

## Achievement Scheme Weekend 9-10 September 2023

As the Southwest Area PR I was delighted to attend the first day of the Achievement Scheme Weekend to support everyone there, and all the hard work in organising the event.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September dawned very misty, little or no wind but by 10:00am the skies had cleared and the sun was already beating down on the pilots, field and helpers. Andy Symons arrived from BMFA HQ the day before, along with examiners and instructors, some who had made an early start to arrive well before the 10:30 pilots briefing.

All were treated to fresh cooked bacon baps, tea and various other hot beverages. I must make special mention to the three ladies that kept us all fed and watered throughout the weekend. Debbie, Beverly and Verity provided a sumptuous range of cakes, drinks, buns, salads, BBQ food. They were instrumental in keeping our stomachs full and morale high. Without their efforts we would have all been tired and hungry. THANK YOU LADIES.



Rob (Okehampton Club Chairman), Felix (BMFA SW Area Chairman) and all the helpers had made great efforts in providing a mown strip, signage and two sites. The helicopters were some safe distance away in a second field, behind Woodhall, so as not to conflict with the fixed wing contingent. This was also organised with its own gazebo for shade and a well laid out pitch. There

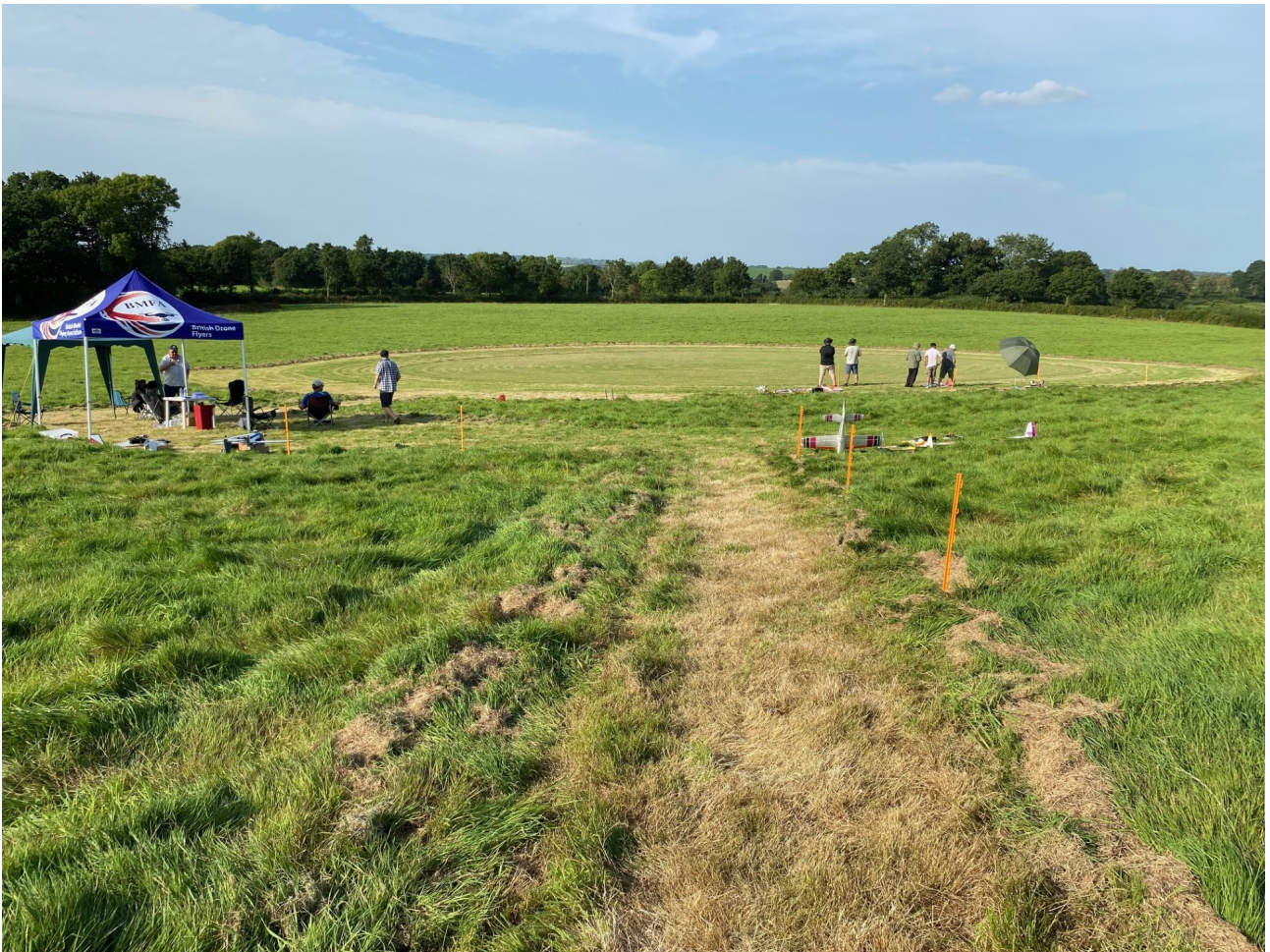
were several large helicopters on the site ready for flights. An Align 700, Goblin 700 and a Dominator.



Each pilot was booked in and waited in turn for their slot. The examiners/ instructors gave their knowledge and time to all the pilots and a lot of hints, tips and advice was passed on over the weekend.



A special mention should be for the examiners ...Peter, Andy, Geoff, Phil and Paul. Congratulations should go to Daryl who passed his Examiners Test over the weekend. Paul also passed his Helicopter Examiners test on Saturday and then immediately and ably examined some of the helicopter candidates.



We should all be in debt for all the time and effort that everyone put in to organising and running the weekend....thank you to all. As a fitting reward to the effort in making such an event successful, many A and B tests were passed.