



## November

***"BALSA BRAIN"***  
***Hamble club***  
***Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November.***  
***from 7.30....***

Dear All

Welcome to the November 2018 Newsletter!

Even though it is now firmly into autumn 'Summer season' 2018 just keeps going, there has been a few great flying days during October and early November where the sun has shone, the wind been agreeable and better still no rain. It is going to hurt when winter kicks in!

As we come towards the end of the year, many members including myself have been hung up on the fact that we do not currently have an 'official' flying site of our own, but truth is, I have flown as much as I wanted to this month. PADMACs site has greater availability than we have ever had and the Woodlands site is so different that it is actually great fun and so easy to get to besides ...

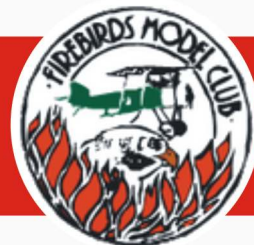
.... the Firebirds club is far greater than a flying site and this was brought home to me during the month when I witnessed something really special, John Graham who due to illness hadn't flown for 2 years flew again. All thanks to the NHS and some new super drug but, the best bit is that even though John hadn't flown for 2 years he still paid his membership, he always came to the socials and he always helped and advised the newer members (like me) whenever he could, now that is what makes a club a club.

Lots of advance warning next Month, on the 13<sup>th</sup> December the Firebirds will be having their annual Christmas get-together at the club with food laid on by the club. Please come along, partners also welcome.

Chris.

**TROPHY WINNERS: If not done so already can anybody who received an award last year please return them to a committee member. Presentations for 2018 will be made at the Christmas Party.**





## Committee News

Here's the latest from the committee room.

## Our ongoing thanks to PADMAC

Our ongoing thanks to PADMAC for keeping us flying our big stuff !..

## Woodlands school Flying site.

The Woodlands school flying site is working well for those that have given it a try, Pete has arranged for us to fly there at weekends (subject to availability) from now until the AGM when a decision can be made whether to continue using the site (or not) in the future.

The site isn't big, so requires a different type of aircraft and style of flying and it may also not be suitable for less experienced pilots.

Due to the football season causing last minute changes, rather than publish availability in advance Pete will let us know when Woodlands is available hopefully with a few days notice.

Presuming we continue using the site next year Pete is sure that he can get us more hours into the lighter evenings and also some week-day flying during school holidays and of course there will be no football during the summer... Oh... then it will be cricket! Let's see how it goes.. 😊

## **Current availability of site is...**

TBA advised weekly. However this weekend's flying times are...

Saturday 10th November 10:00am to 3:30pm

Sunday 11th November 10:00am to 3:30pm

## **The Schools address is....**

Woodlands Community College / School. Minstead Avenue, Harefield. SO18 5FW

## **PADMAC flying times** (once initial introduction done with a principle / committee member).

	Power	Electric/Silent
Mon to Sat	10:00 to 18:00	10:00 to Sunset
Sunday	11:00 to 18:00	11:00 to Sunset

PADMAC rules can be found here. [http://www.padmac.info/PADMAC\\_flyingsite\\_rules.html](http://www.padmac.info/PADMAC_flyingsite_rules.html)



## Poorly club member

Continuing thoughts and good wishes from the committee to all poorly members.

## CHRISTMAS DRAW 2018 - £600 worth of prizes confirmed !!

Christmas Draw tickets are now on sale so don't forget to bring some money to the site, tickets will also be available at the Christmas party (the day of the draw)! It is looking like there will be £600 worth of prizes so well worth getting a few extra entries.

## FUTURE CLUB NIGHTS - Advance notice

November Friday 30<sup>th</sup> – **(THIS MONTH)**

BMFA Southern Region 'Balsa Brain' competition. Firebirds last won 3 years ago and as usual we hope to field 2 teams which will be chosen on the night. Why not come along and join in.

