

# Firebirds Model Club

*Newsletter* April 2015

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](#)

## Poplars Flying Times

### Summer (BST):

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
13:00-18:00 QF	13:00-18:00 All		13:00-18:00 All	13:00-21:00 QF	10:00-14:00 All	10:00-13:00 All
18:00-21:00 All						

### Winter (GMT):

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12:00-18:00 QF	12:00-18:00 All		12:00-18:00 All	12:00-21:00 QF	10:00-14:00 All	10:00-13:00 All
18:00-21:00 All						

## Bank Holidays

For all days except bank holiday Mondays, flying times are the same as normal (see above tables). On bank holiday Mondays, Saturday hours apply – ie 10am to 2pm. The reasoning behind this is to avoid annoying our "neighbours" when they may be relaxing in their gardens. These times were also declared to Winchester Council when we were granted our Lawful Development Certificate, which is effectively planning permission for our model flying. The only other bank holiday anomaly is Christmas Day when no flying is allowed, whichever day of the week it falls on

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*Newsletter* April 2015

## Committee News

Here's the latest from the committee room.

### Hamble Club Access

When we started using the Hamble Club for our meeting nights, we were told that providing we provided a list of our members there would be no need to sign in at every visit. The Club has now changed its policy and therefore the book usually kept at the bar must be filled in each time you arrive.

There is a way round this and that is to join the club. This is not expensive, particularly for OAPs who pay £8.00 for the first year, and if you live locally it provides a cheap night out! It could also be advantageous for the Firebirds to have a good number of paid up members.

### Future Club Nights

**16<sup>th</sup> April** - Bring and Buy sale - This is your chance to sell the unwanted models, engines, motors, tools and accessories that are cluttering your workshop so that you can buy some replacement junk from other members at knock-down prices!

**If you have anything to sell it must be logged in with Russell the auctioneer before 7.45pm, preferably earlier.**

It would also be a great help if sellers could hand over a piece of paper with their name, item description and reserve price at the same time. Volunteers to help Russell and Roger (who will be the "money" man) would be very welcome.

**21<sup>st</sup> May** - Talk by John Hoddinott on electric flight power systems

**June, July, August** - Barbeques. To allow flying to take place, these will be scheduled on the Monday of the week in which the third Thursday falls. If rain is forecast, they will take place on the Friday of the same week, but only electric flight will be allowed. If the Friday weather forecast is also doubtful, the meeting will take place in the Hamble Club, where limited indoor flying can take place and new models can be shown off! Members will be kept informed by email.

**17<sup>th</sup> September** - Talk on gliding and Slope Soaring

**15<sup>th</sup> October** - Bring and Buy sale

**November** - Balsa Brain competition (to be confirmed)

**December 10th** - Christmas Party (date to be confirmed)

# Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter April 2015

## Old News

If you need to look something up in an old newsletter, I have been putting them on the firebirds website <http://www.firebirds.org.uk>. Just click on the "News" item on the left menu and all the newsletters I've done are on there.

## Down at the Field

Midweek madness

Justin was good enough to send in a couple of snaps he took when ~~skiving off work~~ taking a well-earned break during the week leading up to Easter.

Here's Pat flying his Wot4 foamy that he won in the Christmas raffle. He seemed to be enjoying himself.

Dave has made this depron EE Lightning pusher but it just needs a little more work before the airworthiness certificate is issued.



Pete was flying a new EDF model of a Chinese or Taiwanese. Forgot the name now is it the F-CK-1?

# Firebirds Model Club

*Newsletter* April 2015

The Easter weekend produced two out of four days that had great conditions for flying. Consequently lots of people showed up and spoiled the peace.



Here's Pete with a lovely Vampire. It sounded superb in the air, even his little HobbyKing foam one sounds great. Something about the shape of them I guess.

Sadly a radio failure caused a great deal of damage to this and the F-CK-1 (or whatever it is - I keep doing a double-take to make sure I've written that properly) pictured earlier.

The F-CK-1 was repaired and flying the next day.



# Firebirds Model Club

*Newsletter* April 2015



Dave and Pete are both having a bit of a go with quad copters at the moment. Dave's has more masts than a TV station.

Matt took a shine to Paul's YAK 54 a while ago and when he found out that Seagull have stopped making them, he scooped one up before they disappear. So we can expect to see another one of these at the field at some point in the future.



Safety officer Geoff took it steady with his profile sports biplane. Restraining himself to full power wild aerobatics.

# Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter April 2015

## Safety Matters

When running an IC engine or electric motor much above tick-over we know it's prudent to stand behind the prop in case something 'lets go'. If you're anything like me, then you will observe this simple precaution most of the time but just occasionally you'll stay in front of your own or someone else's model while you/they rev the nuts off it. Should it all go wrong, then the engine might not be the only thing to lose its nuts.

The snag is that props don't come off that often, which is really a good thing I suppose, but it can make you a bit blasé about taking precautions. I have recently had two incidents where the prop, complete with spinner, came off and hurtled away at great speed from the rest of the model.

On the first occasion, I was testing a Saito 115 four stroke engine and had already had the prop on and off a couple of times. I guess I had not done the locking nut up tightly enough and the whole lot flew off at near full power. It flew forward in a nice straight line and struck the ground about 6 metres away. It then careened into a trellis and a fence, coming to rest nine metres away (a nicely rounded 3 fence panels).

