News, Views & Information - January 2023





HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023

Dear Fellow Firebirds Club Members

Firstly, Happy NEW YEAR (hopefully!), I say hopefully as following the last few years we all need a little bit of hope!

So, what am I going to write about this month, the winter is such a funny time for us model fliers. We might get a few days here and there when a rare good weather forecast aligns with a day of the week when we can fly, but then we don't have any batteries charged or it's dark at 4pm! The winter is not the best time for our sport.

However, there are still things you can do.. In the November Newsletter I mentioned an indoor flying opportunity at Wickham, organised by the Bishops Waltham flying club... I have now been there twice and I know I am not the only one to have been. Speak to our Geoff if you interested.

The winter also gives us an opportunity to build new models or repair damaged ones, see Paul's photos later in the newsletter where he resurrects his broken Phoenix 2000. Don't forget you can send me pictures and / or text about your latest build or repair for publication in the newsletter.

It was good to see so many of you at the Christmas Party last month and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year down the field!

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

Chris (Fisher)

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One Special Memory from 2022

Several members took a walk on the dark side during 2022 with a visit to the Canoe lake in Southsea, but the specific memory for me was of Rob's flying boat / sea plane which sadly flipped and almost, became a submersible then needing some serious repair work. Two things recently reminded me of this event, both being videos on the internet... there are a couple of links below.





https://www.youtube.com/shorts/gW4eiQnBG08
https://www.facebook.com/reel/904998424000801?s=yWDuG2&fs=e

Thinking of a new transmitter?

There has been much talk amongst members during this last month about purchasing their next transmitter and several references have been made to 'OPENTX' transmitters.



So, if you didn't know, the idea is you buy a transmitter 'the physical hardware' and you then programme the transmitter with OpenTX firmware and software which is open source firmware / software written for RC radio transmitters, by enthusiasts.

Not being tied to a specific manufacturer, the firmware is highly configurable and brings much more features than

found in traditional radios. The daily feedback from the thousands of users should ensure the continued stability and quality of the firmware.

I know a few members now have them, so I look forward to receiving their write-up for the newsletter.



But for me, An OLD, NEW transmitter.

Leading on from the OPENTX transmitter discussion above, let me know, have I just made a big mistake? As somebody who's business life has revolved around IT, I immediately understood the concept of OPENTX transmitters and can see the many advantages, but despite that, I have just bought a second hand Spektrum transmitter for the same 'sort of' money that I could have bought a brand new OPENTX model.

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So why have I done that? Well, firstly, I need to say that my old DX9 is getting really rather tired (not a great thing to say if I then try and sell it on to another club member!) Don't get me wrong, it still works OK but.. having been previously owned by one of the club's hardest and most prolific fliers (he won't be offended), the Gimbals are now getting a little bit worn and unbelievably it also survived a Li-Po induced fire in its earlier life... But despite still working perfectly It does deserve to be given a gentler retirement. So what have I bought?

I have bought an identical second hand transmitter to the one I had a DX9.. but being a newer one sold after 2015 it is DSMX only!.. (see below)

A bad move perhaps? But to me, knowing how to use something and knowing that it should be reliable is worth much more than a colour screen and unlimited programmability.

Now a bit of history, one of the reasons I kept the DX9 going so long was because unlike the newer / current Spektrum transmitters it still supported DSM2 and by law all DSM based radios sold after 15 January 2015 do not support DSM2 (now compliant with the EU standards).

So having some old models that still had DSM2 embedded I wanted to keep them in the air. There is no way around that. The only way to currently get a new radio that supports DSM2 is to acquire one outside of the EU region.

Note: All radios in the hands of users before the cut-off date will still have previous protocols grandfathered in. They can still be used. Future AW updates will not change the protocols of grandfathered units. Be aware though that if a radio is sent in for service it is possible that it will need to be made compliant with the new standards before it is returned to a user.

Just in case you wanted to know....

