

FFLYPAPER

(2017—our 38th year)



Journal of Felbridge Flyers Radio Model Flying Club

Special points of interest:

- Instructor workshop held
- Survey summary
- Ducks behind the pits
- Successful working party

NOTICE BOARD

The Club AGM is on **3rd May**, do try and come along to set the future direction of the Club and pay your subscription. The Committee election will also take place.

The venue is The Oak Room at The Haven Centre in Crawley Down, starting at 20:00.

Welcome to Cliff Whittaker as our latest new member. After a break of 25 years he flew his old Wot4.

It seems she has been shooting in the fields for 3 years and has only met one of our members once. Shooting and model flying happen at very different times of the day. We met her on site after getting confirmation from Will. She will not shoot if any of us are on site in the unlikely event that she turns up while we are there. Her occasional presence could also explain vehicle tracks that we thought were people up to no good.

--oo00oo--

Chairman's chatter - and dis-connected ramblings ?

Horizon Hobby are in a bit of a mess at the moment. Tried to get a new switch for a Spektrum Tx and have drawn a blank. Model shops can't get spares and there is no spares section on their website. They seem to have gone from providing A plus service to F minus.

--oo00oo--

The AGM is on 3rd May, you will have received the official notification by e-mail. Do come along to make your views known and meet many of the fellow members you may not have seen since the last AGM. We don't have Club meeting evenings any longer as attendance was down to single figures and the Club meeting element at the Saturday indoor flying sessions was even lower.

The Club survey conducted last year has been taken into account by the Committee; many items suggested have already been put into practice. As with most surveys the response rate was less than 100% (52% on our case which is way over what is normally expected which is between 10 - 20%). Only the person conducting the survey knows who responded and only he knows who made what comments. The results are shown on pages 2 and 3 of the newsletter without any specific comments printed, just a summary.

--oo00oo--

Ticks - these small creatures live in long grass and can bite and attach themselves to your skin. They need to be removed but can also cause Lyme disease. Whilst no one has reported any problems do ensure any exposed skin on the legs is covered if you walk in the long grass areas of the field; shorts and flip flops are not recommended when recovering models from the long grass areas.



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The AGM is the opportunity to make your views known on how the Committee run the Club on your behalf. You will have the opportunity to raise formal motions for discussion but would appreciate it if you could advise the Secretary before the meeting of your seconded motion.

--oo00oo--

We were a little concerned when a neighbour of our Landlord asked for our gate combination so she could shoot in the fields we use. We did not give this information until we had cleared it with Will Blatch, our Landlord. It seems he had forgotten to advise her of the latest combination change.



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Membership Survey 2017

26 members responded out of 50

Would you like to receive an email reminder a couple of days prior to a meeting or event?

21 Yes, 5 No

We do this now to all members as well as forum posts.

Would you like to be informed when others are flying at the field?

19 Yes, 7 No

This is possible via the new WhatsApp group.

Would you be interested in joining an instant messaging service such as 'WhatsApp' for members to receive messages via phone or tablet.

15 Yes, 11 No

A WhatsApp group has been set up and is used extensively, to join contact Mike Lippert.

Would you like some informal coaching or more detailed instructions for using the Forum on the website?

9 Yes, 16 No

Do you read the newsletter?

26 Yes

Are there any other topics you would like included in the newsletter?

Description of member's models came up and has been incorporated into the newsletter and will be on the website. How to repair a "Discovery" has now also been covered in the Newsletter. More items from members was also cited, you have to write them though!

Do you plan to attend the indoor flying this winter?

18 Yes, 4 Probable, 4 No

Actual attendance has not reflected the response, 8 flyers at the last indoor.....

If no, is there anything we could change to make it more inviting?

Help organising

Scale event

Would you like to see some fun competitions like flying under or landing on tables etc.?

16 Yes, 5 No

Would you be interested in participating in group lessons to practice for the B certificate?

7 Yes, 2 after A, 2 as Mentor, 11 No

Would you like to see some fun competitions like spot landings or limbo flying under a pole?

15 Yes, 8 No

There will be some fun competitions during the coming months.

In addition to the warbird BBQs, would you like to have a BBQ for general flying of any type of model?

13 Yes, 8 No, 2 not understood

The idea here was for impromptu BBQs, the introduction of the WhatsApp group would make this possible.

Would you prefer events to be held on Saturday or Sunday?

