



October 2022



1926 - 2022

Dear Fellow Firebirds Club Members

Welcome to the October edition of the Firebirds newsletter a month in which we lost our Queen, the war in Ukraine continues and domestic fuel prices hit new highs! Thank goodness we all have our wonderful hobby to take our minds off of what is going on.. and although the best of this year's weather may now be behind us there should still be plenty more opportunities for some good flying and socialising down at the field.

Meanwhile, in this month's Newsletter...

- Yet another Barbeque
- Kik gets Kicked out
- A 30 year 'record' build.
- Geoff Maidens his Trojan
- Chris Fisher issues an apology
- 80% Scale Spitfire
- An Avro Vulcan almost takes to the road

Don't forget as the autumn takes hold that information and articles for the newsletter are greatly appreciated, but for now...

Now let's get on with this month's Newsletter.

Chris (Fisher)



MORE BBQ THANKS

Yet again Alan and his wife Debbie put on a fantastic Barbeque, Thank you.. It must have been a record in recent years to have had 3 barbeques in one year! Pictures taken at the BBQ on Saturday September the 17th.



KIK is Getting the Kick

Following concerns from members over the use of the KIK app (constant adverts for games and unsolicited contact requests) the club has decided to switch to using WhatsApp. Contact committee member Paul if you want to be added to either group (details at the end of this newsletter). There are now two WhatsApp groups....

'Firebirds' group - to be used for general club chit-chat. You may choose to mute this group.

'Who's Flying' group - **ONLY** for 'I am going flying at..' or 'is anyone going flying today' type posts.

WhatsApp use: 1. If you use the wrong group for a message a committee member may post a reminder to use the correct group. 2. It is often better to continue a conversation direct with another user rather than stay in the group. 3. The KIK group will be closed shortly ... Sadly no more being propositioned by pretty girls 😞 (Ed.)



IS THIS A RECORD? – Geoff Griffiths

This glider pictured right is an (almost) ¼ scale ASW24 which I'm ashamed to say has taken me 30 years to build!

The model was kitted by the German firm Robbe, and although quite expensive I bought it at a considerable discount from Sussex Model Centre as Robbe had ceased production. It all started to go together well until the time came to fit the large canopy onto its frame. Somehow I managed to glue the whole lot to the fuselage. Worse than that, in trying to separate it I cracked the canopy. Try as I may, I couldn't get a replacement as the kit was no longer in production.



Thirty years and two house moves later, it was still in the corner of the workshop taunting me. I really had to do something about it!

Fortunately I'd had the foresight to make up some protective wing bags from bubble wrap. Apart from the odd water stain, these were in excellent condition and almost ready for covering. The tailplane and rudder I'd already covered many years back, but it was Solarfilm and badly bubbled so needed to be stripped. The fuselage had browned slightly but was still more or less ok. It's made from a material that Robbe called "Plura", apparently a mix of Polypropylene and ABS, and very difficult to glue. In fact the only glue which will work is Stabilit Express. (Incidentally, if you've ever used this glue and wondered where you'd smelled it before, chances are it was at the Dentist's!)

I wanted to fit a single wheel retract unit so needed to re-enforce the bottom of the fuselage around the mounting. After some experimenting I found that lightweight glass cloth would stick remarkably well using Deluxe Materials Eze-Kote. I can't speak too highly of this combination; it can even safely be used to strengthen foam. I had a 700w 900Kv motor kicking around (originally intended for a boat), so after cutting off the nose this was duly fitted, again re-enforcing the mounting with glass cloth. The scale folding prop and spinner came all the way from Bulgaria via Hyperflight UK Ltd.

I was a bit horrified when I realised that it was going to need £60 of Oracover to finish the wings, but hey ho, in for a penny. . .

That just left the problem of the missing 16" long canopy. After scouring the internet for something I might be able to modify, it soon became obvious that I'd have to make it myself. A bit of a daunting prospect. I'd done a bit of vacuum moulding in the past, but nothing of this size. Still, nothing ventured etc!

A form was made using a combination of blue foam, pink finishing plaster and P38 car filler. It took ages to get it even half right. To do this properly I should have made a series of





accurate templates, but in the end I decided life was too short, and as it was going to be a one off, shaping it by eye was going to save a lot of time. It's not perfect, but seems reasonable.

Fortunately, 1mm PET is not too expensive as it took five attempts to get a canopy that was acceptable!

At just under 8 ½ lb, this is no lightweight, but the span is 3 ½ metres giving a reasonable wing loading of 19oz/square foot (excuse the mixed units!). Even so, hand launching was not going to be a practical proposition. Inspired by a design by Martin Hughes I set about making a take-off dolly, It's a bit heavy but runs freely. After 30 years, it was finally ready to take to the sky . . .

. . . Or so I thought! My original hope was that from a smooth surface I'd be able to take off from its one wheel as per some full size gliders. This meant a maximum prop diameter of 11", which was only capable of providing a power loading of 55watts / pound. I'm sure that from tarmac it would be just about ok, but even after a push start from Allan, it really didn't have enough power. At the end of the strip it bounced off the dolly and sank to the ground.

