



April
2023

**NEW WORLD
RECORD ATTEMPT!**
14th May 2023
at 12 noon

More info nearer the day..

Dear Fellow Firebirds Club Members

Firstly, before I forget, the committee has asked me to send good wishes to the several poorly members that we have at the moment, as always, even if you can't fly it and it's safe for you to get there please do come see us at the field. The committee also want to welcome re-joining member Rod Coughtrey.

Now with Spring very much in the air our members are excitedly getting their models ready to fly, but for me the first Spring job was to put up my new weather vane, bought for me as a Christmas present. No excuse for not knowing the wind direction now!

Just a quick intro today, as being good weather tomorrow, I need to go and charge some batteries!

So.. Here is this month's Newsletter.



Chris

**** STOP PRESS ****

IMPORTANT We've been asked by our landlord farmers if we could keep our gate shut when we are flying. No need to lock it, it will stay shut and appear locked if the chain is wrapped around the post, and this is ok with them. It follows an incident when a chap together with his son & dog came down to watch the flying, but then wandered round to the farm shop along the track rather than using the proper entrance.



An Unexpected Winter Project – Geoff Griffiths

I have always admired Alan Hardingham's delightful Dragon Rapide, so as last summer drew to a close I ordered the Dumas kit with a view to many contented evenings putting it together . . .

But things didn't turn out that way, as what I'd not bargained for was the persuasive power of our good chairman! Russell had been contacted by ex-member Alan Collins, who had a few odds and ends he was happy to donate to the club. Amongst this was the plan and laser cut wood pack for a very unusual and rarely modelled aircraft; a Sopwith SF1 Dolphin. Needless to say I didn't need all that much persuasion, so after a donation to club funds I was the proud owner of a plan, a bag of bits, and something quite different to pass the long winter evenings. To be honest, It's not really one of those planes that immediately grabs your attention, so I thought I'd better make a start quickly in case the interest waned. I must say that the look sort of grows on you though.



It's not been a very straightforward build, initially due to the numerous errors on the 1980's Radio Modeller plan. Unfortunately the laser cut parts had been taken from the plan and many were just hopelessly wrong! The rear fuselage formers were completely unusable and even the wings are drawn one side longer than the other, with the rib spacing all over the place! The icing on the cake was the 152 wing riblets. All too small! To be fair to the designer, Elwin Sapecote (such a glorious name!) it was customary in those days for Magazines to re-draw plans before publication, so maybe that's when the errors crept in.

One of the problems working from old plans is wood size. 35 years ago balsa was still commonly available in imperial sizes. It's all metric now, so allowance has to be made for this. Another problem is that many commercially available items at the time are no longer being produced. One such thing is Williams Brothers vintage wheels, which used to be available from Flair. These are given as 2 ½ " diameter in the accompanying article, but they clearly needed to be 3 ¾ " (surprise surprise! No wonder Radio Modeller magazine went under!) Either way, there is nothing available off the shelf, so I had to make a pair. It was easier than I thought and if anyone is interested I'll describe how I made them in a future newsletter.



After four and a half months, and a pound of church roof in the nose, it's more or less ready to go. The prototype had a .46 four stroke, but as no one is producing this size any more I have had to fit a Saito.40. Hopefully that will be powerful enough.



Around 2,500 full size were built towards the end of WW1, but there are none flying now. There is just one non flying example in the world at the RAF Museum at Hendon; This one has been cobbled together using parts from more than one aircraft.

One thing that is great about this hobby is being able to re-create a bit of history in miniature. Fingers crossed that this unusual shape will take to the air again before long!

The radio is accessible via two hatches under the fuselage



A Lockdown Spitfire - Martin Hughes..

Piccys of my lockdown scratchbuilt 1/6 electric Spitfire (66 inch span).

Its got a sound system (actually 2)

Since first flight, I have had to reinforce the undercarriage mount 2 or 3 times and have also added flaps.

Seems to fly quite well but is always nerve racking due to the many hours invested in it.





New World Record attempt...

Remember on the 15th May 2022 when we came together at 12 noon to collectively attempt setting a new record for the greatest number of model aircraft in the air at one time? If not perhaps you remember standing under a brolly in the pouring rain eating hot dogs!!

Although we were unable to fly that day, many clubs across the country did fly and achieved a BMFA National record of 3109 model aircraft and drones in the air at 263 flying sites across the UK.

However... The BMFA are giving us another chance and have launched a 2023 record attempt where they hope to smash both the number of aircraft in the air and the number of flying site locations.

The 2023 record will be set using model aircraft and drones of all types and be a mass participation event at all BMFA clubs and other flying sites throughout the UK. The attempt will take place on the **14th May 2023 at 12 noon**. The record will be for the total number of aircraft simultaneously in the air across the UK at 12 noon on that day.

