



WAYPOINT

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



Committee Members

John Fielding (chair), Bob Sage (airfield owner), Mik Horne (Treasurer), Alan McNeal (WX station, R/T, Waypoint editor)
Paul Jackson, David Brown, Richard Flagg (webmaster), Steve Foreman, Sue Foreman



The big news item this month is that the 19th June was fine & sunny, if a bit windy. So what you may ask? Because it was our annual Father's Day fly-in which historically was often cold and dreary. Well, we need some good luck in this troubled world and on this occasion mother nature obliged with some decent weather for once.

The result was a successful fly-in which was much enjoyed by everyone on the ground and the pilots of the 27 aircraft that graced us with a visit. I gave a full radio service on the day, which seemed to be appreciated, even those who normally expect to follow published airfield procedures and make blind calls. Nothing wrong with that for a small airfield - back in the day that is how it was done at most airstrips.

I would like to pay tribute to all the pilots who availed themselves of Priory Farm Airfield and the radio service, as airmanship and R/T was good which contributed to safe operations. I did have a couple

of visiting aircraft which wanted to "descend dead side and join crosswind" until I told them there is no 'dead-side' at PF as that bit of sky is too near to Tibenham Airfield. My alternative offer of an overhead join was readily accepted!

Our thanks go to all those who contributed to making the event a success, notably Mik and Helen who provided the rather tasty burgers, Bob Sage and Keith Sowter as marshals, Richard Flagg and Paul Jackson who provided a lot of photos, including some great aerial shots from Richard's drone. Also thanks to all of you who helped retrieve that tables & chairs from the back of the hangar, cleaned them plus those who erected the safety fencing and put it all away again at the end.

You will see a selection of event pictures below, but I will also be sending out via email a PDF 'roll-up' of the many other shots of aircraft and the scene on the ground. All the event pictures were taken by Richard Flagg and Paul Jackson, so well done guys!

MEMBER PROFILE

We have a new member - Nigel Hall.



Nigel started flying gliders at Tibenham in the late 60s, where his dad also flew. Having reached his 16th birthday, he soloed in a 'Tutor', which he claims had the flying capabilities of a brick and scared the living daylights out of him! A Slingsby Swallow glider followed, which was considered a pretty hot machine for a young solo pilot back then. A Tibenham CFI back then, Joe Podolski, who some PF members may remember, let Nigel solo in the K13 as well. Nigel's father, then an instructor, oversaw him flying 20 hours in a new Falke motor glider.

Around that time Nigel joined the Royal Air Force as an air-frame mechanic, working on the Vickers Varsity and subsequently English Electric Lightnings at RAF Wattisham, next to the village of the same name where he was born.

More flying variety followed in a variety of gliders including the K4 and some 50 hours right seat time in Cessnas.

One day, whilst at Oulton Broad, Nigel heard a raucous sound that was to send his life in a new direction. It was an 150mph F1 racing power boat! Nigel was hooked! With the advice of the owner Bob Spalding, the current F1

champion and his son Roy, over a period of several years he managed to buy several racing boats, progressing through F4 to F2 boats with mighty V6 engines. This eventually led to his purchase of the design rights for the quickest F4 boat in the world, followed by the hull moulds for all the F1, F2, F3, F4, Junior and two seat versions, which he also learned how to manufacture.

It didn't end there. Nigel then got involved in organising race meetings in World and international championships, became an RYA technical inspector and advisor, promoting the sport at the London Boat show, NEC and Silverstone at the request of Ferrari. Quite a career! 25 years of racing boats until 2005 when he raced his last boat, 'Supercat' [see picture].



So how does all this high speed aquatic activity lead to power flying? Beccles is the answer where Nigel gained his microlight licence on the C42 Icarus – then by chance he saw an ad for a share in a Falke Motor Glider at Tibenham – so after 50 years he was back where he started! Three years on and Nigel felt it was time to move on – to join us at Priory Farm where he now has a half share in a Zenair 650, so the fun hasn't stopped! Welcome Nigel Hall. I can see an evening talk on all this coming up in the winter months!

