

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter April 2014

Welcome to the firebirds club newsletter see below for a clickable table of content headings.

In this issue...

- 1.....[Committee News](#)
- 2.....[Down at the Field](#)
- 3.....[Safety Matters](#)
- 4.....[Fly Past](#)
- 5.....[External Events](#)
- 6.....[Club Information](#)

Committee News

Well I hope we have good weather on the up and coming weekend. Thanks to Pat who snatched the opportunity to mow the grass just before this latest batch of rain.

Vintage Fly In

Please see the External Events section for details on a Vintage fly in at Waltham Chase 26th July.

Hobby Stores

I'm sure most of you already know but if not please be aware that the Southampton branch has now closed. I've not seen any sort of press release and could not find one on the web. I believe that leaves Southampton without an RC model shop.

Fun Fly Event

We aim to have a fun fly event in the early-mid summer months. The exact details have not been decided yet but it will be aimed at all skill levels and will not include any aerobatic manoeuvres. It will require a plane with undercarriage as there will be at least one take-off and landing event. It will occur one Saturday morning, which will tie up the site for that day. Watch this space for more detail.

John Potterton

As many of you know John is sadly unable to fly with the club anymore. As a result, he has a number of model and tool related items for sale. A list has been compiled and will be held in the caravan at the Poplars site. When you're down the field, just ask a keyholder to gain access the caravan if you would like to peruse the list. It will include details of who to contact should you wish to purchase anything.

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter April 2014

Firebirds Bring & Buy Auction

Many thanks to Russell who once again stepped forward to be the auctioneer at our March Bring & Buy sale. It was a fairly quiet evening with a relatively small number of items for sale. A few items didn't sell and a couple of members asked me if these could be mentioned in the newsletter, so here they are:

Yakimoto high wing 3 channel trainer - Total price £50

56" wingspan

servos and receiver on board

Enya Supersport 40 engine, very little use

Futaba Challenger transmitter with charger and Ni-cad battery set - 35Mhz



Contact: John Howell on: 023 8061 8165 (Bishopstoke)

Email: xhowell22@talktalk.net

Seagull Arising Star trainer - Total price £40

~60" wingspan [Note: the wings have been recovered (hence the blue)]

Engine: An excellent Bluebird 46 (has had very little use).

Since this picture was taken, all servos are now installed. Just needs battery and receiver.



Contact: Peter Houghton peter.houghton@ntlworld.com

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter April 2014

Down at the Field

Well the weather has at last shifted into a pattern that provides at least some plane friendly days. The patch has drained to provide a firm, if a little bumpy, surface. Many thanks to Pat who got the mower out at the earliest opportunity and gave our strip a trim.

On the 15th of March conditions were excellent and the turnout was good. John H. turned up with his recently prepped Sebart Angel. This was a superb flier and John had a good time with it. The Sebart models are not cheap but when you fly one, you can really feel the difference in quality.



Geoff G. and Paul discuss the merits of the Seagull Yak 54.



There were some other good days but none that either coincided with the weekends or where I was able to attend the field. If you're one of the lucky ones who can fly mid-week, then any pictures with at least a bit of explanatory text are most welcome.

Safety Matters - Now you see it, now you don't

Ever had that heart stopping moment when you take your eyes off your model for a quick glance at something else, only to find that (for what seems like an eternity) you've lost it? I bet you have!

The reason is that when looking up into a clear sky our eyes tend naturally to focus at infinity until there is something to see – ask any full size pilot. It may only be for a second or so, but if the model is travelling at say, 50 mph it certainly ain't gonna be

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter April 2014

where you last saw it!

Many newer radios now offer telemetry with the information being sent back to the transmitter display, (I'm sure you can see where this is leading!) so the temptation is there to take your eye off the model to look at the screen. I think the golden rule has to be "don't be tempted under any circumstances!" Either have someone else with you to read it, or better still, if you are lucky enough to have a built in audio feature, use it via an earphone. (Not the speaker please; we don't want the flight-line full of chattering transmitters do we?)

This, of course, applies equally to FPV. There are proper guidelines set out in your BMFA handbook for operating this type of model, stipulating that there must be a "watcher" on a buddy box at all times to take over control if necessary.

The somewhat grey area here is the small foamy with a built in camera, and screen integrated into the transmitter. As far as I am aware a buddy box is not an option with these, so if you have one of them, at least make sure you have someone with you when you fly!

