

PAFRA
Pilots and Friends of Rochester Airport

Member Survey Fly-outs and Events



More than just a flying club



About the survey

The PAFRA Committee asked all members of the club for their opinions and ideas regarding the events organised on their behalf. This included events in the air and on the ground.

By understanding what you want from your membership, the Committee can better plan the events for 2012 and beyond.

The Committee would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey.

What you told us

There were 41 responses* to the on-line survey.

It was really good to hear that many of you have enjoyed the events organised by the Committee in the past. For example, the Clacton fish 'n' chips fly-out and the Easter spot-landing competition are both perennial favourites.

It has also been interesting to hear about other activities you would like and when you would like them. For example, many of you would like more weekend fly-outs.

We hope you enjoy reading much more about the survey results in the following pages.

* Some questions were not answered in full

Question 1

Where do you enjoy flying to?



We asked you what types of airfield you enjoy flying to and gave four categories for you to rank in order of preference. These were:

- Farm strips
- Small airfields
- Bigger airfields
- Large airports

The survey results show the majority of you prefer to fly into small airfields and the least preferred destination is large airports.

Fly-outs to other types of airfield will still be of interest to the club members so the Committee will plan to include a good mix of destinations in the 2012 plan.

The table below shows which type of airfield you prefer to fly into. The 'more' and 'most' preferences were added together and the same for the 'less' and 'least' preferences.

	Less preference	More preference
Farm Strips <i>eg Great Oakley</i>	22	19
Small unlicensed / licensed airfields <i>eg Sandown</i>	6	35
Bigger licensed airfields <i>eg Lydd or Fair Oaks</i>	24	17
Large airports with full ATC <i>eg Cambridge or Oxford</i>	30	11

Question 2

How far do you want to fly?

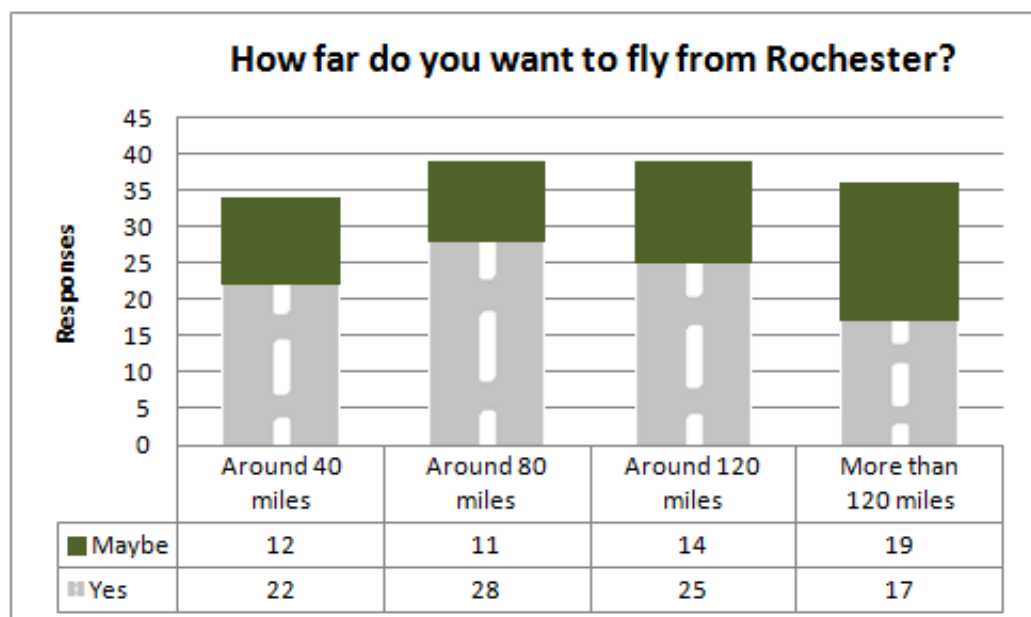


We asked you what distance you would like to fly for an event. We gave you five options to choose from including one for overseas flying.

The survey results show that most members are happy to fly up to 120 miles from Rochester but interest falls away for distances much further. Members start to consider these fly-outs as 'maybe' which means they could be tempted if the destination is an attraction in itself.

