



Aerobatic Training Day



Aerobatic Training Event – Saturday 18th July 2026 – Knettishall (Bury Model Flying Club)

Thanks to the support of the Bury Model Flying Club I ran the second of four planned BMFA Area and UKF3A training days which was held at Knettishall. There were two more events planned this year but one was cancelled due to not enough applicants entered to make the day viable and another due to extremely excessive hot weather during a heat wave.

I started the day with a roll call which helped identify who was who and that everybody was in attendance. I introduced the mentor team and explained the format that was planned for the day. The day's aim was to support pilots with their aerobatic skills and confidence, each pilot would get four flights each lasting eight minutes to practice, fine tune or even learn aerobatic manoeuvres of their choice.

I gave the option to make their final flight of the day a judged Clubman Schedule flight for those who wanted to experience a competition scenario as their fourth flight.

Not everybody is keen to be judged, in which case they would fly four practice flights.

After a mentor had demonstrated a Clubman Schedule flight we got under. Weather conditions were a little challenging but quite flyable with a steady 90 degree crosswind blowing away from the pilots.

A number of pilots commented that they were capable and confident flying individual manoeuvres but the challenge to perform them on a centre line was harder than anticipated.

After two completed practice rounds we stopped for an excellent BBQ lunch and a demonstration flight by Garry Peacock of the current F3A P27 schedule, which is flown at national and international level.

Throughout the day it was evident that each pilot was growing in confidence and applying advice given from the mentors.

Round four was upon us and four pilots were willing to fly the judged round to finish their day. Two judges took their position located behind the pilot and scored each manoeuvre out of ten, points are then deducted for lack of symmetry, general shape and accuracy. After each pilot had landed the judges gave feedback to the pilot which is valuable to understand what was good and what could be improved.

Bearing in mind none of the pilots had flown the Clubman in a competitive manner it was great to see three pilots with scores that would be very respectable in a UKF3A competition, the fourth pilot wasn't far behind either.

I wrapped up the day with my closing comments and observations, thanking the entrants for their participation and congratulating them on the success.

I had arranged for a small wooden trophy to be presented to the Clubman winner which was a great surprise and keepsake for the winner.



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Since then, I have received good feedback from many of the entrants who all commented on how much they had learnt and enjoyed the day and would enter another next year.

As a measure of success, one entrant has now become a UKF3A member and has entered a competition but sadly had to withdraw before the competition. He's eager to practice over winter and start competing next year. I have been made aware that another three pilots are seriously considering joining and entering into Clubman competitions next year.

Thanks again to the BMFA Area and the Bury Model Flying Club for supporting my events and to the mentors who gave up their time.

