

BMFA Buckminster Control Line Facilities

The Buckminster Hard Circles Working Group (HCWG) held its first formal meeting on 9th August. The Working Group is responsible for managing the design and construction of the hard circle/s at BMFA Buckminster alongside the other Control Line facilities. The goal of the new Project Team is summarised in its Mission Statement:-

“By undertaking this project the BMFA will be able to offer its members the opportunity to fly all categories of Control Line Model Aircraft at BMFA Buckminster through the staged provision of World Class model flying facilities, thereby creating a Centre of Excellence that will ultimately be capable of supporting FAI F2 (Control Line) World Cup Competitions (by 2021) and FAI F2 (Control Line) World & European Championships (from 2023).”

Members of the Project Team include an experienced construction project manager, site contract supervisors and engineers.

The HCWG reports to the BMFA National Centre Steering Group which appointed the HCWG/Project Team and oversees the development and funding approval for all projects at BMFA Buckminster.

Two mown grass circles for Combat plus two larger mown grass circles for Aerobatics are currently in operation. This Project will retain the grass circles and supplement these facilities with at least one hard surface circle that can accommodate all Control Line classes that require a hard take-off and landing surface. The first hard circle will be sized to enable the flying of Control Line Aerobatics, Speed, Team Race, Scale and the running of Vintage Control Line classes and Vintage Tethered Cars. The hard circle/s will be provided with a permanent fence and entry and exit gates in accordance with FAI regulations for Control Line international competitions. Personnel access, a hard surface Line Check and the provision of covered work areas for pilots & pitmen will be provided adjacent to the hard surface circle. A covered Judges Tower, overlooking the hard circle, will be provided for the adjudication of Team Racing.

If the first hard circle proves popular and successful, following a period of operation, it is intended that a second hard circle will be provided in a future separate phase of the project. A second circle is required if BMFA Buckminster

is to be successful in bidding to host for FAI European or World Championships for Control Line model aircraft.

The design and location for both hard circles and their associated facilities are being addressed during the current stage of the project together with competitive tendering for the construction work.

The Project Team schedule is to complete the design and tendering work by the end of 2018 in order that construction of the hard circle facilities can commence in Q2, 2019. The first hard circle will probably be available for use in Q3 2019 and should be booked on a first-come-first-served basis in the first instance through the normal BMFA Buckminster booking system.

A primary objective of the Project Team is to secure further funds for the construction of at least one hard circle with fixed fencing and other associated facilities by the end of 2018. The Construction phase of the Project will **not** be able to commence until sufficient funds have been secured to complete the first phase of the Project (including appropriate contingencies).

The Project Team estimates that the cost to build one hard circle and its associated facilities is £45,000. Almost £28,500 is currently available from BMFA funds and members' donations.

The Project Team would, therefore, be very interested to hear from BMFA members, BMFA clubs and others with an interest in Control Line who would be willing to support the financing of this project with additional pledges for, or direct donations of, money in support of the project and its development.

Further information about the project and the donation process can be obtained by contacting Tony Goodger (tgoodger47@gmail.com) or Paul Eisner (theeyesnose@gmail.com) who are both members of the Project Team.

A more detailed Project Development Plan for donor information is currently being drafted and will be available available mid-November 2018 from theeyesnose@gmail.com.

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