

Firebirds Model Club



MERRY CHRISTMAS

newsletter December 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.

Christmas Party Thursday 10TH Dec

Don't forget that the Christmas Party will take place on Thursday, i.e. 10th Dec, 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start. This is a family affair so please persuade the missus/girlfriend/boyfriend/kids to come along.

There will be a buffet supper at no charge, but bring some money for a last flutter on the raffle! There will be over £750 worth of prizes, mostly aero-modelling related, but there will also be boxes of biscuits, bottles of wine etc.

Model kits will include a WOT 4 foamie, a Black Horse Renegade, a scale YAK and Sea Fury. Before the buffet starts, a vote will be taken on the Committee's proposal for 2016 subs (see below for more details). After the buffet, trophies for 2016 will be awarded and this will be followed by the raffle draw.

2016 Subscriptions

At the BMFA AGM last month, it was agreed that the BMFA adult subscription for 2016 would go up by £1 to £33. The Junior subscription would remain the same (£17) as would the Family subscriptions (Senior £33, Junior £13).

The Firebird Committee discussed the club subscriptions at its meeting on 3rd Dec and decided to recommend an increase for Seniors of £4, making it £72. The reasons for the proposed increase are that the site rent has gone up by £40 a month and it is anticipated that a significant amount will have to be spent on the mower in 2016.

To summarise the above, assuming the Committee's recommendation is accepted at the Christmas Party, the 2016 subscriptions will be:-

	Club	BMFA	Total
SENIOR	72	33	105
JUNIOR	13	17	30
FAMILY SENIOR	72	33	105
JUNIOR	13	13	26

Roger Stanton will take renewals after the vote is taken at the Christmas Party and please remember that you must have paid before you fly for the first time in 2016!

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Club AGM

This will take place at the Hamble club on Thursday 14th Jan 2016 at 8.00pm. Only those members who have paid their 2016 subscription may vote, but subscriptions will be taken from 7:30pm that night. Items for the agenda must be forwarded in writing (an email will do) with a proposer and seconder to the Secretary by 7 Jan 2016. Any volunteers to serve on the committee should also contact the Secretary before that date.

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Down at the Field

Well I haven't been down the field since the last newsletter. I only recall one flyable weekend and I wasn't available, so I have no new pics for the newsletter. I decided to raid Paul M's picture gallery (thanks Paul) and bring you some shots taken throughout the year. There's a couple here I don't know much about.



Geoff's smokin' Yak 54.

Somebody's Sea Vixen (I'm guessing Pete).



Roger's Douglas Bader spitfire.



This Vampire clearly is Pete's

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I have forgotten who has this lovely Mosquito.



A tricky landing coming up for somebody with this Irvine Tutor.



Alan's Majestic Major

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My own Great Planes Skybolt.



John's Sebart Angel

Safety Matters

There's no safety matters this month

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Fly Past - Ripmax Acrowot Mk2 ARTF

Justin has been kind enough to write a review of the Ripmax Acrowot.

The Acrowot is the second Chris Foss designed plane to be mass produced and sold as an ARTF model by Ripmax. Like their first ARTF offering the wot 4 this kit has sold by the truck load and is a common sight at many clubs, Indeed several Firebirds members including myself have one and most rave about them. I think at the Beaulieu club its



actually part of the membership criteria to own one, and when I saw seven of them being flown at once down there I was unsure that any of the pilots could have been 100% sure that they were flying their own model at times but they all landed safely (just!)

The plane itself is a little different to the original Foss kit having a slightly longer wingspan and the wing is built up rather than the foam veneer found in the traditional kit. Also I believe the ARTF is a little longer and incorporates the tail modification that was introduced in the home build to stop “fish tailing” during acceleration. This is when the tail seems to gyrate and become unstable for a moment. (The ARTF still does this a bit)

So onto what you get for your money? Well the airframe itself is pretty solid for an ARTF, the covering is ok but does peel a little over time. The only real issue being the fittings kit, this lets it down a bit and you may find yourself replacing some of the cheap sub-standard items supplied. The tank is not the best either and failures at the bung seem common.

On to the power plant and I along with many others at the field and on the forums find a 70 four stroke to be the ideal motor for the plane, a 91 can be squeezed in and indeed less nose ballast weight would then be needed to balance but the 70 is ample performance wise. The airframe engine bay /mount position doesn't suit all two stroke designs and it seems common to have to hack away at the firewall & fuselage creating a tunnel to allow room for the muffler to be fitted. Rob Cope made a nice job of this on his incorporating foil heat shielding, but he now seems to have gone for the

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favoured 70 four stroke. I believe the latest imported models will feature a battery hatch so it will be interesting to see how it performs with an electric set up.

Flying the Acrowot is a lot of fun and traditional aerobatic manoeuvres such as Cuban eights and Immelmann turns are a real joy as the plane tracks so well. Some suggest the plane as a second model after the high wing trainer has been mastered, But I personally wouldn't & especially not at confined fields like Poplars as the planes aren't the lightest and can be a bit slippery therefore tricky to slow down especially from height; e.g. an approach from the far left over the trees.

So for under£130 plus some new fittings you will have a very capable aerobat and an airframe that actually prefers a little wind over a flat calm day. And remember that as it comes over the edge of the strip still going at 30 mph, clenching your buttocks won't actually slow it down physically but it will certainly help mentally.

External Events

I've got no more external events for you this year.

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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 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	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.