

BMFA Free Flight Tech Committee News. Issue 141

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CORRESPONDENCE

Please note that all written correspondence by letter or email must be sent to the FFTC Secretary, Simon Dixon, at the above address.

FFTC 2026 CALENDAR

BMFA FREE FLIGHT CALENDAR 2026 V2.0

Please note that Space events appear on this calendar as they are the responsibility of the FFTC. They are not part of the Overall British Free Flight Championship

The F1A, B, C, Q Team Selection, Women's Cup and Junior at the Nationals and Buckminster Gala are excluded from the Free Flight Championships.

Please also note that ONLY Team Selection events are subject to postponement in the rule book due to unsuitable weather.

A reminder that we have licence restrictions at some of the sites that we are fortunate to have the use of. This could result in cancellation of the event due to conditions beyond our control in advance of the date at very short notice, or, on the day of the event. Cancellation in advance of the day will be notified by a news bulletin on the FFTC Website.

Changes to version (1.5) shown in RED

FFTC 2026 CALENDAR V2.0

Date	Venue	Event	Classes	Contact
1 March	Area	1 st Area	CR (Gamage), CG, CP, F1Q(Plugge), F1G/ F1H (Plugge F1H), CRP/VRP/SLOP (Plugge SLOP) CLG/HLG	Area
15 March	Slope Soaring		F1E	Ian Kaynes
22 March	Area	2 nd Area	CR, CG (Plugge, Team Model Engineer), CE, F1C (Halfax, Plugge), 1/2/A/F1J (Plugge F1J), Classic G/Vintage G, E36	Area

3 April (Good Friday)	North Luffenham	Northern Gala	CR (Caton), CG (CMA), CP (Hamley), CE, MV, E36, 1/2A/F1J, F1G/F1H, HLG/CLG Club Champs CR, CG, CP, CE	FFTC Lead Stephen Philpott
11-13 April	Slope Soaring	Team Selection	F1E (one or two days). Choice of flying days will be notified by email by 9 April.	Ian Kaynes
26 April	Area	3 rd Area	CR, CE (Plugge), CP, F1A (SMAE), Co2/E30/P30 (Plugge E30), CRP/VRP/SLOP (Plugge VRP, Frog Senior SLOP), MV	Area
2-3 May	Slope Soaring	Team Selection	F1E (one or two days). Choice of flying days will be notified by email by 30 April	Ian Kaynes
2-4 May	Ears Launch Site. Emsworth Cambridge, CB23 4HZ	Space Nationals at Big Ears and 1 st Team Selection	S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7,S8, S9	Slawomir Zack Slawomic.zack@gmail.com
9-10 May	Salisbury Plain	Team Selection F1A/B/C/Q	F1A, F1B, F1C, F1Q	FFTC Lead Mark Benns
23-24 May	Salisbury Plain	London Gala	Saturday – CG (Pilcher), CR, CP, CE, MV, HLG/CLG Sunday – Classic G/Vintage G, CRP/VRP/SLOP (Falcons SLOP), 1/2A/F1J, F1G/F1H, Co2/E30/P30, E36	FFTC Lead Simon Dixon CD Chris Redrup chrisredrup@yahoo.com
29-31 May	Slope Soaring	Sheffield Magnet Trophy	Sheffield Magnet Trophy (and Team Selection if two days). Choice of flying days will be notified by email by 27 May.	Ian Kaynes
7 June	Area	4 th Area	CE, CG, CP (White), F1B (Plugge, Duce), F1G/F1H, 1/2A/F1J (Plugge 1/2A), HLG/CLG (Plugge)	Area
19-22 June	Slope Soaring	Team Selection	F1E (one or two days). Choice of flying days will be notified by email by 17 June	Ian Kaynes
28 June	Area	5 th Area	CR, CG, CP (Plugge, Team Keil CP), F1Q, MV, Classic G/ Vintage G (Plugge Classic G), E36, Tailless (Plugge),	Area
3-5 July	Slope Soaring		F1E (one or two days). Choice of flying days will be notified by email by 1 July	Ian Kaynes
26 July	Area	6 th Area	CR (Plugge, Team Farrow), CG, CE, F1C (Buskell), 1/2A/F1J, Co2/E30/P30 (Plugge co2), CRP/VRP/SLOP (Plugge CRP)	Area
16 August	Area	7 th Area	CR, CE, CP, F1A (, Plugge, K&MAA), F1G/F1H (Plugge F1G), E36 (Plugge), HLG/CLG	Area
29/30/31 August	Sculthorpe	Nationals	All events – Details to follow	CD TBC
4-5 September	Slope Soaring	Team Selection reserve	F1E Choice of flying days be notified by email by 2 September.	Ian Kaynes