Rob Cope will be our Record Attempt Co-ordinator.

All types of model aircraft and drones will be eligible to participate in the record attempt and models must be flown in accordance with the BMFA and our flying site rules.

Mark it in your Diary !!

A (possibly) interesting video (sort of aviation)...

This car has a Spitfire engine and just sold for £72,000 !!

<https://youtu.be/QFdhCZ517gU>





Russell Lewis is so so ready for the 2023 season...

Last month in the Newsletter we saw Russell's Razerback ready to fly, however this month we have photos of 2 more new models, ready for this season is a Balsa 'Rukus' and a 'Double Trouble' both from Century models.



Cessna crash-landing in Botley

If anybody spent more than a few hours chatting with our former Chairman Pat Parsons, he will I am sure have told them about the day he, as a former fireman got called out to Gary Numan's aeroplane, following an emergency landing in Botley.

Well I found a video of the old TV news report..

Click links for more information.

<https://youtu.be/SRYGSqufU4c>

[Accident Cessna T210L G-OILS, 29 Jan 1982](#)
(aviation-safety.net)



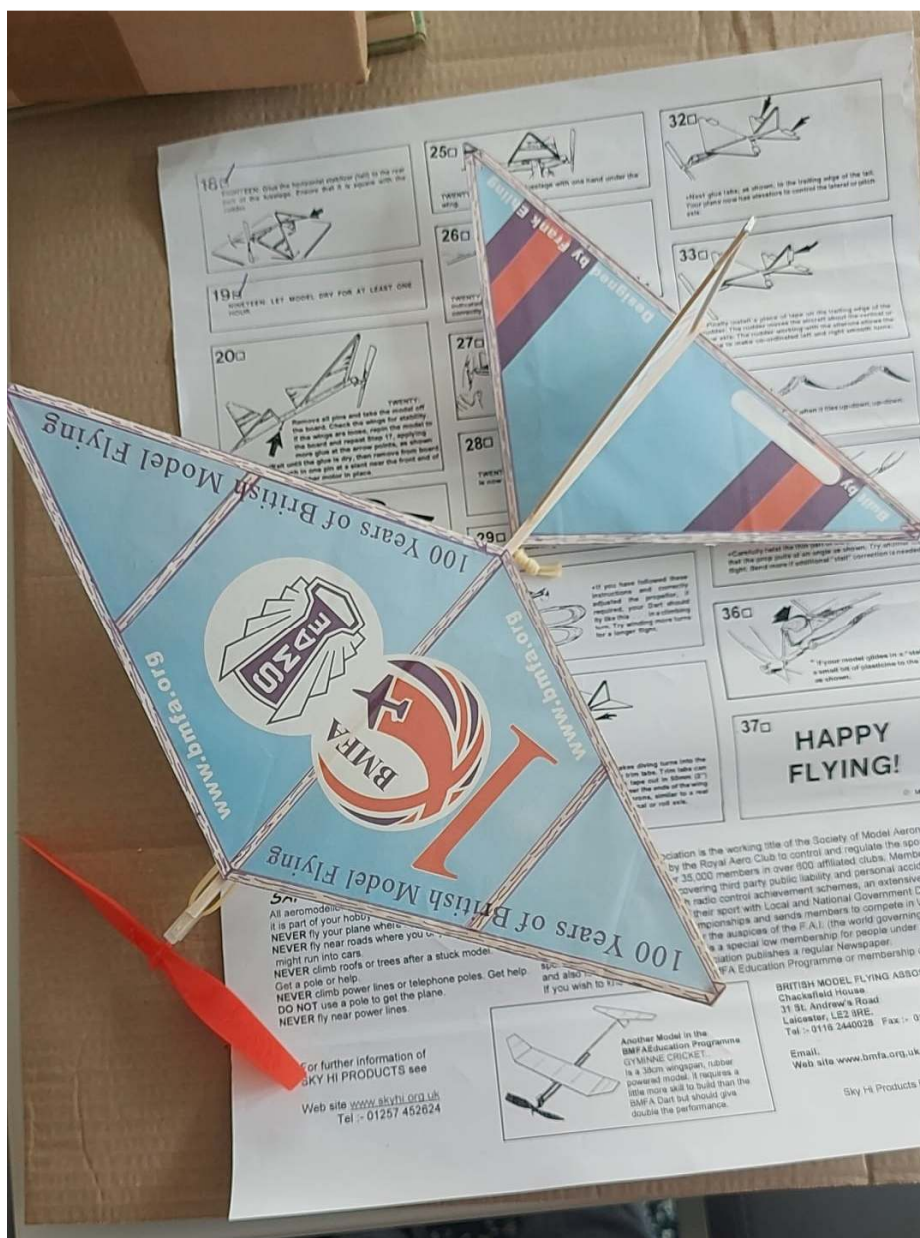


Paul Brown has a go at building an indoor Free Flight aeroplane

The Kit... impossible to tell what it will look like..



