



Last month (7th March) saw the loss of a great in the world of model flying.



Mike Harvey was a top-class stunt competitor in the 1970s and later became a judge at international level. I've included a photo showing the top UK fliers in those days, with Mike kneeling on the right.

(Roger Stanton - Newsletter May 2017)



He had been suffering from a respiratory condition that was not Covid related.

Our thoughts are with his wife (Pam) and family at this difficult time.



*Welcome back to the
wonderful world of model
aeroplane flying*



Dear Fellow Firebirds Club Members

This month I have actually been out of the house more than once, I went to the field to do some mowing, then later (after the 29th March) actually flew a model aircraft for the first time in ages. I also had my first covid jab in March, it's all so exciting.

So.. Now that we are allowed to (carefully) mix again and attend the flying field it is without doubt easier to write this introduction to the newsletter, even though I have had to report some sadness.

This year is going to be a great year for the club, it simply has to be, we all deserve it.. with a little bit of luck, we can have barbeques, competitions, fly-ins, get togethers, quizzes, video nights, cokes, coffees, perhaps a Christmas party and maybe some Beers! (notice I didn't push it by mentioning holidays yet).

I know it may still take us all a little while to get back to our 'new' normal and that we all fear another lock-down, but at the moment all is positive and I look forward to meeting you all again at the field for a catch-up.

Now, finally with renewed excitement I have finished another newsletter, all I now need is a haircut!

See you soon

Chris



First some Good News..

The covid restrictions have changed allowing us to fly again.

Please note before you fly:

1. You must have paid your membership / BMFA membership for this year. (if you haven't please contact a committee member)
2. You should have registered / renewed with the CAA and display your number on each aircraft you fly.
3. Please also remember, although it's been nearly a year at our new flying site, we haven't flown for much of that time and our neighbours still may need time to get used to us. Please respect our neighbours by not flying loud models and as always keep away from the far right of our flying area.
4. Social distancing rules still apply, rules still say that we must not assemble in groups larger than 6, we should maintain 2m distance from each other and not touch things that others have touched.
5. The committee recommends taking and using hand sanitizer if exchanging transmitters tools etc.
6. Check your aircraft for airworthiness, models not flown for a while may need an extra 'double' check, perhaps ask another member to do a quick visual check before you fly.
7. Remember you may be a little bit rusty after such a long break, so please fly well within your normal capabilities for the first few flights, perhaps consider asking another member to spot for you during those first flights.

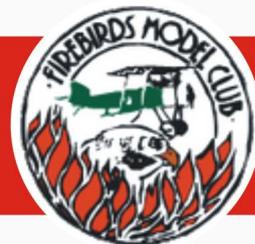
Enjoy your flying!

AND A BIG THANK YOU !!

With the ride-on mower failing a call was placed on KIK last weekend for members to come down to the field with their hand-mowers, rakes and refuse sacks.. On behalf of all club members, I would like to thank those that helped. It was also good to see everybody especially as it was too windy to fly.



Thanks again, Russell



Anybody remember Peter Harvey / can you help?

Peter Harvey e-mailed last month, introducing himself and asking if we had a copy of an old Firebirds model club logo. He wrote...



Hi Firebirds

Firstly, I would just like to say it's great to see Firebirds still up and running and that hopefully with your new site the club will have a great future, once the lock down is lifted.

I've got a question/favour.

Just a quick bit of history, at the age of 13-18 (1973-78) I used to fly C/L down on Weston shore and was one of the lads who used to attend the weekly club meetings in Woolston, which in truth was probably the biggest positive things that ever happened in my life, the affect is still with me today in my work and hobby/sport. After a break of 14 years to concentrate on college, work and then family life (now in Yorkshire) I came back to aero modelling this time flying R/C with some success over a 20 year period flying pylon, but now my attention has turned back to C/L combat where I left off all those years ago. Having completed my first season and now having had to sit out the past year due to lock down, I've turned my attention to include speed and pulse jets, which I had a little dabble with in 78.

This is where I would like to ask if you know of anyone who would have a copy of the old Firebirds water slide or a good picture of the logo that I could use for my next pulse jet project. I was going to create my own logo but then thought, why if I could get the genuine item. I do have a picture I took before refurbishing my old pit box from the 1970's but as you can see isn't up to the job.



Regards Peter Harvey

If anybody has a copy of the logo let me (Ed.) know.



FOR SALE – Tony Knight - 2 for 1 OFFER

Buy One Get One Free!

1) E-Bandit designed by Graham Dorschell (RC Model World). Laminated depron built fuselage and covered in brown paper/pva glue solution. Finished in satin red paint. Folded wing section with balsa ailerons and film covered. Tail feathers are in balsa.