December 13<sup>th</sup> –

Christmas Party evening has been confirmed as 13<sup>th</sup> December at the Hamble club, a buffet will be provided.

Next years fees will be confirmed during this meeting and renewal fees can be paid on the night. Anybody not renewing before the end of December will not be able to fly from the 1<sup>st</sup> January. We will also be presenting the yearly awards.

January – 17<sup>th</sup>

AGM – Please let a committee member know in advance if members would like to any specific items discussed.

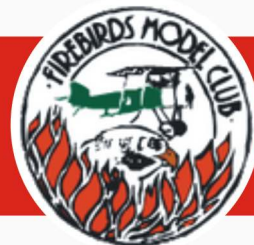
February – 21<sup>st</sup>

A 'Double bill' Pete will be doing a discussion / demonstration on Depron Models and we will also have Alan's much awaited 'movie night'.

## A Jaunt down memory lane...

Anyone recognise these 2 young lads ? - >





## Roger Stanton latest project "1950's R6-B..."

My latest project is called R6B and was designed in the early 1950s by Allan Rowe who lived in New Zealand. His aim was to produce the ideal single channel radio model for flying from rough fields.

It looks pretty much like a powered glider and the only control was via the twin rudders mounted on the tail plane. The engine was mounted above the fuselage, just aft of the wing.

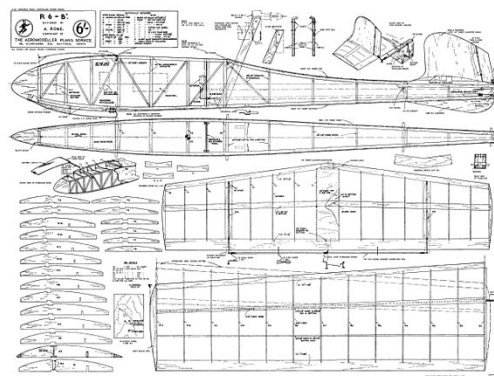
The advantages of this arrangement were that all the exhaust gunk would be carried clear of the model by the slipstream and the engine and prop wouldn't be damaged in a hard landing.

A skid under the nose was fitted as an undercarriage would also be vulnerable to damage. In the photo you will see Allan's huge transmitter on the ground with a very long aerial! The Tx was too heavy to hold because of the massive battery pack inside it (90 volts high tension and 1½ volts low tension). The pilot operated it by means of hand held push button connected to the Tx via a long cable.

My model will be fitted with a pusher electric motor and will have rudder, elevator and throttle control.

I'll keep you posted on progress, but be warned, I'm a slower builder than Pat!

Roger



*60in span R6-B by Allan Rowe  
from Aeromodeller March 1955.*

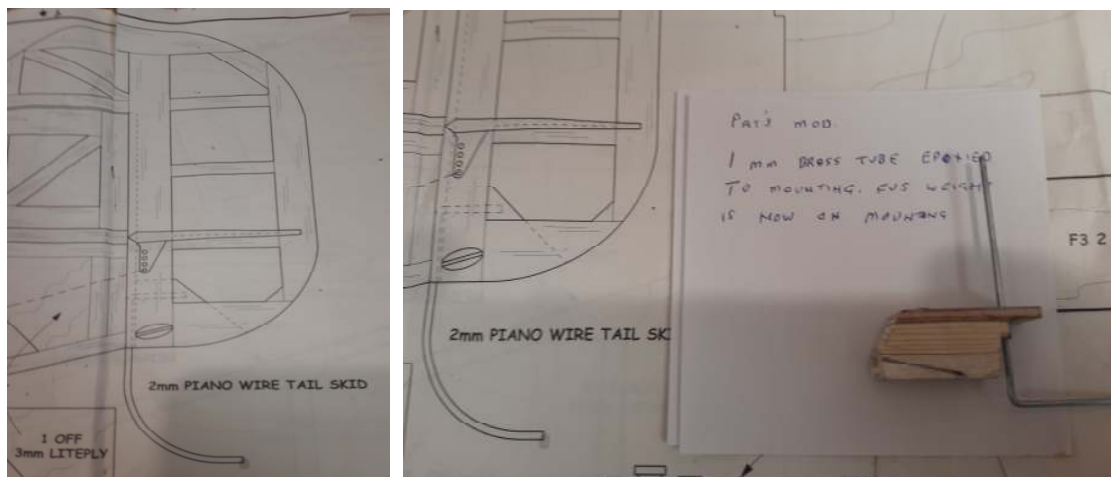
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The popular **Romsey / Southern Counties Swapmeet** is on the 18th November at Mountbatten School, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 5SY. Admission only £4. Tables £8 including one admission. Sellers from 8.30am, buyers 9am to noon. Refreshments available. To pre-book tables only call Mike Stokes on 07702 742647.



