

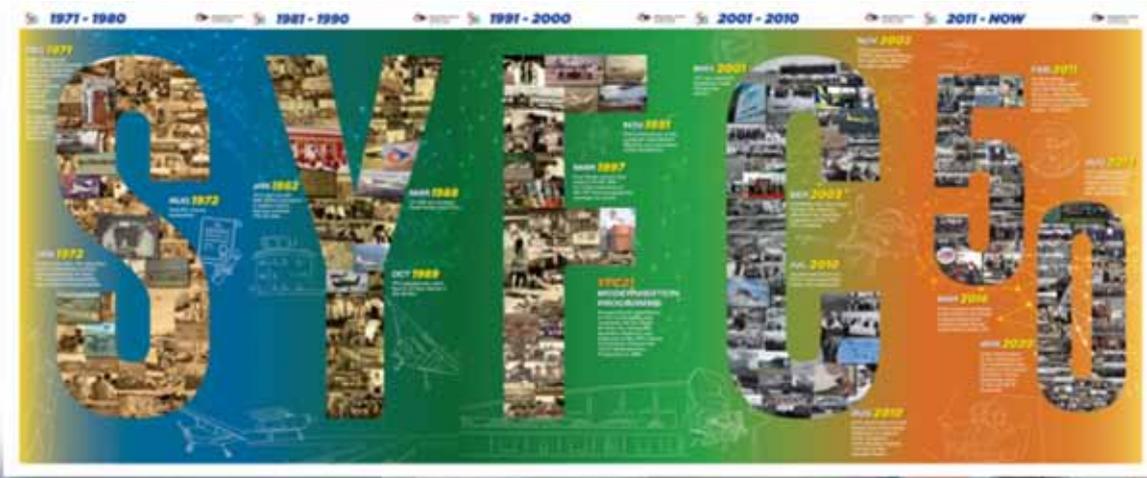
# TAKE OFF

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SINGAPORE YOUTH FLYING CLUB



**SINGAPORE YOUTH FLYING CLUB**  
Takes You To Greater Heights  
SINCE 1971

**DEC 2021**  
MCI(P) 30/11/2017



05 1st Solo Flight



09 FHT Flight



10 SYFC Aeromodeling Challenge 2021



12 SYFC's very own Virtual Aerobatics Team!

# Contents

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**Pg 3-4 SYFC's 50th Anniversary**

**Pg 5-7 First Solo Flights**

**Pg 8-10 FHT Flights**

**Pg 10 SYFC Aeromodelling Challenge 2021**

**Pg 11 SYFC Basic Flying Course Certificate**

**Pg 12 SYFC's Very Own Virtual Aerobatics Team!**

## GM's Foreword

It has been an exciting second half of 2021 for SYFC. Two SYFC CCA schools, namely Bukit View Secondary School and Hai Sing Catholic School, successfully conducted the intra-school SYFC Aeromodelling Challenge (SAC) in Sep 21. Congratulations to the winners of SAC 2021!

The SYFC Private Pilot Licence (PPL) Wings & Aviation Awards Ceremony was held on 23 Oct 21. This year's ceremony was particularly special as we also celebrated our Golden Jubilee. Not only did the event signify the end of a year-long rigorous course for our deserving graduates, it also marked 50 years of achievement for SYFC, made possible by the dedication and contributions of our pioneers, staff, alumni, and strategic partners. 50 years on, SYFC continues to inculcate passion in aviation among Singaporean youths.

SYFC also participated in the RSAF Open House 21, during which our very own virtual aerobatics team, the Virtual Black Knights, had its debut performance. The Virtual Black Knights certainly made us proud with their stunning performance! Read on to find out more about this amazing team.