It was also interesting to see that some members do not want fly-outs which are too 'local' to Rochester with some responding 'no thanks' to fly-outs around 40 miles from EGTO.

The graph below shows how far members want to fly for a UK destination. By combining the 'yes' and 'maybe' responses, we can see the potential interest for fly-outs.



Question 2

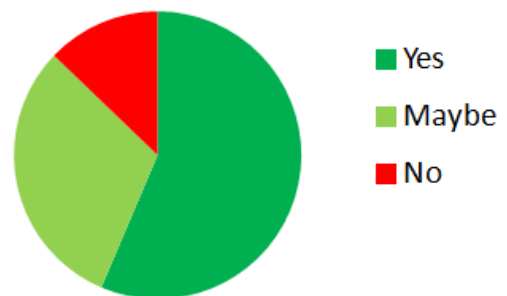
How far do you want to fly?



When answering the question about flying to the continent and the Channel Islands, the preferences were very clear. Most of you would be interested in venturing from UK airspace.

You also told us these fly-outs are attractive because the benefit of fuel draw back to keep your costs down is a significant incentive.

Continent & Channel Islands



However, some of our members may have license restrictions or may not be confident venturing overseas as PIC. If any pilots who regularly fly to Europe were to offer a spare seat on a cost-share basis, that would be highly appreciated by many other PAFRA members to help build their experience.

Here is a selection of comments from the survey respondents:

- Help with AFPEX, useless with computers!
- Help with flight planning and flight plans
- Keep a mix of fly-outs in the calendar
- Conscious of costs so limits my range
- Mode S would be a problem

Question 3

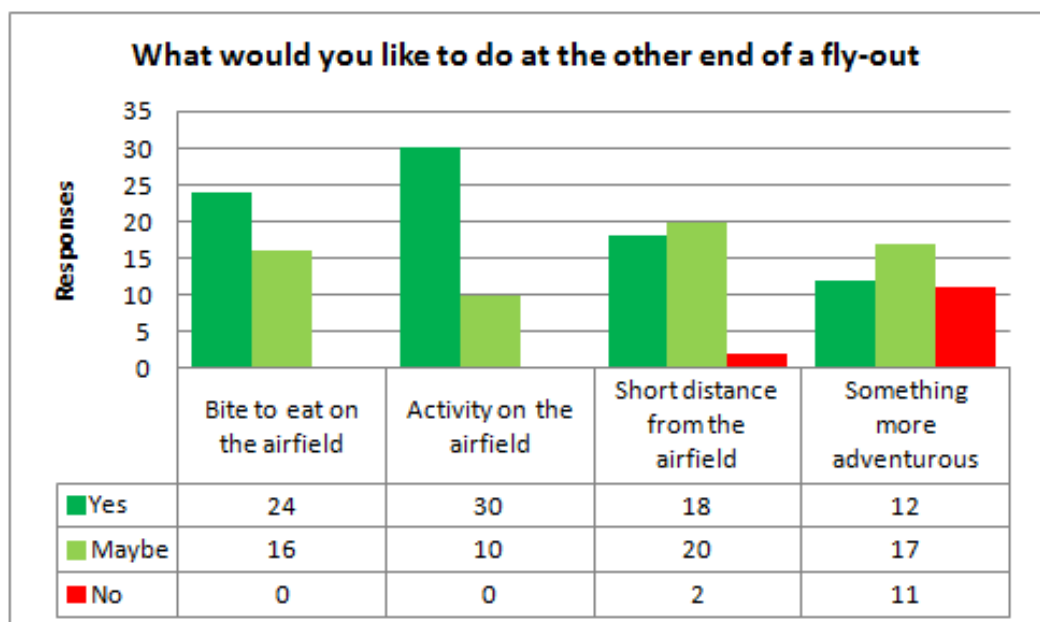
What to do at the destination?



We asked you what you enjoy doing once you have reached the fly-out destination. Rather than just having a bite to eat, the majority of you would like something to see or do on the airfield itself.

There could also be potential interest in leaving the airfield for something to see or do. To a slightly lesser extent, there may also be interest in doing something more adventurous and possibly involving an overnight stay.

The PAFRA Committee will take these preferences into account when planning your fly-outs. However, if you know of any activities at destinations that may be of interest, please let a member of the Committee know!



