

**Impington Model Aeroplane Club**  
 Founded in 1946 by Ray Malmström

edited by Alan Paul  
 alanpaul@outlook.com

February 2019  
 www.impmac.co.uk

## It's cold outside!!



Trevor finds a solution for frozen fingers as he has set up a ground station on his car roof and bonnet so that he can fly from inside the car with the heater on.

The only drawback was that it took half an hour to set it all up by which time he was frozen anyway.....!!

## Recycling electronics



Norman finds a good use for a motor, prop ESC, receiver and servos from a crashed plane

This quad bike careered round the Sports Hall making quite a noise at a recent event!!



Norman gives a sense of scale. He bought a quad bike from a toy fair and fitted an action man who steers the bike with a servo controlling his hands. It got up quite a turn of speed but you have to watch the cornering capabilities!

## Indoor flyers



Clive with his new Tiger Moth – this is a scale model of a Tiggy that his brother flew in Australia complete with VH registration.



Bruce with his Indigo which as usual flew really well.



John concentrates on hovering his mini Quad up close and personal.....



Terry wins the booby prize for the tidiest desk competition at a recent Saturday event in the Sports Hall



Clive and Roger discuss the finer points of Brexit and the effects of the proposed new Drone Laws on FF modelling.....



Gordon's Amethyst Falcon – a peanut model of an Australian single seater aerobatic ultralight plane.

Very few were built and Gordon spent some time getting it tamed in the sports hall – a tricky little model to get flying right!!

## BMFA and Club Membership

The club has over 70 members who have already renewed, but don't forget or you may not be insured and won't get the benefits of flying with one of the oldest clubs in the world (the club not the members!!). Last year we had 84 members so there may be a few of you reading this who are still to renew.

Alan Hoensch came up with a great way of keeping his BMFA membership card safe now you have to download and print it.

Alan has glued his printed membership details to the inside of the old plastic form from last year. See picture on next page!



I have been rather lazy and just keep it on my iPhone in case anyone wants to see proof of insurance.

## What's this then?



Answer at the end of the newsletter.....

## Going through hoops?

There has been a lot of interest in FPV racing mini quads which is a fantastic way of getting new people into our amazing hobby.

These little quadcopters are very cheap and surprisingly agile. They also seem to survive crashes rather well.....



Hoops set up in the Sports Hall



Membership Sec John shows off his Christmas present of some FPV goggles whilst flying his mini quad.

## RC crashes – Pilot error?

Most RC crashes are not attributed to pilot error, but rather some unexplained phenomenon like radio failure. I had 3 crashes last year that were caused by radio failure, but the underlying root cause was in fact pilot error.

All were when flying FPV where it is more difficult to remember where the model is in relation to your transmitter and obstacles like yourself, other people, trees etc.

The summary of my 2018 crashes is overleaf.....

**Easy Star into tree at Impington** – I flew behind myself, then behind the large tree. The model went into failsafe and spiralled into another tree (thanks to Peter, Bryan and Trev for the rescue! See the video [here](#)).



The cause was the radio going into failsafe after losing the signal, but the underlying cause was pilot error by flying behind me and the tree. This was compounded by having the failsafe on the factory default of "hold last settings" instead of "throttle low, controls centred". I think if I had it set to centre the controls, I could have recovered it.

**Lightning** – The model went into failsafe after launch, recovered, but then nose dived on final approach after another failsafe – this time the controls centred, but as a faster model it "arrived" fairly abruptly.

The cause was the radio going into failsafe at a ridiculously short range, but the real cause was more complex and was pilot error. I had trouble getting the model to connect to the transmitter, but instead of stopping to think, I just repeated the exercise till it worked. The connection was obviously not perfect, hence the failsafe. After the crash we realised that someone else had another high power UHF transmitter switched on and this had affected the connection process – later confirmed with the supplier.

**Artizan** – Again the model went into failsafe and crashed vertically at relatively short range.

On investigation, I was sitting down to fly the model and probably blocking the antenna causing loss of signal.