*Warmest regards*

**COL (RET) Foo Yang Ge**

General Manager  
Singapore Youth Flying Club



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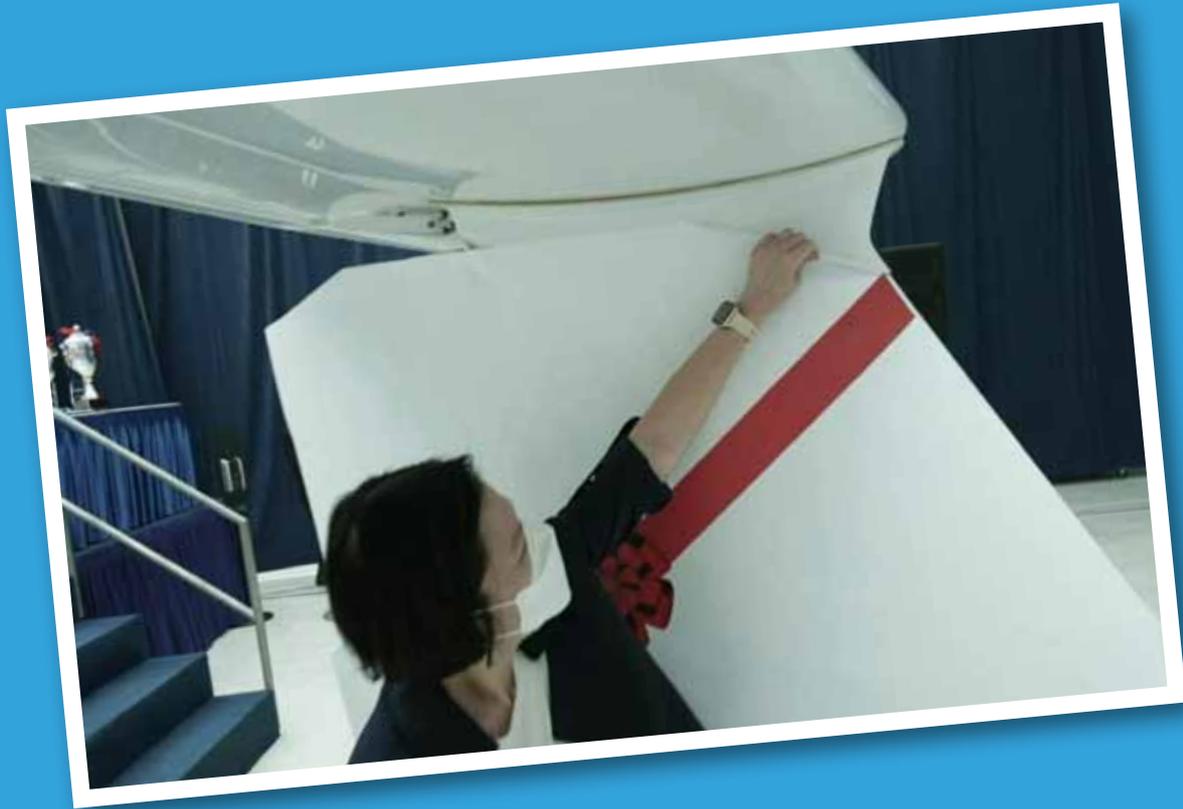
Website: [www.syfc.sg](http://www.syfc.sg)

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# SYFC'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The SYFC Private Pilot Licence (PPL) Wings and Aviation Awards Ceremony was held on 23 Oct 2021. The ceremony marks the completion of a year-long rigorous pilot training with the SYFC, where the students learnt aviation knowledge, flying skills, as well as important life skills and values. This year's ceremony was particularly special as it was also SYFC's 50th anniversary.

Our Guest-of-Honour for the ceremony was the Minister of State for Education and Manpower, Ms Gan Siow Huang. To commemorate SYFC's 50th anniversary, Minister of State for Education and Manpower, Ms Gan unveiled the commemorative SYFC50 emblem on the DA40 aircraft.



Once again, we would like to thank our Guest-of-Honour Minister of State for Education and Manpower, Ms Gan Siow Huang, distinguished guests, SYFC Board of Governors and SYFC Management Committee for gracing the occasion. We would also like to thank ST Engineering Defence Aviation Services Pte Ltd for sponsoring the ST Engineering Excellence Awards to our top three graduates in flying and ground school.