On the second occasion (Easter Sunday), a failed E-clip meant that the rotor housing and shaft of the electric motor I was testing, joined forces with the prop and spinner for their brief and wild excursion. The rear wheel of Matt's Landover put an end to their travel ambitions. I guess they travelled about 4-6 metres.



Both motors were swinging 15" props, which are certainly capable of inflicting deep and nasty cuts.

Another reason not to stay in front is that there is also a possibility that the whole aircraft might escape its restraint. Of course I'm just reinforcing what we have all been taught, understand and practice pretty well really. I just think it's good to have the occasional refresher.

PS: I replaced the E-clip and made a collet that screwed into a flat I ground into the shaft. That should hold the bleeder on.

# Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter April 2015

## Fly Past

Justin has very kindly written an article for this section on his Seagull Edge 540.



The Seagull Edge 540 is a mid-wing sports aerobatic plane advertised as 46 size but more on that later.

This was my first all-out sports model and was purchased as my fourth plane but would make an ideal choice as a third plane after the traditional high & low wing trainers have been mastered.

The ARTF build was straightforward with no real issues.

The fittings supplied were of a good standard and the only mods I made were to fit a larger Du Bro fuel tank, fit rubber wheels, add a support to the rudder push rod to prevent blow back during knife edge flight and to fabricate a piano wire undercarriage.

Build of the fuselage and wings is the normal seagull good quality being a bit more robust than some manufacturers but therefore slightly heavier, ideal for the club flyer.

In the air on low rates it handles nicely, it will stall if pushed but general low speed handling is nice and predictable. On high rates it's great and will do the majority of pattern aerobatic manoeuvres and holds its own with more expensive airframes.



Newsletter scribe Geoff Scott had one of these (as my third model – ed.) before me and had originally fitted a 46 two stroke as per the manufacturers recommendations, this turned out to be very underpowered and the engine was swapped for the same Irvine 53 two stroke motor that I have in mine. It fly's well on the 53 but we are both of the opinion that a 60 size two stroke would be the perfect choice.

# Firebirds Model Club

*Newsletter* April 2015

I've had this model for a few years now and still fly it regularly, it still seems to be available in some of the online shops and at a tad over £100 it's a really good buy and comes highly recommended.

Thanks Justin. Fancy a job next year?

## **External Events**

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

### **Salisbury Model Flying Club Swapmeet – 18th April**

Salisbury Model Flying Club Will be holding a model aircraft Swapmeet dealing with all types of flying models, engines, radio control equipment and accessories. etc. Now is the time to sort out those unwanted models and turn them into spending money!

Doors Open on 18/04/2015 at 9.30am until 12.00 noon. 9.00am for vendors only. Tables only £7 includes admission for one person only. Admission - Adults £4 Juniors Free Refreshments available - Tea, Coffee, Bacon Roll. For

Venue: Alderbury Village Hall, Southampton Road, Near Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 3AD

All enquiries to Kevin Easter on 01725 552 873 or email at:  
[easterislandbb@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:easterislandbb@tiscali.co.uk)

Website: [www.salisburymodelflyingclub.co.uk](http://www.salisburymodelflyingclub.co.uk)



# Firebirds Model Club

*Newsletter* April 2015

## **Wings & Wheels Model Spectacular - 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> June**

The longest running RC Model Show in the UK - 29th year. All flying disciplines, boats, hovercraft, tanks Trade, Bring&Buy etc.

Starts: 27/06/2015 at 09:30

Ends: 28/06/2015 at 17:00

Venue: North Weald Airfield, North Weald, Nr Epping CM16 6AR

All enquiries to Jane Stephenson on 01242 604126 or email at:

[admin@wingsnwheels.net](mailto:admin@wingsnwheels.net)

Website: [www.wingsnwheels.net](http://www.wingsnwheels.net)

## **Bournemouth Air Festival - 20th-23rd August**

OK it's not a model show but we don't have many local air shows so I thought it worth a mention. Find out more on their website: <http://bournemouthair.co.uk/>

## **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**

16<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Our spring Bring & Buy sale.

21<sup>st</sup> May 2015

Talk by John Hoddinot on electric flight power systems

### **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.**

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*Newsletter* April 2015

## 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](mailto:windgyber@hotmail.com) or see him at the field.**

Our meeting venue is 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:



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*Newsletter* April 2015

## 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	<a href="mailto:patrickparsons.parsons3@googlemail.com">patrickparsons.parsons3@googlemail.com</a>
Vice Chair	Russell Lewis	023 8056 1397	<a href="mailto:russell@pilot1.co.uk">russell@pilot1.co.uk</a>
Treasurer	Paul Adams	023 8069 2729	<a href="mailto:paul.adams10@tiscali.co.uk">paul.adams10@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Secretary	Roger Stanton	01489 784152	<a href="mailto:roger-stanton@sky.com">roger-stanton@sky.com</a>
PRO	Peter Clark	01489 692881	<a href="mailto:psclark911@hotmail.com">psclark911@hotmail.com</a>
Flying Site Rep.	Dave Hoppe	07704 826343	<a href="mailto:davehoppehome@gmail.com">davehoppehome@gmail.com</a>
Safety Officer	Geoff Griffiths	023 9265 5931	<a href="mailto:gcgriffiths@hotmail.com">gcgriffiths@hotmail.com</a>
Membership Sec.	Roger Stanton	01489 784152	<a href="mailto:roger-stanton@sky.com">roger-stanton@sky.com</a>



**Remember...**  
**Safe flying is no accident.**