



**WINTER FLYING,
AGM & CHRISTMAS PARTY
ANNOUNCEMENT**

Dear Fellow Firebirds Club Members

In times gone past, as the end of the year was approaching, we were drawn to cosy evenings indoors, watching TV and waiting for the flying field to dry out in the Spring ready for its first cut of the year. But not this year, our excellent committee have negotiated with the farmers to allow flying from an area that stays dry over the winter. Yay, well done Keith and Russell!

Although the area won't be suitable for some aircraft and will need hand launches (and possibly removal of undercarriages for belly landings) it does mean that we can carry on flying locally throughout the winter (normal caveats apply like keeping things safe and not upsetting our neighbours).

More information on the winter 'dry' area was sent to all members earlier in the week, please contact a committee member if you did not receive it.

Before the above announcement myself and a couple of other members had intended to go down to the old Beaulieu aerodrome flying site to keep our hands in, as membership is only £10 per year. This is still an option so keep an eye on your Newsletter for a critique of a different flying site! (perhaps you could join us). Use of the Beaulieu flying site which benefits from a hard landing strip is managed by the BMFC who can be contacted here.. <https://beaulieumodelflying.bmfa.org/>.

Last month I met up with a really interesting gentleman, a recently retired commercial pilot and as we spent much time together the conversation often swayed into aviation, (when we weren't slagging of the politics in our two countries, interestingly Harald, a German national speaks of all the same worries and fears for his country that we do in the UK, hence why he has decided to leave Germany and live in Lanzarote.)

Anyway back to aviation Harald had flown many aircraft in both his career and privately, but his last and biggest commercial aeroplane was a Fokker 100. If you ever have a spare 5 minutes the history of the Fokker Company is a very interesting one, switching from a German company back to being a Dutch company following the disarmament conditions of the Treaty of Versailles following the 1st world war although, still supplying (secretly) aeroplanes to the German air force.



Harald's last and much loved commercial aircraft the F100 was very impressive looking and apparently very nice to fly, Fokker aircraft manufacturing ceased in 1996 when it's then owners Daimler Benz decided to focus on other things.

See image right the Fokker 100. (a bit like a BIG Learjet) and See <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fokker> for more information about Fokker generally.



I shall hopefully meet up with Harald again next year to learn more of his time in the air.

As many know I haven't been at the flying site lately and I am currently typing this newsletter in a somewhat warmer climate, but I will back soon ready for the club's Christmas Party 'Yay' again, a Christmas Party! (see below).

Anyway on with a rather shorter than usual Newsletter.

Chris

Christmas Party and AGM – Wednesday 15th December

Although lockdowns and social distancing has stopped our regular meetings at the Hamble Club, the committee felt that now was the time to try getting back to some kind of 'new' normal and have therefore booked the Hamble Club for a Christmas Party on the 15th of December.

We will also squeeze an AGM in before the Christmas Party begins.

Wednesday 15th December arrival from 7pm, AGM at 7.30pm Christmas Party at 8pm.

As in the past, we have organised a buffet, but this year due to reduced club funds we are asking for a £2 per person donation to cover costs. Club finances will be discussed during the AGM.

As always Partners etc. Welcome.

AGM

As mentioned above we will squeeze an AGM in before the Christmas party begins, please let Rob Cope know in advance (at least 2 weeks) if members would like to discuss any specific items. There will be food at £2.00 per head all family welcome.

Next year's fees will be confirmed during this meeting and renewal fees can be paid on the night. Anybody not renewing before the end of December will not be able to fly from the 1st January.

PLEASE NOTE: Covid has not gone away, we are just learning to live with it, please bring a mask with you for use at the buffet, please also consider bringing and using hand sanitiser. Please respect the space of others.



"Well, how's it going" A heartfelt 'THANK YOU' by Paul Brown

Having been a club member for almost 16 months now, I started thinking "well, how's it going?".

First thing to say, learning to fly RC model aeroplanes is difficult by anyone's standards, far more difficult than I had ever imagined, at 57 I have struggled to master the stick control necessary to guide the aircraft smoothly and safely through the air, and of course avoid crashing.

I have found learning about the kit and the theory of flying a lot easier than the stick control bit, but on a practical level staying in control is, although difficult, when aided by the wireless buddy system (which is fantastic) much easier and my pocket has been saved many times. There have of course been several times when I had to ask "why am I putting myself through this?" especially when I had smashed my plane into the ground (again) often I thought "I should quit".

Now, to put thing into perspective, let's go back a few years, in 2016 I had to admit I felt shit and lacked energy, I had been like this for some years and remember telling the doctor that "if I hadn't been self-employed I would have been sacked for low productivity long ago". I remember being on a job, laying on the floor reaching for a bath trap and thinking, I could so easily fall asleep, right here on



the floor. I was shocked when the doctor told me I was suffering from depression and these symptoms were classic male symptoms the doctor started me on anti-depressants.

Then when my Mum died in 2017 this hit me very hard as dad had been gone long before, and for those of you who have lost their last parent you know just how tough that is.

In 2018 we moved home and frankly I didn't want to go, even though it made financial sense, Dawn (my wife) really wanted it so, which also didn't help.