*Signing Cessna Tail by GOH, Chairman BOG, President MC and Labour Chief*

This year's recipient for the Best in Ground School award is Sim Yong En Ivan. The recipient for the Best in Flying award is Nandhu S/O Dinesh Kumar.



Best in Ground School and Best in Flying

**BEST IN FLYING**  
 NANDHU S/O DINESH KUMAR  
 Ngee Ann Polytechnic

**ST ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD  
 BEST IN FLYING 1<sup>st</sup> RUNNER-UP**  
 KER MING ZE  
 Republic Polytechnic

**ST ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD  
 BEST IN FLYING 2<sup>nd</sup> RUNNER-UP**  
 LIEW YU XUAN JAMIE  
 Anglo Chinese School (Independent)

**BEST IN GROUND SCHOOL**  
 SIM YONG EN IVAN  
 Ngee Ann Polytechnic

**ST ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD  
 BEST IN GROUND SCHOOL 1<sup>st</sup> RUNNER-UP**  
 NANDHU S/O DINESH KUMAR  
 Ngee Ann Polytechnic

**ST ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARD  
 BEST IN GROUND SCHOOL 2<sup>nd</sup> RUNNER-UP**  
 LUI ETHAN  
 Anglo-Chinese Junior College

# FIRST SOLO FLIGHTS

Achieving my first solo was an immense accomplishment. Along the way, I encountered many obstacles. There were even times where I felt lost, fearing of making the same mistakes in flight again. However, instead of letting these setbacks get the better of me, I reflected on my mistakes and managed to come back stronger. Learning to fly circuits was definitely not a breeze as I encountered a very steep learning curve. From having no experience in flying to learning to operate an aircraft independently, picking up things fast and constantly striving to get better after every flight, was no easy task.

Along the way, I had help from many people. My primary Flying Instructor, Mr Sam Lee, was always patient with me in clarifying my doubts. I also have many seniors who I could turn to for advice whenever I had difficulties. There were also my friends and family who kept me going during the hard times.

Being able to get to this point was a proud moment for me and one of my biggest achievements yet. To have been able to overcome so many obstacles and emerge stronger is something that I will look back at with great satisfaction. Being able to independently fly an aircraft is something that I never thought I would be able to do at this age.

The feeling of being in the air alone was a mystifying and eye-opening experience. It led me to realise how far I had come compared to just a few months ago; and how much more there is to learn and experience in flying.

I feel extremely grateful for being given the opportunity to pursue my passion for flying at such a young age. My first solo has motivated me to strive even harder moving on.



## Ong E, BFC 257



Thursday, 23rd Sept 2021 at 2:45 pm, a point in time that I will always remember.

It was the day of my first solo flight, a day hard fought for, through the careful balance of juggling both school work and flying training. The words, "Skylark 98, request taxi to Alpha bay for first solo" truly filled me with a deep sense of pride - a pride that came from the effort behind numerous hours of flight training, a pride that came from the trust bestowed upon me by my Flying Instructor when I went for my first solo flight, and most importantly a sense of pride from the fact that I made it!

As Robin Jones Gunn once said, "If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together." On this note, I would like to sincerely thank all who have assisted me on my journey to where I am today, namely my primary Flying Instructor, Mr Sam Lee, for his guidance and teaching which not only made me a better pilot but also a better person. His patience helped me tremendously in achieving this milestone. I would like to thank Mr Teo MT for taking me on my solo check and sending me for my first solo. I would also like to give a huge thanks to

my greatest supporter, my mom, for supporting me in the pursuit of my dreams. Without her, I would have never been able to achieve all that I have.

## Khu ZH, BFC 259

# FIRST SOLO FLIGHTS

Ever since I was young, I was fascinated by aviation. From wondering what those 'metallic birds' roaring in the air were - which I soon found out were aeroplanes, to dreaming about being able to fly them, my interest in aviation grew immensely throughout my childhood. Of course, as with all journeys, we have to start somewhere, and for me, this start was joining SYFC. However, throughout my time in SYFC, I have learnt so much more than flying.

