



## March 2023

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
PAT PARSONS !  
(hope you still read the  
Newsletter!)**

Dear Fellow Firebirds Club Members

As newsletter editor for just over 6 years each month brings the challenge of what new and interesting things are going on within our club member's interests.

Mmmmm... 🤔 So... what shall we talk about this month?

How about a bit of recent history we stopped flying at Poplars farm November 2017 the same year that our then chairman Pat Parsons handed over to Russell and moved to be with his family 'up North'.

We then started flying at Peak Down, but that finished abruptly on the 5th July 2018, but thanks to our friends at PADMAC, we started flying with them at their site.

Our last 'proper' indoor 'social' event before Covid hit us was a Skittles evening at the Hamble club in October 2019.

And unless anyone had lost touch of the years the first flights at our current flying site were in July / August 2020.

Now, apart from a little bit of humour and some banter, it is important that the club, its members and its newsletter are apolitical. So another recent historical date has passed, that BL\*\*DY war has now been going on for a full year! Now members may remember that (with the permission of the committee) I put the Ukrainian flag at the head of the Newsletter back in March last year, for me, it now feels wrong to take it away while the war continues. If you have an opinion on the flag remaining (or not) please let me know.

Now from the past to the present, let's get on with the Newsletter.

Chris



## **FIRSTLY, AN IMPORTANT REMINDER**

At this time of year, when members start flying again, we all need to remember a few things.

It cannot be stated enough check, check and check again any new, recently repaired or taken out of storage models. Ideally before you arrive at the site but certainly before you fly. You can always ask another member to have a quick look with you.

And..

**\* DON'T FORGET YOUR CAA REGISTRATION AND ATTACH YOUR ID STICKER TO EACH MODEL \***

We all know it's easy to forget these things but, unless we fly lawfully our BMFA insurance could be invalidated, so it is more than just a piece of government bureaucracy and a sticker.

If you are at the flying site, ask a fellow flier these three questions.

1. Are you registered as a drone flier? Please show me your sticker.
2. Have you checked your failsafe? Can you show me?
3. Have you done a range check recently? (On electric models always check failsafe first).

Your fellow member shouldn't be annoyed, as it is in everybody's interest. Our sport can be dangerous and the re-percussions of something going wrong are obvious.

And it wouldn't hurt to mention one further question, especially at this time of year.

4. Do you charge your Li-Po batteries in a safe way and in a safe place?

Let's keep safe.

## **I WAS ON HOLIDAY RECENTLY**

During a recent holiday I thought wouldn't it be nice if I could take a model on holiday with me, truth is that isn't as easy as it sounds. Just like in the UK each country has its rules and regulations and although most of Europe may have similar rules it isn't easy to find them, especially when their information is written in a different language.

Having said that, I did manage to find the following if you fancy flying in Spain

<https://www.grupooneair.com/spanish-drones-laws/>

Wouldn't it be useful if countries joined together and created a common set of rules for model flying so we could take our planes on holiday with us. Then we could ask BMFA to add insurance for flying when on holiday.

However even if the above was possible, the other problem is flying with Li-Po batteries. Airlines have strict rules covering how Li-Po batteries can be carried on aeroplanes, so we may have a little way to go yet.

But there are answers... like this one [www.rchotel.com](http://www.rchotel.com) do a Google search and you find loads more!



## **BUCKMINSTER ON THE TELLY!**

Whilst I know in the past it's been very easy to criticise the BMFA for the National Flying Centre, especially as it is so far away from us in the South of England. However, it has to be said, they are now doing a lot of very good and highly visible things.

Recently Channel 5's "Susan Calman's great days out" visited Buckminster where centre volunteer Richard Phillips became the star of the show (together with a Century MAX Thrust Riot).

Well done BMFA Buckminster, an excellent promotional piece for our sport.

If you missed it, click the link below and then if you don't (generally) appreciate the programme fast forward to 37.30 SECONDS.

<https://www.channel5.com/show/susan-calman-s-grand-days-out/season-2/episode-4>





## EVEN THE BEST MODEL FLYING CLUBS CAN CAUSE CONFUSION

There was some confusing information earlier in the month re. parking. This is to clarify.

1. We must leave the gates clear at our flying site.
2. Always park on the right as in the image below.



3. If all spaces on the right are taken you may squeeze into these space as below.



Looking at the images above, we should be able to park 7 cars easily plus 3 extra on odd occasions. Remember that the lower car park is also available and can take many more cars.

