**
- **Classic Rubber Power / Vintage Rubber Power / SLOP**
- **BMFA 1/2A / F1J** (10 seconds motor run for 1/2A)
- **F1G Coupe d'hiver / F1H A1**
- **CO2 / E30 / P30** (50 seconds motor run for E30)

Singles

- **F1A**
- **F1B**
- **F1C**
- **F1Q**
- **E36** (10 secs motor run reduced to 5 secs for Fly-Off)
- **Mini Vintage (R/G/P)**
- **HLG / CLG**
- **Tailless**

2026 PROPOSED CONTEST CALENDAR

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DATE	VENUE	EVENT	CLASSES
1st March	Area	1st Area	CR(Gammage), CG, CP, F1Q , F1G/ F1H , CRP/VRP/ SLOP , CLG/HLG
22nd March	Area	2nd Area	CR, CG (Team Model Engineer), CE, F1C (Halifax), 1/2A/ F1J , ClassG/VintG, E36
3rd April (Friday)	North Luffenham	Northern Gala	CR(Caton), CG(CMA), CP(Hamley), MV, E36, 1/2A/ F1J , F1g/F1H, HLG/CLG, Club Champs CR,CG,CP
26th April	Area	3rd Area	CR, CE , CP, F1A(SAME), Co2/ E30 /P30, CRP/ VRP /SLOP, (Frog Senior SLOP), MV
9th, 10th May	Saisbury Plain	Team Selection	F1A, F1B, F1C, F1Q
23rd May	Salisbury Plain	London Gala	CG(Pilcher Cup), CR, CP, CE, MV, HLG/CLG
23/ 24th May	Salisbury Plain	London Gala	ClassG/VintG/SLOP, CRP/VRP/SLOP(Falcons SLOP), 1/2A/F1J, F1G/F1H, Co2/E30/P30, E36
7th June	Area	4th Area	CE, CG, CP(WHITE), F1B (Gutteridge), F1G/F1H, 1/2A/F1J, HLG/CLG
28th June	Area	5th Area	CR, CG, CP (Team Keil), F1Q, MV, ClassG /VintG, E36, Tailless
26th July	Area	6th Area	CR (Team Farrow), CG, CE, F1C(Buskel), 1/2A/F1J, Co2/E30/P30, CRP /VRP/SLOP
16th August	Area	7th Area	CR, CE, CP, F1A (K&MAA), F1G /F1H, E36 ,HLG/CLG
29th, 30th,31st August	Sculthorpe	Nationals	See Separate list of events
12th September	Sculthorpe	Stonehenge Cup	F1A, F1B, F1C, F1Q
13th September	Sculthorpe	Equinox Cup	F1A, F1B, F1C, F1Q
20thSeptember	Sculthorpe	East Anglian Gala	CG, CR, CP, CE, ClassG/VintG, CRP/VRP/SLOP, Co2/E30/P30, MV, Tailless
19th,20th September	Sculthorpe	Team Selection Reserve date	F1A, F1B, F1C, F1Q
4th October	Area	8th Area	CE, CP, CG, F1B(Duce), MV , Co2/E30/ P30 , ClassG /VintG
24th October (Saturday)	North Luffenham	Midland Gala	ClassG/VintG, MV, 1/2A/F1J, Co2/E30/P30, F1G/F1H, E36, HLG/CLG

