

## Club Profile – Firebirds Model Club in Hampshire

Firebirds Model Club is a predominantly fixed wing aeromodelling club, but it's origins go right back to 1973 when it had members interested in model car racing and model boats. The black and white photograph taken in 1977 is one of the clubs most prized possessions and in the background you can see where the name came from. The Firebirds model club was started by firemen from Botley fire station and monthly meetings were also held there.

Amazingly at least one member from that 1977 (photograph) still flies regularly although their hair may not be as long, the same colour... or even there! Our flying site is still just a short drive from Botley fire station.

Firebirds has a keen community of both electric and IC fixed wing flyers, with many members flying both, although IC has been diminishing. We have modellers who build from scratch, kits or 3D printed, flying alongside pilots with ARTF models. Occasionally small electric helicopters or multicopters are flown and there has also been talk of a few members meeting to dabble with boats again, whatever next.

All aspects of the hobby are represented, with interests ranging from vintage, through to gliders, scale models and warbirds.

We actively promote tuition and Firebirds instructors have been teaching pilots from the South Coast for many years including 3 generations in one family.

Many of our current club members learnt to fly with the club and some have gone on to be club instructors themselves, we therefore have been in a position to help new members learn to fly or just help with those that need to just hone their skills.

Like many clubs we have been through a difficult few years with the pandemic and losing 2 flying fields in quick succession made it especially difficult. Thankfully and fingers crossed we now have a great new site, and very happy and accommodating landlords.

We're a friendly club and love to meet new people, new members are very welcome, be they new to the sport or more experienced flyers.



To arrange a visit to our flying field to meet some of our members, send us an e-mail:

**[firebirdsmodelclub@outlook.com](mailto:firebirdsmodelclub@outlook.com)**

Why not visit our website where you can view many of our informative newsletters. [www.firebirds.org.uk](http://www.firebirds.org.uk).

Firebirds Model Club is affiliated with the BMFA.

Some club pictures are below for suitably positioned inclusions...