1. DSMX is used for hopping between multiple different frequencies. 2. DSM2 is used for switching between two randomly selected frequencies. DSM2 DSMX 1. DSM2 is used for switching between two randomly selected between two randomly selected frequencies. 1. DSMX is used for hopping between two randomly selected frequencies. 2. It works very well in situations but is vulnerable in difficult cases.

Did you know.. Spektrum often talk about Generation 1 and generation 2 transmitters.. the following shows which ones are which...

Generation 1 is the DX6i, DX7, DX7s and DX8. **Generation 2** is everything newer - DX6e, DX6, DX7G2, DX8e, DX8G2, DX9, DX10t, DX18 series, DX20, iX12.

... and as far as I can work out the principle difference between them is that generation 1 don't speak to you and generation 2 do!! (see next page for a list of the Spektrum vocabulary .. "Bombs way!"

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57	Voice Calleuts		Voice Calleuts	11	Voice Callouts		Voice Callouts	1177	Voice Callouts
	Spoilers .	39	3D Rates	77	Tele(metry) Stop	115	Pot 5	153	Battery Charged
2	Time Remaining	40	High Rates	78	Inhibit	116	Pot 6	154	Flight Mode Selected
3	HOLD	41	Mid Rates	79	Switch A	117	Throttie Stick	155	Retracts Down
4	NORMAL	42	Low Rates	80	Switch B	118	Alleron Stick	156	SD Card in Camera
5	Stunt 1	43	RPM	81	Switch C	119	Elevator Stick	157	Model initialized
6	Sturit 2	44	Temperature	82	Switch D	120	Rudder Stick	158	Video Link Confirmed
7	Stunt 3	45	Rx V	83	Switch E	121	Spoiler Stick	159	Video Recording Star
В	Stunt 4	_	Volts	84		_	Roll	160	Low Rates Confirmed
9	7 6000000000000000000000000000000000000	46	1.0000	1100	Switch F	122	1000	1	
	Stunt 5	47	Ignition	85	Switch G	123	Pitch	161	Motors Armed
10	idle Up 1	48	Amps	86	Switch H	124	Yaw	162	Student Control
11	Idle Up 2	49	Airspeed	87	Switch I	125	Throttle	163	Instructor Control
12	idle Up 3	50	Altitude	88	Switch J	126	Aileron	164	No Student Signal
13	idle Up 4	51	GForce	89	Switch K	127	Elevator	165	Throttle Low
14	idle Up S	52	Turbine	90	Switch L.	128	Rudder	166	Spoiler
15	MODE 1	53	F-Log	91	Switch M	129	Flaperon	167	Flap Position
16	MODE 2	54	GPS Distance	92	Switch N	130	Gain	168	Gyra
17	MODE 3	55	Recording	93	Switch O	131	Canopy Attached	169	Governor
18	MODE 4	56	Heading	94	Switch P	132	Rx Battery Test	170	Flight Mode
19	MODE 5	57	Power Box	95	Switch Q	133	Fuel Tank Full	171	Motor Off
20	MODE 6	58	ESC	96	Switch R	134	Hatch Attached	172	Motor On
21	MODE 7	59	GPS Acquired	97	Switch S	135	Test Controls	173	Safety Switch Off
22	MODE 8	60	Rx Pack mAh	98	Switch T	136	Wing Bolts Secured	174	Safety Switch On
23	MODE 9	61	Flight Pack mAh	99	Left Tip	137	Air in Retracts	175	Throttle Cut Off
24	MODE 10	62	Ground Speed	100	Right Tip	138	Prop Secured	176	Throttle Cut On
25	Launch	63	GPS Speed	101	Left Stick	139	Reset Timer	177	Expo Off
26	Cruise	64	GPS Altitude	102	Right Stick	140	Start Timer	178	Expo On
27	Land	65	65 LiPoMan	103	Left Slider	141	Flap Position	179	Expo High
28	Thermal	66	145 Li PoMon	104	Right Sider	142	ign. Batt. Charged	180	Expo Mid
29	Speed	67	Tx Volts	105	L Lever	143	Fuel Plug in Place	181	Expo Low
30	Knife Edge Mode	68	Photo Click	106	R Lever	144	Flight Batt, Charged	182	To
31	Rolling Mode	69	Low Battery	107	R Knob	145	Thro. Trim Position	183	inhibit
32	3D Mode	70	System idle	108	Left Knob	146	Gyro initialized	184	High
33	Normal Mode	71	Timer Expired	109	L Trim	147	Gyro Gain Position	185	Medium