After the weather thwarted my attempts at completing my first solo not once, but twice, I finally successfully completed it on the 8th of October 2021. This was an incredibly proud moment for me as it reflected the amount of hard work I had put in throughout the months spent preparing solely for this challenge.



The moment that "Skylark 98, request taxi to Alpha stand for student first solo," was uttered, I felt exuberant, mixed with a slight tinge of nervousness, I mean all these months of hard work had to have been for something. It was absolutely surreal watching my Flying Instructor, Mr Teo MT, exit the aircraft, leaving me to pilot it by myself.

The sour tang of nervousness in my stomach dissipated as I completed the checks that I had done many times before, the comforting familiarity of it building confidence within me. Finally, I ventured my way up into the skies. The feeling of flight itself was exhilarating, alone in the skies - with nobody else, felt deeply freeing and simply amazing.

The moment I vacated the runway, the sense of accomplishment I felt was one of the best moments in my life so far as I had finally completed my first solo flight. It wasn't perfect but smooth enough, which I can work to improve on in the near future.

Lastly, I would like to thank my primary Flying Instructor, Mr Teo MT, and the other Flying Instructors, who I had flown with for guiding me through my flights. Thanks to them, I have managed to improve my decision making and flying skills, especially during the most critical part of the flight - the landing. Moreover, I would like to thank Mr Seah SL, my flight simulator instructor, for taking the time to answer my queries and for sharing his knowledge with me. Most importantly, I would like to thank my parents for supporting me throughout my flight journey. Without all of them behind me, this accomplishment would have never been possible.

**Lee HY, BFC 258**

# FIRST SOLO FLIGHTS

The first of September 2021, the day of my first solo-flight. My instructor, Mr Lionel Lye and I both knew that I was going to embark on my first solo flight. After 2 successful touch and go's, Mr Lionel deemed that I was ready. We landed and taxied to the eastern dispersal of Seletar Airport.

Once I shutdown the engine then came this statement, " You're going on your first solo flight today. You will remember this day for your entire life and career as a pilot. Remember what you have learnt, keep calm and enjoy yourself." He left after a fist bump. After which, I cranked the ignition and waited in anticipation for the engine to jump. The engine of the DA40 roared with life as if it was a lion ready to pounce on its prey. Adrenaline rushed through my body as the reality of sitting alone in the aircraft hit me. I took a few seconds to calm myself down and tune my mind to be focused. After conducting my checks and radio calls, I taxied to the holding point and told ATC that I was ready.



ATC clearance came, "Line up runway 21 and cleared for takeoff." I stared down the runway and told myself, " I can do this!" I felt a surge of excitement and desire as I advanced the throttle to MAX power. Sprinting down the runway, I focused on getting the aircraft off the ground safely. At 59knots, I gently eased the control stick backwards and watched as I lifted off Earth for the first time all alone.

As I took to the skies, a wave of exhilaration swept over me. However, I remained concentrated to ensure that I am flying at the correct heading, speed and height precisely. At base, I began my descend for the landing and lowered the first notch of flaps. I constantly scanned my engine instruments, speed and height closely while manoeuvring the aircraft to align with the runway's centreline. Seletar Tower issued clearance for landing then I lowered the second notch of flaps. My heart pounded as I descended. As the ground appeared ever closer, I gently pulled back the control stick to cushion the landing. Ever so lightly, I felt the wheels of the aircraft gently kissed the runway. Using the brakes, I managed to slow the aircraft down before vacating the runway.

As I brought the aircraft to a complete stop at the holding point, a sense of relief overcame me. The feeling was simply superb and cannot be expressed into words. Flying had been my childhood dream and it was finally a reality today. When I reached the Ops room, the first person that came to my mind was Mr Lionel Lye. His dedication towards teaching the basic handling and fundamentals of flying is something that I will always be grateful for. Last but not least, I will not forget my dad who has been the greatest source of inspiration in my flying journey.

