

# Horsham & District Radio Control Model Club

## Learning to fly a radio controlled model aircraft

### Part four - Preparing for your 1st flight

I am assuming at this stage you have joined a club, have 3rd party liability insurance (this can be obtained via the BMFA), and have read the flying safety rules in the BMFA handbook.

Also if you've followed the guidelines in parts one - three, you will have a trainer aircraft, fully equipped, and no doubt you'll be wanting to go out and fly it.

If you've never flown a radio controlled aircraft you must seek help from an experienced flyer. If possible arrange for them to check out your plane away from the flying site. Any problems can then be rectified without wasting valuable flying time at the field. Never rush this stage. Time spent checking over every part of your model will pay dividends later.

The senses of the flying surfaces should be checked from behind the model (with it the correct way up!). The CofG will need to be rechecked, as will the general airframe. Any faults found should be rectified and rechecked. Once it's been given a clean bill of health, you can prepare for your first flying session. Also check the frequencies of the crystals in both the transmitter and receiver, and ensure your frequency flag corresponds.

Check that the person teaching you to fly is available on the day you intend to go. Make sure you have all you need in your model box. Items such as a spare propeller, spare glow plug, rubber bands are useful as well as a good supply of fuel, a cleaning rag, tools and nuts and bolts of various sizes.

Charge up your glow & starter battery the day before. The model should be charged up as per the manufacturers instructions overnight prior to the 1st flight. (The equipment should be switched off whilst it's being charged). It's also worth checking that there hasn't been a power cut overnight, just incase the batteries are not fully charged. If you have any doubts - do not fly the model.

If the weather looks suitable, transport your model carefully to the flying site. Ask your experienced modeller to assist when you're putting it together, and ensure all items are correctly assembled, prior to moving it to the pits area.

Only fly if the weather is suitable. If it's too windy, wet, foggy, etc. Do not risk your model. It is better to err on the side of caution, rather than risk your model in difficult weather conditions. Always listen to the advice given by your experienced friend, and follow his/her instructions. The final few handout sheets cover the things you'll need to know for your first flight. You're nearly there!