34	General Rates	72	Alarm	110	R Trim	148	Gov. Gain Position	186	Neutral
35	Hammerhead Rates	73	Timer Start	111	Pot 1	149	Glow Driver Active	187	Increase
36	Stall Turn Rates	74	Timer Stop	112	Pot 2	150	Blade Bolts Tight	188	Decrease
37	Rolling Circle Rates	75	Timer Cleared	113	Pot 3	151	Tx Antenna Extended	189	Up
38	Spin Rates	76	Tele(metry) Start	114	Pot 4	152	GPS Acquired	190	Down
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	Make Pathorn	41	Contract Contracts	-	Voice Callouts	11	Malan Calleria	11	Michael Parket de
101 1	Voice Callouts	220	Voice Callouts	202		201	Voice Callouts Self-Level	242	Voice Callouts
nation and the	THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 1	229	Brakes On	267	User 31	305	Contract of the Contract of th	343	The state of the s
military makes ben	Silence	230	Brakes Off Heat Started	268	Launch Mode A Cruise Mode A	306	Hover Mode Bank 0	344	Video Start Video Stoo
-	hrottle Cut	232	Heat Ended	270		308	Bank 1	-	Take Still
-	10,000 0 000	1			Landing Mode A	309	Bank 2	346	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	iear Up	233	Lap Time	271	Thermal Mode A	0.00	Bank 3	-	Velocity Mode
	iear Down	234	Lap Timer	272	Speed Mode A	310		348	Evo Mode
	off	235	Lap	273	Launch Mode B	311	Bank 4	349	Angle Mode
	ln.	236	User 0	274	Cruise Mode 8	312	Loiter Mode	350	3D Agility Mode
	Mix Off	237	User 1	275	Landing Mode B	313	Stabilize Mode	351	Ratitude Mode
-	Alix On	238	User 2	276	Thermal Mode B	314	Simple	352	Autonomous Mode
and and spring labor	Mix Inhibited	239	User 3	277	Speed Mode B	315	Auto	353	_
	Mix Active	240	User 4	278	GPS Mode	316	Guided Mode	354	
whiteholder and	raking	241	User 5	279	Attitude Mode	317	Position Mode	355	
-	telease	242	User 6	280	Manual Mode	318	Return To Launch	356	
	laps Up	243	User 7	281	Course Lock Mode	319	Circle Mode	357	
-	akeoff Flags	244	User 8	282	Home Lock Mode	320	Head Tracker On	358	
	anding Flaps	245	User 9	283	Return Home	321	Head Tracker Off	359	
	ow Coupling Closed	246	User 10	284	Failsafe	322	Gimbal Control On	360	
	ow Couple Open	247	User 11	285	Smart Mode	323	Gimbal Control Off	361	
210 N	Aix inactive	248	User 12	286	Stability Mode	324	Gimbal Locked	362	
211 S	moke Off	249	User 13	287	Agility Mode	325	SAFE Mode	363	
-	moke On	250	Liver 14	288	Indoor Mode	326	Beginner Mode	364	
-	lomb Drop	251	User 15	289	Outdoor Mode	327	Intermediate Mode	365	
-	iombs Away!	252	Liser 16	290	Stability Hi Angle	328	Experienced Mode	366	
215 C	anopy Open	253	User 17	291	Stability Low Angle	329	Panic Recovery	367	
216 C	anopy Closed	254	User 18	292	Altitude Hold	330	Return and Loiter	368	
217 C	hute Deployed	255	User 19	293	WayPoint 1	331	Stagility	369	
218 0	oor Open	256	User 20	294	WayPoint 2	332	Photo Mode	370	
219 0	oor Closed	257	User Z1	295	WayPoint 3	333	AS3X Mode	371	
220 L	ights On	258	User 22	296	WayPoint 4	334	AP Mode (Aerial Photo)	372	
221 L	ights Off	259	Liser 23	297	WayPoint 5	335	Atti Mode (Attitude)	373	
222 P	recision Mode	260	User 24	298	WayPoint 6	336	Rate Mode	374	
223 5	peed Brake Open	261	User 25	299	WayPoint 7:	337	Position Hold	375	
224 5	peed Brake Closed	262	User 26	300	WayPoint 8	338	Horizon Mode	376	
225 R	lotate Up	263	User 27	301	WayPoint 9	339	Axis Lock	377	
226 R	lotate Down	264	User 28	302	Waypoint 10	340	Acro Mode	378	
227 R	lotate Left	265	User 29	303	Bailout	341	Absolute Position	379	
228 R	lotate Right	266	User 30	304	Panic	342	Camera On	380	
_			Light shade « new		BOLD = duplicated		Dark Shade = custom	-	11.