Fly Past

This new focus is on an individual plane/flyer. This month we will focus on my VQ Focke-Wulf 190.

VQ do a range of 60" ish span warbirds that retail for about £100 each. The fit, finish and overall quality is reasonable but not great, par for the course given the price I guess. Build was straightforward. Scale wise it is very much a stand-off plane, in fact, stand-way-off. It's at its best in the air.

I fitted standard Futaba 3003 servos and set the throws indicated by the manual. This gives a nice slow roll and smooth manoeuvres. She's had plenty of hard

landings and luckily for me, the airframe has proven to be quite tough. I have flown this most of the good weekends over the past 2½ years that I have owned it and I can tell you that it is an excellent flier. I have also flown Justin's ME 109 from the same VQ range, which is also a great flier. The FW 190 comes in at 3Kg. I seem to remember the ME109 was about 2.7Kg on about the same wing area.



Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter April 2014

The pilot figure is a bit special, having been expertly painted by Firebirds own artist John Hoddinott. Who really is an expert in this field having painted many battalions of war game figures. John gave a club talk on this subject a while ago and many useful tips were given. John painted this figure and donated it for the club's Christmas raffle, which I was lucky enough to win.

I decided to fit a used OS 70-FS, purchased from the HMFA Great Southern Auction (I think it was £70). Before I fitted the



motor, it was bench run (down at the club) and I had quite a problem with fuel feed and breather pipes. Lots of people helped me out (Dave, Roger & Russell among others) and we eventually blanked off the pipe that ran from the crank case to the exhaust. This cured all running problems so she was fitted to the FW190 and it has run nicely ever since. The 70 sized four stroke is an ideal match for this plane giving plenty of power.

During one flight at Beaulieu the fuel tank bung fell out, partially soaking the tank bay area with fuel. Upon inspection, the bung opening was so rough that the bung did not fit properly. This was simply fixed with an aftermarket tank.

When I bought the plane, I also bought the optional VQ retracts to go with it. Mechanically, given the price, these worked very well. The only problem being that the wheels were a little too far aft of the wing LE and the plane kept nosing over (on take-off and landing).

About 6 months ago, I bit the bullet and decided to swap the VQ mechanical retracts for some HobbyKing (£7) servoless retracts plus the Oleos from HK too. They don't just drop in, I had to do a bit of butchery on the mounting to make them fit. I also took the opportunity to mount them with the leg angled forward to stop the annoying nose-overs on landing.

Having now had quite a few landings on these, I can vouch for them as being a good

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter April 2014

cheap U/C on a plane this size. I have so far collapsed two of them by turning too sharply (at speed) on landing. The sideways force on the leg being pushed inwards breaks something (plastic gears I guess) and then you need a new one. The Oleos are sprung with no damping, so some landings look like Zebadee is in control.

Summary

Pros:

- An excellent flyer for not a lot of money that has weathered well after a lot of use and abuse.
- Solidly built but not overly heavy. The fully sheeted fuselage has withstood some very heavy landings including at least one belly landing.

Cons:

- VQ seem to use an unusual covering material that unfortunately doesn't shrink with heat very well.
- Some of the hardware was a bit suspect e.g. the fuel tank bung that fell out.
- No spares available – e.g. My broken spinner cannot be replaced.

External Events

This section details events in Hampshire (or further afield if they are significant events) that might be of interest to club members.

Blackbushe Model Show

Like Wings & Wheels, this is a pretty big show and is somewhat easier to reach. It boasts a professional flying display organised by Ali Machinchy, including top UK pilots and International guests. It all happens at Blackbushe Airport on Saturday the 17th May. The Airport is just off the A30 between M3 J4/4A and Hartley Wintney GU17 9LQ.

- Gates open at 09:00 – Flying from 10:00 till 17:00.
- All persons Over 16 years £9.00 per person
- All persons Under 16 years £4.00 per person
- OAPs £7.00 per person
- Bring and Buy £9.00 per person

See <http://www.blackbushemodelairshow.co.uk/> for more details.

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter April 2014

Daedalus D-Day commemoration

Thank you to John Williams who has submitted information on a D-Day commemoration event at Daedalus on the 3rd & 4th June.

See <http://www.leeresidents.org.uk/014-DaedalusD-Day70thAnniversaryCommemoration3-4June2014.pdf> for more details.