To be honest by this time the anti-depressants had started to work and the slide was reversing.

So back to the here and now and Model aeroplane flying, what I really needed was a pick me up, something to get me going again and I somehow stumbled across some model flying videos and decided to get myself a model aeroplane, a Dynam Spitfire was soon mine.

But, I was completely uninformed, I thought learning to fly it would be easy!

After some further digging, I found the BMFA from a link on Wheelspin's website, it sounded good so I signed up. It was their website that led me to the firebirds and I then mailed the club.





This went smoothly and I got a call from Russell a couple of days later we chatted about the right sort of model to learn on and that buying a Spektrum radio would allow me to use the buddy system. This was very good advice, Russell popped round and told me about you guys and arranged for me to join promising me that he would help me get started and the tuition would be Free!

A couple of weeks later the weather was good and we met at the Padmac site where I met some of you for the first time and I flew my Riot for the first time too. It didn't last long as I put it into a spin and it crashed in the next field. I went to retrieve it accompanied by Geoff who was calm and sympathetic but also mentioned he destroyed 4 aircraft learning and I started thinking that it would be very hard to justify that cost of model aeroplane flying.

So, I decided to try and repair it and to my surprise I found I could, it wasn't that hard and Russell gave me some 3mm plywood and recommended UHU POR which was developed for styrene foam, and it really does work well.

Joining the club and meeting all of you has had a very positive impact on my life, you have all been very friendly and helpful to me which I am very grateful for.

I am now on the verge of mastering the basics and it's all because of everyone's friendship and kindness, Alan has helped me with products and encouragement, Russell, Rob and Keith have spent many hours teaching me to control the aircraft protecting me with their finger on the button.

For that I am very grateful and I consider them all, very good friends indeed.

Thank you.

Paul.

Ed. Thank you Paul for this very personal item for the Newsletter, I think it reminds us all that life isn't always easy and that the Firebirds model club is more than just a flying club, long may it last.

Mental health issues can affect any of us at any time see <https://mentalhealth-uk.org/information-and-support/> for more information and advice.

Firebirds Model Club

News, Views & Information - November 2021



NEW Flying times : (from 19 July 2021)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<i>Quiet / Electric</i>	<i>Electric & I/C</i>	<i>Electric & I/C</i>	<i>Electric & I/C</i>	<i>Quiet / Electric</i>	<i>Electric & I/C until 2pm then Quiet / Electric until 4pm</i>	<i>Electric & I/C</i>
12-00	12-00	12-00	12-00	12-00	10-00	10-00
20-00 or dusk NO NIGHT FLYING	16-00	16-00	16-00	20-00 or dusk NO NIGHT FLYING	16-00	13-00

Or put another way:

<i>Quiet / Electric – NOW everyday of the week</i>		
Monday	12-00	20-00 (or dusk) NO NIGHT FLYING
Tuesday	12-00	16-00
Wednesday	12-00	16-00
Thursday	12-00	16-00
Friday	12-00	20-00 (or dusk) NO NIGHT FLYING
Saturday	10-00	16-00
Sunday	10-00	13-00

<i>Electric & I/C – Five days a week</i>		
Monday	NO FLYING	
Tuesday	12-00	16-00
Wednesday	12-00	16-00
Thursday	12-00	16-00
Friday	NO FLYING	
Saturday	10-00	14-00
Sunday	10-00	13-00

'Bank Holiday' exeptions to the above.

Good Friday 10am - 1pm (electric and IC)

EASTER SUNDAY ... NO flying!!

ALL BANK Holiday Mondays - 10am - 1pm (electric and IC)

CHRISTMAS DAY... NO flying!!

Firebirds Model Club

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Poorly club member

Continuing thoughts and good wishes from the committee to all poorly members.

FUTURE CLUB NIGHTS - Advance notice

ALL ** Postponed ** due to Covid 19 restrictions.

Club Information

This section gives a summary of club services and contact details.

External Events

If you need more details on any particular event, then go to <https://bmfa.org/Contests-Events/Contest-and-Event-Calendar>.

Firebirds Model Club Committee

The following are the contact details for the Committee. Each has given permission for their phone number and email addresses to be included in this Newsletter.

Chairman	Russell Lewis	023 8056 1397	russell@pilot1.co.uk
Vice Chair	Vacancy		
Treasurer	Alan Shergold	07973 221915	alanshergold@hotmail.co.uk
Secretary	Rob Cope	07795 996549	copec02@ntlworld.com
PRO	Peter Clark	07867 557964	psclark911@hotmail.com
Flying Site Rep.	Vacancy		
Safety Officer	Geoff Griffiths	023 9265 5931	gcgriffiths@hotmail.com
Membership Sec.	Keith Warwick	07887 486040	keithw11@hotmail.co.uk

Firebirds Constitution and Rules.

The Firebirds constitution and rules document can be found at the bottom of the 'about us' section on the web-site or by clicking the following link.

<http://firebirds.org.uk/onewebmedia/FIREBIRD%20CONSTITUTION%20%26%20RULES.pdf>.

Remember... Safe flying is no accident.