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**Lavesh, BFC 259**

# FHT FLIGHTS

Completing the Private Pilot License course was one of the most gruelling journeys of my life and brought me through many ups and downs. However, with the help of my course mates, and my instructors, I managed to rise from the many struggles I had and pushed through to finish the course.

On the day of my Final Handling Test (FHT), I was extremely nervous, but with the confidence imbued in me by my instructors, I was determined to do my best. After almost 2.5 years in SYFC, through the struggles of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was an amazing feeling when I was told that I had passed. I felt a great sense of accomplishment and pride as I finally felt that all my efforts had finally paid off.

Thank you SYFC and to all the helpful people along the way for this incredible journey!



## Tan I, BFC 246



When I first submitted the BFC application form to recruitment, I never imagine how far I would have come, obtaining a PPL before the age of eighteen.

Of course, the journey was not smooth sailing (or without turbulence), with the COVID-19 situation disrupting my flight training twice. However, my time at SYFC was very fulfilling, learning to fly the aircraft, and making the right decisions to ensure safety of the flight.

On the 21st of August, I stepped into SYFC for my final handling test. The weather wasn't ideal, with gusty winds, as well as forecasted thunderstorms in the afternoon. I managed to complete all the flight manoeuvres successfully. During the oral examination. I felt anxious about the questions that might be asked, but as soon as it started, my fears vanished as I quickly realised that

my preparation and training throughout the 51 sorties and 7 ground school papers had trained me well as the pilot-in-command of my own aircraft.

I would like to express my gratitude to all the instructors I have flown with, especially the ground school instructor Mr Preetwant for guiding me through the PPL exams, as well as my BFC and PPL primary flight instructors Mr Lye MT and Mr Mahdi Wong, for helping me hone my skills to be a better pilot.

## Chee PY, BFC 248

# FHT FLIGHTS

After crossing the “first solo” milestone, I knew that the rest of the training leading to the PPL would be tougher. During casual interactions with my seniors, I was frequently reminded that the flying training would be more intense, expectation from the instructors would be much higher, and that there would be more stress, especially while concurrently taking the seven CAAS examinations.

One can easily give up upon hearing all these. Especially for me, my entire flying course practically took place amidst the COVID-19 disruptions. This had slowed down my flying progress, which resulted in my inability to maintain consistency in my flying.

On the positive side, this situation had allowed me to learn much about time management, setting of priorities, the importance of preparedness, and more importantly, being resilient in adversity.



The seven CAAS examinations had been challenging for me as my academic background was not in the field of Aviation. But the process of taking those examinations had taught me that goals could be achieved through determination and hard work. I studied hard and passed all the seven papers on first attempt.

At the final stage of my PPL course, the 1.4 hour FHT was not quite a breeze. I tumbled a bit at the beginning but managed to compose myself after being ‘warmed up’. Following to the oral quiz, it was overwhelming to be informed that I had passed my FHT.

My PPL journey had been amazing and indescribable. The exhilaration of flying the DA40, the stress from being expected to do well, the frustration of not being able to do everything well, and the joy of accomplishing a good flight, all these were the bundle of great experiences I had while training for the PPL.

My success in attaining the PPL could not have happened if not for the guidance I received from the instructors and staff members of SYFC. For this, I am most thankful to:

- My primary instructor, Mr Ian Hong
- SYFC GM, CFI and the FIs (Mr Sim CK, Mr Cheang MJ, LTC Lee KK, and Mr Teo MT) who had guided me through the training sorties
- My FHT examiner, Mr Daniel Tan
- My Ground School Instructor, Mr Preetwant Singh, who had truly went beyond his call-of-duty to ensure that I was fully knowledge-equipped for every CAAS examination paper taken
- Aunty Winnie and all the Ops staff, who had ensured that my flights were well scheduled

Moving on, I look forward to assuming the roles of a PPL Mentor and Ambassador, where I can render my help to the new BFC students as well as to promote the BFC to more students.