And the finished model..





Martin Hughes a great days Flying – April 2023

Martin's North American T-6 Texan is seen here, and although it is an electric model it has a very realistic sound system built in so it sounds like the 'real' thing, a beauty to both see and hear!

The sound system (speaker) can be seen in the open fuselage top left.

Martin also flew his pylon racer style model that day, but it sounded more like what you would expect for an electric model.



The North American T-6 Texan

The North American Aviation T-6 Texan was an American single-engine advanced trainer aircraft used to train pilots of the United States Army Air Forces, United States Navy, Royal Air Force, Royal Canadian Air Force and other air forces of the British Commonwealth during World War II and into the 1970s.

Designed by North American Aviation, the T-6 is known by a variety of designations depending on the model and operating air force. The United States Army Air Corps and USAAF designated it as the AT-6, the United States Navy the SNJ, and British Commonwealth air forces the Harvard, the name by which it is best known outside the US.

It remains a popular warbird used for air shows and in static collections.



Thank you to our grass mowing team..

Every year a few of our wonderful members keep our 'pitch' mowed and rolled, if you would like to join the team, please contact a committee member. See below our Keith doing a sterling job.



Tractor Envy...

Here is a reminder why we need to keep the gates clear and accessible at our flying site, our farmer landlords can need access at any time and with that extra-long trailer need all the available space to get off the road.





Do you ever get a feeling of Inadequacy?

When you mix with an extended group of people, like our club, you quickly become aware of the many difference skill sets and levels of ability that surround you. In our club amongst many skills we have some very capable model makers, modellers who can build amazing flying machines from scratch.

For too long I have felt left out, a member who's models always came ready built, but no longer, so inspired by nothing more than a photograph I embarked on my first 'Scratch built' flying machine.

First image is the image that inspired me followed by the build as it developed...



OK so I confess, the 'real' and often gifted model engineers in the club have nothing to fear, besides, I have no idea if my 'scratch build' will ever fly!! ** STOP PRESS ** Initial flight tests haven't gone well..



Somebody Stop me !

So... the material I used for the model described above was 'Diall Polystyrene Insulation board (L)0.8m (W)0.6m (T)3mm' and came in a pack of 8 sheets bought from B&Q at £11.39.

Leaving me with 7 unused sheets, I have now seen another photograph on the internet..

Somebody stop me !

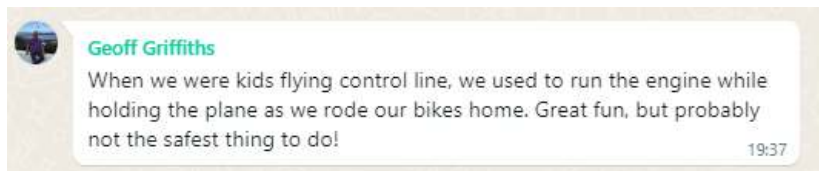


This is the plane I saw, a totally square design, shown here by YouTuber Tim McKay ..

But at least I know this one does fly! You can see it do that here ... <https://youtu.be/WYubXtT1TII>

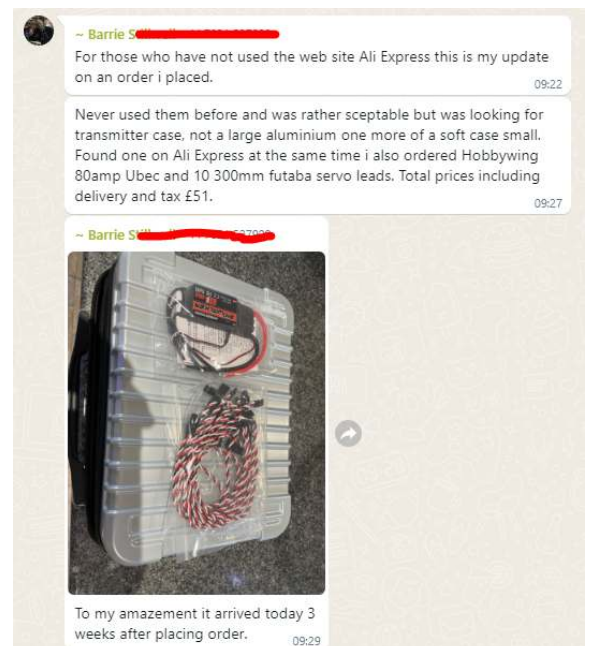
This month on 'The Firebirds model Club WhatsApp group'...