COMMITTEE MEETING

On 04/06/2022 13:26, Held in the Priory Farm Airfield clubhouse.

Present:

Alan McNeal
Bob Sage
John Fielding
Mik Horn
Paul Jackson
Richard Flagg

Apologies:

David Brown
Steve Foreman
Sue Foreman

Minutes:

1. Threat of overhead cables and pylons being located close to Priory Farm Airfield. John said he would send another email to all the members before 16th June which is the last date that the public can give feedback on the National Grid's 'East Anglia Green' proposal.

2. Clubhouse care. Alan suggested that the PFA have a Clubhouse Facilities Officer who would regularly check for problems in the clubhouse and toilet block. They would bring it to the attention of the committee and oversee work that might be needed. This was thought to be a good idea but nobody volunteered for the role.

3. Water heater. Alan had identified a problem with the valve on the clubhouse water heater. The knob was almost impossible to turn. He has tried to fit a new valve but it was not the correct fit ... so he has ordered another which he hopes to fit soon.

4. Broken loo. John had emailed a request to members in March for someone to fix one of the men's toilets. Andy Ladell very kindly came to the club's rescue.

5. Father's Day Fly-in.

Catering - Helen and Mik Horn are providing the catering.

Radio - Alan McNeal is providing us with an air/ground service.

Marshalling & Fire safety - Bob said he'd check with a couple of members who normally look after these roles.

Greeting gazebo - unfortunately Lorraine and Roy are unable to take on the role this year. We'll look for someone else on the day.

Day-before-preparations - John will email members a few days before 19th June to request help with carrying out chairs and tables at about 2.30pm on Saturday 18th.

6. Waypoint editor. Paul has been handing over the reins to Alan who has produced his first edition. Alan explained that he is getting to grips with new software and methods to distribute the newsletter. He would be welcoming content from members and hoped to do a series of interviews with individual members.

7. Waypoint for non-members. John suggested that we should send out the Waypoint to anyone who requests it as he felt that it would encourage new membership. Richard observed that the newsletter is already in the public domain and could see little harm in sending it out to non-members.

8. Facebook. Richard suggested and volunteered to create a PFA Facebook Page. The committee agreed.

9. Membership. Bob stated that 61 members had paid their fees but that there were still 8 members who had not paid, despite being reminded. John expressed his annoyance that a club that is run by volunteers, giving their time and energies should not need to give more time chasing up their fellow members for payment.

10. Bank balance. Mik explained that there was £22,862 in the bank and that there were some membership fees and donation box cash that had yet to be paid in.

AOB. None.

FATHERS DAY FLY-IN PICTURES









A bottle of Jack Daniels whisky as the prize for the visitor flying-in from furthest distance went to Graham Smith who flew his Hapi Cygnet, G-BYYC 110 miles from Shenstone in Staffordshire.

Graham spent over 6000 hours building his aircraft and was keen to visit Priory Farm as he'd never landed there before. He has about 170 other airfields in his log book. Well done Graham. Thanks for the visit and please come again.

That's all for this month folks. Don't forget, I can only make up newsletters from material and information supplied to me BY YOU! So, please let me know what's going on in your PF aviation life so I can write about it in future newsletters. I plan to do a regular 'member profile', so who knows - I may be bending your ear for the story of your aviation life to entertain the rest of us! Until then - happy flying! Ed.

FOR SALE



For sale as a whole or in 5 shares: the ex- Paul Jackson 1946 Aeronca Chief 11AC,

Airframe 3365hrs A75 engine 1820hrs. Handheld 8.33 radio Had some recent refurbishment and a new permit. Great little aeroplane for not a lot of money, and it would be nice if the aircraft could continue to reside at Priory.

Do have a look. It's in Hangar 1. £12,500.

Phone Adrian on 07860 – 667 807.