Unfortunately I wasn't quick enough stopping the motor resulting in a broken, ludicrously expensive, Bulgarian carbon fibre prop blade.



Back on the bench I realised that I could fit the blades from my Purito glider! They are the same make! Going from an 11x6 prop to a 13x8 has improved matters considerably with the power now up to 670watts, giving a power loading of 80watts / pound.

Fingers crossed that next time It will take to the air.

After 30 years, this must be an all-time record!

Geoff



Image notes... The vacuum moulding bed. (Vacuum cleaner is attached to the right hand end and the plastic fixed to a frame and heated in the oven). My Martin Hughes inspired dolly. No excuse for not seeing it!



Geoff flew his new Trojan - photos courtesy of Allan Hardingham

A lovely model, flown by a very capable pilot and beautifully captured in pictures. However, this is also a moment to remember one of our departed friends as, this was one of Terry Jacobson's old models. Terry's name is often heard down the field and his models still flown, I think that's a good thing (Ed.).

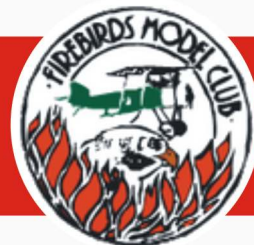




Rob's 'Flying Times' - Here it is a bit bigger in case anybody wants to print it out and pin it on the wall..

| | | Flying Times | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| Monday | QF | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tuesday | Both | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wednesday | Both | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thursday | Both | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Friday | QF | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Saturday | Both | | | | | QF | | | | | | |
| Sunday | +Bank Holiday Both | | | | | | | | | | | |

EASTER SUNDAY & CHRISTMAS DAY ... NO flying!!



My apologies to Bristol, but it really wasn't my fault...

Last month having had the newsletter proof read by several committee members before sending it out I was fairly sure that it contained no glaringly obvious mistakes. However, (and I know this may sound strange) having compiled the newsletter and read it many times before sending I sometimes read it after receiving it... yes, I actually send it to the whole club mailing list including me!

So last month I wrote under the heading ***"I visited Alpha Foxtrot, a rather special Aeroplane"*** that ***"I had visited Bristol Aerospace also known (locally) as the spitfire museum"***.

Anyone see the glaring mistake? Bristol aerospace museum is not known locally as the Spitfire museum is in fact known locally as the "Concorde" museum.... Obviously Doh!!

So why is it not (entirely) my fault.. well, you try being brought up in Southampton where the word that follows "special Aeroplane" almost from birth is "Spitfire!". If Any club member would like to write a piece about the amazing aviation history of Southampton, I would love to publish it.

And on that note....

I was watching the BBC news when a particular piece caught my attention, it referred to someone making a replica Spitfire, I thought it must be an R/C model but no, this guy had built a proper airworthy replica spitfire. Apparently he couldn't afford to buy an original so made one instead.



STEVE MARKHAM

| The first take off from RAF Odiham in Hampshire after more than 14,000 hours of build time

Full story here.... <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-hampshire-63116639>

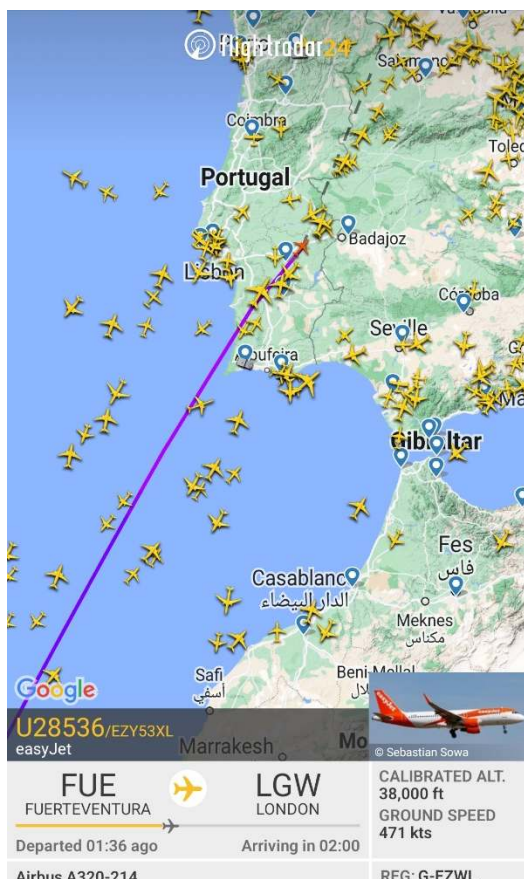
And again on that note....

While we were in Fuerteventura last month one... I know I, I know, it was lovely, very warm, no rain and really relaxing... but, anyway on with the story... while we were there one of my



wife's friends came over to visit for a few days. Now, I don't know if I am the only one in the club, but I do find aeroplanes rather interesting and have an app on my phone that show what is going on in the skies above us, the app is called Flightradar24 and I find it interesting to identify aeroplanes that are flying overhead or to track family and friend's flights when they travel... Sorry if I am sounding like a... weirdo "Plane Spotter" !