41" wingspan and powered with an Overlander T3536/5 1500Kv motor, 80Amp ESC and Ripmax servo's. Requires 3S x 3250mah battery and Rx unit. Includes an 8x6 folding prop.

Virtually unmarked and excellent condition.

2) E-Shark also designed by Graham Dorschell. Tailless design with same construction and finish as above model. Power gear from E-Bandit will fly this plane, so swop about to compare performances.

These planes are excellent fliers and look impressive in the air with their swept wings.



£60 for the two !

Tel. Tony on 01489 575876 if interested.



Getting the Field ready for action.

It seems hard to believe that we only started work on our current flying site and landing strip last July, then it was deep grass on a bumpy field. The first mow was done with push along mowers and the grass was raked and bagged by hand. But then after much work and a very long wait we had our own flying site again. It is hard to believe that we were a full 2 years without our own flying site!

This was the last photo taken at Peak Down
5th July 2018



Memories..
Last July (2020)
getting the 'pitch'
ready between
lockdowns.

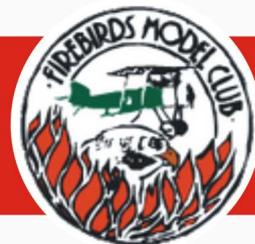


Although it's been difficult during lock-down our new pitch has been worked on behind the scenes ready for the 2021 season and although we have had to order a new mower (the old one is believed to be 13 years old) the launch area is certainly getting there.

Notice in the photo we now have a roller, it is hoped this will, over time help to make the pitch nice and smooth.

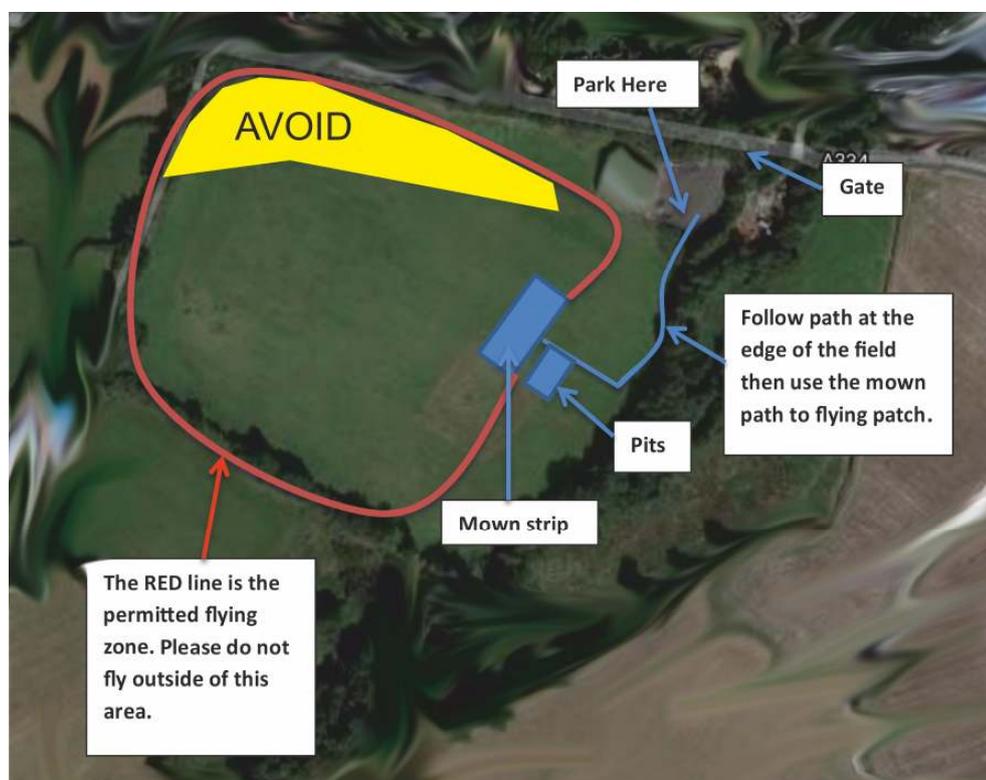
Perhaps next year we can host the national lawn bowls tournament 😊





Confirmation of rules specific to New site.

