

# Firebirds Model Club

*Newsletter* May 2015

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

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## 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						

[Note 1: 'QF' means Quiet Flight. That is gliders and electric models.]

[Note 2: Finish times are either as stated above or at sundown - whichever comes first. No night flying is permitted.]

## 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 i.e. 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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## Committee News

Here's the latest from the committee room.

### Club Fuel/Prop/Glue Etc.

Terry Jacobson is likely to be away on many weekends during the summer, so if you need club fuel, props or fuel etc. but don't fly regularly during the week, it would be wise to call him on the number given at the end of the newsletter.

### Scout Visit Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>

Like last year, the club will be hosting a visit by a number of scouts on June 13th. The idea is to give them some time on a simulator, followed by buddy box-flights. There will also be flying demonstrations and a static display. If you can bring along a laptop/simulator, or suitably impressive models to display (statically or flying) please let Roger Stanton know as soon as possible as time is short. He would also like to hear from instructors who will be available to give buddy box flights.

### Revamped WebSite

I have now given the [Firebirds website](#) a complete overhaul, so feel free to go and have a look at it. The idea was to put together a clean looking site that is easy to navigate and has a more appealing look than our old site.



That's not said to have a go at the old site design, it has served us well for many years but technologies and expectations change. Websites need to move with these changes to stay fresh looking.

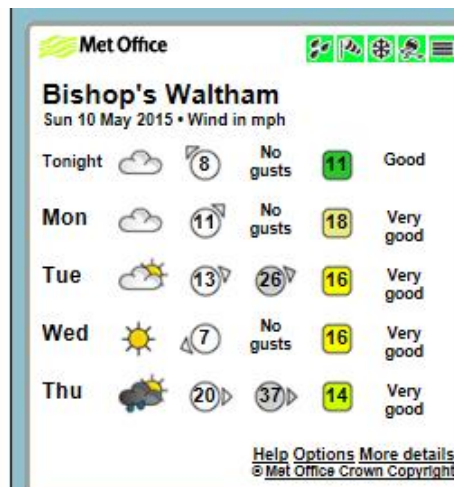
Most of the buttons along the bottom navigate to different categories of the 'News' page. All of the material for this has been broken out of our old newsletters. There's still more to go up too.

I would mainly like to keep the front page photos as quality flying shots (there's currently one ground shot) and will refresh these as time permits and more new photos become available. So if you can get some good flying shots for me then that would be much appreciated.

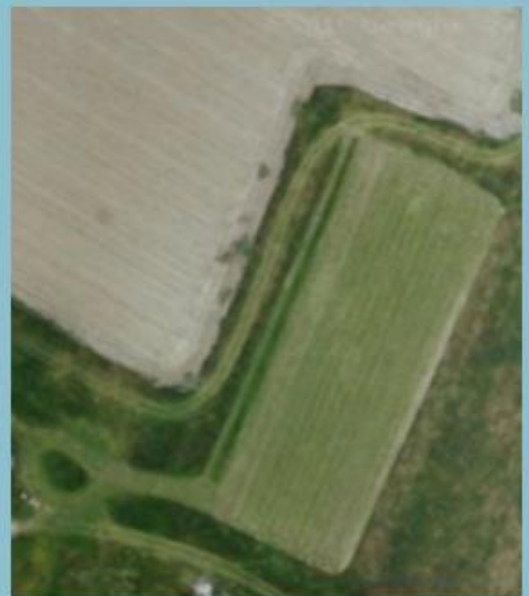
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I don't know how often I would expect our membership to be visiting our site but one thing I have included that may increase the number of visits is a weather forecast with a picture of our strip alongside. So you can compare the wind direction to the angle of our strip.



This [weather forecast](#) is generated by the [Met Office Weather Widget](#)



We currently run at about 12-30 visits per day so it'll be interesting to see if that changes. Hopefully it won't go down! If it does, then I'll probably need to sack myself as webmaster.