## From Pat Parsons "The Fly Catcher is coming along..."

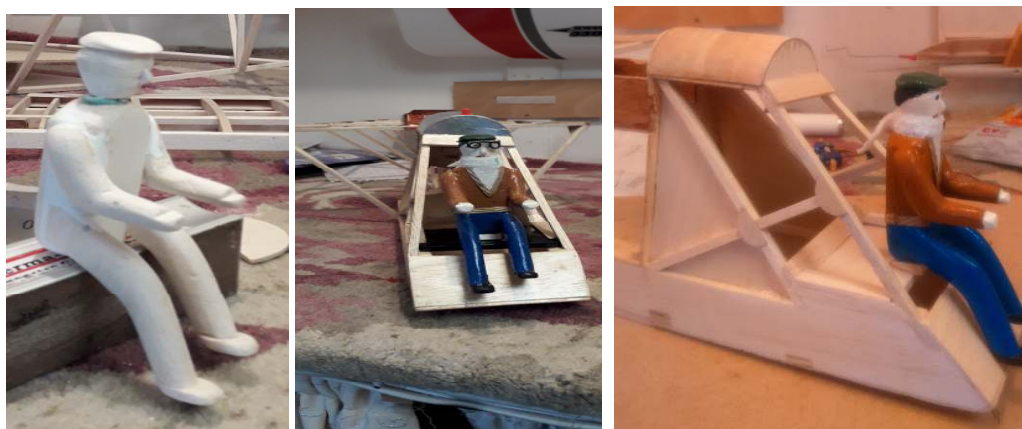
Hi Guys, the build continues... If you look at plan photo below, you will see the whole weight of the flycatcher would be on the hinges when taking off and landing so I designed a mod...



FINISHED 'mod' ....



A view of flycatcher mod, you will see a gap at the bottom this is a my idea of a spring loaded tail skid.



'Making of Man' I made him a pair of goggles, so he won't catch flies!!!!



**'Depron' 5mm & 2.2mm (by a different name) now available in B & Q**

And much cheaper than from Normal Modelling outlets... Thanks to Pete for this information.





## This month down at the field

Here is a photo from Woodlands school flying site, where after 2 years of not flying due to illness, John Graham gets his model ready for his first 'revival' flight...

... and like a true professional John flew like he had never stopped, well done John it is good to have you back in the air.





Another shot taken at Woodlands school showing one of Pete's recently 'scratch' built Depron models.



And here she is in flight, beautiful! – Note: Pete is going to show us how he made this model in a joint Thursday night meeting at the Hamble club in February where Alan (also seen in the photo) will be showing us the results of a years video that he has been capturing while we were not looking.



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Notice the Newsletter is a bit empty, less interesting?

Please e-mail items for the Newsletter to [firebirdsmodelclub@outlook.com](mailto:firebirdsmodelclub@outlook.com).

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Strange bird seen flying over Harefield, local 'twitchers' have been informed.



PADMAC Site.... Friday 2nd November early-afternoon saw beautiful clear blue skies and hardly any wind, just 3 members attended that afternoon together with flasks, deckchairs and sandwiches. A Great flying afternoon. The only disadvantage at this time of year is the low sun (see those long shadows). Alan gets ready to fly his new stabilised trainer.