1. Always shut the gate, ideally locking it each time you pass through. We know that other gate users may not, but our instruction is, that the gate should be shut at all times and ideally locked.
2. Park near the barn during the week, but it is OK to park near the cutway to out flying area at the weekends. Do not block the cutway that leads down to our flying area.
3. Do not walk across / through the long grass, to us, it is grass, to the farmers it is a crop. Always walk through the cut way and then follow the tree line until you reach our mown, path.
4. Do not fly loud models, there is an official 80 decibel club limit and the club can check your model, however for the sake of keeping the site, if the model is noisy, do not fly at the site.
5. Do not leave litter, cigarette butts etc. (Be very careful if smoking due to dry grass.)
6. Do not take any produce without permission, even though in the summer the blackberries look gorgeous they do not belong to us.
7. Adhere to our Flying times, the farm owner has a copy of these times so knows when we should be on-site.
8. No vehicles are to be taken down along the tree-line i.e. through the cutway without express permission. Note: Pete Clark has some beehives on the farm and currently has permission for that purpose only.
9. Adhere to out of bounds on map below and wherever possible avoid the area in yellow.
10. We know it is obvious but don't fly near the power cables !!



NOTE: It is now recommended that we fly slightly South of the Red line above rather than into the yellow 'AVOID' area, this is confirmed by the committee and acceptable to the farmers, a new diagram will be drawn in due course.



THANKS PAUL – On 2 counts

Paul Brown (pictured right) is, although a fairly new member of the club proving to be a real team player. When the request went out for some grass clippings to be removed from the site ready for our new season of flying Paul was there with in days rake and bags in hand.



He even posted some pictures of his visit for the newsletter, what a very nice man!



Paul also posted on KIK last month that he has some spare transmitter spares and may even be able to assist in installation if anybody needs help, he wrote...

I now have a small quantity of new replacement transmitter switches if anyone needs a replacement. I have the following..

2 position short or long.

3 position long.

3 position short switch (coming soon).

Identical to these used in spectrum transmitters.

Thanks again Paul

Note from Ed. A few years ago, I replaced the micro switch under the thumb roller on my spectrum transmitter, the repair went well but the micro-switches came in a pack of 20... I still have 19 micro-switches spare if anyone needs one (and presuming I can remember where I put them) 😊



IF EVER YOU NEED SOMEONE TO FIGHT YOUR CORNER.

As my wife will tell you, (especially as I am getting older), I am much less tolerant to the many injustices in the (my) world, but Club member Pete Clark is on another level, he's on a mission.

He sent me an e-mail last month....

Hi Chris

I have been in contact with my MP, Paul Holmes and asked him to contact the minister in charge of the CAA and ask whether we would get back our £18 we have all paid, or have a year's free-flying because of the lockdowns and us paying but not being able to fly through no fault of our own.

He suggested I put it in the Newsletter for all to see he then continued ...

... otherwise because of these lockdowns the government are getting away with £18 from each of us and we are getting nothing in return, I don't see why they should get away with it!

Sorry for the rant LOL

Regards Pete

Good luck Pete ...



Reading between the lines... the good news is, (Although unhappy) local constituent Mr Peter Clark has already renewed his licence for 2021 which allows him to fly legally! Have you renewed yours?



Paul Holmes MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State,
Robert Courts MP

Great Minister House
33 Hansberry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: robert.courts@dtf.gov.uk
Web site: www.gov.uk/oft
Our Ref: MC/328500
Your Ref: PH581

23 March 2021

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your email of 8 February, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, Peter Clark, about the CAA's requirement to pay for an unmanned aircraft operator ID.

The pandemic has been an unprecedented challenge for us all. The Prime Minister's announcement of the national lockdown in England, on the advice of scientific advisors, was clear that it was needed to protect the NHS and save lives. I appreciate that the restrictions have resulted in situations such as that faced by Mr Clark and I understand the concerns he has raised; however, our main priority must be that everyone is safe.

The registration system for unmanned aircraft started in November 2019 and the £9 charge for this is currently an annual fee (from the date that you apply). As the CAA have already advised Mr Clark, there is no requirement to register as an unmanned aircraft operator if the aircraft is not flown. Although Mr Clark will have received a renewal notification, only he would be able to decide whether or not he should register based on whether he was planning or able to fly, given the lockdown restrictions.

As the CAA has also explained to Mr Clark, it simply is not practicable for them to work out who was and was not permitted to fly their unmanned aircraft in 2020. Some unmanned aircraft operations are permitted under lockdown restrictions, and for a number of months the restrictions varied between counties.

I understand that Mr Clark is now asking if the renewal charge can be removed for next year. The CAA is required by law to consult the aviation sector and then the Secretary of State on changing a scheme of regulatory charges. The CAA's open consultation on statutory charges for the financial year 2021-22 closed on 4 February 2021.

The CAA will consult the Secretary of State on their charging proposals in light of the consultation responses received. Please assure Mr Clark that we will consider his suggestion at that time.

