

March 2023



WAYPOINT

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



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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),
Paul Archer, Sean Simington (social events booking), Julian Campbell, Nigel Hall (Club insurance).

Editorial

No article this month, but I have several in preparation so watch this space for interesting reading. My 'appeal' for stories for Waypoint articles has brought a couple of useful contributions, which will appear at some point as articles, but there must be more good stories out there so give me a call and we will take it from there. Don't forget - you don't have to write anything, just talk to me at your place, mine or the airfield and I will do the rest.

Housekeeping

A few items this month:

Rabbit holes. There have been reports of more rabbit holes than usual on the parking area and runway, so take special care not to drop one of your aircraft's wheels into a bunny's house entrance - a minor inconvenience for a rabbit but potentially significant damage to your aircraft! If you find any, please report them to Bob straight away so he can deal with them. On this topic, a reminder: The PFA club is only responsible for the clubhouse, the decking, the weather system and the toilet block. Anything to do with the airfield, fuel and hangars is the jurisdiction of Bob Sage and Priory Farm Airfield. There is a slight overlap in that Bob also handles club membership and membership fees as Membership Secretary of the PFA, but in general, if its to do with the airfield, talk to Bob.

Events. Our Father's Day Fly-in will happen again this year. More on that soon.

Fly-out, April 29th. We have been invited by PFA member Mike Westman to fly into Boughton South airfield for coffee and cake. Arriving at about 11.30 and departing at around 12.30 to fly to Fenland for lunch. (Discretionary donation landing fee at Boughton South.)

If the weather is unsuitable, we'll switch to Sunday.

Share a Seat day. Sunday 14th May. This is a chance to give a short flight to a PFA member who isn't lucky enough to have access to their own aircraft. It's an enjoyable club day and a lovely way to spread a little happiness. If you want a ride in a member's aircraft on that day, contact John Fielding who will have a list of the aircraft owner members who have offered to take part.

Club visit, April 5th. Home of USAF 100th Bomb Group at Thorpe Abbots near Diss. Richard Flagg has arranged a club visit to the home of USAF 100 Bomb Group at Thorpe Abbots near Diss. This is always worth going to. See their website www.100bgmus.org.uk/ for more info.

A correction:

Apologies to the eminent lady in question, but the late Carolyn Grace was not the only female British Spitfire pilot as erroneously suggested by me in last month's WP. PFA member Chris Barnes pointed me to Anna Walker, who is also a Spitfire pilot!

“Anna Walker, who is a lovely lady and has flown my Chilton and displayed Michael's, is a very experienced Spitfire (and lots of other warbirds) pilot. She flies mainly from the Heritage Hangar at Biggin Hill, flying fare-paying passengers and is very busy doing so. She also taught Guy Martin to fly the Hurricane, for the Channel 4 TV series.”



....two great pilots.

Committee Meeting minutes

I can't remember ever having a meeting where all the committee attended! Lovely to see everyone - John Fielding.

Meeting held at The Bird in Hand pub on 1st February 2023

Present: John Fielding, Bob Sage, Alan McNeal, Davis Brown, Julian Campbell, Mik Horne, Nigel Hall, Sean Simington, Paul Jackson, Paul Archer, Richard Flagg

1. Club hut computer. A member had asked if the club would source a newer computer to replace the current one. The committee agreed that as most pilots now carry out their pre-flight planning on phones or tablets, it was no longer necessary for the club to provide and maintain a desktop computer.

2. New hose fittings. John has sourced a new telescopic brush £23.99 and spray gun £23.90 for the hose attached to the toilet block. Bob pointed out that the stop cock for the hose (under the ladies' sink) was faulty. David said he'd look at fixing it.

3. Membership. 34 members have already paid their membership fees by BACS. Bob reported that this brings the paid membership up to 38. Bob handed Mik the treasurer, an envelope of cash from someone unable (?) to pay by BACS, to take to the bank and pay in on the club's behalf.

4. Fly-out and Share-a-seat Day. John reported that member Mike Westman had suggested a fly-in to his home airfield (Boughton South). This will take place 29th April followed by a trip to Fenland for lunch. Members will be reminded nearer the time. The share a seat day will be on 14th May and so far, John has received messages from four members that they'll bring their aircraft to the event. There should be a Cub, an Auster, a Skyranger and hopefully a balloon ... and a PA22 Colt.

5. April 5th club trip. Richard has arranged for a group visit to Thorpe Abbots airfield museum. <https://www.100bgmus.org.uk/>

6. Venue for next club meal. 1st March. Sean has organised for this to be at the Old Buckenham Gamekeeper.

7. Picnic tables. John suggested that we put these into a hangar over the rest of the winter. Bob pointed out that they need re-spraying with anti fungal treatment. David volunteered to source a spray gun for the club and more chemicals if required. Bob explained that other wood surfaces around the hut also needed spraying.

8. PIR flood lights. David has sourced and installed a new light (and cabling) to cover the steps up to the club hut. Bob pointed out that the lights on the adjacent hangar are faulty. David agreed to inspect them.

9. Other maintenance issues.

Faulty tap. Bob explained that the tap in the gents loo that was thought to be faulty ... was now working.

Electrical PAT testing. David explained that he had tried out the PAT testing device that Nigel had kindly donated. He would be sourcing some test labels and testing the portable appliances soon.

Fire extinguishers. Bob reported that these had been checked and signed off for another year. Next due: Early January 2024.

10. Club fly-in 11th June. Paul has informed the RAeC of the date for their website event listings.

11. Pylons. The situation is ongoing. The next public consultation will include more detail on the route and location of the pylons. Hopefully, they will have taken heed of feedback they received from the PFA members who took the time to provide it.

12. Financial report from Mik Horn. *(Available on request to any paid-up PFA member).*

End of Minutes

Maintenance/Facilities Update from David Brown, 14th February.

I sourced a new water cut off valve and went to fit it on Sunday...removed the old one but the size of the feed for the hose was a larger diameter ... so cleaned u0 and refitted the old one ... on reassembling there was no leak .. so let's see how it goes .. valve is a rotating metal ball so that won't wear but the spring washer holding the rubber might .. so pressed it a little before reassembly .. may have done the trick

The spray hose unit arrived (it's in hangar 3 at the moment - boxed up) and I have walked around the parts that need doing with Bob's advice. I'm in Jersey tomorrow for 3 days so will sort the spray when I get back ..

I've removed 1 of the excess medical boxes from the hut and will focus on keeping the 'main' one in good order. As we will end up with 2 green boxes spare .. does anyone want one or should we leave in a couple of hangars..noting these are NOT maintained ? Suggestions ?

All lights seem to be working as prescribed !

Further update 21st February

External areas of the clubhouse and balcony showing signs of green mould have been treated with anti-fungal spray.

David Brown

