



WAYPOINT

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



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Committee Members

David Brown (Chair), Bob Sage (Airfield owner), Mik Horne (Treasurer), Richard Flagg (Webmaster), Alan McNeal (WX station, R/T ops, Waypoint editor), Sean Simington (Social events booking), Julian Campbell (Facilities & maintenance), John Fielding, Nigel Hall, Maurice Edwards.

Editorial

First an apology for Waypoint being a little late this month. It's May with some decent flying weather at last. Let's pray for lots more this season.

A further apology that the promised article on Bob Sage's history and that of Priory Farm airfield will be delayed until the next issue and the one after that, as researching it has been more time consuming than I anticipated - and it must be right!

Events

Last week we had our first barbecue of the season which was well attended on a fine spring evening. The weather was, for once, kind to us so the turnout was good and much enjoyed by all. This was followed by our first committee meeting of the year to be held in the clubhouse.

Spring Fly-in

A while back, one or two of us said - "the Father's Day fly-in is great but why don't we hold at least one other fly-in, - an open day? It doesn't have to be a full blown event like the summer one - no stakes & ropes need be put up the day before, no check-in gazebo - just keep it simple with an online invitation to invite local pilots to come & see us for a natter".



A Past Priory Farm Fly-in

The response was cautious at first, largely because people were wary of committing to a lot of work and if you want people to fly in, you've got to offer food & drink. "But we can do that someone said - if we ask Tom & Sue Garnham to come with their food & drink trailer!" "Oh yeah, that's a good idea!" Tom & Sue were approached and readily agreed to provide catering for event, subject to them being available. The author offered to provide a radio service on the day so ensure safety. Suddenly we had a viable fly-in format and enough people voicing enthusiasm to make it work.



Tom & Sue Garnham's coffee & hot food trailer

If only the weather would play ball! After our dreadfully depressing wet, windy cold winter and spring this seemed a bit of a long shot, but as the chosen date came near, lo and behold the weather looked promising. Much discussion had ensued on how much we should publicise the event. As it turned out, due to the efforts of a few committee members it ended up being widely promoted on printed & social media all over the place. As the day drew near, the weather looked even better than anyone had dared hope for. People phoned up Bob, David and me to PPR - around 17 in all. Suddenly we had an event!



What happened on the day was even better - around 30 visiting aircraft, quite a few of which had never been to PF before and over 100 flight movements which kept my attention on the radio! We even had two helicopters - an R22 and an R44. [\(see a selection of visiting aircraft pictures at the end of the newsletter, courtesy of Keith Sowter, Richard Flagg & Chris Jefferson.\)](#)



On departing, most pilots thanked us profusely for a good day out so our first 'spring fly-in' was a great success. The plan is to have another one later in the season, subject to weather and all the other variables that affect GA flying, BUT, our attention now goes to the forthcoming Father's Day Fly-in on 16th June, if the weather deities continue to smile upon us.

Priory Farm
Sunday, 16 June
FLY-IN
www.flyPFA.co.uk



Dawn & Dusk Launches

Hot & Cold Drinks
 Burgers, Baps & Cakes

N52° 27' 09.24" E 001° 07' 51.30" 186 ft AMSL
Radio Service: 'Priory Micro' 129.830
100LL (cash/cheque) R/w 01/19, 600 m grass
 Remain clear of intensive gliding at Tibenham
 Contact*: Bob Sage 01379 677334 in advance
 07799 695144 on the day
 *First-time visitors MUST PPR



The format for the 'main event' will be much the same as last year - the Ganrham's handling the catering, and ice cream van, me on the radio and one other element which will be active all that weekend - balloon launches courtesy of our ballooning members. This will be early in the day and later in the evening, when GA flying is not prevalent the wind is likely to be calmer. It should be another great PF event!



Committee Meeting Minutes

I'm afraid there are two lots of Minutes this month, from the meetings on in early April and also early May!

Committee meeting, 3rd April 2024.

Meeting started at 1830

Apologies from Richard Flagg and Nigel

1. Last month's minutes. Approved with no updates.
2. Flying Calendar - confirmation of dates and updates on Yarmouth and Fathers Day dates and others in the wings - so to speak.

Yarmouth - David confirmed that Yarmouth is set for April 14th with approx 11 aircraft set to go at the moment. John advised that Kevin at Yarmouth had indicated they could take up to 15

we will see if any others are interested. We already have a couple from Cromer attending as well so good to share with others.

Web site updates - David passed on his thanks to Richard for updating the website and also to Paul Jackson for his work on bringing the flyer together.

General Open Day with Food - This was discussed and, as agreed at the previous meeting, we will now progress. David will ask Tom what dates would work for him so we can start planning.

The aim is to extend an invitation to local groups, advising that we have hot food on that day and encourage people to fly in. By design, its a lower key event than Fathers Day so wont require

fencing and the like but, if we get reasonable numbers expressing interest we could ask if Alan might be available to many the radio? We are considering this day to be probably held in early May ? TBC

Other fly outs - We have others drafted in plan which we could start seeking interest for ie Duxford, Old Warden and some of the regular local events ?