## Club Clothing

A message from Justin our club clothing dude:



Hi chaps, I've had a number of club clothing enquiries and members asking when we are going to make an order so here we go this is your chance to deck yourself out for summer.

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As an extra incentive & to clear some surplus stock the club has decided offer a club cap for only £5 for the first five orders over £15

Sweat Shirts £14.25

Polo's £12.50

T Shirts £8.50

Please email your order, size and colour choice to [windgyber@hotmail.com](mailto:windgyber@hotmail.com) and I will get back to you when we have placed the order.



Don't forget to add a cap if you want one but remember its first come first served on these.

Many Thanks Justin

## Future Club Nights

**21<sup>st</sup> May** - John Hoddinott will be giving a talk on electric power systems based on the excellent articles he wrote for our Newsletter last year. This should prove very informative for both electric flight newcomers and "experts" alike. **Please give maximum support to this event!**

**June, July, August** - Barbeques. It is hoped to hold barbeques during these three months, with at least one at Roughay Farm where Mike Watts runs his full-size light aircraft business. Please keep your eyes open for email updates and further details.

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 20<sup>th</sup>** - BMFA Southern Area Balsa Brain Competition (one day later than our normal meeting night).

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**December 10th** - Christmas Party/Raffle/Trophy presentation evening. Please note this is a week earlier than our normal club night.

## Down at the Field

May bank holiday Monday produced some moderate weather in the morning that changed into a not too pleasant cross-wind by lunch time. Still, a bunch of us got some flying done so we were happy enough.



Pete put on a great flight with his new Vampire (replacing the one that got binned last month).

It had great performance and sounded very authentic for an EDF.

Like all EDFs, it's a power hungry beast. This one gets through an 8 cell pack pretty darned quickly.



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After a battery with faulty internal wiring put Bob's Fun-Cub into the deck recently, he rebuilt it and got it flight tested. After a minor thrust-line adjustment, all will be well.

I don't think I got this club member's name but he turned up a couple of weeks before May Day with a very tidy looking own design. Even the wing aerofoil (airfoil if you're American) was his own design!



Adjustments were made between each of the three or four test flights we had with it. Paul also advised on further adjustments that might improve the flying characteristics for a later date. It was pretty good fun trying to master a plane that hadn't gone through the usual ARTF or build from plans route.



Before I go on about another one of Pete's jets I should make it clear that I'm not trying to show favouritism to Pete. It's just that in sheer numbers of aircraft he owns and the number of flights he has per week, he single-handedly represents about 30% of the club.

With that out of the way, this is a [Hobbyking Cobra](#) 8S sports jet. It was disastrously rubbish on its first outing. For example the C of G was a big problem, the fan was

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starved of air and the wheels didn't really work on our grass (not really the plane's fault I suppose). This all resulted in a crash on the first outing.

When Pete took it apart (of course, some of it was already apart), he discovered that much of the fuselage was held together with double-sided sticky tape rather than glue.

Pete repaired all the damage, glued the whole thing back together properly, took out the retracting undercarriage and opened up the airways. Now it goes very well.

Justin and I went to the Salisbury table top sale advertised in last month's newsletter. I came away with nothing but Justin secured a Hangar 9 Toledo.

The plane was very nearly brand new with a new Thunder Tiger four stroke up front. After a bit of a tune up (it was way out of tune), Justin brought her along for the maiden flight at poplars. With a bit of rapid finger tapping, I just about captured the take-off on my phone.



The maiden was uneventful requiring minimal trim to straighten her out. The engine had plenty of power and Justin had a couple more flights on her that day.

## Safety Matters

I've got no safety article for you this month.

## Fly Past

I've got no Fly Past article for you this month either. Spent all my time on the website



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## External Events

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

### **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/>



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## 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.**

### 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 Club requires each member to sign in at every arrival using the book usually kept at the bar. There is a way round this and that is to join the club. This is not expensive,

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particularly for OAPs who pay £8.00 for the first year, and if you live locally it provides a cheap night out! The entrance to the club is on Hamble Lane and the club looks like this:



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## 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.**