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Christmas Party and AGM 2022

There was a good turnout for the Christmas party and as always plenty of food. The AGM took place when we first arrived and the attendant members voted for the existing committee to remain in place. The fees for 2023 were discussed and unanimously accepted, many members renewed on the night.

Here are a couple of photos taken during the Christmas party, I know it's unfair to take pictures of members when they are eating (sorry Toni).



Christmas Draw 2022

Several members have been selling raffle tickets throughout the year, so there was a good selection of prizes purchased for the draw. The draw took place and many members left the evening with some great prizes. Picture right, this year's prizes.



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Firebirds Awards ceremony

For various reasons the club has not given any awards for the last few years, but in this year 2022 there was two. Russell was ably assisted by Debbie Shergold in awarding 'most improved flyer' to Paul Brown and 'The Meritorious member award' to John Graham (received on his behalf by Lee Fryer).



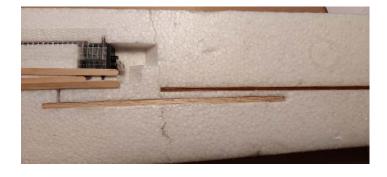
Paul resurrects his Phoenix by Paul Brown

I crashed the Phoenix but was determined to rebuild it, in this case 'Phoenix' being an appropriate name (if it flies again).

Below you can see the broken wing aileron and spar, I had to glue the wing back together and decided to reinforce the joint. I cut out splints and glued them back in.







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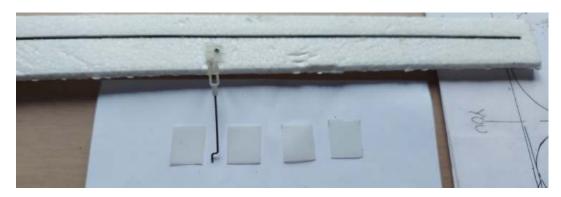


The wing mounting areas were left on the fuselage with both wings torn away here I have used Deluxe Materials 'foam to foam' to knit the trailing edge back on.





As suggested by Chris (Fisher) I cut up some plastic from a milk bottle to form hinges.



And slotted them into the trailing edge (the holes are just to enable the glue to traverse the hinge.)





Ailerons back in position and ready for a test flight.

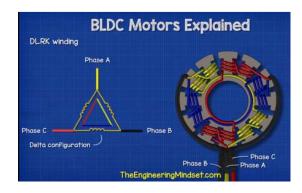


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From the World Wide Web

Whilst most of us know (roughly) how brushless motors work I thought this video (below) explained it exceptionally well. If you do watch it, the bit about PWM is interesting but, then towards the end of the video (talking about Arduino) isn't much use to the average aero modeller, unless you are getting in to open source development to go with your new opensource transmitter! ©



Link: - https://youtu.be/yiD5nCfmbV0

A Few more things found on the Internet this month that may be...