Note: The farmers may not need access to the gates at the weekends.

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





## **Don't forget to re-join**

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

## **Don't leave your aeroplanes outside when it SNOWS!**



## **That Wonderful Photo..**

While at the Waltham Chase Aero modellers Havant indoor flying evening (more later) a gentleman introduced himself and pointed to a photograph he had on the screen of his phone.. 'That's me' he said pointing at a picture.. The gentleman, who still reads our newsletters was Graham Tomlin and he is a regular indoor flyer. Hi Graham, good to meet you, there is no hiding under that big red arrow ☺.



Are you in that wonderful Photo? Or know some of the names? E-mail the newsletter editor at [firebirdsmodelclub@outlook.com](mailto:firebirdsmodelclub@outlook.com) with any you do know and let's see if we can get a full list of names.



## There is somewhere on the internet for everyone!

Often, controversially there is something on the internet for even the most extreme interests. I came across a Facebook group recently dedicated to Model Engine collectors and it is very active. Whilst not something for me, each to their own... Whatever floats your boat! or.. flies your aeroplane!

**Model Engine Collectors**  
Suggested for you · Panagiotis Siatounis · 4 d ·

From my collection  
Legendary COX



## Cox model engines

Then, sadly like any committed newsletter writer I thought I would try finding out about the "legendary Cox" .. this is what I found on Wikipedia.

Cox model engines are used to power small model airplanes, model cars and model boats. They were in production for more than 60 years between 1945 and 2006. The business is named for founder Leroy M. Cox. He started L.M. Cox Manufacturing Co. Inc, which later became Cox Hobbies Inc., then Cox Products, before being sold to Estes Industries, when it became Cox Models. On February 7, 2009, Estes Industries stopped producing Cox engines and sold all of their remaining inventory – mainly spare parts – to several private buyers from Canada and the US.

Millions of engines were produced. They became the most common 1/2A Class 0.049 cubic inch engine in the world, and probably still are today. Although the production of the engines ceased some years ago, engines made as far back as the 1950s are still sold "as new" and are in abundance on eBay worldwide

And one thing leads to another.. the company 'Estes', is the company I mentioned in the August 2022 newsletter, they make rocket engines for models, like Geoff's AstroBlaster..

## WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE

Well something to look forward to! If you like a BIG model show then the Western Park model show is for you. Russell Chris and Paul are camping up there for the weekend, anybody else?

<http://www.airshowinternational.co.uk/>

**16th - 18th June 2023**

Adult	£18 pre-booked
	£23 on the gate
Children	£6
Under 4's	FREE
Family ticket	£35 pre-booked





## Indoor Flying Havant

A couple of members attended the Havant indoor flying event organised by Bishops Waltham flying club on Saturday 4th March and together with probably 20+ other fliers spent a full 3 hours of fun flying.

Rob's model, seen in the picture below was a 2 channel model, speed controlled by throttle and turning by a very basic magnetic rudder system. For such a light-weight model it performed very well despite two in-flight collisions.



The Hall...



Rob and his tiny model...

The evening was divided in intervals between 'little planes', 'little Heli's' and bigger planes / shockies..

One particular model caught everybody's attention as it looked like an aeroplane but floated like a balloon.. it was so slow, so agile, it performed rolls, loops, prop hangs, the list goes on it was a beautiful sight. So without further ado we tracked down the pilot. It turns out that the pilot had performed at National Competitions and that the model was, in its day, a very expensive piece of equipment costing £500 plus!

There was something there for everyone, somebody even brought a tiny self-built hovercraft... well, they do actually fly, and the full size seafarers that operate them are called pilots!

Alan Wallington organises these events and he can be contacted at [alan@ajwallington.co.uk](mailto:alan@ajwallington.co.uk) or speak to our Geoff or Paul. Next Large Hall event at Havant is on the 1st April from 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. in the Main Hall at Havant Leisure Centre, Civic Centre Road, Havant, Hants PO9 2AY.





## Not strictly worthy of a place in the Newsletter

I don't have a dislike of birds generally except perhaps crows with their annoying and constant calls, but I do currently have a problem with Pigeons, nesting under my solar panels. Ideally I need to put some mesh and spikes up on the roof but as I am not very good on a ladder I bought this bird scarer kite and so far it is helping.