Model Wings & Wheels Spectacular

Yes it is a bit of a trek but it's definitely worth seeing at least once. You can get to see some of the exotic stuff normally only found on YouTube e.g. super-sized scale models, gas turbines and superb aerobatic displays. There is also quite a big Bring & Buy sale there too.

This very large model show takes place on the 28th & 29th June 2014 at North Weald Airfield, Epping, Essex, CM16 6AR.

- Show times: 9.30am - 5.30pm

For enquiries contact: admin@wingsnwheels.net or Tel: 01242 604126

See <http://www.wingsnwheels.net/> for more details.

Waltham Chase Aeromodellers Vintage Day

As Chair of Waltham Chase Aeromodellers, Peter Sanders has invited any interested members of Botley Firebirds to their Vintage Day, staged on Saturday 26th July 2014. This will include R/C models and R/C assist for models designed before and including 1964 and vintage control line models up to 3.5cc (0.20cu.in). No free flight, due to the restrictions of our site. We will need BMFA Insurance verification to fly only. The venue is Tangier View Farm off Tangier Lane Bishops Waltham, Hants.

An all-day BBQ will be running, under supervision, but you have to bring your own food: soft drinks provided. No flyers are allowed to consume alcoholic drinks until they stop flying.

This is our first Vintage meeting and we thought our closest Club should be invited to participate, if your members wish. Could you give me an idea of participate numbers so we can make arrangements to accommodate our invited guests.

There will also be a raffle for a brand new, reproduction Keil Kraft Southerner 60" span vintage, electric converted kit from The Vintage Model Company.

If you are interested please contact Roger Stanton who would like an idea of the number of people going (his contact details are at the end of this newsletter).

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter April 2014

Club Information

This section gives a summary of club services and contact details. Apart from the “Future Club Night Programme” most of the info here is fairly static.

Future Club Night Programme

The following events are planned for the third Thursday of each month.

April 17th 2014 Firebirds History– by Pat Parsons-founder member

May-August 2014

The plan for the summer months is, if weather permits, to hold a series of barbeque evenings at Poplars. Our new club meeting venue (the Hamble Club) will be the fall back, should the weather scupper our BBQ plans.

The BBQ, if held, will be on either a Monday or Friday evening (weather dependent) of the third week in the month. Otherwise, the normal Thursday meeting night will be used if the meeting has to be held at the Hamble Club.

The thinking behind moving these meetings from Thursday to either Monday or Friday is that we will also be able to fly between our hamburger/hotdog chomping.

If the meeting has to be held at the Hamble Club, then micro indoor planes/helis are welcome. The meeting room is a bit larger than the one at the Legion.

Members will be notified by email (and phone to those without email) a few days in advance when we have a good idea about the forecast. As with the club’s previous BBQ events, please bring your own food. The club will provide the fire.

April Club Night

Pat will give us an illustrated talk on the club’s 30 year history. As well as detailing the club’s origins, Pat will highlight some of the personalities and stories that litter the journey from then until now. A projector will be used to display photos and hopefully some video footage too.

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter April 2014

Don't forget that the talk will be presented at our new meeting venue: the Hamble Club at this address:

