

Impington Model Aeroplane Club
 Founded in 1946 by Ray Malmström

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October 2017
 www.impmac.co.uk

How long can you wait?

To fly your latest creation, that is! Here are 2 stories that show extreme patience (or did they just get lost in the loft?). Both these models first flew on Friday 4th August.



Tony Welch with his friend Peters Veron Spitfire. Construction of this model started in 1971. Tony took over the build in 2015 and after much re-engineering, it has just had its first flight at Impington in Tonys capable hands – only 46 years later.

If you thought that was pretty impressive, think again. Way back in 1956, Stan Milsom was just 15 and built a Scimitar CL stunt plane. This had an AM35 up front and it also had its first flight successfully on 4th August with Steve Mynott on the handle – an amazing 61 years after it was built. Surely this must be a record – unless someone out there knows better!!

The landing was definitely “one wheel on my wagon” after the starboard wheel fell off in flight. Well, I suppose Stan tightened it up in 1956 and had no reason to expect it to have loosened up. See picture at top of next page.



Stan Milsoms 61 year old Scimitar awaits its inaugural flight at Impington. I think that counts as an authentic vintage model.

Control of the pole?



Gordon Hannah shows great pole control to rescue his model which cleared all but the final hurdle on a great flight on a beautiful evening in early August.

What is it about model aircraft and trees – magnetism perhaps?

Ready, Aim, Fire.....

Or how to launch a large glider



Alan Hoensch holds Steves new glider aloft at Cottenham ready to launch. Well, the glider was new to Steve as he bought it for £20 at Old Warden. He has the knack doesn't he?



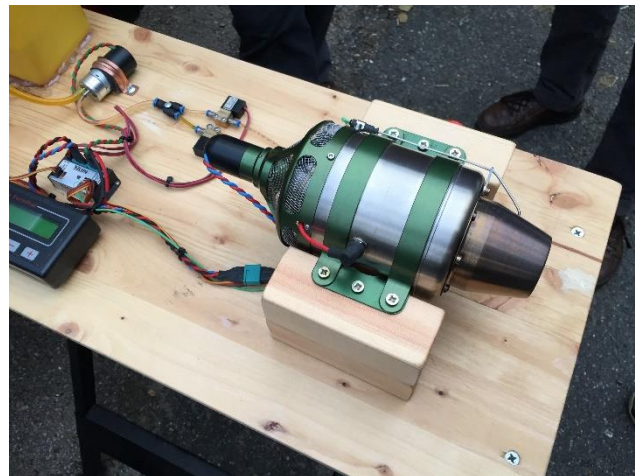
Alan takes up the slack as Steve powers up the winch



Away she goes – another perfect launch by the launch master himself. Interestingly these photos were taken on an iPhone using the 30 frames per second feature then selecting the best frames after the event – amazing.

All Gas but no Gaiters?

On a grotty Friday evening, Trevor brought along his Wren Gas Turbine on its test stand to show us how it worked.



An amazing little unit, it develops between 16 and 20 lbs thrust depending on the weather. With a fully automated on board start up and shut down system, it revs up to 160,000 rpm at full throttle and makes a very impressive and loud jet sound.



The noise attracts a crowd keen to see this technology in close up action. Trevor doesn't fly this unit but enjoys playing with this example of British technology. It has a single stage centrifugal compressor like Frank Whittles original.

To hear the engine idling and then spooling down, click here <https://youtu.be/To5iKthBsuk>

Bring out your photos

If you feel your side of the hobby is being neglected in the Newsletter, please get your camera phones out and snap anything of interest for inclusion. The editor is trying to get a fair balance, but can't be everywhere at once!!

A study in concentration

Continuing the theme of snapping modellers whilst flying and when they can't answer back or do anything worse.....



Tony Neal flies his Tomboy at Cottenham



See no evil, Hear no evil, Speak no evil – the terrible trio of Richard, John and Gotthelf concentrate at Impington on one of the rare good evenings we have had this year.



Someone counted 27 members at IVC on that great evening in late August. Here are a happy band of Radio flyers. At one point I counted 7 RC models in the air at one time – surely a record?

Little and Large

This duo put on a great display at a recent Old Warden flying display doing synchronised aerobatics. The full size Extra was flying a little further out than the 40% scale model making both appear about the same size in the sky.

Trevor and I were commenting during the display that the full size pilot was actually flying formation with the model, which when you think about it makes sense as doing it the other way round would be even more difficult!



Little and Large Extras parked side by side

Wots going on here then?



Not ready to launch, but Alan Hoensch's Mini Wot 4 perches on the back of Andy Halmshaws normal size model. Looked marginally indecent to me!!



Alan poses with the mini Wot 4 before his first flight at Cottenham. It proved to be quite a twitchy little flyer. Lovely construction with balsa and film covering. Perhaps Alan and Andy will do a formation display like the Little and Large Extras?

Hedge landing competition?



And the winner was..... John Street with his Waltz at Cottenham. John sees the funny side and was airborne again a few minutes later.

This definitely a "floaty" model that just glides on and on.....

