



January

2024

*Fancy a get together?
Let's meet for a chat at
The Hamble Club
Tuesday the 16th January.
They're expecting us!*

Happy New Year everybody!

Really Sorry I wasn't able to attend the AGM and Christmas party, I genuinely would have, if I could have, but being out of the country I genuinely couldn't get there. Thank you for the photos sent to me, and I even won an absentia prize in the draw!

Just in case you weren't there either then here are a few photos.





Although the committee received apologies from a few members, including me, there was notably a few empty chairs in the hall. However, Paul (Brown) who has now officially taken over the role of Membership secretary says that despite the empty chairs many of you have already renewed your membership.

Which brings me on to the next thing... The committee have asked me to mention / reply to 2 things that came up on the group WhatsApp chat during the month.

The first question from a member referred to the clubs membership cap. The committee have confirmed to me that a cap on membership is in place, but the specific number is slightly fluid and would only come into place once the membership numbers started to cause a problem. Such problems would be, for instance, if numbers at the field became regularly so high that it might affect safety or if parking or noise caused problems to our neighbours. I can confirm that the club is currently not enforcing any cap and is therefore considering new members.

And.. the second thing mentioned on the group chat was when to renew your membership. There is of course no obligation to renew, but as a non-profit making club it does help cash flow etc. if we know how many members we have. However, the club fully understands that for some, a short break after the expense of Christmas before paying their membership may be helpful. However, if the club does not receive payment before April 1st, a member should be considered as not renewing. Their details will then be removed from the club / the BMFA membership database. Thereafter, they would be considered a new member and subject to any joining fee or membership cap in place at that time.

So that's that job done, now back to the Christmas Party..

It's been an unusual few years for the club and, as such the yearly ritual of handing out our awards has taken a back step, but this year there was a bit of clandestine chatting going on within the committee.

Alan Shergold was this year awarded the most supportive member, but as he is on the committee and normally arranges the awards this had to be arranged secretly by his fellow committee members.





Seen in the photo is Alan with his award. In addition to Alan's work as club Treasurer he always offers help and assistance to anybody and together with his wife Debbie has prepared and orchestrated many club Barbeques. An award truly deserved, well done Alan.

But that's not all! There was even more subterfuge going on as one committee member suggested that our Chairman Russell has been in place for many years and like Alan does far more for the club than just sit on the top table at the AGM... most recently he was up at the field on a freezing cold morning welding our lawn mower. Now that's real commitment!

So, again, in secret a special award was purchased and presented at the AGM, I think he was rather shocked, but appreciative. Although, done in secret, I think all members appreciate what he does both seen and unseen. Thank you Russell, again well deserved.

Unfortunately, nobody managed to get a photo of Russell receiving his award, so we got his wife Sharon to take one of him once he got home. The award is now proudly positioned in his display cupboard at home.



Russell's 'Outstanding Service Award'

What else did I need to tell you... Raffle tickets will be on sale soon for next year? The days are getting longer... BBQ time soon? No, although both true, I need to tell you about the meetings at Hamble Club!.. Starting this month.



Dates for Your Diary

***Times for all the below arrival from 7pm events start at 7.30pm**

Tuesday January 16th – Just a meet up, have a **drink and a chat**. If you have a little heli or a suitable indoor aeroplane bring it along, anything new to show members or to sell / give away why not bring them too.

Tuesday February 20th - Similar to January, but let's designate it as a **Bring and Buy evening**, bring along anything you might want to sell and some cash just in case anybody brings along anything you fancy.. from a bag of screws or a couple of servos or that old war bird gathering dust in the loft.

Tuesday March 19th - Theme to be advised.

Tuesday April 16th – Something special, club member Steve Newell and his wife Toni have promised to hold a quiz night, pre-covid these events were really enjoyed so Thank you in advance to them for arranging this.

Further dates TBA

Note: Hamble club's address is - 33 Beaulieu Rd, Hamble-le-Rice, Southampton SO31 4JL

Last month I said "who should sit on the Firebirds pedestal next month? Let me know (Ed.)".. But nobody made a suggestion, so this month it's nobody... who should it be next month?



Another date for your diary, the Hampshire flying association table top sale held at Mountbatten School, Romsey, SO51 5SY is always popular with our members. The next table top sale will be held on Sunday



24th March 2024. Several members have been before including Russell. I am sure he could answer any questions you have, or have a look on their web-site. <https://hmfa.bmfa.club/auctions-sales>

Me and Russell met up with Dave Hoppe at the beginning of the month. He sends his best wishes and a happy new year to all members. He also says he will be down to the field in the summer to catchup, but that he probably won't be flying. Good to see you Dave, shout if you need us.

So, what did you have for Christmas?... did anybody receive something nice from Father Christmas?