Anyway here is our friend Caron's plane as it crossed over Portugal into Spanish airspace..

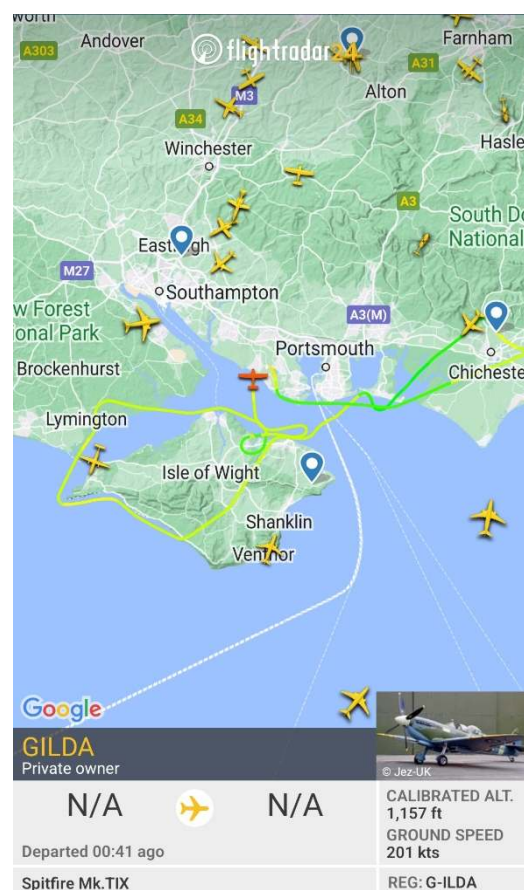


As you can see this plane was a Spitfire, one of several 2 seaters that can offer Spitfire experience flights to those with deep pockets.

Anyway, the internet is an amazing place to be and I dug a bit further, how much she was sold for at auction, who bought her and the fact that she had been involved in a terrible accident.

Here is a link to the full accident report <https://www.gov.uk/aaib-reports/aaib-investigation-to-spitfire-mkt-ix-spitfire-g-ilda>

Now, while you probably won't be that interested in our friend's flight over Spain, when I tracked her flight a little later that day as she flew past Southampton and the Isle of Wight I noticed another plane on a rather strange flight path...





And on that note....

Did anybody notice this accident in the news? ... and I know what you're thinking, it must have been ages ago, Vulcan's don't fly anymore, well this one nearly did. Not sure if this needed reporting to the CAA or the local traffic cops.



Link to full story.. <https://www.stratford-herald.com/news/when-the-runway-runs-out-9274426/>

And.. The recovery <https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/local-news/vulcan-bomber-just-missed-road-25062824>

Welcome to new members this month

Ian Barry and Dave Durnford.

If you see somebody unknown down the field always question them, but nicely as they may just be our new members ☺

A NOVEMBER DATE - Worth a visit ? Romsey Swapmeet ...

Hampshire Model Flying Association swapmeet will be held on

Sunday 6th November 2022 from 8:30am to noon - at Mountbatten School, Romsey, SO51 5SY.

Admission is only £4, under 16s free.

A DECEMBER DATE - Christmas Party

Remember to keep Wednesday the 14th December free for The Club Christmas Party 7.30 at Hamble Club. ** Raffle tickets for the Christmas Draw now on Sale. **

Firebirds Model Club

News, Views & Information - October 2022



Flying times : (from December 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> |
| 10-00 | 10-00 | 10-00 | 10-00 | 10-00 | 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 | 10-00 | 20-00 (or dusk) NO NIGHT FLYING |
| Tuesday | 10-00 | 16-00 |
| Wednesday | 10-00 | 16-00 |
| Thursday | 10-00 | 16-00 |
| Friday | 10-00 | 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 | 10-00 | 16-00 |
| Wednesday | 10-00 | 16-00 |
| Thursday | 10-00 | 16-00 |
| Friday | NO FLYING | |
| Saturday | 10-00 | 14-00 |
| Sunday | 10-00 | 13-00 |

'Bank Holiday' exceptions 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

News, Views & Information - October 2022



Poorly club member

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

FUTURE CLUB NIGHTS - Advance notice

Following a few years curtailed by the coronavirus, it is now hoped that we can restart some of social events as we near winter, we're far too busy flying in the summer ☺.

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 | 07503 153962 | russell@pilot1.co.uk |
| Vice Chair | Peter Clark | 07867 557964 | psclark911@hotmail.com |
| Treasurer | Alan Shergold | 07973 221915 | alanshergold@hotmail.co.uk |
| Secretary | Rob Cope | 07795 996549 | copes02@ntlworld.com |
| Flying Site Rep. | Paul Brown | 07730 202510 | paulprb@gmail.com |
| Safety Officer | Geoff Griffiths | 023 9265 5931 | ggriffiths@hotmail.com |
| Membership Sec. | Keith Warwick | 07887 486040 | keithw11@hotmail.co.uk |

General contact e-mail address - firebirdsmodelclub@outlook.com

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.