13 Sunday, 2 Saturday, 9 Either

Noted and actioned, Sundays it is

Would you be interested in a group build where we would all build the same model over the winter, perhaps with an IC and electric option with the more experienced builders detailing progress on the Forum and answering questions?

7 Yes, 2 Possible, 15 No

Would you like to see club nights/meetings where building techniques, covering and finishing, electrical and IC set ups are demonstrated and discussed?

16 Yes, 7 No, 3 maybe

The problem here is that Club meetings were poorly attended so the effort was not worthwhile as few came. The Committee may organise some adhoc events (such as the instructor/trainee workshops) which could cover these topics.

Would you be interested in attending a xmas or annual party (date to be agreed if there is sufficient interest)?

11 Yes, 2 Possible, 13 No

There was one held last year and another will be held later this year.

The shed at the field was burnt down. Would you like to see it replaced with perhaps a metal version?

12 Yes, 6 No, 7 unsure what it is for or don't know

Cost and possible vandalism is the key here. The container was designed as secure storage rather than a refuge but all Committee members and Instructors have a container key.

Do you have any other ideas or comments that you think would enhance our club?

Many comments were made and have been discussed by the Committee and will be actioned where appropriate. The one on safety has been debated at length and some proposals will be made at the AGM. One was to sack the Committee (I believe said in jest as I mentioned it at the field and the perpetrator owned up with a grin), you will have the option to do this at the AGM.....

Whats been happening

Saturday 18th March - The last winter session of indoor flying and a Club meeting. Very poor turnout, 10 members and only 8 flying, another loss for our accounts. Only goes to show the fallibility of surveys, in answer to the question will you attend the indoor fly sessions 18 said yes with 4 "probable". The future of the indoor flying is to be decided.

Monday 27th March - Lovely spring day with hazy sunshine, quite warm at 12 degrees but an E crosswind with light turbulence. Brian Hadfield and Martin Adam left at around 13:00 saying the conditions were terrible, they got much better as the day progressed. Max Woodhead joined us as he was visiting family around here. It was a shame he was unable to bring a model. John Prior had his Eflite Yak and an electric sailplane, both going well. I had my Rockstar with its 3rd failing Haiyin LiPo, I won't be buying any more, not recommended. Jon Tanner had his Yak and Mike Dyke also, all from different manufacturers. John Gill and John Lipcombe were also getting in some good flying.

A potential new member, Cliff Whittaker, came along with his 25 year old WOT 4 and flew for the first time in as many years. He has passed an "A" test but wants to take it again.

Sunday 1st April - A lovely day with very warm sunshine, generally light crosswind and good ground conditions. As the summer parking is now in use there were some more I/C models present and John Prior had his huge JUB which floated on and on during landing despite the big flaps. We flew John Salter's extensively repaired Discovery, the fuselage had been ripped in two at the last outing. It was a bit out of trim but ended up flying well, John got in 4 good flights. John Greateorex brought along his new Discovery which was test flown by Chris Seale and gave John 2 instructional flights. We use the Club DX6 as a master for these models (pre programmed at set up) and their Tx as the wireless slave. This has the disadvantage of rebinding the slave to the master but is not difficult. It has the great advantage that the slave replicates **all features** of the master such as control throw direction, neutral position, rate positions and expo.

Chris got in some flying with his little SE5 and John Gill was flying his repaired Magnatilla, which unfortunately needed some more repair after a take off accident. Mike Dyke had his retro swept wing Chevron which needed to have the wing removed for battery replacement as it was designed before electric flight was a reality. Ian Dinan was flying his electric Wot4 and me my Sebach. Martin Adam was busy getting some extra tuition for his "A" test.

Thursday 6th April - Another lovely warm day with light winds. Jon Tanner got his little agricultural spraying aircraft going and it flies very well and looks a bit different in the air. John Prior put a lower pitch prop on his Jub to try and reduce the "pull" at tickover which was making landing float on and on, a bit better but may need butterfly braking as well as flaps.

Cliff Whittaker got 5 more flights in doing take offs and landings so is getting his thumbs tuned in again. Jeff Travis was using a DX6 for his powered glider with none of the SAFE fea-

CLUB DATES

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CLUB DATES

CLUB DATES AND OTHER EVENTS

CLUB DATES

CLUB DATES

WEDNESDAY 3RD MAY - AGM IN THE OAK ROOM AT THE HAVEN CENTRE STARTING AT 20:00. SUBSCRIPTIONS BECOME DUE.

