

2010 F3J Bulletin No 1

At last BARCS have an agreement with the SFTC about how to organise the 2010 F3J league. Now comes the simple part of the job - doing it!

Any change to the rules will be published in full in the 2010 BMFA handbook but as this is just going to press here is a short summary of the main changes.

1. The UK Variations on Class F3J

These are the changes to the main FAI rules that we use in the UK to assist us in running F3J competitions under our circumstances. The changes this year mainly involve deleting the UK specifications of hand towing equipment as they are all now covered in the main FAI rules so are unnecessary.

However the option of using winches instead of hand towing has been retained but if any part of the winch or turnaround equipment becomes detached or ejected during the launch a penalty of 1000 points is deducted at the end of the competition so make sure that it is good condition!

A further rule has been added relating to the numbers in the fly off. The international FAI rules state 9 or more should be in the fly-off which is often not practical in small competitions so we will use 15% of the entry rounded up to a whole number but subject to a minimum of 4 which is the minimum slot size.

2. The 2010 League Rules

The league will consist of any number of F3J competitions provide, of course, that they are run according to the rules. However there will be 7 'designated' competitions to count for team selection purposes and the total of the best four scores (subject to the restrictions below) will decide the team. The scores from any other F3J 'non designated' competitions will count towards the F3J League totals but not for team selection.

Three of these competitions (Radioglide, Interglide and the Nationals) will be 2 day events and the score from at least one of these must be included in the final 4 scores.

The score from any official FAI competition can replace that of one of the remaining 4 one day events.

The bonus points given to fly-off places will now be 3, 2, 1.5, 1, 0.5 in order to bring them into line with Eurotour events.

That's about it for the main points, the other changes are just tidying up and clarification. Oh yes, I nearly forgot, you have to let me win!

3. 2010 League 'designated' competitions

So all we have to do now is to decide dates, venues, and run the competitions!

The 3 'national' competitions are already scheduled to be held in the South Midlands and North Midlands areas. This leaves 4 one day competitions to be spread around the country in order to allow reasonable access to the greatest number of potential competitors.

The locations will be in the areas of South England, West Midlands/Wales, East Midlands/East Anglia and North England/Scotland. South England has a population of 20 millions and the others total around 10 millions each.

Because we are late in starting to become organised some dates are already booked so should be avoided. If we keep October free for a possible re-run there are six months between April and September to hold 7 events. We also need to avoid the main Eurotour events and the World Champs. Working backwards through the season we have:

September: Upton is available for the West Midlands/Wales competition and a good date would be 19th following an F3B on the 18th. Flooding at Fish Meadow is unknown in September (I am told!)

August: The Nationals are on 28/30th. Hollandglide is 14/15. The World Champs and the Jura Cup are between 30th July and 7th August. Not a lot of spare time this month!

July: Euroglide in Belgium is 3/4 July. and the W/C starts on 30th. July is usually the month that we hold the most northern competition in order to enjoy the good weather and a mid month date looks best.

June: Interglide is 26/27th. Very early in the month might be a bit soon after Radioglide. I have heard that there is an F3B competition at Wetlands over the weekend of 12/13th so this might be a good time to do F3J as well.

May: Radioglide is on 29/31st so early May would be a good time for either the East Midlands/East Anglia (at Tywell?) or Southern England.

April: Easter weekend is 2nd-5th. Sometime later in the month we need a competition on the other location to that above. I am also hoping to run a round 0 which may have to be on the Easter weekend so that you can have some practise at a non qualifying competition and I can begin to learn how to run them!

That about for now. All volunteers for running competitions, ideas for dates and venues etc please contact me on E mail Lammacot@hotmail.com. I will let you know as and when competition dates and venues are fixed with a view to finalising by mid February at the latest.

When we have a more fixed schedule I will send out another bulletin and an entry form.

Peter