3. Fathers Day - Confirmation .. Notifications, capture those registering so we have an idea of numbers .. helpers, food (Toms availability and times), FISO, Publishing in usual magazines, Sean - update on balloons.

This is now confirmed and advertised and is already in Pilot magazine. Alan will provide his usual excellent radio service and the extremely useful 2 way radios will come into their own again

David suggested we seek support from members outside of the committee as well to assist with preparation work and fencing and the like on the day. David noted that if this years event is as

successful as last years we may need to extend parking availability, Bob confirmed that that would be possible down the Western edge between the hangar and the windsock.

Sean confirmed that Balloons are all sorted and in hand. Some will arrive from the Friday and stay through to Sunday, flying being early morning and later in the evenings.

David noted he would like to ask Richard to do more of his excellent drone still and videos on the day.

David noted that Tibenham will have normal flying activities this year (last year there was a car event which was fortuitous) There was a discussion around should we NOTAM our event.

It was agreed, in the view of safety, that we should. We will seek advice as to how this is done.

(David has already advised a new WhatsApp group of Regional (Norfolk, Suffolk, Fenland) flying Directors and chairs of the plan to NOTAM this.)

4. Facilities updates. Julian.

Julian advised there were no major issues although it has been noted that Alan will be arranging to jet wash the deck and clubhouse and also re-treat. David offered to assist if that helps.

The smoke alarm battery had expired in the club house and this has now been replaced - a spare battery is also been left in there.

Julian advised that the lower part of the rear door shows signs of rotting, Bob advised he would have a look

5. Pylons - Various emails have been flying around - no real (positive) progress as the inevitability 'bulldozers' onwards

David noted that there had been a flurry of emails (if thats the collective noun) and mostly this had been around the lack of clarity from National Grid in actual detailed plans.

CAA working group also had been advised that ALL airfields were being constantly spoken to - which is factually incorrect - we have had 1 meeting.

One update from National Grid advised that as some airfields had relatively 'low movements' then it was less of an issue regarding pylon location ! David had already fed back quite forcefully on this point !

David had emailed the CAA and working group that low movements did not have a direct relationship in respect of safety. One accident will still ruin-end someones life and family !

This will drone on - pardon the pun .. but we will keep pushing back and demanding more clarity

One other aspect that came to light recently is that National Grid intend to run drones 'over and above' the cable line to constantly check the, Apparently these drones will detect aircraft engine noise and land.

Apparently !!

6. Marham Lower Airspace Working Group - June

David advised that he had received an invitation to attend the next working group. The June event offers an opportunity to fly in so if a few of us would like to do so, let me know and I will liaise with RAF Marham.

John I will follow up with you.

7. Membership and Finance updates - Mik update, Bob update, Ive had 1 email and payer - just need to check how many remain and agree follow up stance

Mike updated that we have had a few more payers as did Bob but we remain with around 15-20 who have yet to pay.

It was agreed that David would email a last request before membership list is reduced.

Mik updated the balance figures which were noted.

8. New members? Suggest if we have any we do what Norwich flying club do and put a welcome to .. who was last member to join and we can start with that ? on the FB page.?

John advised that he would normally email the new joiner directly. David agreed that he would continue this nice gesture and also noted that a mention on the PFA Facebook page would be a nice touch.

9. Website updates.. any new pictures, dates etc.

David thanked Richard for his input and support on this. We discussed that some of the WayPoint photos and recent events could perhaps be added to the 'News' area on the website.

10. Waypoint: Future articles on member profiles.- Update from Alan

Everyone thanked Alan for his recent update of WayPoint. Alan advised that he is creating a profile story based on Bob but this could well run to more than 1 session ! such is Bobs rich and varied life !

Alan asked if Bob could provide some aircraft registrations that he had worked on so that we could add pictures .. Bob to update Alan

If anyone has other things they would like in WayPoint - please let anyone in the committee know :-)

11. AOB

- A thought my son (Will) had re recent feedback on ballistic equipped aircraft - pre notification and raising awareness of any ground related incidents

The committee discussed this and thought this was a very good idea. Its not always obvious if an aircraft has ballistics unless you are up close and can see the labels !

It was agreed that people who PPR in for events (only) would also be asked if they had ballistics on board.

It was also agreed that we should brief ourselves on what to do if such an aircraft DID have an incident .. apparently you are NOT to approach it and call the Fire Brigade advising them of the nature,

They call the Bomb squad who then have to come out and make it safe .. so its not a case of just run up and help

Perhaps we have a briefing laminate available ? One to consider...

- Update from David on the regional (Norfolk, Suffolk, Fenland) Directors-Chairman Group

This group has worked really well. It was set up, again an idea from Will (who may be our youngest member ? - who is ?) currently we have 'single point of contacts' for Beccles, Suffolk Strutt,

Fenland, Norwich ATC, Norwich Flight Training, Old Buck and Tibenham

When we had a glider pulling out of a loop inverted at 600' in our downwind at a recent event it was very easy for me to contact and be advised that suitable 'debriefing' was taking place !

