



February

2023

STOP PRESS:
*You just missed the
opportunity to own a
Full size Red Arrow
aeroplane!*

Dear Fellow Firebirds Club Members

An important note from the committee.

All members are reminded that we must leave the gates clear at our flying site. Looking at the image below, we should be able to park 7 cars without a problem and remember that the lower car park is also available and can take dozens more cars. The only exception to this is at weekends when the farmers may not need access to the gates.



Please talk to a committee member if unsure and remember if we upset our landlords then, we no longer have a flying site. Please Park sensibly.



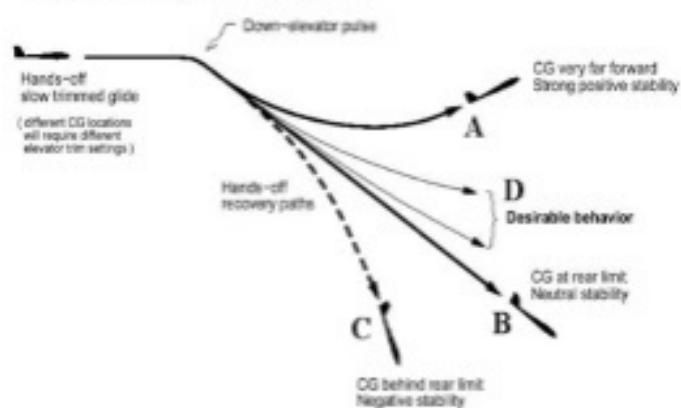
Barrie Stillwell's Piper J3 Cub

Barrie Stillwell says .. I have just completed my Piper J3 Cub - 81" all electric and ready for this season.



Found this on the internet... Does it work?

CG-position diagnosis via Dive Test





Don't forget to re-join

Remember, BMFA membership is a prerequisite of Firebirds model club membership.

British Model Flying Association

Protecting and promoting UK model flying for 100 years

Unbeatable membership benefits include:

- CLASS LEADING £25,000,000 liability cover.
- £35,000 personal accident cover as standard.
- CAA Operator Registration - made easy as part of our membership process.
- The BMFA News, a bi-monthly members' magazine delivered directly to your door. Also, the ability to download the British Drone Flyers News.
- Access to the BMFA Rewards & Savings Scheme (additional £3.20 cardless or £5.50 with physical card)
- Expertise and guidance on all aspects of model flying is just an email or phone call away.
- Access to the BMFA Affiliated Club network (over 750 clubs)
- The BMFA Achievement Scheme - helping you succeed at your flying ambitions.



Yearly fee:
Senior £42.00 / Junior £20.00
Family Senior £29 / Family Junior £16.00
*NB membership year runs to Dec 2023
Are you ready to join us?
Join at: <https://bmfa.azolve.com>

T: 0116 2440028 W: www.bmfa.org E: admin@bmfa.org

BMFA, Chacksfield House, 31 St Andrews Road, Leicester. LE2 8RE



Russell builds last year's Christmas Present – A Century 'Double Trouble'.

Taking inspiration from many full-size aircraft such as the Ultimate, the Pitts Special and the Tiger Moth the Century's Double Trouble combines the best of what these have to offer in one aeroplane.

This is what the sales 'blurb' says... Great aerobatics with superb slow speed characteristics and also amazing ground handling all wrapped up in a model that will go in the boot of a small car all made up and ready to fly. The prototype model was flown on an OS 46 but you can use up to a 55 size nitro engine or an Overlander 5045/10..... thumper motor on 4-5 cell 3300mAh battery. The model comes with all the mounts and accessories to make either the I.C. Nitro version Or the E.P. Electric version. This is truly a model you can fall in love with.



Wingspan 1135mm (44.68")
Length 1070mm (41.33")
Flying Weight IC .46 2.35kg (5.3lb)
Flying Weight EP no Battery 2.1kg (4.63lb)



Pictures during construction.