Now the main reason I am putting this in the newsletter is..

Recently I needed and bought a piece of carbon fibre. Just a 1m x 8mm tube and it cost £5 from SMC. No problem I am perfectly happy with it, but interestingly the 7m pole that extends to present my 'flying hawk' at roof level is made up of individual tubes very similar to carbon fibre. So if anybody needs some large and then increasingly smaller tubes for a project then a 'kite' pole might be a cheaper way to source them.

The price below and third picture above is of such a product and includes delivery!

Pole Size:  ▼

Ground Stake:  ▼

Quantity:  5 available / 1,129 sold

Price: **£26.49**

**Buy it now**





## This month I started assembling..

When at the Christmas party my raffle ticket number was drawn, I like many 'child minded' people took the 'biggest' thing on the table, but I didn't really know what it was..

What I actually picked up was a combat wing designed for use on slopes i.e. no engine, and therefore not much use at our flying field.. but I could modify it and stick a motor on the back ... but I have always hated the screaming noise that Zags make.. I could try and launch it discus style.. but the flight time might be just a few seconds.. make a wired motor launcher.. get someone to tow me up.. none of these options are really viable.. so I have started assembling it with no real idea of how it is going to get into the air!! This is what I won (below) as it turns out a very old design.



Wingspan:	<b>1200mm (48")</b>	<b>Fully Aerobatic</b> <b>Only Simple Tools Required</b> <b>No Glue Needed!</b> <b>Almost Unbreakable EPP Foam</b> <b>Pre-Cut and Shaped Elevons</b> <b>Quick and Stable in Flight</b> <b>Pre-Cut Radio Bays</b>
Wing Area:	<b>3,290sq.cm. (3.54sq.ft.)</b>	
Airfoil:	<b>RSB 11</b>	
Weight:	<b>500g (17.5oz)</b>	
Speed Range:	<b>5.5+ Km/h (4+ mph)</b>	
Radio:	<b>2 Channel with Mixer</b>	

So I started covering and assembling, without any clue about powering it.. when I had a realisation...



And the realisation was not how to power it, that still hasn't been decided, the realisation was of a new 'super' modelling product.

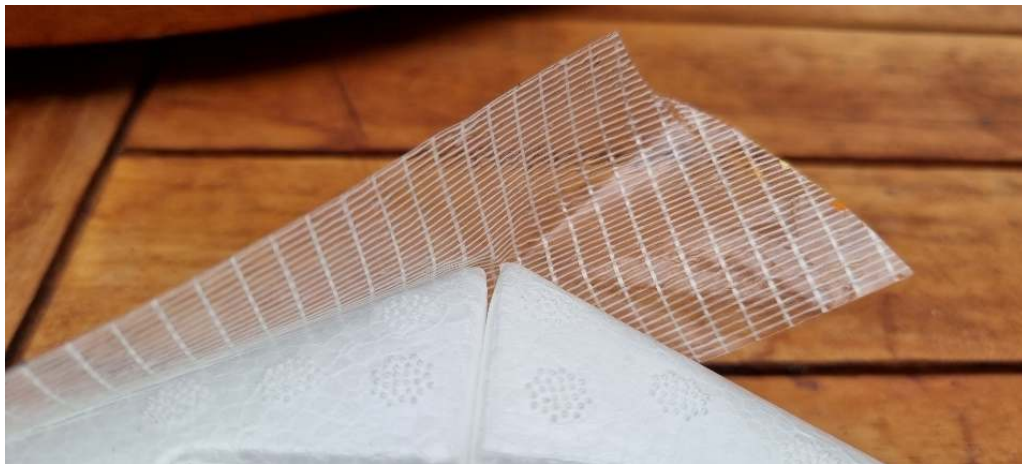


## This month I started assembling (continued 1.) ..

Inside the box was two foam wings, balsa ailerons and other necessary bits and pieces, the build method consisted principally of 'tape' – tape and more tape. Although I was familiar with and had used reinforced tape before, I hadn't realised what a fantastic product it was for model aeroplanes.

This revelation was almost equal to the first time you use UHU POR to fix a broken hinge on a foamy. Reinforced tape not only holds things together extremely well but when you cover a foam wing with it you create an extremely strong wing and take out much of the flex. Perfect!!

