

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter September 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						

[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.

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter September 2015

Committee News

Here's the latest from the committee room.

August Club Night

Despite the late notification of the August Club night, 16 members turned up at the Hamble club and all enjoyed the informal indoor fly-in and 3-D printer demonstration.

No fixed-wing models were flown, but with up to 4 helis gyrating on the "dance floor" at the same time, there were some hairy moments! Star prize went to Roger Stanton who managed to get his heli entangled in the remains of last year's Christmas decorations! The performance of Rob Fenn's tiny micro quadcopter was also an eye opener as it flitted between the larger helis.

Pete Clark's 3-D printing set-up was amazing, with everything from gearwheels to Minion characters and mermaid figures churned out with impressive accuracy. Who knows, those expensive Model Shop plastic items in poly packets may soon be a thing of the past.

Future Club Nights

17th September - Paul Adams will be bringing along some models to illustrate a talk on Slope and Thermal Soaring. It promises to be a very interesting evening so please give maximum support. There will also be a raffle.

15th October - will be a Bring & Buy Sale. It is likely that we will only have one sale per year in future, so this could be your last chance to pick up something cheap or offload some old models/equipment before October 2016! You are strongly advised to attend this event to avoid missing out on some amazing bargains! As usual Russell will be the auctioneer, and it is worth going just to hear his banter and colourful descriptions of the items on offer!

November 20th - The November club night will be a day later (ie Friday Nov 20th) to coincide with the BMFA Southern Area Balsa Brain competition. The Firebirds are the holders of the Trophy, so plenty of support to help us win it for the third time in succession would be appreciated. There should be free buffet supper too.

December 10th - The Christmas Party will be held on 10th December (the second Thursday of the month). As usual, the subs for next year will be agreed and the Trophy Award Ceremony will take place. The Christmas Draw will follow, with about £500 of prizes available. Don't forget to keep buying those tickets from Pete Clark you have to be in it to win it!

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter September 2015



Paul was working out the niggles with his recently acquired Ultimate Bipe.

Although the power was adequate, it wasn't quite up to Paul standards. So maybe we'll see some changes up front

Here she is flying and you'll notice that this shot is from above. It is a movie-still taken by one of Rob's planes.

Rob managed to catch quite a few fleeting moments of other aircraft passing through his camera's field of view.



.And here is Rob getting ready to start his WOT4, which he can usually manage with a quick back-flip of the spinner. This is a trick I first saw Russell do with one of my planes.

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter September 2015

Alan just getting his Majestic Major ready for lift off. This is a lovely thing to fly and we had some great goes with it.

Sadly, it did end up in the tallest tree at poplars and required a local tree surgeon to rescue it.

This recovery cost was £50, so not cheap but usually better than losing the

plane. Should you need this service yourself at some point, I took note of their contact details.



Ethan Ford: 07545 759773 (Mobile)

Email: ecftrees@gmail.com

Website: www.ecftrees.com

They are Romsey based but one of the employees lives near the Cricketers pub.



Here's my Dewoitine coming in to land. I like flying this plane but it does have a vicious stall. It will enter a spin almost instantly and nearly caused the loss of the plane at one point.

The finished all-up-weight for mine was 4.9Kg (with battery). I suspect that a 4.5Kg AUW would make things much better. That said, mine does fly

slowly, you just have to be very careful not to go too slow or when turning at low speed.

I did keep bending the original undercarriage because it was very soft metal. I now have new undercarriage made from 5mm piano wire instead of English cheddar.

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter September 2015

I must thank John H. for helping me sort this out because he loaned me his wire bender which was simple to use and extremely effective.

Here's a picture of the wire bender (the black coloured item). I believe John said it was inexpensive and I can tell you it works really well. 5mm piano wire is not normally easy to bend even after annealing.



I was so impressed that I decided I wanted one for myself. The larger and rather grotty looking copy I made is pictured below John's one. The U shaped wire was a test piece I bent. Bending such a short piece would be very difficult with just a vice and pliers etc.

The wire is bent around the central 9.5mm post and may be coiled up the post until you run out of height. I made a test piece having multiple coils, like a trainer's nose wheel, with ease.

Having flown quite a few times at Poplars over the past month, I can bear witness to the fact that both myself and others have commented on how great the strip is.

I don't think Pat is keen for me to put him in the newsletter but I think it's important to mention the effort that he, Dave and the other committee members put into keeping the place up together so we can fly.

Gentlemen, we salute you.



Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter September 2015

Safety Matters

Thank you to Geoff our safety officer for the following safety notices.

Just a couple of reminders this month.

- 1) FPV, Quads and aerial photography: Firstly, and most importantly, if you fly FPV it is MANDATORY that you enlist the help of another to act as watchman. Apart from being a legal requirement it makes good sense.