Other aviation events



We asked you what types of aviation events you want to do other than the ‘common or garden’ fly-out. We gave six options and asked for some additional ideas.

It was very interesting to see there would be a lot of interest in fly-outs involving more than one destination and potential interest in fly-outs to events and expos.

The table below shows the combined ‘yes’ and ‘maybe’ responses to the six survey options to find which could be most popular.

	Potential	Yes	Maybe	No
Multi-destination flyouts	36	23	13	2
Flyouts to events and expos	36	18	18	2
Challenges of skill at EGTO	33	20	13	5
Challenges combining a flyout	32	19	13	6
Flyouts with night leg	26	14	12	12
Formation Flying	20	8	12	18

Under question 5, we also asked you for your additional ideas for airborne events. Here is a selection of your comments:

- Flour bombing events
- Sampling other air sports such as micro lighting, autogiro, ballooning or tandem paragliding

The Committee will incorporate your feedback in the 2012 plan.

Question 6

Where would you like to go?



We asked you for your input to fly-out destinations. These could be new places or time-honoured favourites.

Here are the destinations suggested. The larger the words, the more frequently the destination was suggested.



Question 7

Ground based events

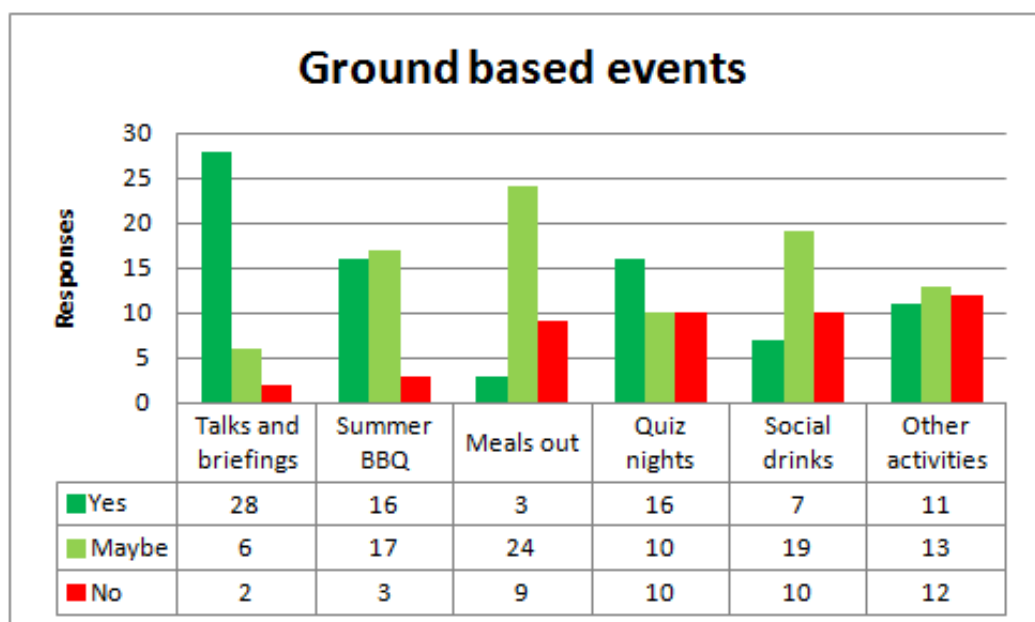


We asked you what you wanted to do for ground based events when we're not flying and gave you six options to choose from.

Your firm favourite ground based events are the talks and safety briefings which is supported by the large number of members we see at these events.

There is good interest in a summer BBQ followed very closely by the quiz night events. There is quite a lot of potential interest in social drinks and meals out with many of you saying you may be interested in these.

The other activities such as bowling and scalextric seem to be our 'Marmite' events. You either love them or hate them!



Question 8

Ground based event ideas



We asked you for your additional ideas for ground based events. There were not many responses here but the responses we did receive were good ideas for the Committee to think about.

