

Lincoln Aeromodellers

Member Handbook

November 2023



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1 About Us

Hopefully, this handbook will give you a brief insight into Lincoln Aeromodellers (LAM); who we are, what we do, and where we are. If it doesn't, then ask away. Our contact details are shown in this handbook.

Lincoln Aeromodellers was founded in 1963 as a model aeroplane flying club operating then from West Common in Lincoln with the inaugural meeting taking place under the old horse racing stand next to West Common. Our current Honorary Member joined LAM shortly after 1963 and to this day remains a very keen modeller (and classic car restorer).

We're known as LAM, however, if you Google LAM, there's a good chance you'll be taken to LAM Mozambique Airlines. Same sort of thing, but they have slightly larger aeroplanes.

60 years after its formation, LAM now operates from South Scarle, a lovely little village in Nottinghamshire just off the A1133 somewhere between Newark and Lincoln. The flying field is on Plot Lane to the south of the village, and the field is arguably one of the finest flying surfaces in the Midlands.

We're a friendly club of around sixty members made up of pilots of all skill levels, ranging from beginners to high-class competition pilots; and we all share one quality - the desire to help each other, and especially help new flyers.

All ages and levels of flying ability are welcomed to the club.

A full-size aero club operates alongside LAM with their strip bordering our field, and it's great to see small aircraft and microlights come and go.

If you're a prospective or new club member reading this handbook for the first time, then there's some very handy and quite important information within, so please take time to read it through. If you're a current club member, then you may want to use this handbook more for reference or reminders.

Web Site

For more information about LAM, go to our web site at www.lincolnaeromodellers.com.

You can contact us either through the **Contact Us** tab on the web site or the details shown on page 12 of this handbook.

2 Location

As mentioned earlier, LAM operates from South Scarle, a lovely little village in Nottinghamshire, just off the A1133 between Newark and Lincoln. The flying field is on Plot Lane to the south of the village.

If you've never been before, the nearest postcode for Satnav users is **NG23 7JJ** which takes you to Amos Lane (in South Scarle). Turn right at the bottom of Amos Lane, and you're on Plot Lane. The entrance to our field is a couple of hundred yards or so on your left (you'll see our grey cabin). The lane is a bit rickety, but it's well worth it!

If you're using the **What3Words** app, then the three words you need are *included.gear.eyeliner* and that gets you directly to the grey cabin.



Get the What3words app at
<https://what3words.com>

We would ask all visitors to drive slowly through South Scarle.

3 Activities

RC model flying encompasses a variety of disciplines to suit all tastes and levels of competency.

Here at LAM, we fly most types of models, including, fixed wing (electric and IC), drones, powered gliders, electric ducted fan jets (EDFs), UMX, a few helis, and one or two 'things' that don't really fit into any category.



We have members who fly sports planes, aerobatic models, 3D, scale, warbirds, UMX, and a couple of drones.

If you want to try something other than the above, please run it past the committee first, and we'll do our best to get it into the air.



Come down to LAM and join in the conversation with members who love the excitement and adrenalin rush of trying to master a new 3D aerobatic manoeuvre, or those who enjoy the relaxation of flying gliders while looking for the next thermal, and not forgetting those who just love to take the time to build these wonderful craft.



Here's just some of the wonderful craft that make their way into the air at LAM



And, we once had a full-size Chinook helicopter land on our field!

4 Membership & How to Join

Membership fees are due by 1st January each year and the membership year runs from 1st January to 31st December.

Membership classes and annual membership fees:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| • Junior Member (under 18 years of age) | Free |
| • Full Member (18 and over) | £70 |
| • New Full Member from 1 st September | £25 |
| • New Full Member from 1 st November * | £0 |
| • Family Member ** | 50% Discount |
| • Affiliate Member (Non-Flying) *** | Voluntary Donation |

For **New Full Members joining, there is no membership fee payable from 1st November to 31st December providing the following year's membership fee is paid in full on application.*

*****Family Membership** is where two or more flying members reside at the same address. Membership fees for the second and any subsequent family members who are 18 years of age or over shall be reduced to 50% of the rate paid by the Full Member.*