Our Russell did, see below his rather gorgeous T-28 Trojan Christmas present bought for him by his wife Sharon..... how did she know what to buy? He must have given here some mighty big clues! And where does Father Christmas hide such a big box until the big day. Well done Sharon.

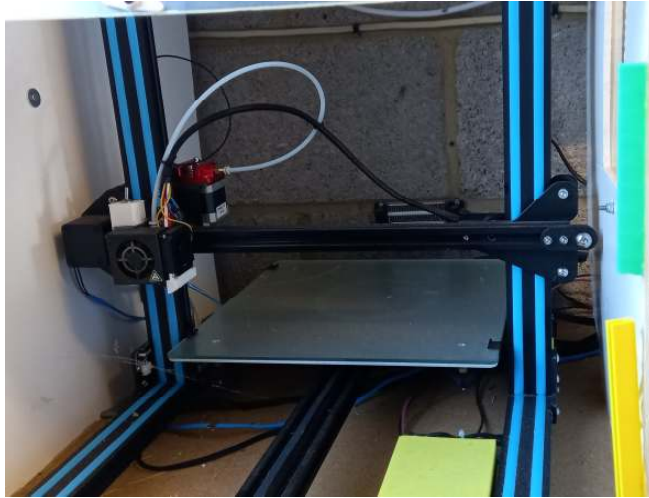


Same table, yet another model ... Here is Russell's Duraflly Ugly stick which he won in the Christmas draw, I don't think she's ugly at all! Note: Russell Lewis buys an awful lot of Raffle tickets, if you buy more next years perhaps you will win a top prize, tickets will be on sale soon.





FOR SALE. One of our members has asked me to post this 3D printer for sale. It's a Creality CR10, with two vertical stepper motors, a 300x300 build plate with heater, thermostat control and power supply. It's an absolute bargain for somebody at just £100. The seller is very busy with things at home so doesn't want any tyre kickers or extended questions, so rather than putting his phone number in the newsletter we ask that you talk to Russell, he can put you in touch / arrange purchase.



So remember last month, in 'down at the field', I posted those photos of a cold and foggy day, when despite the weather both Rod Ashton and Charles Dhenin had ventured down the field? Well, being young and 'brave' (you could use other descriptive words), Charles continued to fly after I left, then posting these photos (below)... If you can't quite work it out, that is actual ice forming on the bottom of the plane... Madness!! And yes, apparently it did affect flight characteristics.





FOR SALE an ESC, Brushless Motor, DSM2 receiver and a couple of servos. Wrapped in an old polystyrene aeroplane. Option 1. Glue aeroplane back together, fly and be happy... option 2. Scrap aeroplane, remove components and be happy building new aeroplane from donor parts, and still be happy. £15 each. *Speak to Chris Fisher or Russell Lewis.*



FOR SALE a tiny ESC, tiny Brushless Motor, a tiny DSM2 receiver and a couple of servos. Wrapped in a tiny indoor style polystyrene aeroplane. Option 1. Try and fly it ... option 2. Scrap aeroplane, remove components and be happy building new indoor aeroplane from donor parts, and still be happy. £20. *Speak to Chris Fisher or Russell Lewis.*



FOR SALE a model aeroplane disguised as some kind of hawk. Ideal for getting rid of pigeons, includes ESC, motor and a DSM2 receiver, the claws even operate from a servo, like landing gear!! £40. *Speak to Chris Fisher or Russell Lewis.*





(STOP PRESS this item is SOLD) a collection of covering material, many metres worth, one member said it would probably cost around £80 to buy from a model shop. £25.



FOR SALE a H-King F-4 (Kit) Glue-N-Go Foamboard 700mm aeroplane. But unlike from Hobbyking when new, this one has already been glued and is ready to go, includes ESC, motor and DSM2 receiver. £35. *Speak to Chris Fisher or Russell Lewis.*



FOR SALE The ubiquitous. Phoenix 2000. ready to go, includes ESC, motor and DSM2 receiver. In excellent condition (unlike mine Ed.). £60. *Speak to Chris Fisher or Russell Lewis.*

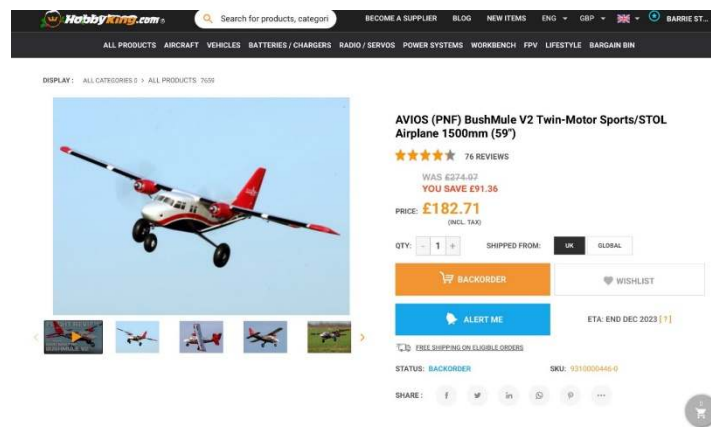




One of our members Barrie bought one of these in December. Having an older one myself, I would be interested to know if they have improved the nose wheel, as, on mine it would always collapse on landing. I have now installed a strengthened spring and it is fine.