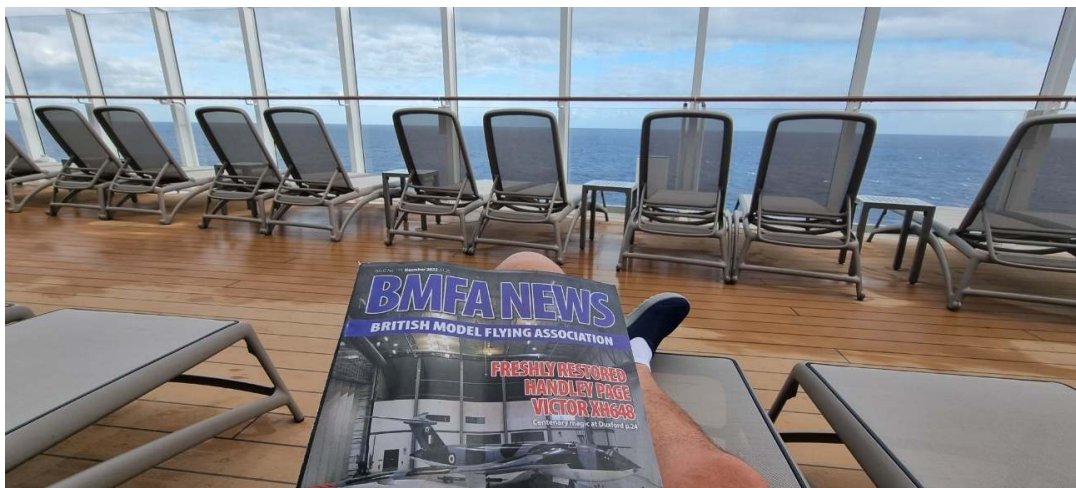
Note the creative use of Sharon's ironing board as a workbench... just have to be careful with the glue!





Time to Relax and catch up on the BMFA magazines.

So, recently I was lucky enough to take a holiday aboard a cruise ship and during several 'sea days' I was able to sit up on deck, watch the world go by and catch up on many months of the BMFA magazine, happy days!



However whilst being in the middle of the Atlantic ocean is very restful, you do miss your mates down at the flying field and then when you read something interesting in your BMFA magazine, you have nobody to discuss those things with.. Thankfully with a mobile phone camera and a section in the Newsletter I could bring that moment home with me..

First, and at the front of every BMFA magazine Manny's articles are always interesting, but one recent reminder should be taken on-board by all of us... Reading one of Manny's article confirms two things 1. it does happen and 2. the support and insurance offered by the BMFA is an absolute must if / when things go wrong.

Then came the regular cartoon strip, 'Bertie'...

Personally I thought that the Cartoon strip might be more applicable without the last section! (see 'cut here' line). Sadly, many people don't realise the hard work that goes on in the background looking after our flying site. Members have been on-site even when the ground was still frozen checking lawn mowers and preparing for the season. Thank you, you know who you are!!



FIRE RISK

This years long hot summer has of course highlighted the general fire risk, and unfortunately, we have dealt with a number of insurance claims as a result of fire damage caused by model aircraft. Fortunately no injury to persons was involved.



Firebirds Model Club

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Next I read an article about flying club flying competitions with interesting challenges like maximum touch-and-goes in a minute, or maximum flight time from a timed burst of power, or limbo or... the list goes on. Perhaps we should have some competition events in the summer? Anybody fancy organising? Whilst we wouldn't necessarily need to do a massive event, the BMFA have a link <https://funfly.bmfa.org/> which may be helpful? →

The next thing that caught my attention was some off the advertising content, is it just me or has our sport suddenly got more expensive?

Entry level / basic IC. Engines and Spektrum and Futaba transmitters now start at £200 (Ouch!).. Still good value compared to many other pastimes, but definitely rising.

FUTABA	
T32MZ Tx w/R7108SB	£2599.99
T16SZ Tx w/R7008SB	£712.50
T16Z Tx w/R7108SB	£632.50
T14SG Tx w/R300SB	£495.99
T10J Tx w/R300SB	£329.99
T6K V3 Tx w/R300SB	£203.50
TBL Sport Tx w/R3106GF	£89.99
R7008SB FASTEST Rx	£104.99
R617FS FAST Rx	£75.99
R3008SB T-FHSS Rx	£58.99
R2008SB S-FHSS Rx	£47.99
R3006SB T-FHSS Rx	£49.99
R2006SB S-FHSS Rx	£42.50
R3004SB T-FHSS Rx	£46.50
R2004SB S-FHSS Rx	£36.99
S-U300	£13.25
S-U301	£21.99
S-U400	£25.50

SPEKTRUM	
IX20 EU (Tx Only)	£1659.99
IX12 EU (Tx Only)	£659.99
NX10 (Tx Only)	£539.99
NX8 EU (Tx Only)	£379.99
DX8e EU (Tx Only)	£269.99
DX8e EU (Tx Only)	£197.49
NX8Tx (Tx Only)	£324.99
DX5 (Tx Only)	£89.99
AR20400T 20 Ch Telemetry Rx	£364.99
AR10400T Telemetry Rx	£304.99
AR10100T Telemetry Rx	£89.99
AR8360T AS3X & Telemetry Rx	£134.99
AR8020T Telemetry Rx	£89.99
AR630 AS3X & SAFE Rx	£71.99
AR610T Telemetry Rx	£57.99
AR637T AS3X & Telemetry Rx	£71.99
AR631 AS3X & SAFE Rx	£75.99
AR620 Sport Rx	£35.99
AR410 Sport Rx	£24.99
WS2000 Wireless Dongle	£35.99