**** **Affiliate Member** is aimed at members who no longer actively fly but who would like to remain a member of the club and continue their support of the club. It is **not** a club requirement that an Affiliate Member holds BMFA membership or maintains their CAA registration. The annual membership fee for an Affiliate Member is by voluntary donation with the amount being entirely at the discretion of the member. Although we suggest a minimum donation of £20 to cover expenses, there is, of course, no maximum!*

In addition to the above membership fees (except Affiliate Members):

- | | |
|---|--------|
| • Annual BMFA Membership Fee * | £47 |
| • Annual BMFA Membership Fee (Junior) * | £20 |
| • Annual CAA Operator ID Registration Fee (to 1 st April 2024) | £10.33 |

**BMFA fees can be paid through the club or directly to the BMFA by going to <https://bmfa.justgo.com>.*

How to Join

First of all, email **Bob Smith** at robertbsmith@talk31.com, or use the Contact Us form on the web site, and we'll arrange for you to visit our flying field to show you around. If you like what you see, and wish to join straight away, we'll give you a New Member Joining Pack containing everything you need, including an application form.

Alternatively, go to our web site at www.lincolnaeromodellers.com, click on **MEMBERSHIP** and then **How to Join** and complete the online membership application form. Once we've received your form, we'll contact you to arrange a visit to our flying field to show you around.

Either way, once your membership is approved, we'll send you an invoice for your membership fees.

Flying Assessment

New members' flying skills tend to fall into three categories: 1) those who are already competent pilots, 2) those who are returning to the hobby and may not have flown for some years, and 3) those who have never flown before. Regardless of your flying skills, once you become a member, we'll arrange for you to meet up at the field with one of our Club Instructors who'll assess your flying competence and run through the club's field rules.

Before new members can fly unsupervised at LAM they must first be **signed-off** as competent by a Club Instructor, and we'll tailor your flying assessment based on your flying experience. For example:

Competent Pilot - if you're already a competent pilot, this will most likely be just a straightforward flying session along with an introduction to the club's field rules.

Returning to the Hobby - If you're returning to the hobby after a few years away, this is likely to be a refresher course tailored to suit your needs.

Never Flown Before - If you've never flown RC models before, don't worry, we'll get you in the air on day one, and the next section of this handbook is just for you.



5 Learning to Fly

Every day of the year, there are hundreds of thousands of RC enthusiasts around the world flying RC model aircraft, and they have one thing in common - **they all had to learn to fly!** Well, learning to fly at LAM is easy. We have a structured training programme, and this is how it works:

First of all, we'll put you in touch with one of our Club Instructors who'll meet up with you at the flying field for your very first flight. Don't think that you need to come along with a brand spanking new model and all the radio gear, because you don't - we provide everything - all you need is **you**, and your **enthusiasm**. However, if you already own an RC model and radio gear, that's fine; bring them along and we'll check out if they can be used from day one.

LAM's indemnity insurance covers first time visitors to the club who have no previous model flying experience and this insurance fully covers you for three separate visits. So, before committing yourself to join our club or spending your hard-earned cash on RC equipment, you'll be able to come along and have three good sessions to see how you go on.

During these sessions, you'll be flying one of our modern club training aircraft just like the one shown here.



You'll also be using our buddy-box radio equipment. A buddy-box system is where two transmitters are linked together - one for the student and one for the instructor – a bit like dual controls when you're learning to drive.

Before you know it, you'll be taking off, flying straight and level, circling the flying area, completing a figure of eight, and landing, all in a safe and controlled manner, and with a bit of luck, before your third session ends, you'll be flying solo and **signed-off** to fly unsupervised.

Our Club Instructors love coaching new flyers, and they give up their time freely to do so, however, after the three sessions end, and before you progress further in your training, the club would expect you to show ongoing commitment to the hobby by becoming a member of the club (if you haven't already joined) and buying (or beg, borrow, or steal) your own RC model and radio gear.