12 September	Sculthorpe	Stonehenge Cup	F1A, F1B, F1C, F1Q	FFTC Lead John Carter CD Peter Martin ffworldcupuk@gmail.com
13 September	Sculthorpe	Equinox Cup	F1A, F1B, F1C, F1Q	FFTC Lead John Carter CD Peter Martin ffworldcupuk@gmail.com
19-20 September	Sculthorpe	Space 2nd Team Selection	S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9	Slawomir Zack Slawomic.zack@gmail.com
20 September	Sculthorpe	East Anglian Gala	CG, CR, CP, CE, ClassicG/Vintage G, CRP/VRP/SLOP, Co2/E30/P30, MV, Tailless	FFTC Lead Ken Faux
19/20 September	Sculthorpe	Team Selection Reserve Date	F1A, F1B, F1C, F1Q	FFTC Lead Mark Benns
4 October	Area	8 th Area	CE, CP, CG, , MV (Plugge), F1B (Gutteridge), Co2/E30/P30 (Plugge P30), Classic G/Vintage G (Plugge Vintage G)	Area
20-23 October	Slope Soaring	Team Selection reserve	F1E Choice of flying days to be notified by email by 18 October	Ian Kaynes
24 October*	North Luffenham	Midland Gala	Classic G/Vintage G, MV, 1/2A/F1J, Co2/E30/P30, F1G/F1H, E36, HLG/CLG	FFTC Lead Phil Ball
24 October*	North Luffenham	Space at the Midland Gala	S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9	Slawomir Zack Slawomic.zack@gmail.com
31 October-1 November, Or 7-8 December	Buckminster	Buckminster Gala	TBC Note: Final date to be announced a few days in advance as site is weather critical.	FFTC LEAD Simon Dixon CD Stuart Darman

*Team Selection fall back date

2026 FEES

Regretfully the Free Flight Tec Committee have decided to increase Fees for 2026 due to the ever increasing running costs and Licence Fees.

This is the first increase for many years.

Contest Season ticket £90

Covers all contests including Trials and World Cup but not the Nationals.

Also covers site fees for Centralised Events.

Contest Entry Fee £7

Covers entry to all contests on the day of the event,

North Luffenham License £50

Salisbury Plain License £40

Luffenham and Salisbury Daily Site fee £7

Trials £35

World Cup Events £35

Note: It is possible to purchase a Contest Season Ticket / North Luffenham Permit / Salisbury Permit on the FFTC Website using the PERMITS tab at the top of the page. For those without internet access it is still possible to purchase over the phone to the BMFA office (tel. 01162 440028)

2026 RULE BOOK

The New BMFA Free Flight Rule Book 2026

As many of you will be aware each year the BMFA FF rule book is amended by the FFTC each year reflecting our communities' experiences, comments and suggestions. This year there has been a comprehensive 'shake up' therefore I urge all to study the new rule book which will be available before the end of January on the BMFA Website at : <https://contests.bmfa.uk/all-rule-books>

A few highlights to this year's changes will bring back the combined groups from 2024 as well as introducing combination contests as well as the standard single class models as follows:

- **Combination Contests:**
 - Classic Glider/Vintage Glider
 - Classic RP/Vintage RP/SLOP
 - 1/2A/F1J (10 secs motor run for 1/2A)
 - F1G/F1H
 - CO2/E30/P30
- **Combined Groups:**
 - Combined Rubber
 - Combined Power
 - Combined Glider
 - Combined Electric
- **Singles:**
 - F1A, F1B, F1C, F1Q

The number of flights you will need to fly have also been adjusted:

- **Number of flights**
 - Combined Rubber, Power, Glider & Electric – Three (3)
 - FAI Class F1A, F1B, F1C & F1Q – Maximum Five (5) except Team Selection Mini Classes, Vintage /Classic – Three (3)
 - HLG/CLG – Seven (7) best 5 to count
- A significant change is in Team contests, reducing the requirement on number of team members with the best 2 scores from 2 competitors now in place.
- The Plugge Cup follows in a not dissimilar manner whereby points are now gained by the leading competitor.
- Any model that is flown in any British contest over the weight of 250g (grams) that is not fitted with RCDDT will be immediately disqualified.
- Start times for contests revert back to 09.00am with a caveat that this can vary dependent on the venue (please always check ahead of the contest).

- Competitors must give 60 day notice of their intension to fly in the Team selection and / the Team if selected.
- All F1Q & F1Q (Uk)flights will use 2 Joules energy
- 1/2A power alters to a 10 second engine run
- HLG & CLG fly from a stake in the ground
- E30 alters to a 50 second motor run

We must reiterate again the importance of reviewing the 2026 Rule book before you fly your first contest to ensure you are aware of the changes. If you do have any questions about the Rule book, we would be happy to receive your comments bmfafttc@outlook.com

RULE CHANGES FOR 2027

The deadline for anyone to submit their suggestions for Rule changes to the |Free Flight Rule book have to be submitted by the 30th June 2026.

This will provide ample time for their consultation and a decision by the FFTC.

Any changes will be added to the draft rules for submission to the Technical Secretary by the 30th November 2026

TEAM SELECTION F1ABCQ FOR 2027 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Team Selection for the 2027 World Championships is by pre-entry. The on-line form is now up and running at same location as all permits on the website with a closing date of 11/3/26