As for my onward flight heading, tracking RSAF!

**KOH TM, BFC 253**

# FHT FLIGHTS

I've always had a passion for aviation since young. Being a pilot was a dream for me and embarking on this journey with SYFC was the first step towards realising this dream.

Leading up to my FHT, I was confident as had flown well for the sorties before that. However, on the very day of the test, nerves and doubts flooded my head and my confidence level dropped. I told myself that the 51 sorties before this had prepared me well and I am as ready as I can be.

The pre-flight brief went smoothly, which boosted my confidence, and I was ready to step to the flight line. In the air, all my manoeuvres were well executed. The weather, however, was not as favourable as I would like it to be, and it inflicted some stress on me. After nearly two hours, I successfully put the aircraft down on the ground after completing all the objectives and I was relieved to have completed the most daunting part of the FHT.

During the debrief, my tester told me about the good and bad parts of my flights, which would allow me to improve on myself as I start my next phase of my flying career.

I am eternally grateful to my instructors and course mates for guiding and being with me throughout my journey at SYFC and I could not have done it without them.



**Tan JS, TP21-20**

## SYFC Aeromodelling Challenge 2021



The SYFC Aeromodelling Challenge (SAC), an intra-school aeromodelling competition, was launched in 2020, as the original annual inter-school aeromodelling competition was not able to be conducted due to COVID-19 restrictions.

For 2021, the annual aeromodelling challenge continued to be held as an intra-school competition among all the SYFC CCA schools, as the COVID-19 restrictions remained effective. Each school was allowed to choose one aeromodelling segment for their students to compete in. The aeromodelling segments included the launch glider, control-line racing, radio-controlled fixed-wing pylon racing, flight simulation, as well as the first-person-view drone racing segment.

Both Bukit View Secondary School (BVSS) and Hai Sing Catholic School (HSC) were among the first few schools to complete the SAC 2021, competing in the flight simulation and launch glider segment respectively. The rest of the SYFC CCA schools would be completing their SAC at a later date. Congratulations to the winners of BVSS and HSC in SAC 2021. Well done!

# SYFC BASIC FLYING COURSE

## SYFC (BFC) CERTIFICATE

SYFC presents certificates to students who have completed their BFC Phase 1, BFC Phase II and First Solo Flight. We would like to extend our congratulations to the following students for their achievements.

### BFC 254

1	AVIENASH RAVICHANDRAN	BFC PHASE I
2	CHUA YI XUAN JON	BFC PHASE I, II & SOLO
3	LEE JING EE	BFC PHASE I, II & SOLO
4	NAMJOT KAUR	BFC PHASE I, II & SOLO
5	TEO SHAO WEI CHARLESTON	BFC PHASE I

### BFC 255

1	ANG WEI MAXIMILLAN	BFC PHASE I, II & SOLO
2	CHEN ZHI NING RONN	BFC PHASE I, II & SOLO
3	CHEONG WEI JIE MATTHEW	BFC PHASE I
4	DEVIN CAMERON GOAD	BFC PHASE I
5	GOH JAY KEE DYLAN	BFC PHASE I
6	LAW CHO SHUEN JOASH	BFC PHASE I, II & SOLO
7	LEE YU ZHANG DANIEL PAUL	BFC PHASE I
8	LEO KEE KIAT ETHAN (LIANG YIJIE)	BFC PHASE I
9	LEONG SU NIN	BFC PHASE I
10	LIM HAN CONG ZEN	BFC PHASE I, II & SOLO
11	LIM JIA CHING OSSDON	BFC PHASE I
12	ONG TIEN YU BRYAN	BFC PHASE I

### BFC 256

1	LIM KANG WEI GERALD	BFC PHASE I, II & SOLO
2	LIM WANG SHENG MELVIN	BFC PHASE I
3	RUTHRAESH S/O VENKATHESHWARAN	BFC PHASE I

