

July 2023



WAYPOINT INT

Newsletter of Priory Farm Aviators
www.flypfa.co.uk



Committee Members

John Fielding (chair), David Brown (deputy chair & facilities), Bob Sage (airfield owner & membership), Mik Horne (Treasurer), Alan McNeal (WX station, R/T, Waypoint editor), Paul Jackson, Julian Campbell, Sean Simington (events booking), Richard Flagg (website), Nigel Hall.

Its here...



..summer that is! After a long cold spring, summer has at last arrived. I hope you are all enjoying the warm sunny weather and taking full advantage of it to get some flying in. It arrived just in time for our summer fly-in which as a result was a great success (see below).

Welcome to Jon London who has joined the PFA.

Sad news

It is with much sadness that we have to inform members of the passing of a long established and highly skilled PFA member Roger Burrows, who sadly passed away on June 8th after a couple of weeks in hospital.

Those of you who knew Roger would be well aware of his high class of building skills and techniques..which are still to be seen in aircraft that he built. The Jodel recently purchased and now gracing the skies ... somewhat in his honour ! Bob will update you when he hears more details about the funeral arrangements.

Housekeeping

I apologise for this, but it these items need a mention: -

- We have new washing equipment located on the toilet block. If you use this, please ensure you leave it properly secured on its storage brackets, not lying on the ground!



- David Brown has recently had to defrost the fridge in the clubhouse due to someone not closing the door after use, causing the freezer compartment to freeze up solid. Our deputy chairman has better things to do than this, so please ensure you use the club equipment responsibly.
- On that topic, dirty cups are sometimes left around the club room & kitchen. If you avail yourselves of the free tea & coffee provided, please collect up the cups and wash them with the hot water & liquid provided - unless you've brought your mum along to clear up after you!
- Finally, we have had a complaint from a PF based aircraft operator regarding the fuelling station. The pilot reported that:
 - *'When we got back from Cromer fairly late I noticed that the power (to the fuel pump) had been left 'on'. A few days later I returned from another flight to find that someone had parked an aircraft across the front of the bowser, completely blocking access to it. Having waited for the owner to appear and move the aircraft - in vain, I had to shut down, wait and restart when they finally did move it. Also, the hose had been left on the ground and the handle was out of the holder on top of the bowser.'*
- **If you take fuel, please: -**
- **Fill in the fuel book.**
- **Coil up the hose & earth lead.**
- **Insert the nozzle back into its holder and put the cover back on,**
- **Turn off the power to the bowser when you have finished.**

It is not much to ask if you want Bob to continue to provide fuel at the airfield!

A bit more bad news – Pylons

nationalgrid Norwich to Tilbury Interactive Map



- The National Grid proposals for the 62 mile line of electricity pylons has now reached the 'intended route' stage, (subject to public consultation). The route will take the power lines about 650 metres west of and parallel to our runway at a height of about 105ft AGL.

That's pretty close! I don't think it would do any harm if as many members as possible went to the pylons public "consultation" at the Tibenham Community Hall on **Monday 10th July between 1pm and 6pm.**

They say: "Feedback is important to help us as we develop our proposals in more detail." Let's hope they mean it!

That;s the end of the bad news! Here's something way better!

Summer Fly-in



Write-up from David Brown....

The 2023 Summer Fly-In was a great success and a credit to all at Priory Farm .. showcasing just what a lovely atmosphere, well kept strip and some keen and supportive people can do!

Saturday morning we had a raft of volunteers who came along, in the heat, to help get the fencing up, warning signs out, fire station equipped..chairs and tables out and washed and bins strategically placed. The food wagon was also ideally placed so people didn't have to walk far to get food and refreshments. Late on, we had the chance of an ice cream van .. which definitely seemed a good idea, given the forecast





Alan had pre-briefed the marshallers who were equipped with 4 two way radios this year. He and I also had these so ground communications were very effective. These were to prove a real bonus and made things operate very smoothly and professionally.

The long awaited fuel fill failed to arrive but was later found to have been accidentally delivered to Tibenham .. who don't want it ! Arrangements being made to pump out and get it back here Duuuuugh!



Alan was doing a sterling job on manning the ever busy radio, predicting a busy busy time around 11am and sure enough.. it was like Heathrow .. only harder .. as most base to landings were done in seconds ... (and I couldn't control them! Alan). Nearly 60 aircraft arrived on the day .. and over 100 movements without incident.. I saw one go around .. and that was just getting a little too close to a departing but all nicely and sensibly managed by respective pilots.



I spoke to all pilots who were full of praise for the organisation and setup and kindness shown to them. Some had said they were worried about their first small strip fly-in but had been encouraged by both social media and website footage to have a go ... something to extend perhaps ?



Many also said that social media had been the way they had heard about the event.

I made an attempt to personally welcome every visiting pilot and it was fantastic to hear such glowing compliments both inbound and immediately prior to departure.

We gave out three prizes this year: -

1. **Longest distance flown - Clive Anstey in his DynAero from Gloucester .. 139 miles.**
2. **Closest to random landing time set by Bob of 11.57 ... bizarrely.. the same pilot from Gloucester .. Clive Anstey in the DynAero...dead on 11.57!**
3. **Oldest aircraft.. the 1944 Harvard flown by Tony Richards with William Layzell in the back seat - .. and actually the shortest flight... from Old Buck!**



A valiant team helped clear up all bits and tidy away ready for the next event .. people were asking if we could do more than one per year? (David Brown.)