DLE Engines	
DLE 20	£229.95
DLE 20 RA	£249.95
DLE 30	£259.95
DLE 30 RA	£319.95
DLE 55	£319.95
DLE 55 RA	£419.95
DLE 61	£479.95
O.S Engines	
Max 25FX II	£185.99
Max 46AXII	£136.99
Max 55AX	£166.50
Max 65 AX	£223.50
Max 95AX	£279.99
Max 120AX	£299.99
F8120 Surpass III	£619.99
GT15 Petrol	£389.49
GT22 Petrol	£386.99
SAITO ENGINES	
FA-40A	£269.99
FA-42B	£288.75
FA-42B	£306.99
FA-100	£329.50
FA-125A	£356.50
FA-150B	£437.75
FA-180B	£489.99

their sincere thanks to the organizing team and all those who worked so hard with judging, scoring and generally ensuring that the competitors had such a good time.

For more information on Fun Fly, and to see more pictures from this and other events, check out the BFFA web site at <https://funfly.bmfa.org/>. BFFA (British Fun Fly Association) is a BMFA Specialist Body that promotes Fun Fly in the UK.

In the web site you can find out more about the rules, the constitution and other interesting stuff. Please also take a look at the BFFA Fun Fly Group Facebook page where apart from Fun Fly chat you can also see amazing video footage from this year's event courtesy of Pete Mumford's head cam.

Look out for announcements about dates for relaxed competition and practice events for next year, we would love to see you there.

I then read an interesting article from a guy that used 'Covid down-time' to test his models and bring them right to the point of 'ready to fly' before returning them to storage status. Now, although 'Covid down-time' should now be something resigned to the History books, what he did may make sense as a regular winter thing for all of us. I know that when I put models away at the end of last year there were things that may have needed tightening or tweaking, I think I also burnt-out a motor near the end of the season... but did I replace it? (I honestly can't remember) So... now may be the time to take your models, check that they work as they should do, haven't been damaged during storage, check fail-safes and range.. If you do, you may be ahead of the game as soon as the weather improves.

You may be wondering what this has all got to do with model aircraft. Well not a lot really, but I decided to employ the same philosophy of taking my models out of storage and running the engines up to "Full Take-off Status" as our American friends like to do. This gave me some "hands on" during the Covid 19 Lockdown.

These figures (below) from the December edition were both interesting and worrying, a stark reminder

largest air-sport organisation in the world

But there is no doubt that the Association and Model Flying in general face challenging times. Membership statistics show that we consistently attract over

2500 new members every year but, in recent years, nearly twice that number have chosen not to renew. The ratio is similar for club affiliations.

The net reduction represents about 3% of our membership taken in the context of

that we need to promote our sport to the next generation of model flyers at every opportunity. ←

The final thing I took a

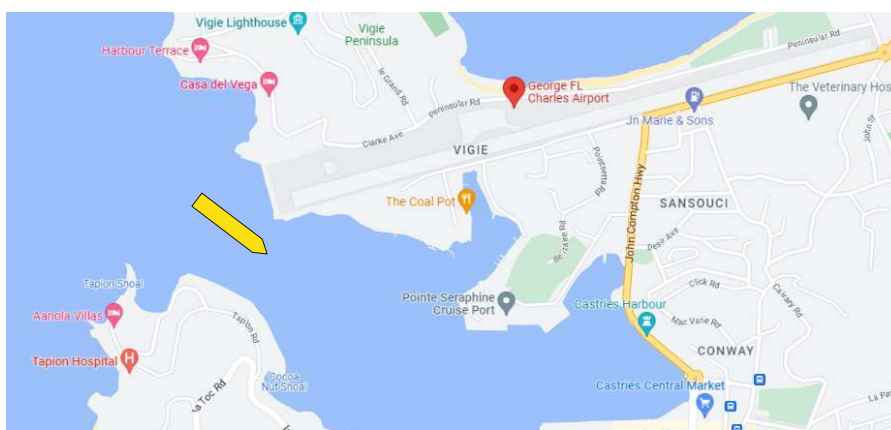
Over the years, the club continued to evolve, putting in a safety reporting procedure, based on the 'Bird Triangle' theory, that reduced the hospital visit accidents from one or two per year, down to two in 20 years.

photo of was this (Right) anybody familiar with the 'Bird triangle' theory of safety reporting? It appears to have been successful for the club that wrote the article, I just have no idea what it entails. →



Perhaps slightly interesting...

Apparently there are only 2 airports in the world that need to approve shipping arrivals. The picture below was taken from the 17th deck of P&O's Arvia cruise ship which for several minutes completely blocked the flight path to 'George F. L. Charles Airport' airport Saint Lucia.



Received recently – any use to members?

To : the Secretary, I hope that you do not mind me contacting you through the email address listed on the BMFA website.