SUNDAY 14TH MAY - BMFA S E AREA SCALE FLY-IN AT EPSOM CLUB FIELD NEAR GATWICK, SEE EVENTS SECTION ON FORUM

SUNDAY 4TH JUNE - D DAY COMMEMORATIVE FLY-IN WITH DIY BARBECUE, MID DAY ONWARDS, SEE EVENTS SECTION ON FORUM

tures. We coupled the Club DX6 wirelessly to it as a slave and he did a successful landing. Chris Searle gave John Greateorex a couple of dual flights with his new Discover which he enjoyed. Jon Tanner's Baronette triplane looked a handful. Mike Dyke flew his big Kyosho Spitfire which looked super.

Saturday 8th April - Spent the afternoon with Jeff Travis setting up and test flying his new Discovery. After the 3 batteries he was done great take offs and landings after taking over 10' up at the threshold. Mike Dyke had his Convergence and Me 262 EDF.

Sunday 9th April - Martin Adam took and passed his "A" test in what were quite windy conditions in the morning, well done. The wind increased in the afternoon and conditions were not pleasant. Stuart Willis' Heron glider was pushed wide by a gust on the approach and was in the top of one of the hedge Blackthorns, our ladder and some cursing got it out and there was minimal damage so it flew again.

Had one training flight with John Salter, he was coping with the wind but not enjoying it so it lives to fight another day. He let me have a flight and the Discovery does



aeros well. Couple of ducks wandered by and into the stream, not worried by us (other things on their mind?)

Tuesday 11th April - Turned

out to be more of a training session with 3 pupils and only 2 instructors for much of the time, I came along at about 15:00 to give some relief to Chris Searle and Jon Tanner, they all got some flights. Jon Tanner had an emergency to take care of when an aileron on one of the trainees model failed, he got it back using rudder as well as the single working aileron, very well done. Had some trouble with trainee Tx's not replicating masters, traced to not using an un-programmed memory on the slave. If the slave has ANY programming it will not replicate the master correctly.

Thursday 13th April - Cut the strip and a few turned up to fly, the wind was a bit troublesome going from 30 degrees to 210 degrees and everything in-between.

Wednesday 19th April - another cold but sunny day with mostly an E crosswind. John Prior has converted his big Hype to Laser 90 power. It is an old Mk1 laser but had not been run. It flew the big model with ease but was a bit sensitive in pitch so a more forward C of G was required or more expo on elevator. Jim Christie and me flew our Rockstars, Jim with a different motor (very low Kv with huge prop). I was practicing exit from a 3 turn spin in same direction as entry, part of our planned "B" test demo. Quite tricky and some of the recoveries were low above the trees. Stuart Willis popped along to have some fresh air in his lunch break. Brian Hadfield has replaced the rudder servo on his Limbo Dancer and the engine was for once well behaved.

Sunday 23rd April - Picked up Pete Blake and brought him to the field. Pete is recovering from various ailments (see members area of the forum) and is not allowed to drive for the moment. We got him a dual flight with his Junior 60 which he was doing well with in the wind. We got out Club DX6i working wirelessly as a slave and there were only a few occasions when I had to take over. The trip seemed to perk him up no end. John Salter thought one flight was enough in the wind. John Prior had one flight with his twin rotor autogyro which survives to fly another day, he was also flying his Laser quipped Hype which was a struggle at times in the wind. Chris Searle was flying his old Wot 4 on a motor purchased from the Dave/Clive Smith collection. Jon Tanner was lucky to get away with a slow landing on his CAP, nearly flick rolled. Shame the whole pits were watching.....

Friday 28th April - A much better day than forecast, Jeff Travis got some training flights in and we cleared Cliff Whittaker for unaccompanied solo. He has re-learned the skills quickly and already has his "A" test pass. Mick Catt also got some training in with John Gill despite the DXe Tx which conspires to put up problems - not recommended.

Sunday 30th April - Windy but dry and sunny, thank you to all the members that came along to help on the working party day. You know who you are and a big thank you from the Committee.

(Continued from page 1)

As a follow on from the Trainee workshop in February we held an Instructors workshop on 26th April, it was well attended. A couple of Committee members from Mid Sussex Flyers came along as they are also trying to get their train-

ing on a more ordered format. The nub is that the training log must be completed after every session so other trainers will know what has and has not been covered. It also enables the trainer to plan what will be covered at the upcoming session.