Aircraft
recognition
competition

**Skill-honing - e.g. flight
planning 'competitions'
like the navex but
without the flying part.**

Painting parties etc to
smarten up the airfield

*Nuts and bolts
training / guidance
type talks*

Question 9

2012 Olympics restrictions

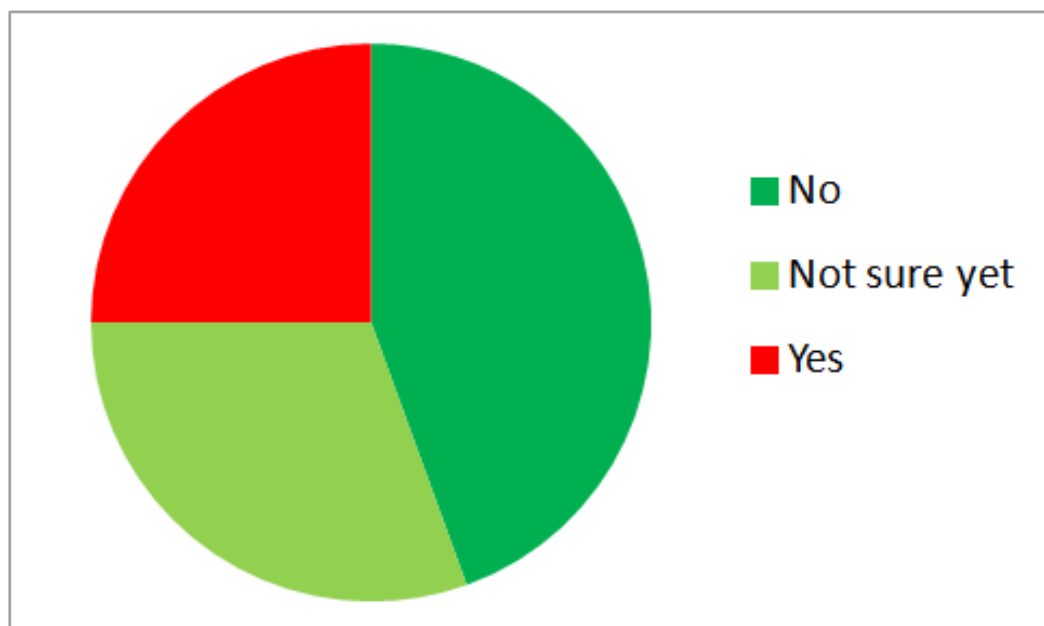


We asked you if the 2012 airspace restrictions to be imposed during the Olympic period would put you off from flying.

We asked this question because we wanted to know how it may impact the appeal of fly-outs during the restriction period.

From your responses, many pilots will not allow the airspace restrictions to impact their flying plans during the Olympics. Many of you are not sure yet so you may or may not be available for PAFRA fly-outs.

The Committee will take this information into account when planning the 2012 events.



Question 10

Your general comments



Finally, we asked for your general comments on the events organised by PAFRA.

Your feedback has been useful to the Committee for the 2012 planning. Many of your requests will be found in this year's plan.

Here is a selection of feedback received and the Committee's responses.

Improve the means of contacting the fly-out organisers so they can support members with their flight planning.

All the PAFRA events are coordinated by a Committee Member who can be contacted prior to the fly-out. We will make more use of the PAFRA forum to improve communications,*

More weekend flying please—it's difficult to join weekday fly-outs due to work commitments.

We will be planning many more weekend fly-outs in 2012. We will also do more ad-hoc fly-outs which may be relatively short notice and tied in with free landing offers.

It seems like most fly-outs are on Wednesdays.

Between PAFRA and the LAA, there is a good selection of flying and talks. Encourage PAFRA members to also join LAA.

Great idea for those who want to enjoy the benefits of both clubs. Don't forget that we hold many joint events with LAA throughout the year anyway. Please contact John Luck for details about LAA.

** join the PAFRA forum @ pafra.myfreeforum.org*

Question 10

Your general comments



More offers of spare seats for non-pilots please.

The forum is underused as a means of communication for ad-hoc flying and information.

This is an ideal opportunity for pilots to reduce the cost of their flying while allowing non-fliers the opportunity to share the excitement of aviation. All pilots wishing to offer a spare seat to a non-pilot on a cost share basis could drop a note in the PAFRA forum. This will not only be the most convenient way but may also encourage use of the forum.

The PAFRA Committee will make more use of the forum to circulate details of forthcoming fly-outs.

Once again, the PAFRA Committee would like to thank everyone who took the time to contribute to the survey.

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy new year and hope what we can enjoy some excellent flying weather in 2012.

More than just a flying club