A perfectly round spinner hole in the ground after the model was "unplugged"....



A rather crumpled Artizan

In all cases, if flying line of sight or thinking about things a bit before flying, the problems would have been avoided. We live and learn!! It does, however, show the crash resistance of foamies!

## Dates for your Diary

- **Sat 26th Jan** - Indoor mixed RC and FF in the big Sports Hall (2pm to 5pm - £3 entry)
- **Sat 2nd Feb** - Indoor RC only in the big Sports Hall (2pm to 5pm - £5 entry)
- **Sat 9th Feb** - Indoor mixed RC and FF in the big Sports Hall (2pm to 5pm - £3 entry)
- **Sat 23rd Feb** - Indoor mixed RC and FF in the big Sports Hall (2pm to 5pm - £3 entry)
- **Sat 2nd March** - Indoor RC only in the big Sports Hall (2pm to 5pm - £5 entry)
- **Sun 17th March** – Public Open Day. Click [here](#) for info

## New Drone laws

The BMFA are doing a great job battling our corner on this and I think that most of us won't really see any significant change. As long as we conduct our flying safely it will be "carry on as usual".

We will still be allowed to fly above 400ft AGL with small fixed wing aircraft (1,000ft FPV). Quadcopters will be restricted to 400ft AGL.

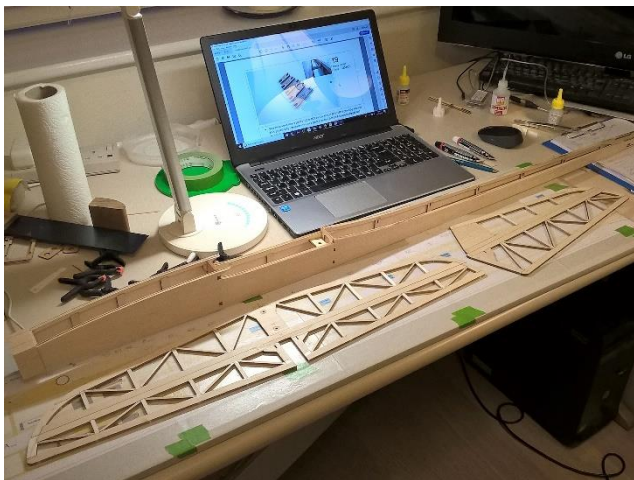
Currently we are not allowed to fly within 1km of an airfield boundary. This will now be increased to 2.5nm of the airfield centre.

The new rules will come into effect later this year.

## On the building board

John Clarke has been busy during the first few weeks of 2019. He writes -

The start of my first balsa build in 50 years since the Keil Kraft models I threw together as a boy. It is a joy to build such a quality kit with such precise laser cut parts.



Tail feathers and fuselage take shape on the building board.

The kit is a Hoellein (a German firm) Inside F5J. It has a span of 2.9m and is an electric thermal glider with a six servo wing.

No Nonsense thin superglue in action. £1.99 for 50g bottle from Screwfix is great value. I got the viscous superglue I needed from Toolstation.

A big thank you to Richard Staines, Tony Neal and Stuart Marsden for answering all my questions like how to cope with balsa dust -

sand it outside - just did that and so good to avoid all that fine dust in the house. It's brilliant to have a club with such a depth of knowledge in so many aspects of our hobby!



This photo shows how I hope it might look when it is finished.

Thanks for the write up John and we hope to see reports of how the build is progressing. If anyone else has projects on the go, I'm sure that our members would like to hear about them.

## Northampton Model Shop

Bryan Gostlow found a very interesting article about the founder Ted Evans who was a very talented model designer who opened the first shop in 1937. The article can be read online [here](#)



Ted Evans pictured outside his shop sometime after the war.

## Answer to What's this then?

It's a Beam Compass from an RAF Vulcan bomber. Interesting story - it was given to me to sell for charity as part of a house clearance and I sold it on eBay for £50 to a chap who is making a replica Vulcan cockpit in his spare room!!