Barrie also posted this page from Hobby-kings web-site, this is pretty good value considering there are 2 ESCs 2 motors etc... Which reminds me, I tried to set my mule up with the 2 motors independently so that I could use variable thrust to assist turning. Although I got it to work, I couldn't get failsafe to cut out the second motor, so felt it too unsafe to fly that way. We look forward to seeing her flying down the field Barrie.



The BMFA's Facebook page often posts some interesting stuff they recently posted this.





These days many modellers like to have cameras in their models, and some like to fly FPV (first person view) where they fly their model as if, sat in the cockpit using remote imaging (FPV) goggles.

The following was posted by Barrie Stillwell saying that some Camera radio frequencies might bring down models, he posted this below and some information that he found on the internet.

WARNING WARNING WARNING.

I posted recently that I was going to use a similar type GoPro type camera, purchased from China. The real difference with this camera it was also WIFI and could link it with my iPhone for live coverage, well that's what i thought. Fitted to Arrows Huskey Ultimate 6S. Did range check without the camera and then had flight all perfect. Then i added the camera set to WIFI, another range check all good, camera linked to phone for live view. Took off and after about 100ft lost all control to the plane and crashed with motor on full bore. What appears to have happened, the camera lost WIFI signal / connection to the phone and immediately started to search for WIFI connection and we believe this created interference with the receiver or stabilisation unit. The camera is OK, still useable but would only use record function and certainly not WIFI. The camera instruction / spec does not state what frequency the WIFI it used.

Our conclusion is, it was possibly interfering with the stabilisation unit and stopping a signal to the receiver.





From the internet..

Yes, a buddy had this same experience about 4 years ago when those Cameras came to market and crashed his warbird. 2.4G and another device transmitting near a Receiver is no bueno.

I've been running 2.4ghz controllers with 5.8ghz cameras and haven't had issues. Used a wifi one once on my rc truck and yeah. Instant problems.

I've heard of this happening

my transmitter shoots down my wifi in the shop if I have it by the computer - definitely could be interference

I did actually fly around, but the plane felt heavy and/or sluggish so I thought better to land. On the final 90 degree turn before landing I could not straighten it up, it went into a diving spiral hitting a tarmac road (between two cars). One of the two 6500 mAh battery packs went up in smoke (lots of smoke).

At first I thought I flew too slow in the final turn but everybody that saw it said that it was not too slow. Afterwards when I realised that the gopro (completely destroyed) used 2.4 Ghz for wifi I understood what probably happened. 😬

Lesson learned. 😬



A few years ago there was much talk about the use of mobile phones on the flight line and the Firebirds committee suggested at the time that because of the many varied conclusions about whether or not mobile phone signals affected our flying that good practice would be to not take your live mobile phone on to the flight line (i.e. leave it with your flight bag in the pits area). Well although the jury is still out on that one, Barrie has brought up another potential problem with, cameras. Thank you Barrie, good information, sorry about your model.



Official word from the BMFA on the use of mobile phones.

BMFA Handbook

HOME UPDATES CONTENTS SECTIONS ANNEX A - PUBLIC DISPLAYS ANNEX B - TECHNICAL BMFA.ORG

3.13 Frequency Identification

Users of 2.4 GHz will not have or need any method of frequency identification but for users of 35 MHz there will be many occasions when others might need to quickly identify the frequency you are operating on and your transmitter should carry an easily visible channel identification pennant; For 35 MHz, an orange flag with one inch black or white numerals should be used.

3.14 Mix-and-Match Tx and Rx

Using different makes of transmitter and receiver is common practice when using 35 MHz equipment (and 2.4 GHz – much of which is now multi-protocol), especially with the large range of aftermarket receivers available. There is a point you must be aware of, however, concerning manufacturers guarantees. A matched Tx and Rx will be warranted by their manufacturer both as individual items and to work together as a pair. If you 'mix and match', the individual warranties still apply but you have no guarantee that the pair will work together. In this case you take upon yourself the legal responsibility of making sure that your equipment operates correctly.

3.15 Mobile Phones

Although mobile telephones operate on frequencies far removed from our model control frequency bands they are a major addition to the increasing background radio 'noise' that our equipment has to filter out. In addition, there is some evidence that there may sometimes be an interaction between mobile 'phones and microprocessor controlled transmitters.