My revelation...



An attempt at showing how little the wing flexed.



"Model Aeroplane making, strengthening and fixing tape" is available from Toolstation at just £6.29 per 50m roll, the tape is 50mm wide but can easily be cut into thinner strips.

No idea why but they call it "Extra Heavy Duty Packaging Tape"?





## This month I started assembling (continued 2.) ..

So, when I start a new model, I try and find out a bit more about it, I look on the internet to see if there is any advice, tricks or tips, perhaps anybody that had added a motor!

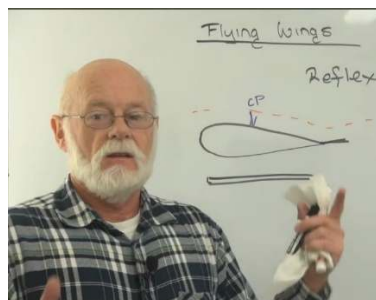
Then I look on YouTube to see if anybody shows how it flies, stall speeds etc.

But I wasn't expecting what I then found.. Believing that flying wings are just a 'thing' made by modellers, I was surprised to find a full size one... Who would have thought that the Zagi was actually a scale model version of a United States bomber the XB-35!

Latest U.S. Bomber, the Northrup  
Flying Wing XB-35.



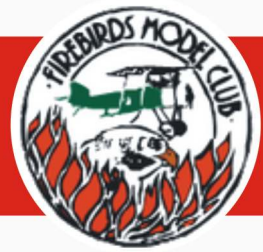
So now finding out that the Zagi is a 'real' thing, a scale model of something much bigger, I wanted to find out the physics of how it actually flies, there is big difference between a piece of foam and a full size bomber. So next I found someone cleverer than me (not difficult) to explain it. See links below. (In truth I watched part 2 first, not sure I would have watched part 1 if I hadn't watched part 2 first)..



Flying wings Part 1: <https://youtu.be/gkb11eKXM14> Part 2: <https://youtu.be/x2Cn3v1b6gw>

Further reading on the XB-35 at Wikipedia - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northrop\\_YB-35](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northrop_YB-35)





## This is becoming a regular thing...

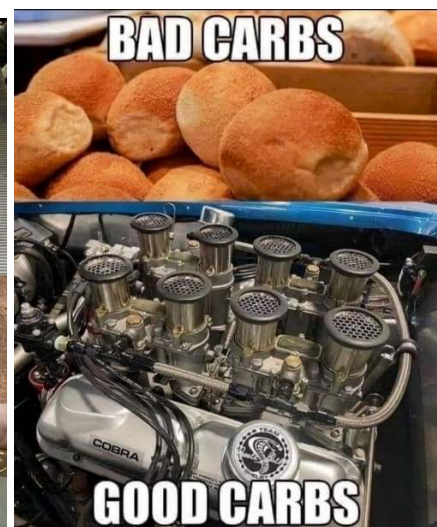
Apparently the pilot of a scheduled EasyJet flight did a little detour this month to allow passengers on both sides of the aeroplane to see the Aurora Borealis. What a thoughtful thing to do for the very lucky passengers. I am sure Ryanair would have done the same but charged extra 😊. Anyway here is the Flightradar24 image and tweet of the flight in question.



## Also on the internet...

Engineers Humour? ..

Took me a minute to realize how funny this is.





## A really useful tool I would never buy..

So many times I have messed up soldering an XT60 plug/socket on to an ESC or nearly burnt myself when the clamp I was using moved. But here is the perfect solution, but would I buy it,,, probably not.



**Banggood**  
Global leading online shop

1/5

**US\$11.54**

Price ... 70

Inclusive of VAT

**NEW** Alloy Universal Soldering Station for XT60 XT90 Mini T Deans Banana Connectors Plugs RC Hobby Tool for Battery ESC BEC

## What I did order from Banggood ...

Not the first time I have ordered from Banggood things have generally work OK.



A2212 1000KV/1400KV/2200KV Brushless Motor+40A ESC+SG90 9g...

Model:1400KV Motor+40A ESC XT60 Plug

£14.08 x 1

Estimated to ship before March 8, 2023



XXD 2217 KV1250 Brushless Motor With 40A ESC 9g Servo 8060...

£19.54 x 1



Universal Wooden Motor Mount Holder Seat for 2208 2212 2216...