1. Amusing – Be Careful flying near Grandchildren!!



2.Disappointing – Did you know the famous scene from Top-gun may have been FAKE!



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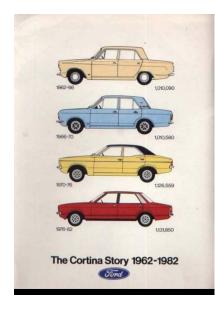
3. Informative



4. Educational



5. And some that shouldn't be in a Model Flying Club Newsletter...!! Oops Sorry!!





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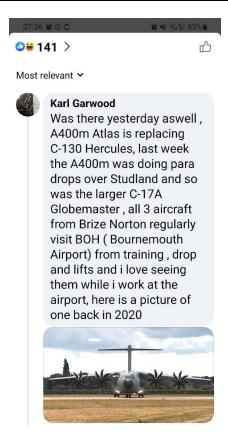


Back to Aviation, did you know

What is the difference between a Merlin and Griffon engines?

The RR Griffon was nearly twice a powerful as early RR Merlins. They were both inline V12 engines the Merlin being 27 litres and the Griffon 37 litres. Despite a 37% increase in capacity and a near doubling of power output it was only about 12% larger.

Another interesting flight pattern caught on one of those clever apps!





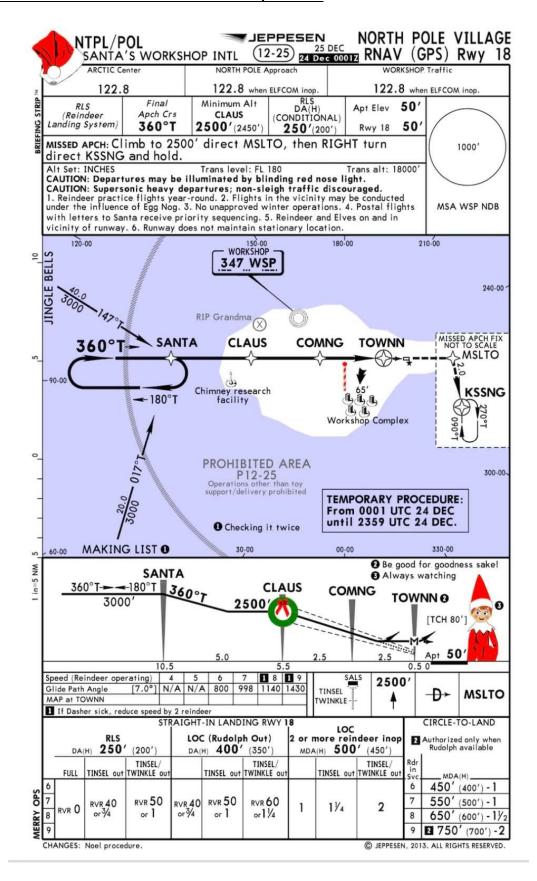
Another Thank You - The Tarmac 'lump' has gone!



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A Retired Pilot sent me this in December - All very unusual!



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While I was away on Holiday...

I know these pictures don't look like they were taken in November, but in the Canaries the weather in November is still lovely. The photos are of the annual Fuerteventura kite festival and I couldn't help but take a few pictures of the aeroplanes.



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I was getting on an aeroplane...

... and noticed something mildly interesting when looking at the elevator there are three lines, I presume these are the limits of movement for the surfaces. If I am right, then I just thought it interesting that on this full size Boeing the movement is so hugely biased to 'up' elevator and not 'down' elevator. But I guess for passenger comfort that is probably a good thing, a mid-air bunt might cause concern.





What's a Bunt?

Or as Wikipedia says, an 'English Bunt'...