The work of our instructors doesn't end after the three sessions. If you're looking to buy your own model and radio gear, they'll give you all the advice you need to make sure you buy the right equipment that best suits your flying ability. And here's a bit of **very** good advice... "DON'T BUY **ANYTHING** WITHOUT FIRST TAKING ADVICE FROM OUR CLUB INSTRUCTORS!" We've seen many a first model hit the deck because they were too advanced for a new flyer. Leave the jet or low-wing warbird for another day!

Have a look at our web site and click on **LEARNING TO FLY** and then **First Model** and **First Transmitter** where you'll find some good tips.

Finally, if you've bought all your new gear but haven't yet been signed-off to fly solo, your training programme will continue, while at the same time you'll be getting familiar with your own aircraft and radio gear. **Take a bow Dave Woodland.** 😊

6 The BMFA & Affiliation

LAM is affiliated to the British Model Flying Association (BMFA); affiliation being a partnership between the BMFA and over 750 clubs and over 36,000 members throughout the country. This partnership brings with it many valuable benefits and ensures that model flyers have a voice, and their rights are recognised by the authorities.

What is the BMFA?

The BMFA is the National Governing Body for the sport of model flying. Its aims are to promote, protect, organise, and encourage model flying within the UK.

What does the BMFA do for its affiliated clubs?

The BMFA offers a complete assurance package to promote and protect model flying in the UK and undertakes to represent all model flyers at the highest level.

The following services are also provided to affiliated clubs:

- Extensive insurance cover.
- Flying site planning and protection.
- Instructor scheme.
- Achievement scheme.
- Education programmes.
- Regular club Information bulletins.
- Advice, assistance, and support whenever required on all aspects of model flying.
- Noise assessments.
- Website hosting and domain name registration.
- Provision of free information pamphlets on a wide variety of topics.
- Club talks.

What do affiliated clubs do for the BMFA?

The most important contribution that affiliated clubs offer to the BMFA is their support to the partnership that is committed to investing in the future of model aircraft flying. It is this support that ensures the BMFA has the strength and resources to address the many problems and issues that are faced on a regular basis. There is no doubt that the anti-model flying lobby grows stronger each year and the BMFA is the only body able to counter the threat on behalf of all model flyers.

All members and clubs are ambassadors for model flying as their community will judge model flying on local perceptions.

Clubs' and members' voluntary work in support of the Association and in the promotion of model flying is vital if it is to have a cohesive future in the UK. The best work is often done by unsung volunteers at the grass roots level.

For further information go to <https://clubsupport.bmfa.uk/affiliation-partnership>

7 The BMFA Achievement Scheme

LAM promotes and encourages its members to enrol in the BMFA Achievement Scheme.

The BMFA scheme is run on a national level, it's open to all RC model flyers, and it's free. The aim of the scheme is to encourage RC model flyers to improve their standard of flying and safety, and to prove that standard to an examiner. LAM has its own qualified examiner, and we can also call on a number of BMFA qualified examiners operating throughout the Midland Area.

The scheme is not primarily about permitting or licensing but, fundamentally is all about personal goals and challenges. It is intended to provide every RC flyer with something to aspire to and aim for, should they so wish.

Achievement Awards are available at the A-Test (basic) and B-Test (advanced) levels, and these cover a wide variety of disciplines. Specialist C-Test certificate endorsements are also available to B-Test certificate holders. For further details of the BMFA's Achievement Scheme, go to <https://achievements.bmfa.uk>.

BMFA Achievement Scheme Levels:

'A' Certificate (Fixed-Wing and Drones)	A basic standard of safety and flying competence as set out by the BMFA.
'B' Certificate (Fixed-Wing)	To recognise a more advanced pilot's increased ability and knowledge and demonstrates a high level of safety.
'B' Certificate Endorsements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 'C' Certificate, Aerobatics.• The 'C' Certificate, Scale• The 'C' Certificate, Gas Turbine

Unlike many other RC clubs, it's not mandatory for LAM members to hold an A-Certificate, however, if you're a new member and wish to go for your 'A', or a current member who's always wanted to take their 'A' (or B) but never quite got round to it, then, we'll encourage you all the way... and here's how to go about it.