Notes

Plugge events highlighted in

red

Trophies Highlighted in **Blue**

Areas	Plugge Individual							
1st Area	CR	CG	CP	F1Q	F1G/F1H	CRP/VRP/SLOP	HLG/CLG	
Plugge				Plugge	Plugge F1H	Plugge SLOP		
Trophies	Gamage							
2nd Area	CR	CG	CE	F1C	1/2A/F1J	ClassG/VintG	E36	
Plugge		Plugge		Plugge	Plugge F1J			
Trophies		Team Model Eng		Halifax				
3rd Area	CR	CE	CP	F1A	CO2/E30/P30	CRP/VRP/SLOP	MV	
Plugge		Plugge			Plugge E30	Plugge VRP		
Trophies				SMAE		Frog Senior (SLOP)		
4th Area	CE	CG	CP	F1B	F1G/F1H	1/2A/F1J	HLG/CLG	
Plugge				Plugge		Plugge 1/2A	Plugge	
Trophies			White	Gutteridge				
5th Area	CR	CG	CP	F1Q	MV	ClassG/VintG	E36	Tailless
Plugge			Plugge			Plugge ClassG		Plugge
Trophies			Team Keil					
6th Area	CR	CG	CE	F1C	1/2A/F1J	CO2/E30/P30	CRP/VRP/SLOP	
Plugge	Plugge					Plugge CO2	Plugge CRP	
Trophies	Team Farrow			Buskell				
7th Area	CR	CE	CP	F1A	F1G/F1H	E36	HLG/CLG	
Plugge				Plugge	Plugge F1G	Plugge		
Trophies				K&M AA				
8th Area	CE	CP	CG	F1B	MV	CO2/E30/P30	ClassG/VintG	
Plugge					Plugge	Plugge P30	Plugge VintG	
Trophies				Mick Duce				

Notes

Combined events each feature 6 times in the Areas
Combinations and Singles each feature 3 times in the Areas
Tailless features once in the Areas
Plugge points are for individual classes except for the Combined classes (i.e CG,CR,CP and CE0).

RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS

The rule change proposals that were received from competitors or have been put forward by the FFTC. Our voting on them are shown but they will be discussed at the Conference.

1. Remove F1Q UK and only run FAI spec F1Q - Proposed JC, Seconded MW - for 2, against 4.
2. CLG use best 5 flights from 7 and flown from within 5metres of a post – Proposed W.Colledge, Seconded MB - agreed by all.
3. F1H, allow use of a 75m towline - Proposed B.Halford - against all
4. E36, reduce motor run to 7 seconds in line with F1S - Proposed FFTC - against all
5. Revert the contest calendar back to 2024 version - Proposed B.Garner – no decision as part of the conference agenda
6. Allow flashers in all classes - Proposed C.Edge - against all
7. Allow E20 to complete in the micro group with 20 seconded run Proposed C.Edge - against all – Proposed that E20 is run outside of BMFA Contests by those who would like it and see how it can develop during 2026.
8. P30 to combined with Co2 & E30 - E30 motor run should be 50 seconds Proposed C.Redrup, all agreed. This fits with the combination group allocation
9. Rule 3.1.6.1 attempts with F1A - discard rule Proposed by JC, seconded SD agreed by all
10. 1/2A power engine run increased to 10 seconds Proposed CR, Seconded KF agreed by all
11. Team selection - if 3 or less flyers - no requirement to compete for a place Proposed MB, Seconded MW agreed by all – FFTC to agree suitability of flyers who do not have to compete.

12. Plugge - top flyer from each club scores for points, Team events 2 flyers out of a team of 3 counts for scores Proposed JC, seconded MW agree by all. To discuss at the conference
13. Season overall glider, rubber, power electric championships Proposed CR, seconded MB agreed by all
14. F1C engine timing – proposed not to time engine run in the air but to demonstrate to the timekeeper what the electronic timer is set to on the ground before each flight - detailed wording to be sent to the BMFA to submit to CIAM on behalf of FFTC. Proposed SD, Seconded KF agreed by all.
15. Championship Points: – Proposed Scoring framework to be 25, 18, 15, 12, 10, 8 6, 4, 2, 1 onwards. All entrants will receive at least a single point. We will thus have a complete register of entrants
16. Class Championships for glider/rubber/power/electric: – Scoring events are CG, CR, CP, CE. Scoring framework. 25, 18, 15, 12, 10, 8 6, 4, 2, 1 onwards

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO BE AT BUCKMINSTER

If you are unable to be at the conference and would like to make any comments on the proposals please do so by emailing Simon Dixon on the address at the head of this newsletter before Thursday 16 October.