

# Firebirds Model Club

*Newsletter* November 2015

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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.

### Flying times

We are now on GMT so weekday flying now starts at 1200 (instead of 1300) until the clocks go forward in March next year.

### Bring & Buy Sale

The Bring and Buy Sale at the last Club Night was a success in that all items were sold, many for incredibly low prices. The club also made about £18 commission. However, the sale was much smaller than in previous years and therefore it is likely there will only be one sale next year at a date still to be decided.

### Balsa Brain Quiz 2015

Please remember that our November Club night will be a day later than normal, ie Friday 20th. The club is hoping to win the trophy for the third year running so your support would be welcome!

### Christmas Party

Don't forget that the Christmas party is on 10th December, i.e. the second Thursday of the month. There will be free buffet supper as usual for members and their families, and over £500 worth of raffle prizes. Keep buying those tickets so even more prizes can be bought! The subscriptions for 2016 will be decided by a vote of members present, after which payments can be made. Don't forget that you must pay to maintain your insurance cover before you fly for the first time in 2016.

### First Aid

A recent incident involving cut fingers at the site revealed a shortage of suitable plasters, bandages etc. in the First Aid Box which is kept in the caravan. Someone also pointed out that only committee members had keys to the caravan. Therefore, it has been decided that a combination key safe will be mounted on the side of the caravan, with all members informed of the combination. Regular checks will also be made to ensure the box is kept topped up. However, in view of the potential dangers of our hobby, members should also consider carrying a First Aid kit in their car.

### Future Club Nights

**November 20<sup>th</sup>** - 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

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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!

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## Down at the Field

A misty start at poplars. Just when we got a break in both rain and wind, the first 1.5hrs of flying were somewhat curtailed by poor visibility.



This picture was taken at about 11am and Justin's brightly coloured Pulse had either just flown or was about to fly. After seeing it go grey a few times, the flight was cut short. Visibility was ok up to about 50-80ft so smaller foamies were being flown almost continuously but the larger stuff had to wait.

Half an hour later, the sun was out and the sky was open for business.



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The mist didn't dampen Terry's spirits but that's no surprise because God hasn't invented anything that does. I think he was flying his Mini-Super on that day.

Here's Mike with a recently completed Calmato 60. This is the larger of Kyosho's Calmato range (the smaller being the Calmato 40).

Now that I'm writing the newsletter, I can't remember whether Mike said he won it in the club's Christmas raffle or got it one of our auctions.

Anyway, he got it built and it flew very nicely, requiring minimal trim and offering no vices.



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Another day and the sun was out again. Of course it's a little low at this time of year. Hard to please aren't we?

This is Lee's pretty little Super Stearman. I wish I'd seen it fly but I must have missed it on the day. During the summer we often see a blue and yellow full size Stearman (standard, not the 'Super') overflying our site.



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Finally, have a look at Alan's Seagull Pioneer. A distinct lack of glue meant the front and rear of the fuselage parted company. Fortunately, this didn't happen in flight (I think it was taxiing).

Even though (as Geoff pointed out in September's newsletter) we are responsible for whatever we put in the air, I think that we would all generally assume that the parts of the plane that are prebuilt should be solid.

Note that this nose section is supplied as a separate piece to be bolted on. Also note that the nylon bolts are still in place and are still tight. It's just pulled them and their mounting plates right out of the plane.

So you just can't assume anything. As Geoff said, you have to check as much as you can to ensure it is all solid and up to the job. Anything looking a bit marginal needs regluing or reinforcing as appropriate.

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## Safety Matters

Last month's "Safety Matters" detailed John H's presentation on the IMechE UAS (Unmanned Aerial System) Challenge. One of the statements in there said:

*"Safety and Airworthiness was considered in the Challenge under the context of:*

- *Legal and Regulatory Requirements"*

As these "Legal and Regulatory Requirements" apply to our aeromodelling activities, I thought it worth a mention here in the newsletter. So what are the requirements? Well, they are encapsulated in the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) Air Navigation Order (ANO).

