

BFMC Safety Bulletin 2  
5<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Gents, a serious incident occurred recently which could have had grave consequences.

A member was conducting a range check of his electric powered model which was located on the ground just in front of the bench seats that are attached to the tower wall. The unrestrained model, with battery installed and connected, was pointing towards the tower. Whilst carrying out the range check the model's motor started and the model careered towards the bench seats. Luckily, although people were in the vicinity, nobody was hurt.

The recent incident highlighted 4 contraventions of our club safety rules and good practice.

1. The model was 'live' in a 'public' area
2. The model was unrestrained.
3. The model was pointing towards people.
4. The model was unattended.

We all have a 'Duty Of Care' for ourselves and our fellow members. Safety is not solely about following the club rules, it is about safe habits and attitudes.

***With immediate effect, do not place any live model on the grassed areas where member seating is located.*** The diagram, below, details areas where models are allowed, and where they are not allowed.

The 'Pits' area of our club previously incorporated fixed metal starting benches. These benches have recently been replaced by portable wooden units. If you choose to use a portable starting bench it must be wheeled to an area remote from the public seating areas and the model's propeller must always point away from people. If another member arrives and also wheels out a starting bench it must be located such that it does not conflict with those already present.

If you do not want to use a portable starting bench we have a designated table, behind, and to the left of, the pilot box, where you can connect batteries. We also provide 'ground spike' model restraints which can be used to restrain any model during starting. Always point the model away from people, always!

In light of this incident I draw your attention to 4 essential safety requirements which **shall** be observed every time you attend BFMC.

1. Do not connect a battery or run an engine in the public areas.
2. Do not make a model live without restraint. (Turning the model on it's back with the propeller jammed against the ground or bench constitutes 'restrained'.)
3. Do not leave a live unrestrained model unattended.
4. Do not point a model towards people, ever.

For the avoidance of doubt, the 4 points listed above are not a request, they are an instruction. The incident that occurred recently constituted a near miss and could have resulted in life changing injuries.

Thanking you in anticipation of your full co-operation,

Steve Griffiths,

BFMC Safety Officer.

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FLYING STRIP