I hope you and Mr Clark find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT COURTS MP

MINISTER FOR AVIATION, MARITIME AND SECURITY



Russell Lewis is clearing his shed....



2 bottles of Tizer, a wooden box and 2 transmitters – FREE to a good home.



A Model aeroplane (1)... and another model Aeroplane (2) – FREE to a good home.



A Model aeroplane (3)... and another model Aeroplane (4) – FREE to a good home.

Speak to Russell Lewis if you are interested in any of the above.



The sad loss of one of 'our' extended family.

For many of us our enjoyment of model flying is only trumped by our wonderful wives and families and sometimes members families become an extended part of our club.

Sadly this month one of our members has lost his soulmate and as this lady had also become an extended family member of the club, she deserves a mention in our newsletter.

This month are thoughts are with Geoff Griffiths and his family, as Geoff's wife Viv lost her fight against cancer recently.

"She was great fun as well as lovely" ... Geoff's words.

If anybody was at the 2017 First Aid presentation given by Dave Dewey and his son, then they will remember Viv as Viv and Geoff were the brave guinea pigs offering to demonstrate the use of a portable defibrillator.

I am sure all our thoughts are with Geoff and his family at this difficult time.



Viv and Geoff are seen at that meeting - happier times.



**** STOP PRESS ****

By the time you read your Newsletter Southampton Airports future may be in over...

Flying at Southampton (Eastleigh) airport has been happening since the early 1900s but our local airports future is now in jeopardy.

The council has already voted against an application to allow an extension of the runway and with both the combined loss of Flybe and no runway extension the future of the airport is not looking good.

Like many things a local airport can divide opinion and the environmentalists can be especially loud, personally I believe the airport is a benefit to the area and as we all know, aeroplanes are becoming quieter and greener all the time. The 'final' (if there is such a thing in local politics) decision is being made on the 8th April, I (personally) have written to every Eastleigh councillor. (Ed.)

For More information....

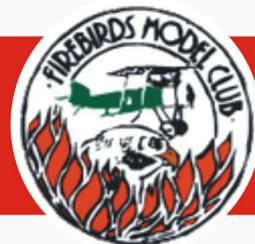
<https://www.southamptonairport.com/runway>

<https://www.voteholmes.co.uk/news/save-southampton-airport-petition>

<https://www.southamptonairport.com/about-us/our-history/>



Above Southampton Airport - picture courtesy of Alan Shergold



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

We will be removing e-mail addresses of non-renewing members shortly.

If you haven't renewed this may be the last newsletter you receive.

Re-join Today !

Flying times:

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Quiet (Electric)</i> | <i>Electric and I/C</i> | | <i>Electric and I/C</i> | | <i>Electric and I/C</i> | <i>Electric and I/C</i> |
| 14-00 | 12-00 | NO FLYING | 12-00 | NO FLYING | 10-00 | 10-00 |
| 20-00 or dusk* | 16-00 | | 16-00 | | 14-00 | 13-00 |

Poorly club member

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

FUTURE CLUB NIGHTS - Advance notice

ALL ** Postponed ** due to Covid 19 restrictions.

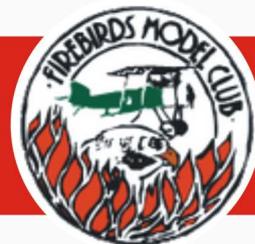
Problems with lock

Our gate lock got a bit sticky over the winter but is now free and fully lubricated, it can be a bit fiddly but does work, please ask a committee member if you are unsure. A reminder of the number is in the e-mail attached sent with this Newsletter.



Firebirds Model Club

News, Views & Information - April 2021



Club Information

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

Glow Fuel, Glue and other bits and pieces available

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

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!

External Events

If you need more details on any particular event, then go to <https://bmfa.org/Contests-Events/Contest-and-Event-Calendar>. **BMFA Bulletins are available on-line at this [link](#) ...**

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 | russell@pilot1.co.uk |
| Vice Chair | Dave Hoppe | 07704 826343 | davehoppehome@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Alan Shergold | 07973 221915 | alanshergold@hotmail.co.uk |
| Secretary | Rob Cope | 07795 996549 | copes02@ntlworld.com |
| PRO | Peter Clark | 07867 557964 | psclark911@hotmail.com |
| Flying Site Rep. | Vacancy | | |
| Safety Officer | Geoff Griffiths | 023 9265 5931 | ggriffiths@hotmail.com |
| Membership Sec. | Keith Warwick | 07887 486040 | keithw11@hotmail.co.uk |

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.