Last thought from me - post meeting - we did discuss a year of encouraging new blood into the world of aviation .. can we think of some good ideas ... ATC squadron follow up Sean's idea .. local school morning out ?

Kr and safe flying all

David Brown, PFA Chairman

Committee meeting 1st May in the PFA Clubhouse

Apologies

Mik and Nigel.

(Note - It was nice to See Paul Jackson attending the evening event :-))

1. Last month's minutes.

Approved by Alan, seconded by all

2. Flying Calendar - confirmation of dates and updates on 'Extra fly in plus share a seat' day and Yarmouth (now 12th May) and Fathers Day dates and others in the wings

- Extra fly in day all set and regional 5 group notified
- Maurice and Richard noted it had appeared in other briefings
- Tom has re confirmed for the day and we agreed he will place his van as he did for fathers day last year
- David advised that only 1 feedback on 'share a seat' had been received - so we will see how it pans out on the day
- Fathers Day event is already featured in Pilots calendar and others

Other fly outs - We have others drafted in plan which we could start seeking interest for ie Duxford, Old Warden and some of the regular local events ?

- David noted that there seemed to be certainly interest in more fly outs
- Duxford seemed a good one, with things to see when you got there !
- Also Monweden, Old Warden and others
- It would be good if people can circulate and we can then set some possible dates to plan

3. Fathers Day - Need to start the planning process and seek volunteers Confirmation .. Notifications, capture those registering so we have an idea of numbers .. helpers, food (Toms availability and times), FISO, Publishing in usual magazines, Sean - update on balloons.

David noted that it would be good to seek support for this event and we will note both in WayPoint and group emails to seek support so that the Committee are not over burdened

- It was agreed we would get the radios out and pre tested at the upcoming 'extra day'
- It was also agreed that Bob and David would assist marshalling
- We haven't set NOTAM arrangements in place yet, so need to check lead times and method

4. Facilities updates. Julian.

- In Julians absence, David provided a brief update
- David thanked Alan for doing a sterling job cleaning the deck and then treating all around
- The grass around the posts has now been trimmed and all things looking good
- David offered an apology for not realising the charcoal needed refreshing - now sorted and in hand for

future meetings !

- (An after meeting thought - the windsock is looking very faded - I could see Tibenham's at 5 miles - as they have just renewed there's I believe) - can I suggest we source a new one ?

5. Pylons - Various emails have been flying around

- Many (frustrating) meetings have been held with NG visiting the odd location

- Dot and Chris attended a meeting, mention was made for a part to be underground ?

- Bob noted that there is one at Tibenham on 15th (please confirm time Bob)

- This is set to run but David has emailed the CAA and their working group several times this year to state that the proximity is a hazard and should be handled accordingly

6. Marham Lower Airspace Working Group - June

- David noted that this event is usually very well attended and noted that this is a chance to fly in

- Anyone wishing to do so - please contact David and we can put in a request

7. Membership and Finance updates - Mik update, Bob update

- In Mik's absence - David updated the committee on finances - as supplied by Mik

- David also noted that Mi has sadly offered his resignation so we will be seeking a new Treasurer

- It was agreed this would be the subject of a dedicated email to seek candidates

8. New members?

- Member numbers are being coordinated across a couple of lists

- It was agreed these should and will be consolidated and cross referenced so that we have a definitive list

- Alan, Bob and David are working on this

- Members are hovering just below the 80 mark

- Most members have now paid - (originally due in January)

- It was agreed that a final note would be added to WayPoint advising that membership has now lapsed for those who have not renewed and they will be removed from the updated lists

9. Website updates.. any new pictures, dates etc.

- David thanked Richard for his brilliant efforts on keeping this up to date

- Richard noted that he has a number of new pictures that he has that could be used for future event advertising

10. Waypoint: Future articles on member profiles.- Update from Alan

- Alan updated the meeting on the significant amount of editorial he is undertaking for the next edition

- This will have an article about Bob and his history and background

- Alan thanked members for their contributions with some great photos and input to support the article

10.1 AOB:

'Chairman Note'

- David thanked the committee and members for a great turnout for the first BBQ of the season. It was very well attended with nearly 40 people there ! a great credit to the club.

- As flying picks up we will be reminding people about the circuit patterns and approaches and would encourage all to be familiar with overhead join and checks if at all unsure. We have a range of mixed aircraft and pilots and it will be good to maintain the high safety record we have.

- I'd also like to see if we can set a target of introducing 100 new people to the pleasures of flying this year. Sean has the ATC initiative, John often takes people flying - if we can keep a track of numbers it would be good to see how close we could get to 100.

The temperature dropping and it being very dark outside - the meeting duly closed at 21:30.

David Brown, Chairman.

Spring Fly-in aircraft pictures



All from Keith Sowter, Richard Flagg & Chris Jefferson: Thanks again guys! That's it for this month. Ed.