The ANO provides the requirements for operation within CAA regulated airspace, including requirements related to:

- Airworthiness
- Flight Safety

Section 1 Part 22, Article 166/167 includes the requirements for small unmanned aircraft and small unmanned surveillance aircraft.

Definitions:

- 'Small unmanned aircraft' means any unmanned aircraft, other than a balloon or a kite, having a mass of not more than 20kg without its fuel but including any articles or equipment installed in or attached to the aircraft at the commencement of its flight.
- 'A small unmanned surveillance aircraft' means a small unmanned aircraft which is equipped to undertake any form of surveillance or data acquisition.

## Airworthiness

The ANO provides the airworthiness and flight safety requirements for small unmanned aircraft which include:

- 166 (1) A person must not cause or permit any article or animal (whether or not attached to a parachute) to be dropped from a small unmanned aircraft so as to endanger persons or property.
- 166 (2) The person in charge of a small unmanned aircraft may only fly the aircraft if reasonably satisfied that the flight can safely be made.

Reference is made to acting '*reasonably*' which a court would interpret as meaning standard practice, custom or guidelines have been followed. You would therefore be expected to act in accordance with published guidelines (e.g. BMFA handbook and club/site rules) unless you can argue your alternative actions were more appropriate.



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Note that the regulation applies to a '*person in charge*'. The onus (and legal liability) is therefore on the *remote pilot* to ensure all has been reasonably done to assure and maintain safety.

## **Flight Safety**

The ANO provides flight safety requirements which include:

- 166 (3) The person in charge of a small unmanned aircraft must maintain direct, unaided visual contact with the aircraft sufficient to monitor its flight path in relation to other aircraft, persons, vehicles, vessels and structures for the purpose of avoiding collisions.
- 167 (1) The person in charge of a small unmanned surveillance aircraft must not fly the aircraft in any of the circumstances described in paragraph (2) except in accordance with a permission issued by the CAA. (2) The circumstances referred to in paragraph (1) are: (a) over or within 150 metres of any congested area; (b) over or within 150 metres of an organised open-air assembly of more than 1,000 persons; (c) within 50 metres of any vessel, vehicle or structure which is not under the control of the person in charge of the aircraft; or (d) subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), within 50 metres of any person

The onus (and legal liability) is therefore on the remote pilot to ensure that the aircraft remains in visual distance (commonly interpreted to mean 500m horizontally and 400ft vertically) and clear of people and property.

## **Prosecutions**

The proliferation of cheap quadcopters and general FPV equipment has now led to the first ever prosecutions of aeromodellers for breaching ANO rules.

In April 2014 Robert Knowles, of Barrow-in-Furness was charged with:

- Flying a small unmanned surveillance aircraft within 50 metres of a structure (Article 167 of the Air Navigation Order 2009).
- Flying over a nuclear installation (Regulation 3(2) of the Air Navigation (Restriction of Flying)(Nuclear Installations) Regulations 2007).

He was fined £4000. The CAA said the conviction sent a message to recreational users of UAVs that the devices are subject to aviation safety rules. Read more here: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2595245/First-UK-prosecution-dangerous-driving-DRONE-Man-fined-800-illegal-flying-unmanned-aircraft.html>

In September 2015 Nigel Wilson was prosecuted for filming football matches from his drone. He also admitted using the drone to film London landmarks like the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace and The Shard, putting public safety at risk. The court heard Wilson ignored the warnings of people who watched the videos on his YouTube

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channel who told him that what he was doing was illegal. He was fined £1,800 and has been banned from using model drones.

Read more here: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3235592/Security-guard-filmed-football-matches-flying-drones-grounds.html>

## Fly Past

No fly past article this month.

## External Events

### **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](http://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

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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.

### 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](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, 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.**