## An excerpt from the BMFA Members Handbook 2017

### **9.6 Your Fitness to Fly**

Many factors can affect your day-to-day ability not only to operate a model aircraft, but also to participate in other flying related activities such as the retrieving of free flight models or taking part as an organiser in competitions, club events or model displays and airshows.

Before operating a model aircraft of any type careful consideration should be given to ensure that you are not compromising your own safety and welfare or that of those around you. Be aware that you might occasionally be 'unfit to fly'.

When at the flying field take good care of yourself and make sure that you are equipped with any medication that you are taking. If you use an inhaler, make sure that you have a charged one with you at all times. In hot weather consider taking sun-block, a hat and fluids – the effects of de-hydration can be serious. In cold weather make sure that you are equipped with suitable clothing.

If you wear prescription glasses or contact lenses, ensure that these are used along with appropriate eye protection for the prevailing conditions. Good quality sunglasses will help protect your eyes from harmful UV radiation at any time of the year.

Some medications may render you unfit to fly and the effects of alcohol should not be ignored. As a guide, if you are fit to drive a motor vehicle then you are probably fit to fly an R/C aircraft. If you are in any doubt then do not fly solo. As always, however, the responsibility for the final decision on whether to fly rests with you, the pilot.

### **9.7 The effects of alcohol**

There is a mass of scientific evidence about the bad effects of alcohol in matters of judgement and on the type of motor skills we rely on when taking part in model flying.

Even small amounts can have serious effects on your performance, with the added problem that you are nearly always unaware of the situation.

Whether you are operating models on any type or are responsible for organising the flying of models (as a competition CD or flight line organiser at a club event for instance) the best advice is not to drink alcohol at all. If you must drink it should be in moderation, bearing in mind the levels of alcohol that are considered appropriate to operate a motor vehicle.

In particular, you should be very aware of the cumulative effects of alcohol and you should avoid drinking at regular intervals during the day, even if you limit yourself to small amounts. It takes longer than you might think for any alcohol intake to be neutralised by the body.



## Club Information

This section gives a summary of club services and contact details.

## Discounted Glow Fuel

Fuel is available through the club and supplies are held by the club. All grades of fuel are available to order. Russell holds many other useful items: glo-plugs, propellers, glue, fuel tubing, wing bolts etc.

Russell Lewis

023 8056 1397

[russell@pilot1.co.uk](mailto:russell@pilot1.co.uk)

## Club Meetings

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!

## Local Tree Surgeon

Mathew Cross 01489 799982 or 0778 842 4756. Or one of his team members James. 0749 5033 561.



## External Events

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

## Firebirds Model 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	Russell Lewis	023 8056 1397	<a href="mailto:russell@pilot1.co.uk">russell@pilot1.co.uk</a>
Vice Chair	Dave Hoppe	07704 826343	<a href="mailto:davehoppehome@gmail.com">davehoppehome@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Alan Shergold	07973 221915	<a href="mailto:alanshergold@hotmail.co.uk">alanshergold@hotmail.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.	Keith Warwick	07887 486040	<a href="mailto:keithw11@hotmail.co.uk">keithw11@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Safety Officer	Geoff Griffiths	023 9265 5931	<a href="mailto:ggriffiths@hotmail.com">ggriffiths@hotmail.com</a>
Membership Sec.	Roger Stanton	01489 784152	<a href="mailto:roger-stanton@sky.com">roger-stanton@sky.com</a>

## Regular Open Meetings

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.

## Firebirds Constitution and Rules.

The Firebirds constitution and rules document can be found at the bottom of the 'about us' section on the web-site or by clicking the following link.

<http://firebirds.org.uk/onewebmedia/FIREBIRD%20CONSTITUTION%20%26%20RULES.pdf>.

**Remember... Safe flying is no accident.**