	Loop	
Inside loop	A vertical circle entered from straight and erect level flight. A positive pitching movement is used at all points in the loop to draw the circle, so that the aeroplane canopy is pointing inwards. Both the inside and outside loop are sometimes casually referred to as a 'loop the loop'.	
Outside loop	A vertical circle entered from straight and erect level flight, canopy pointing out of the loop. Loop can be above or below the straight and level entry altitude, from erect or inverted attitude. (Draws extreme negative G)	
English bunt	Half an outside loop starting from upright, straight and erect level flight. (The pilot pushes the stick forward and draws a half circle in the sky from the top down).	

I snapped this flying overhead in Fuerteventura

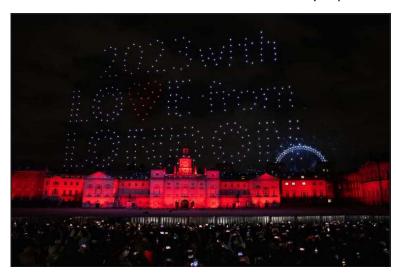


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London's New Years Eve Celebrations

An amazing Fireworks and drone display, drones are starting to replace fireworks in a lot of situations, and they are indeed very impressive. The second one, I took earlier in the year at Disneyland Paris apparently their 30th year. Not sure if these drones have anything even vaguely in common with what we do down at the field but still very impressive.





Don't get any ideas

At the AGM Russell made reference to and thanked the club members that help maintain the flying field, mowing isn't always a fun job.. but at least with a small modification it could be comfortable?





And Finally

Now that you have Enjoyed reading (hopefully) the Newsletter, there is just one more thing..

You must have paid your membership before you fly in 2023, details below.

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FIREBIRDS MODEL CLUB FEES 2023

Club fees for 2023. Please note this does not include membership of the BMFA.

Firebirds Fees 2023

Senior - £98

Junior - £33

Family Senior - £83

Family Partner - £83

Family Junior - £33

It is a requirement of flying with our club that you also have BMFA membership.

BMFA Fees 2023

Seniors - £42

Juniors - £20

Family Partner - £29

Family Junior - £15

For most members that renew their BMFA membership through the Firebirds the following totals apply.

Firebirds and BMFA membership

Senior - £98 + £42 = £140

Junior - £33 + £20 = £53

Family Senior - £83 + £42 = £125

Family Partner - £83 + £29 = £112

Family Junior - £30 + £15 = £48

NOTE: The above excludes the CAA licencing charges, which like last year the club recommends members do directly with the CAA, and remember your 2023 renewal could be very soon for many.

** See below for how to pay **

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Paying your membership.

OPTION 1.

Find a committee members letterbox and drop it in.

OPTION 2.

By post – Send a cheque to

Firebirds Model club c/o 6 Maytree Close Locksheath Southampton SO31 6NQ

OPTION 3.

By Bank transfer

Account name: WARWICK KA (he's our membership secretary)

Sort code: 55-70-05

Account number: 75528037

*IMPORTANT *

Use a reference: Your Initial Your Surname and FB (for Firebirds)

Example: K Warwick FB

NOTICE ON MEMBERSHIP.

You must have paid your fees to be able to fly after the 1st January.

Members not renewing by April 1st 2023 will be considered as not renewing and need to be considered as new members and subject to any joining fee or membership cap then in place.

Please contact a committee member should you have any questions.

If you are having difficulty paying your fees, please talk to a committee member.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY...



Swapmeet on Sunday 26th March 2023 from 8:30am to noon

At Mountbatten School, Romsey, SO51 5SY.

Admission £4, under 16s free. Refreshments available.

Or as a seller, a table costs £9 (inc. one admission), additional tables cost £5 each.

** Ask Russell Lewis if you want to know more, he has been several times (both as a buyer and a seller). **

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Flying times: (from December 2021)

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

Or put another way:

Quiet / Electric – NOW everyday of the week							
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					

Electric & I/C –	Five days a v	veek
Monday	NO FLYIN	G
Tuesday	10-00	16-00
Wednesday	10-00	16-00
Thursday	10-00	16-00
Friday	NO FLYIN	G
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!!

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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 (3).

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/Contests-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	gcgriffiths@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.