Gotthelfs 1942 Spectre

Gotthelf must have been reading my mind about getting old models flying as he sent me these pictures of his 1942 Spectre which he built 32 years ago and recently flew at Cottenham under electric power. It had been a Hangar Queen for over 25 years, but flew like a dream with only minor tweaks required.



The picture shows the model in the workshop prior to electrification and in its original finery from when it was built 32 years ago.



Gotthelf with the diesel powered original in 1985. He hasn't changed much has he?



Here is the Spectre brought into the 21st Century and ready to fly with an electric powerplant and Radio Control.



The Overlander motor in the Spectre

Not a shred of lycra in sight

Although the nights are drawing in, Autumn is upon us and the heating is on, the plus side for us is a return to indoor flying in the gym and of course very soon (Saturday 30th Sept) in the big hall.



What a fine body of men in the gym going through their paces.....!!! I suspect the only physical activity will be Bruce pole vaulting to extract models from the roof.

Dates for your Diary

Sat 30th Sept – 2pm indoor flying in the big Sports Hall. £3 for the session

Thur 5th Oct - Indoor RC Combat competition. All accessories provided - any plane will do!!

Sat 14th Oct – 2pm indoor flying in the Sports Hall. £3 for the session

Sun 29th Oct – Public Open day in the Sports Hall and Old Gym. 9am to 5pm

Marks Vapor

Mark acquired a Vapor and wanted to get it into the air as quickly as possible. Inwoods sold him a Mode 1 transmitter with throttle and rudder on the right stick and elevator on the left stick as it was all they had. This caused a few tricky moments as you can imagine as his helpers had to learn a few new moves!!

We soon discovered to ignore the elevator on the left stick and just control the model in the old way – i.e. throttle for up and down and rudder for turning.



Pictured are Mark, Alan and Trevor a few Fridays ago after a successful flight. Trevor refitted Marks propshaft after a previous "heavy arrival" and Alan donated a spare set of wings after cannibalising a Vapor to get the electrics out for another model. Hopefully Mark will not need all the spare parts too soon.

What's this then?



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

Fly by night character?



You may have spotted this "Flybeam" model at Impington. It's a truly awful flyer, but Hobby King were flogging them off cheap so I couldn't resist.

With 130 LEDs it makes a colourful spectacle and is great for flying at dusk. When it gets really dark it tends to become a bit of a blob of light and loses definition – a feature of our eyes as they get older apparently.

When first flown it had terrible adverse yaw that saw the nose pointing away from the turn quite dramatically, but due to the wonders of modern transmitters 50% coupled rudder with aileron sorted that out. This allowed "yank and bank" control without having to coordinate rudder in the turns – lazy piloting but effective!!



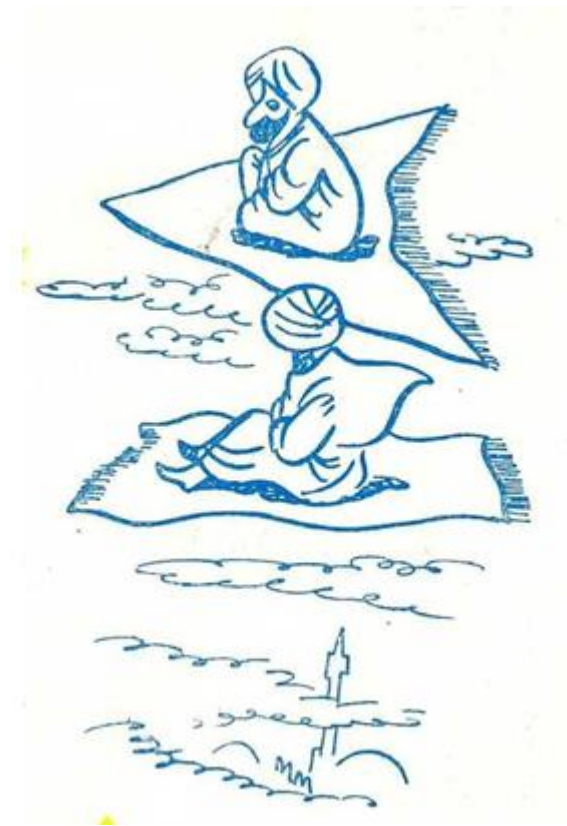
Alan basks in the rejected light from the Flybeam at Impington at the last outdoor flying session

Cottenham flying site

Most of you will know that thanks to Norman and by agreement with the Parish Council we can fly as guests on the 3rd field at Cottenham.

Now that the football season is underway, we have found that there is a lot of footie activity on Saturdays and Sundays, so unless you are prepared to risk disappointment, it would be best to stick to weekdays at the moment when you are almost certain to get the field to yourself.

Caption Competition



Can you come up with a printable caption for this cartoon?

Answer to What's this then?

It's a pair of Comet engine intakes seen at RAF Cosford

From the Archives.....

Who remembers Automodels in Kings Parade? This advert was in the 1953 Nationals brochure. The Nats were held at Waterbeach that year.

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