There are no specific club rules about where to fly quads, but please bear in mind a) that something small buzzing around relatively close in can be very distracting to other pilots and b) If others are in the air, hovering is not allowed over the strip unless all other pilots are ok about it. Ask first. If you wish to hover in order to get footage of models flying please do it at some distance and well away from the take-off, landing and flightpath of the other models. Bear in mind too that there are national regulations in place in respect or aerial photography. Please make sure you are aware of them. (I'm sure John Hoddinott will be able to point you in the right direction if you ask him nicely). There is some fantastic footage around taken from these machines and they are great fun, so we really don't want to discourage or restrict their use unless absolutely necessary. Just be sensible, and try not to get in the way of fixed wing flyers.

- 2) The second reminder is that whatever you put in the air, it is your responsibility to ensure that it is airworthy. This is particularly pertinent with the ready built models that most of us fly nowadays. First thing I always check is the engine mount and wing fixing plates. Do they look up to the job? A bit of re-enforcing with epoxy or fibre glass is often appropriate. While we are at it, what about the servo mounts? Are these properly fixed? In 50 flights time the fuselage around the engine and in the tank bay will often become fuel soaked, so give it all a coat of proofer before you start assembly. How about the undercarriage mounting? It is much easier (and lighter!) to add some subtle re-enforcing now, before it breaks! If the control surfaces are already hinged, give them a good tug, and re-glue the hinges if necessary. If the canopy or cowl/battery hatch is removable, are you happy that the method of retaining them is ok? Again, much easier to do something about it now. Lastly, have a good look at the control horns, clevises and push rods; if in any doubt, change them. Things are a lot better now, but it has been known for Chinese manufacturers to alter the original plastic specification if they can find something cheaper!

That's about it. If you take care at the building stage, the model will last a lot longer, be safer AND stay in one piece. Happy Flying!

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter September 2015

Fly Past

Thank you to John H. who supplied the following pictures and write-up so that I could add it to last month's newsletter. Unfortunately, I rushed the newsletter and I forgot I had this lot from John – apologies John. Anyway here is John's experience at RIAT.

The Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) at RAF Fairford was held 17 to 20 July 2015 and conditions on the Saturday were perfect for photography as it was clear and bright but with a bit of moisture in the air to encourage some vapour trails.

First up was the Belgian Airforce F16 display aircraft, one of two F16s at the show, the other belonging to the Greek Airforce display team.



Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter September 2015

The British Army Apache provided a demonstration of its manoeuvrability and firepower with a simulated attack on a ground target, accompanied by some very loud and impressive pyrotechnics.



The Japanese Defence Force displayed its brand new Japanese designed and built Maritime Patrol aircraft, the Kawasaki P1.

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter September 2015

The US Air Force displayed the full flight envelope of the tilt wing Osprey CV-22B, it being able to hover like a helicopter or fly like a conventional fixed wing aircraft. This version is specifically intended for the Special Forces interdiction role.



RIAT 2015 marked a number of significant aviation milestones this year. The first of which was 75 years since the Battle of Britain, commemorated with a sequence of displays



including a spectacular formation flypast of around 15 contemporary British and German fighters and...

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter September 2015

...some simulated dog fighting between an ME109 and a Spitfire - all very evocative!



It is also the last year that the Vulcan will be flying following the announcement that a number of the engineering firms that supported the aircraft's continued airworthiness will cease their support at the end of the year.



Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter September 2015

The Red Arrows joined the Vulcan for a formation fly past...



...following which they completed another hugely impressive aerobatic display.



Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter September 2015

External Events

Basingstoke MAC Electric Fly In - 13/09/2015

Gates open at 09:00, pilot briefing at 09:30, £5 to fly, A-cert minimum in relevant discipline to fly, please pre-register over 7kg models with Chris. Disciplines will include: Electric, RC Fixed Wing, RC Helicopters and Scale. There will be: Food, Drinks, Prizes and a Raffle.

Starts: 13/09/2015 at 10:00

Ends: 13/09/2015 at 17:00

Venue: Basingstoke Model Aero Club
Harrow Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG253AR

Website: www.bmacuk.co.uk

Contact: Chris on 07929 523990

Email Address: chris@bmacuk.co.uk

Southern Counties Swapmeet - 15/11/2015

Admission only £4, under 16s free. Tables £8 including one admission. Sellers from 8:30am, buyers 9am to noon. More details at www.hmfa.hampshire.org.uk. To pre-book tables only call Mike Stokes on 07702 742647.

Disciplines: Control Line, Electric, FPV, Free Flight, Gas Turbine, Indoor , RC Fixed Wing, RC Helicopters, Scale, Slope, Soaring, Space.

Starts: 15/11/2015 at 09:00

Ends: 15/11/2015 at 12:00

Venue: Mountbatten School
Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5SY

Website

<http://www.hmfa.hampshire.org.uk/>

Contact: Mike Stokes on 07702 742647

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter September 2015

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.

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 outwear that can be embroidered with the club logo.

Contact Justin on 07572 613190, email 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, 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:

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter September 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	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.	Roger Stanton	01489 784152	roger-stanton@sky.com



Remember...
Safe flying is no accident.