Beaulieu Road
Hamble
Southampton
Hampshire
SO31 4JL

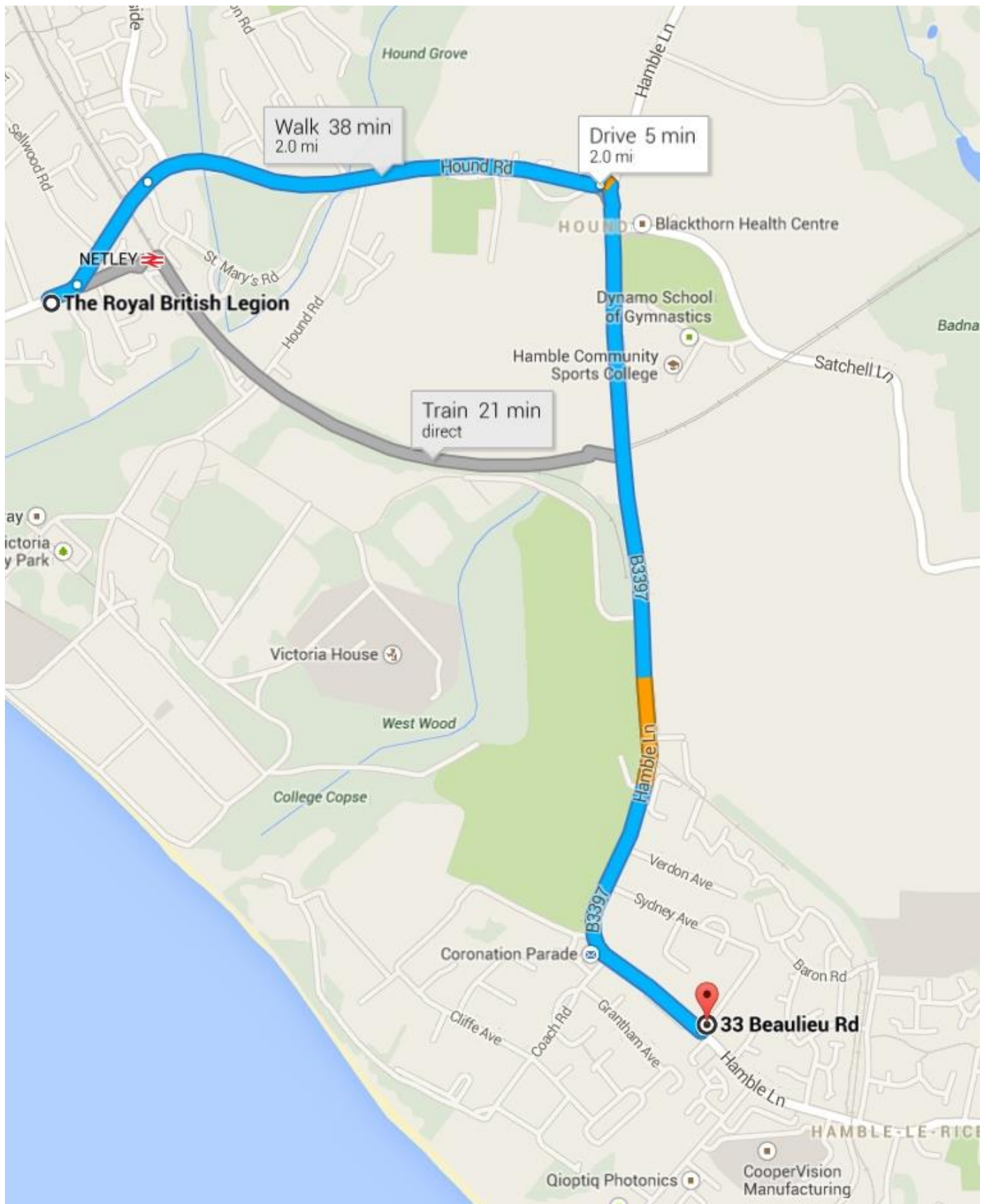
The entrance to the club is on Hamble Lane, only a short distance from a pub called The Harrier. The club looks like this:



The following page contains a map showing directions from the British Legion to Hamble Club (well actually it's the house just opposite the club because Google maps shows the club as being a fair distance up Beaulieu road, which it isn't).

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter April 2014



Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter April 2014

Cheap Glow Fuel

Fuel is available through the club and supplies are held by the club. All grades of fuel are available to order. Terry holds many other useful items: glo-plugs, propellers, glue, fuel tubing, wing bolts etc.

Contact: Terry Jacobson on 023 8040 2080 or see him at the field.

Club Clothing

A number of items of club branded clothing are available from a local supplier. The current prices are:

Sweatshirts	£14.25
Polo shirts	£12.50
T shirt	£ 8.50
Caps	£ 7.95

All shirts are Fruit of the Loom and available in all sizes up to XXL & most colours. There is also a huge range of quality outdoor wear that can be embroidered with the club logo.

Contact Justin on 07572 613190, email windgyber@hotmail.com or see him at the field.

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter April 2014

Firebirds 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	Pat Parsons	023 8056 2611	patrickparsons.parsons3@googlemail.com
Vice Chair	Russell Lewis	023 8056 1397	russell@pilot1.co.uk
Treasurer	Paul Adams	023 8069 2729	paul.adams10@tiscali.co.uk
Secretary	Roger Stanton	01489 784152	roger-stanton@sky.com
PRO	Peter Clark	01489 692881	psclark911@hotmail.com
Flying Site Rep.	Dave Hoppe	07704 826343	davehoppehome@gmail.com
Safety Officer	Geoff Griffiths	023 9265 5931	gcgriffiths@hotmail.com
Membership Sec.	Geoff Scott	023 8039 0013	geoffrey.scott100@ntlworld.com



Remember...
Safe flying is no accident.