



# Deeside Model Aircraft Club

## Information for Parents or Guardians of Junior Members Under 16 Years of Age

The following information is offered to parents or guardians of prospective junior members of the Deeside Model Aircraft Club (where the young person is under 16 years of age) in order to ensure that they are fully aware of the potential hazards that exist in the sport of model flying as in any other sport.

Model flying is not regarded as a hazardous sport, and, thanks to the observance of strict safety guidelines in the operation of the models, is subject to comparatively few personal injuries. It must be stressed, however, that model aircraft which are powered by electric or internal combustion engines, whether radio-controlled, control-line or free-flight, **are not toys**; they are pieces of precision machinery capable of generating a great deal of energy, and should therefore be accorded the same respect in operation as domestic power tools and the like.

The typical modern 0.4 cubic inch capacity model engine (the most popular size for trainers) is capable of producing in excess of one brake horsepower, and will turn a 10" diameter propeller at more than 12,000 r.p.m., which means that the tips of the propeller are travelling at a speed in excess of 350 miles per hour! Any object, including parts of the human body, which is hit by a rotating propeller will inevitably suffer damage, sometimes severe, and small objects or pieces of a propeller which breaks during such an impact will be hurled outwards at great speed. It is therefore essential that such engines are operated with due care and with the greatest attention to the safety both of the operator and of bystanders.

Electric powered models may seem at first glance to be less hazardous. In fact the opposite is true, since carelessly operated electric motors can start instantaneously at full power without warning, and if impeded in any way will produce even more power to overcome the obstruction, rather than stalling and stopping as an internal combustion engine would.

These facts are not intended to dissuade you from allowing your son or daughter to take up the hobby, but are presented so that you will be fully aware of the need for adequate supervision of young persons who are learning to operate the equipment.

The Deeside M.A.C. welcomes young members, and our experienced senior members will be happy to provide tuition in the safe operation of equipment and in the art of flying the

model (for obvious safety reasons, no Club member, whether junior or senior, is permitted to fly unsupervised until a consistently safe level of competence has been demonstrated). These senior members will, however, wish to fly their own models also, and cannot, therefore, provide constant supervision.

Each member of the Club is responsible for his or her own safety, and is required to act in a manner which ensures the safety of others. In the case of junior members under 16 years of age, the legal responsibility to ensure safe conduct lies with the parents or guardians of that member, and it must be stressed that the Deeside M.A.C. cannot accept responsibility to act *in loco parentis*. For this reason, it is essential that Club members under 16 years of age **must** be accompanied by a parent or guardian **at all times when at the flying field**.

As stated earlier, this information is not intended to worry or to discourage the parents of potential junior members, but merely to ensure that they are fully aware of the limit to which the Deeside M.A.C. can accept responsibility for the safety of that junior member. If you would like any further information, or if you would like to visit the flying field during an active flying day, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the DMAC committee.

Photographs of Club members pursuing their hobby are published on the Club Website. It is recognised that some parents may have reservations about photographs of their son or daughter appearing in print or on the Internet. It is for this reason that your consent for such photographs of your son/daughter to be used either in print or on the DMAC Website <http://www.dmac.bmfa.org> is sought below.

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To whom it may concern, *re*: .....Junior Member of the Deeside M.A.C

Having read and understood the above information, I hereby confirm that responsibility for the safety through his/her own actions of the junior member named above shall be solely my own, and shall not devolve in any way upon the Deeside Model Aircraft Club, its Committee or its members.

I also confirm that I do/do not *[delete as applicable]* object to photographs of the named Junior Member being published in print or on the Deeside M.A.C. Website providing that any such photographs are purely illustrative of his/her pursuance and enjoyment of the sport of model flying.

Name: ..... Signed: .....

Date: ..... Relationship to Junior Member: .....