First of all, go to our web site at www.lincolnaeromodellers.com, click on **BMFA**, then **Achievement Scheme**, and then select the certificate you wish to go for. On that page, you can download the flying schedule you need to learn, there are links to the mandatory questions, very useful YouTube videos, and an online webinar given by the BMFA.

8 Mandatory Occurrence Reporting

It doesn't matter how good your flying skills are, or how many certificates you hold, accidents do sometimes happen, and it's a legal requirement that certain incidents (known as 'occurrences') are reported.

This isn't the case when your model just gets dumped in the field (a LAM chop), but it *is* the case when serious incidents occur that endanger life or damage property. In these circumstances, members are required to report such 'occurrences' to the Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB) and the CAA, and this is done very simply by using the BMFA Members Reporting Portal.

Occurrence reporting is not to attribute blame or liability. There are no fines, no one has their models taken away, and no one has to stand in the corner but, joking apart, reporting is there to learn from these occurrences and to improve model aviation safety.

Clubs and their members who have a good air safety culture will report effectively and consistently. Every occurrence report is an opportunity to identify root causes and prevent them contributing to accidents where people are harmed.

Such occurrences must first be reported to the club Secretary, who will advise if your 'occurrence' is reportable and, if it is, we can help you with its submission.

For full details go to <https://rcc.bmfa.uk/art16-occurrence-reporting> and if you need to submit a report, click on...

[Click here to report an Occurrence](#)

9 Committee

The day-to-day affairs of the club are managed through an elected committee, and the 2024 committee, along with their contact details, is shown below:

Position	Name	E-Mail Address
Chairman and Safety Officer	Simon Taylor	sgt1967@live.co.uk
Treasurer and Secretary	Bob Smith	robertbsmith@talk31.com
Committee Member and Club Training Instructor	Dave Woodland	dave.woodland@live.co.uk
Committee Member and Media	Stephen Simmons	
Committee Member and Facilities Manager	Stewart Hanson	stewart.hanson4@ntlworld.com

Just like you, all the committee members are first and foremost RC model enthusiast, but they're also committed to the good running of the club. So, if you have any questions or suggestions, whether about flying or how the club is run, they want to hear from you. They love talking 'RC' and they love talking 'Club.'

Social Media

LAM has quite a strong social media presence on **Facebook** and **Twitter**, where you can talk to us, communicate with all sorts of people, and send posts using either platform. As well as just posting messages on **Facebook** and **Twitter**, it might also be a good place to sell your no-longer-needed RC stuff. Don't forget to **Like**, **Comment**, and **Share**.

Go to  or  and search **Lincoln Aeromodellers**.

... and we have a very active **WhatsApp** group for members to chat to each other, buy and sell stuff, or just to let anyone know when they're going flying.

10 Useful Links

Lincoln Aeromodellers	www.lincolnaeromodellers.com
BMFA	www.bmfa.org
BMFA Achievement Scheme	https://achievements.bmfa.uk
BMFA Midland Area	https://midland.bmfa.uk
BMFA Classified Listings	https://classifieds.bmfa.org
Gliders (Newark)	www.gliders.uk.com
Model Storage Ideas	https://www.instructables.com/RC-airplane-storage-hangers-to-organize-your-fleet/
Trimming Chart	www.pmac-rc.org/Files/TrimmingChart.pdf
Some Great Ideas	www.flyrc.com and go to 'How To'
Lipo Battery Voltage Chart	https://blog.ampow.com/lipo-voltage-chart/
Pre-Flight Check List	https://www.flitetest.com/articles/preflight-checklist
South Scarle Weather	https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/2637333
R/C Airplane World	https://www.rc-airplane-world.com/
Prop Guy	www.propguy.co.uk/props
Beginners' Guide to Pushrods and Connectors	http://www.flyrc.com/beginners-guide-to-pushrods-and-connectors-2

Let us know if you have any great RC web sites that you'd like to share with members, and we'll pop them on here and the web site.

We hope you found this handbook useful, but if you have any questions at all, or if you feel this handbook (or anything else about the club) could be improved in any way, please contact the club Secretary.

Happy and Safe Flying

