

Firebirds Model Club

Newsletter April 2016

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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.

Debris on the Strip

To avoid expensive damage to the mower, please make sure you don't leave broken prop blades or other debris on the strip. This is even more important in the spring and summer months when the mower is set for a closer cut.

Parking

For safety reasons now that there are some parking places adjacent to the pits, please make sure you don't encroach onto the area that has been mown. This will also give other members in the pits some "elbow room". Additionally, as a matter of courtesy, if you have large I/C models please select an area of the pits away from the caravan and seats.

Noise

Our Lawful Development Certificate gives us a measure of security at Poplars Farm, so having spent well over £1000 to get it, we don't want to risk being evicted because of noise complaints. Therefore, the committee has decided to bring out the Noise Meter whenever they judge that a model may be over the BMFA/Department of the Environment noise limit. If a model is found to be over the 82 dBA limit the committee can give advice on how to reduce the noise to an acceptable level.

Future Club Nights

April 21st - Table top sale. Bring those unwanted items to raise some cash. There should also be some bargains to spend it on. If you have a new model, even if only half built, bring it along to show the rest of us. If space allows, it may be possible to do a little indoor flying.

May 19th - Barbeque at the site. As Thursday evening isn't a normal flying time, only genuinely quiet electric models will be permitted to fly.

June - Hopefully a barbeque at Roughay Farm

July/August – Barbeques on either the third Monday or Friday of the month, depending on the weather. If both days are poor, then there will be an informal gathering at the Hamble Club.

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Down at the Field

As reported in last month's newsletter, we finally got a break in the weather on 12th and 13th March. It was sunny and calm and ideal for flying.

On the 13th Andre, a new joiner, started flying with the Firebirds. Andre had noticed our website while looking for a good site for his electric powered warbirds. These were: a Seagull P47, a Seagull Super Tucano a VQ Kawasaki Hien, a FW190 and VQ Dauntless, all packed into the back of his van. Clearly he is a keen warbird fan.

His Seagull P47 was brand new and being a little apprehensive about the first flight, Andre asked if I would take on that challenge. It was clearly well built and flew beautifully straight away, requiring only minor trim. If you're thinking about buying one, then my brief experience revealed that the plane;

- 1) gave nice slow axial rolls,
- 2) had a fairly gentle stall, which always tipped to one side,
- 3) on landing it required power all the way down to the strip but would do a three-pointer if judged right (I failed) – this was in a 10mph headwind,
- 4) looks great.



[Pics courtesy of Paul M]

Having got that out the way, the Tucano went up next. This was also new to Andre but was actually a second-hand purchase. The previous owner had said the plane was a "pussycat" so Andre had no qualms about doing the first flight himself. What followed was like a ride on a bucking bronco strapped to a rollercoaster. All credit to Andre who

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hung on and tamed the beast into level flight. It was just a trim problem. Both planes flew great and had no obvious vices (once trimmed!). Here is the Tucano in action over our strip.



Here's Geoff giving his WOT4 a workout



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Justin rolled out his DeNight Special.



...and his Pulse XT 60.

Alan's Cub now features as one of the images on the front page of our website.



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As well as supplying photos, Paul M put his SU26 through some manoeuvres.



Safety Matters

No Safety Matters article this month.

Fly Past

Chris Fisher joined Firebirds last year and has kindly written a diary or blog of his membership experience. I shall publish other instalments over the next couple of newsletters.

My First Year (6 months) with the Firebirds....

Having known Firebirds Committee member Russell Lewis for more years than I want to remember (basically since I married his sister) It was only a matter of time before I had a go at flying fixed wing models and joining the firebirds model flying club. Once joining I realised what a thankless job it must be finding something new to write each month in the Newsletter, so I thought I would help pad it out !! Here goes....

My first real experience of the model world was when Russell dragged me along to Sandown race course where there was a yearly Model show complete with a flying display, these Sandown shows stopped some 10 years ago, so that shows how long ago it really was. We went year after year to these shows including increasingly longer

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journeys to places like Hop farm in Kent and most recently Weston Park just North of Birmingham.

At the first few shows I just watched while Russell made purchases and talked about ailerons, glow fuel and dihedral (I didn't have a clue what dihedral was), I just kept him company and bought burgers, hotdogs and a drink or two. Eventually I did dip a toe in the water and bought a helicopter, it was a clever design by Snellflight and used an umbilical cord so you could learn indoors without the need for batteries or refuelling. I never mastered it and it went in a cupboard, that was probably 15 years ago, but don't worry I will keep the story short!

As a spectator I watched the hobby evolve and change, but most important for me I saw the introduction of Li-Po battery technology, brushless motors and affordable 2.4Ghz transmitters I had always been afraid of those messy oily IC engines, those easily damaged shiny aerals and the time involved in building an aeroplane from a plan and a pile of Balsa wood and tissue.

Everything came together for me in 2015 I bought an electric CUB plane complete with brushless motor, prop and fitted servos in the 'bring and buy' sale at that Weston park Model Show I mentioned. A quick look around the trade tents and I bought me a New Spektrum Dx6i transmitter and receiver. I was ready to go and all under £200, even better news by joining Firebirds half way through the year even that was half price so everything was just perfect. Well almost....

To be continued...

External Events

The following events have been gleaned from the BMFA website. I've picked out events that are either in Hampshire or its neighbouring counties (except for a couple of the larger events which are further afield).

There may be other events that I've either missed or are not on the BMFA calendar. I shall include these as-and-when they come onto my radar.

If you need more details on any particular event, then go to <https://bmfa.org/Contests-Events/Contest-and-Event-Calendar>.

April

24/04/2016 - BMFA 1st Space Meeting

Wiltshire

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May

14/05/2016 to 15/05/2016 - Old Warden Model Flying Weekend

Bedfordshire

June

05/06/2016 - Farnham Model Helicopter Club Open Day

Surrey

25/06/2016 - F3K BMFA League - TVSF 1

Berkshire

25/06/2016 & 26/06/2016 - Wings and Wheels Model Spectacular

Essex

Location: North Weald Airfield, Essex, CM16 6AR, England

Time 9.30am - 5.30pm

Full details at: <http://www.wingsnwheels.net/>

Email: admin@wingsnwheels.net

Phone: 01242 604126

July

17/07/2016 - BMFA (South) eSoaring League

West Sussex

24/07/2016 - Helipad Scale Fly In 2016

Hampshire

30/07/2016 - F3K BMFA League - TVSF 2

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Berkshire

August

20/08/2016 - BMFA Free Flight Southern Gala

Wiltshire

September

04/09/2016 - BMFA (South) eSoaring League

West Sussex

17/09/2016 - Farnham Model Helicopter Club Open Day

Surrey

24/09/2016 - BMFA Stonehenge Cup Free Flight International

Wiltshire

25/09/2016 - BMFA Equinox Cup Free Flight International

Wiltshire

25/09/2016 - BMFA 4th Space Meeting & Team Trials Reserve

Wiltshire

October

01/10/2016 - Reserve date -F3K BMFA League – TVSF

Berkshire

09/10/2016 - BMFA Free Flight Team Selection Reserve Date

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Wiltshire

09/10/2016 - BMFA (South - Reserve) eSoaring League

West Sussex

Regular Open Meetings

In addition to all the above there are regular monthly open meetings at the following venues:

Waltham Chase Aeromodellers Indoor R/C Small Models

Hampshire

Wessex Soaring Assoc. monthly slope fly-in

Wiltshire

FLITEHOOK Indoor Free Flight Meeting

Hampshire

See <https://bmfa.org/Contests-Events/Contest-and-Event-Calendar> for more details.

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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.

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.