Anyone seen Dumber and Dumber? (just saying Ed.)



And ...

Ali Express confirmed as a reliable source of R/C items.





Sky Mule collapsing nose wheel...

I have a rather pretty Duraflly sky mule and it flies like it's on rails, BUT... every time I landed it the front wheel collapsed it simply wasn't strong enough so I upgraded the Nose wheel and Spring See image..



Perhaps slightly bigger than necessary but the Sky Mule now flies and lands perfectly too!

Is it Just me?..

When I was upgrading the Nose wheel on the Sky Mule I needed a screwed collar to hold the new spring in place.. but I didn't have one. What I did have was some control arms, (as in the picture) that I had bought for a previous project, they came in a packet of 6 and I only needed one. So I actually had a suitable Collar, I only needed to remove the plastic arm.. BUT is it just me, it felt wrong to destroy one item to make another even though I would probably never use the first item! (It must just be me, as it even sounds daft typing it!).



Is it Just me 2?..

When I was upgrading the Nose wheel on the Sky Mule I needed a couple of little screws. No problem, I have several plastic boxes full of screws, nuts, washers and other odd bits of stuff.

But is it just me, but.. in those boxes of many thousands of pieces, that I have kept for years I can never find the size and quantity I want?.. or, if I do, I need 3 of whatever it is and can only find 2?.. or, if in great excitement, I find all three, say three perfect screws, in the perfect size, then, inexplicably and for no reason during fitment, the screwdriver slips sending one of those perfect screws off into the air never to be found (despite 2 hours on your hands and knees with a brush a magnet and a very bright torch searching for it!)..

AND THEN, GUESS WHAT.. YOU CAN'T THEN FIND A FOURTH ONE..

Arghaaaaa !! Or.. is it Just me!?



Down at the Field...

Members discussing the finer points of life.



Geoff's New model

A Savage Bobber, built from a Dancing Wings Kit that he won in the club's Christmas Draw..



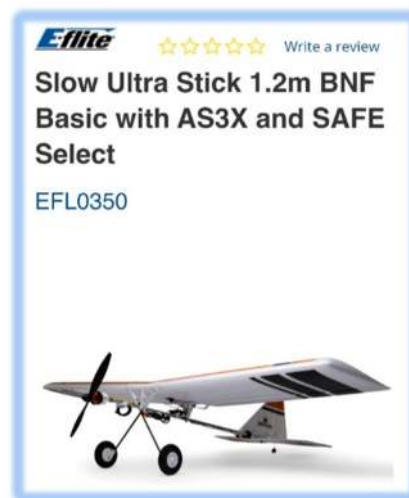
Russell getting ready and testing new models...





E-Flite launch new Slow-stick...

Launch Video - <https://youtu.be/IKlyAIF6NA4>



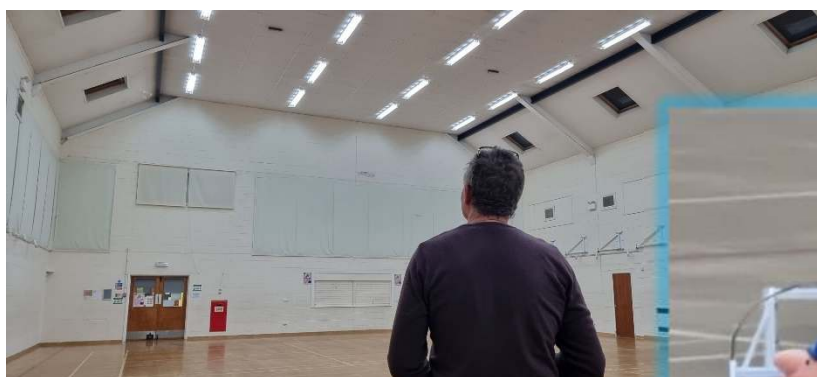
Another evening of indoor flying – with Paul Brown

A fine collection of new toys, ideal for the bi-weekly indoor flying session organised by Bishops Waltham Aeromodellers, but open to all.

Items in the picture include a new open source radio together with several cheaper items. The small quad cost just £20 and the smaller twin motor plane just £30.



The larger quad-copter even has a built in camera..



One person even brought a hovercraft to the event, flown by what looks like Mr Happy !



This model was a bit of hand-full but Paul managed to keep it under control 'mostly' ☺..



What a wonderful place our flying site is..

Pheasants, deer, rabbits, foxes and Hares not to mention many other beautiful birds, being a member of The Firebirds Model flying club gives you a perfect opportunity for a visit to the countryside.

Both pictures taken at our flying site this month.



Don't forget to re-join

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

Weston Park Model Show

Russell Chris and Paul are camping up there for the weekend, anybody else?

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





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 - April 2023



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 - April 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	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	copess02@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.