Many mobile 'phones transmit powerful signals regularly even when on standby and BMFA recommends that they are not taken into the pits area and especially not on to the flying area. Many 'phones also emit a powerful signal pulse when switching off, which is also something you may have to consider. Your radio equipment has a hard job to do filtering out background RF radiation and you could make it much worse with your mobile 'phone.

So.. just something else to throw into the mix.. I have a collection of 'Tiles' clever little Bluetooth trackers to help find my keys, wallet or suitcase. I was thinking of putting one of those inside my models for when the grass gets longer, just in case.. would they be safe?


Info.. <https://uk.tile.com/en/product/686044/mate-1-packblack>

We all know about the fire hazards regarding Li-po batteries, these ammo boxes certainly have appeal.

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Back to search results | Listed in category: Collectables & Art > Militaria > Surplus/ Equip



Brown Ammo Boxes

Condition: Used

Price: **£20.00**

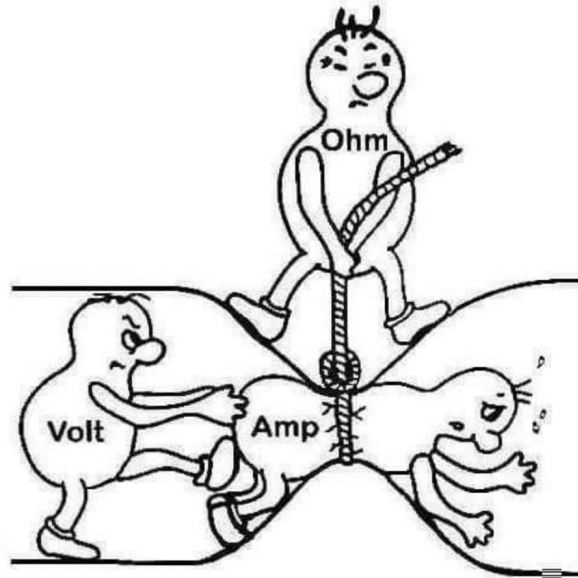
Best Offer:

Hover to zoom



I found this on the internet, it made me smile..

Very good example of Resistor..👍



SOMETHING ELSE FOR SALE a transmitter holder. Was used for a Spektrum DX8 but may fit other transmitters to!! £5. *Speak to Chris Fisher or Russell Lewis.*





AND FINALLY FOR THE SALE ITEMS.. here is a model aeroplane disguised as a P-38 Lightning . Ideal for looking great down at the flying site, includes a DSM2 receiver, and believed ready to fly!! £50 anybody? That's only £25 for each motor! *Speak to Chris Fisher or Russell Lewis.*



Barrie Stillwell has bought this Un-Believably BIG new model for 2024 season. 93" (2.4m) a Blackhorse Fairchild 24W, all electric. He says "Not sure if I have bitten off a bit more than my ability". 15 lbs (6.8kg) in weight, power 2 x 4500 6S.



Sadly, I don't think we will see this one flying at the firebirds flying site, perhaps a bit too big, but do let us have some photos for the newsletter when you do get her in the air. (Ed.)



FIREBIRDS MODEL CLUB FEES 2024

Club fees for 2024.

This figure does **not** include membership of the BMFA.

Firebirds Fees 2024

Senior - £105

Junior - £35

Family Senior - £90

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

BMFA Fees 2024

Seniors - £47

Juniors - £20

Family Partner - £30

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

Firebirds and BMFA membership

Senior - £105 + £47 = £152

Junior - £35 + £20 = £55

Family Senior - £90 + £30 = £120

NOTE: The above excludes the CAA licencing charges, which like last year the club recommends members do directly with the CAA, and remember your 2024 renewal could be very soon for many.

**** See below for how to pay ****



Paying your membership.

OPTION 1.

By Bank transfer to our *NEW* Lloyds Bank Account.

Acc name: Firebirds Model Club

Sort code: 30-99-50

Account number: 81911160

Reference: your name.

OPTION 2.

By post – Send a cheque to..

Firebirds Model club c/o 11 Granada Road, Hedge End, Southampton. SO30 4AL

OPTION 3.

Find a committee members letterbox and drop it in. (cheque or cash)

NOTICES.

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

Members not renewing by April 1st 2024 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 comitee member should you have any questions.



Flying times : (from December 2021) correct at time of newsletter publication

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!!

Firebirds Model Club

News, Views & Information - January 2024



Poorly club member

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

FUTURE CLUB NIGHTS - Advance notice

Winter events see body of newsletter and, 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	copest02@ntlworld.com
Flying Site Rep.	Keith Warwick	07887 486040	keithw11@hotmail.co.uk
Safety Officer	Geoff Griffiths	023 9265 5931	gcgriffiths@hotmail.com
Membership Sec.	Paul Brown	07730 202510	paulprb@gmail.com

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.