### NP10H-20

1	CHOW RUI SHAN RYAN	BFC PHASE I
2	K SARAN	BFC PHASE I, II & SOLO
3	KAN HAO QING BRYAN	BFC PHASE I
4	SAWANT KRISHH NAHSHON VIVEK	BFC PHASE I

### PAC1-20

1	CHOW RUI SHAN RYAN	BFC PHASE I
2	K SARAN	BFC PHASE I, II & SOLO
3	KAN HAO QING BRYAN	BFC PHASE I
4	SAWANT KRISHH NAHSHON VIVEK	BFC PHASE I
5	LEE DYNN EON (LI DING YANG)	BFC PHASE I, II & SOLO
6	SEAH JUN HENG NIGEL	BFC PHASE I
7	TEOW QI-EN ASHER RAINAR	BFC PHASE I
8	VAIKESH S/O MANIMARAN	BFC PHASE I
9	NEO KAI XUAN PATRICK	BFC PHASE I

### RI7-20

1	LAW SHAO YI	BFC PHASE I
2	LIM KHOON LENG	BFC PHASE I, II & SOLO
3	TAN KENG GUAN	BFC PHASE I, II & SOLO

### RP10H-20

1	LIM HAN WEI JENSEN	BFC PHASE I, II & SOLO
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### SP10H-20

1	KER WEE KANG	BFC PHASE I, II & SOLO
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### TP20H-20

1	ANG SHAO WEI BRANDYN	BFC PHASE I
2	CHENG JUN WEI BRANDON	BFC PHASE I
3	KOH ZHE BIN	BFC PHASE I
4	LEONG JIA JUN RYAN	BFC PHASE I, II & SOLO
5	SOH WEI PENG	BFC PHASE I
6	THILAK RAMAKRISHNAN	BFC PHASE I

### TP21H-20

1	CHAN ZHENG SIANG	BFC PHASE I, II & SOLO
2	CHIA KANG KIET OSCAR	BFC PHASE I
3	LIM ZHONG DE	BFC PHASE I
4	TAN JIAN SUI MARCUS	BFC PHASE I, II & SOLO
5	SOH GUAN LIN BRIAN	BFC PHASE I

# SYFC'S VERY OWN VIRTUAL AEROBATICS TEAM!



Introducing the SYFC Virtual Black Knights (VBK)!

 <b>1</b>	 <b>Lead</b> Maximus Pang "PRIME"	 <b>2</b>	 <b>Right Wingman</b> Caderic Yeo "SCARECROW"	 <b>3</b>	 <b>Left Wingman</b> Seth Chew "SLOTH"
 <b>4</b>	 <b>Solo</b> Alexey Cher "OLAF"	 <b>5</b>	 <b>Lead Solo</b> Wong Jia Hao "RHINO"	 <b>6</b>	 <b>Opposing Solo</b> Aaron Cheng "SONIC"

SYFC VBK Pilots

The VBK team was officially formed in Oct 2020, comprising SYFC students from both the CCA programme as well as from the Basic Flying Course (BFC). Utilising the Digital Combat Simulator (DCS) World software, the pilots fly virtually together in the F-16 Fighting Falcon, decked in the same aircraft paint scheme and livery as the actual Black Knights aircraft. Flying virtually allows members to link up and train even from the comfort of their own homes, overcoming the physical restrictions posed by the current pandemic. To allow the team to fly in close formation and perform their manoeuvres with greater ease and realism, SYFC equipped the team with state-of-the-art equipment, including high fidelity simulator control stick and throttle, and Virtual reality (VR) goggles. Through this initiative, SYFC hopes to excite and continue inspiring youths to take up flying and eventually pursue a career in aviation.



*The VBK flying virtually in a 6-ship formation*



*More exciting manoeuvres performed by the VBK*

The VBK made its debut performance at the RSAF Open House in Dec 2021. For those who would like to relive the exciting moments of the show, you can view the recorded video on our YouTube channel. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rn0qO6HM3E>)



*Crew members of the SYFC VBK Team*

Apart from the pilots, the SYFC VBK team also has its own commentators, support crew, and media team, just like a professional aerobatics team!