I have been providing a wide range of Carbon Fibre Products to RC Modellers for over 20 years through my eBay shop www.ebay.co.uk/str/laptopconnections and have now launched my own webshop at www.laptopconnections.co.uk.

I would like to offer a 10% discount on all products ordered from my own web shop to all FMC members using the discount code "RCMODEL10" at checkout. This will be a permanent arrangement and will not expire.

If this is of interest and appropriate, please could you forward this information to any club members who might also be interested ?

Email : sales@laptopconnections.co.uk

Web : www.laptopconnections.co.uk



Anybody interested in buying a RED ARROW?

The News

FOLLOW

For more information click this link...

Two retired RAF Red Arrows aircraft up for public auction in Yorkshire - how to bid

<https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/read-this/two-retired-raf-red-arrows-aircraft-up-for-public-auction-in-yorkshire-how-to-bid-4005471>

STOP PRESS - Too Late...

<https://thelincolnite.co.uk/2023/02/auction-for-red-arrows-jets-fetches-over-100000/>

Auction for Red Arrows jets fetches over £100,000

An incredible bidding war for a piece of history



Missed out ? DON'T Worry you can buy more planes at the HMFA Swapmeet...



Hampshire Model Flying Association

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

At Mountbatten School, Romsey, SO51 5SY.

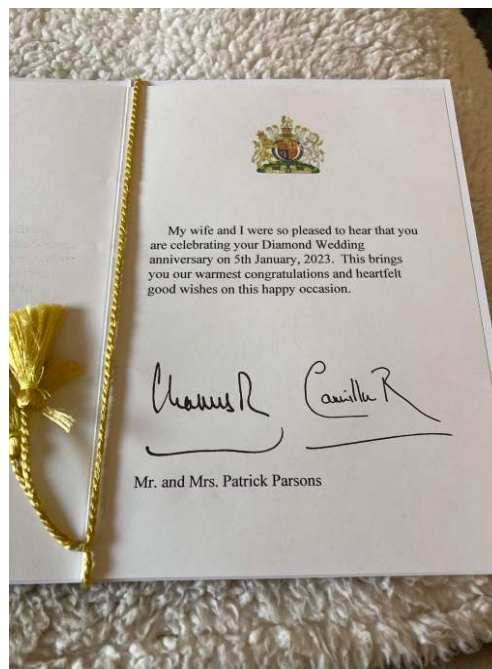
Admission £4, under 16s free. Refreshments available.

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). **



Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Pat Parsons!



Look Closely... can you see the Bungee?





I bought a couple of Pete's Bird-boxes last year..

And... I already have some interested occupiers. If you ask Pete, perhaps he will make a few more this year, they were very reasonable.



Remember last year when a Vulcan over-ran the runway?

An amazing image, found on the internet, a reminder of a 2022 story.





Places you might have seen on the internet.

Do you ever visit a place that you feel you already know? Often it is when you have seen it before on the TV, or in a movie. I am thinking of places like New York's central park, the Eiffel tower or perhaps Buckingham Palace..

Well, one such place for me was, during a recent visit to Maho beach, St. Maartin. I had watched many YouTube videos where people were blown off their feet, or sand blasted by the four Rolls-Royce engines of a Boeing 747 at Maho beach. Never expecting to visit there myself. But I did! And here are a few photos. Including a photo of my Wife... With her eyes closed, she said it was very scary.



However .. There are many far better photos and videos on the internet.



MUST SEE VIDEO ... <https://youtu.be/GqVjD3nBSQg>

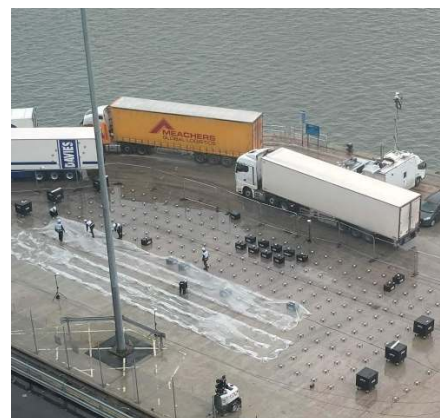


Another Flight Radar Story



Another Drone 'display' story

There was a 'BIG' plan to do a 'drone' display instead of the traditional fireworks when a new cruise ship left Southampton on it's first transatlantic crossing recently. Unfortunately as we model flyers know too well, the weather is not always on our side and the display was cancelled at the last minute.



Odd things from the Internet.





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

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 ****



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.

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Flying times : (from December 2021)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Quiet / Electric	Electric & I/C	Electric & I/C	Electric & I/C	Quiet / Electric	Electric & I/C until 2pm then Quiet / Electric until 4pm	Electric & I/C
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:

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 week		
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!!

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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 ☺.

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.