The principle is also that trainee and lead instructor determine between them when they will be present at the field to do the training. We will do our best to get a trainee a flight should they turn up "un-announced" but don't expect the undivided attention of an instructor in these instances, they do the work voluntarily and would also like to fly their own models.



IS IT ME???????

North Wales Police gave a convicted burglar a mobile phone to "keep him in touch", on a contact not PAYG, he ran up a £44,000 bill that the Police paid and can't recover from the criminal - you could not make it up.

Our foreign aid budget of £13 billion now has £1 billion going to consultants, not aid; lets get this under control. The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) seem to do a great job, give them the money to distribute, but not £13 billion, it seems a tad too much.

A prisoner jailed for 6 years was sprung out of prison at gunpoint and went on to stab a man. He was goaled indefinitely for attempted murder. The authorities were dumbfounded that when out on temporary release from an open prison he did not return - well I never....

Beware of cost over runs on HS2. The West Country electrification (for which there must be a wealth of expertise) project is £1 billion overspent on an original budget of £1.6 billion. Imagine that percentage level of overspend on HS2, the cost will be over £100 billion - gosh....

Mark Zuckerberg wears the same outfit every day so he does not have to waste time deciding what to wear. In a Q and A recently he said "I feel like I'm not doing my job if I spend any of my energy on things that are silly or frivolous" - like Facebook.....?

A dippy woman in New York (English by the way) is so anxious to not waste time she watches catch up TV on double speed (not sure how she catches the dialogue as when I wind on at double speed there is no sound) and runs on a treadmill at her desk in high heels. What is the world coming to? Elon Musk is so time obsessed he splits his diary into 5 minute slots. I expect he trains his bowel movements to fit into the same one every day.....

*Wow, another election - I can barely contain my excitement. Thought the Fixed Term Parliament Act was a **law making snap elections illegal** - silly me, just says volumes about the integrity of Politicians or is that just my cynical view?.*

(Views expressed here are the editor's not of FFRMFC)



Committee and General

Journal of Felbridge Flyers Radio Model Flying Club

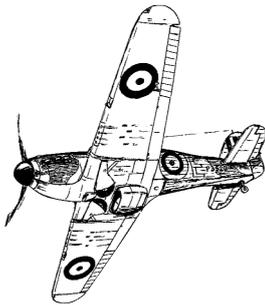
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Current Committee:

Chairman – Norman Carter (01342 327077)

Secretary – Chris Searle (01342 325535)

Treasurer – Ian Stone (01342 327036)

Mem. Secretary – Mike Lippert (01342 328797)

Webmaster & BMFA rep – Stuart Willis (01293 402733)

Member – John Gill (01342 313009)

Field Report

We have had a very dry winter and early spring which has helped in keeping the site useable. The strip was rolled early on 16th March and summer parking in place by 28th March. Did the first cut of the strip on 13th April and it is nice and smooth and looking fantastic.

During the wet months the pilot boxes become a bit of a mud bath. In an effort to improve the situation here we will be laying some special mesh in the northern pilot box. This will be fixed using ground spikes and as the grass grows through will form a secure area that will withstand the constant use a pilot box gets. It can be mown over. The current mat will be relocated in the southern pilot box so there will be 2 in this box. If it proves a success we will treat the southern box similarly.

The drain extension along the southern walkway has been very successful in keeping the walkway easily useable. The land to the north of the drain is quite dry now whilst to the south it is like a bog. It shows that the water is coming from the south and the drain is the barrier helping to direct excess water into the stream. Hopefully it will have a significant effect in wetter winters.

The UV in sunlight has taken its toll on our white picnic chairs, most of them breaking. Thanks to Tony Culshaw for bringing along some wooded folding chairs (with some oil for them as well) and Mike Lippert for another half dozen plastic chairs. Mike has also taken the broken ones to the tip, thanks.

KEEP YOUR SITE



WITH QUIET FLIGHT

**BRITISH MODEL FLYING ASSOCIATION
AND LOW RPM's**

A couple of pick-up loads of bricks have been delivered to the field to extend the winter parking area. The working party on 30th April broke up and distributed the hardcore giving at least another car space. Work also completed by the working party was repair of the safety line and laying of the grass re-enforcement mat in the northern pilot box. The grass will soon start to grow through this but do beware of some raised edges .