...and just a word from me...a 'well done' to our deputy chairman David Brown for his energetic & diligent work prior to the Grand Event and on the day in being everywhere, managing the booking-ins, being so welcoming to all our guests and for overseeing the day so effectively. (Ed).

Committee Meeting minutes

Meeting held at PFA club hut - 1950-2050 - Temp Chair David Brown.

Present:

David Brown, Alan McNeal, Bob Sage, Julian Campbell, Paul Jackson.

Apologies:

John Fielding, Nigel Hall, Richard Flag g, Sean Simington.

Minutes:

1. Membership

David opened by thanking John for his sterling efforts in numerous follow up emails to a number of members who hadn't paid subscriptions. Bob advised that most had now indeed paid. There was a general discussion about what to do with remaining non payers and it was decided to remove them from the club lists.

2. Summer fly-in

Running through the agenda items:

- Helpers - we have had many members volunteer their services, some for both Saturday and Sunday, which is really helpful. We have a number of identified 'posts' - see below, but would welcome support for general 'getting ready' on Saturday as the committee decided that the forecast weather meant we could prepare most things on Saturday and leave them out, in readiness.
- Welcome table, Gazebo erection.
- Fencing and ropes out and up.
- Tables out, cleaned and up - David to source a small spray cleaner.
- Pre check for (New) rabbit holes in and around parking area and pre fill.
- David and Bob and others on Saturday .. ALSO check again Sunday morning.
- Volunteers so far are Alan, Nick D, Paul J, Julian - but fair way to travel so perhaps Sunday only, Keith.

Controls -

- Alan has prepared an ATC tracking form, this format will also be used for checking in by David.. Alan to supply copy to David Saturday.
- Alan has also prepared a marshalling briefing page .. hand signals, Bob advised all bibs and bats are in the club hut.
- Alan has prepared a bullet emergency checklist to ensure any incident is managed and tracked and logged ... all committee and marshallers to be aware of the form.
- On the day, Bob to re-position tractor to far side of parking in case of need on runway incident.
- John Dunnet - Fire controls and hydrants etc to be in position near fuel bowser.
- David to make note of any fuel requests on landing and advise they can fill (through Bob) before leaving .. this prevents people trying to fill whilst aircraft are landing- positioning.
- We will position one of the Green a first aid boxes outside with Fire equipment.
- David to bring jump start battery for tractor (if needed) and any stuck arrivals.
- Richard has been asked (and agreed) to do pictures and drone shots on the day.

- The subject of additional prizes was discussed. Paul Jackson's useful feedback on an 'oldest' aircraft on the day was approved .. ie aged by virtue of clarifying on G-INFO. It was also agreed to have a 'nearest to time of arrival' the 'random' time to be set by Bob .. note .. new battery required in club hut clock .. David to source.

- Paul had offered to place a balloon basket on display ..it was agreed near the first hanger so it is well clear of moving aircraft ... and also, NOT to have the full canopy out but perhaps part showing out of a bag for people to see.

3. Finance updates

Mik ran through the current income and outgoing figures and cash in hand - details at the foot of this note. Incoming and outgoing discussed with the committee and agreed all in order.

Cash donations tin emptied and logged ahead of weekend.

4. Facilities update

David advised that there are (currently) no known issues on site. Toilets were cleaned and checked this week ahead of the weekend. Comment was made of LH basin tap being tricky in gents ... Bob advised it needs to be unscrewed more to get it to work but it works.

5. Electricity, Broadband update

All OK and in hand with Bob organising new contracts renewal.

6. Safeguarding update

David explained to the committee that this was for us, as a club, to register our presence and location and activity to the 3 councils (Norwich, Norwich South and Breckland) so that any planning applications will trigger them to advise us early in the process.

David updated that he needs 2 more diagrams to add then it is complete and can be sent. These are to show a 6 and 12km circle around Priory.

7. Events and Fly outs calendar

It was discussed that we have nothing planned, noted and that this could be useful to generate thoughts and discussions.

Suggestions of Hinderclay and others Such as Heveningham were mentioned.

It was noted that the invitation to request a fly in to RAF Marham on 16th July had been picked up by some club members who, on following up with Marham had subsequently been invited, so far (chap who has the euro fox in hanger 3 .. what is his name Bob ??) and David are going .. anyone else?

David has also subsequently been invited to the Marham Family Day event at the end of August 31st August.

8. New speed limit signs

These seem to be working well and no complaints from neighbours.

9. Any other business

David mentioned that as it was so cold outside (9 degrees in June !) he thought of Christmas ! The committee seem to remember that the Gamekeeper went down so well last year that it had already been pre booked. Can we check and confirm .. then forget until nearer the time.

10. Two way radio test

It was decided that the pre-test was so good we could simply retest on Saturday morning.

End of minutes.

Some more of the visitors to our Summer Fly-in...



That's it for this month. I hope you have all enjoyed this issue. Ed.