Model:C

£6.64 x 1



XXD 2212 KV2200 Brushless Motor With 30A ESC 6035 Propeller...

£13.32 x 1





## Old Taylorcraft advert..

I came across this old advert for what I thought was a model aeroplane..

*new fiberglas* **TAYLORCRAFT**

*featuring* **DESIGNED SAFETY**

**WITH SIX SAFETY FIRSTS**

**1**  **DIE-MOLDED FIBERGLAS FUSELAGE**

An entirely new concept in aircraft design. Tough in substance, yet lightweight and non-conductive. Resin impregnated fiberglas is formed to make it stronger than most metals. Will not dent, puncture, or corrode.

**4**  **SLOTTED FLAPS ANDAILERONS**

Full control at and near stalling speeds. Greater performance features of shorter takeoff in smaller areas, quicker climb and smoother landings.

**2**  **STRONG, WELDED STEEL FRAMEWORK**

Passengers and pilot are surrounded by a protective, reinforced frame of steel tubing. All control cables are between frame and fiberglas fuselage giving an unobstructed interior.

**5**  **HIGHER "FLIGHT STRENGTH"**

A rugged design to permit safer flying even in "rugged weather." Additional built-in strength for maximum passenger safety. TAYLORCRAFT has been tested under highest operational category by CAA.

**3**  **SLOTTED FIBERGLAS WINGS**

Leading edge of wing is slotted to give greater flight stability. This feature assures ease in handling controls in slow flight under heavy load conditions. Permits slower, safer landing speeds.

**6**  **THREE DOORS**

No more sliding seats, cramped exit and entrance. Ease and comfort for pilot and passengers through three-door accessibility. Roomy interior even with full baggage load.



• Powerful 225 h.p. Continental engine  
• 150 m.p.h. cruising speed

You fly the finest when you fly the new FOUR-PLACE fiberglas TAYLORCRAFT. Named by many as the "strongest, safest" plane in use today. Years ahead in safety and performance. Write today for full information. Price: \$10,865\*

Sales Outlets still available for interested airport operators

**FLYING IS SAFER — SAFEST IN A TAYLORCRAFT**



**TAYLORCRAFT**  
INCORPORATED  
CONWAY, PENNSYLVANIA

\*L.A.I. Conway, Pa.

FLYING—October 1956
5





## Getting Ready for Spring time...

Russell gets his latest model ready in the warmth of his lounge ready for some Spring time warmth on the field.



It's a Republic P-47D Thunderbolt "Razorback".

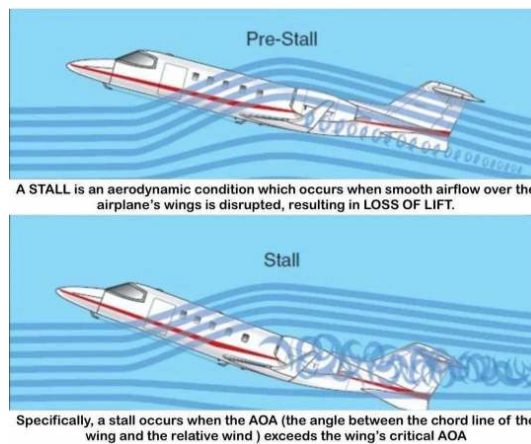


## No waiting for Spring time...

Rob is already out there flying his new Wots-wot, he's not afraid of the cold.



## What is a stall?..





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.

# Firebirds Model Club

News, Views & Information - March 2023



**Flying times : (from December 2021)**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<i>Quiet / Electric</i>	<i>Electric &amp; I/C</i>	<i>Electric &amp; I/C</i>	<i>Electric &amp; I/C</i>	<i>Quiet / Electric</i>	<i>Electric &amp; I/C until 2pm then Quiet / Electric until 4pm</i>	<i>Electric &amp; 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 &amp; 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)**

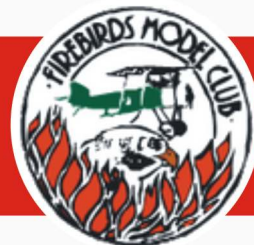
**EASTER SUNDAY ... NO flying!!**

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

**CHRISTMAS DAY... NO flying!!**

# Firebirds Model Club

News, Views & Information - March 2023



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

General contact e-mail address - [firebirdsmodelclub@outlook.com](mailto: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.**