

# I say, I say, I say.

## A few of Ray's notable quotes

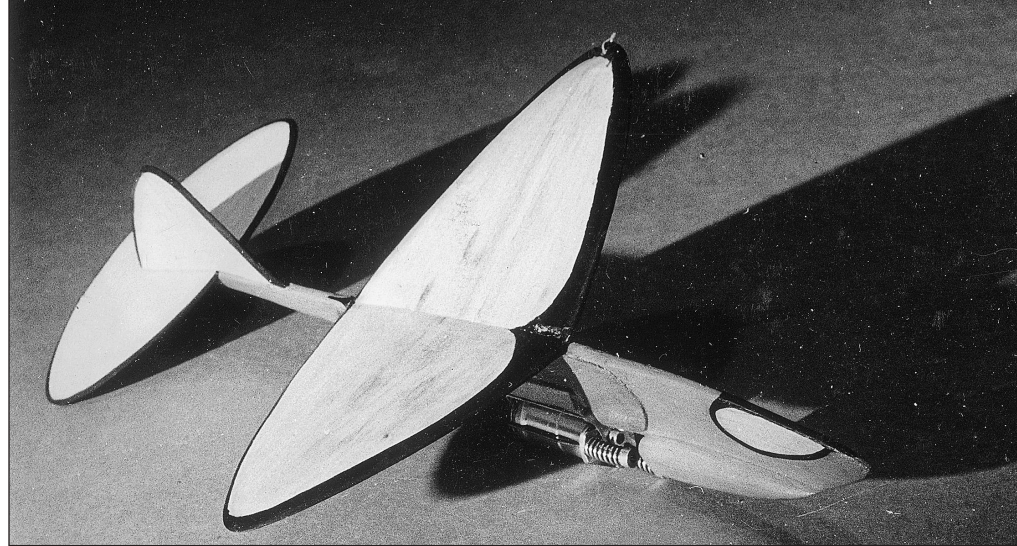
Ray, as well as being a master aeromodeller, could also be a master of words, the quick comic put-down, highly amusing, and just plain sensible! His quick wit was legendary and so was his ability to turn a misfortune into a, usually, amusing catastrophe.

Ivan Foster one of the founder-members of the IVCMAC recalls how Ray put paid to the use of the Gropius Hall – the college main hall – for some time.

Ivan recalls, "In the early days we flew small Jetex powered models round-the-pole and they could achieve quite high speeds.

"On one occasion Ray turned up with a tiny model of about three inches span and he said he thought it might be a bit fast. He lit up the Jetex and the model flew around the pole so fast we could hardly see it.

"Then it broke off the line, flew across the hall and went straight into one of the loudspeakers by the side of the stage – which did not



*Moonstreak – discovered in Ray's papers 50 years later. A previously unknown "Jetex" round the pole model. How many more early designs are waiting to be discovered?*

do either the model or the smoking loudspeaker much good.

"The college headmaster was not impressed and the club was banned, for a while, from using the hall".

### **Diesel control line in the art room**

More Ray-inspired antics, which would have the health and safety inspectors of today waving their politically correct rule books in the air, are remembered by two other long standing club members, John Wynn and Alan Hunter.

John remembers, "We used to fly diesel engine powered control line models around the pole in the art room and the main hall. The engines threw oil everywhere and the smoke, the smell and the noise of the diesel engines being run

indoors, is still in my memory. Somebody had to sit in the middle of the circle and hold the pole because the speed of the models would pull it over.

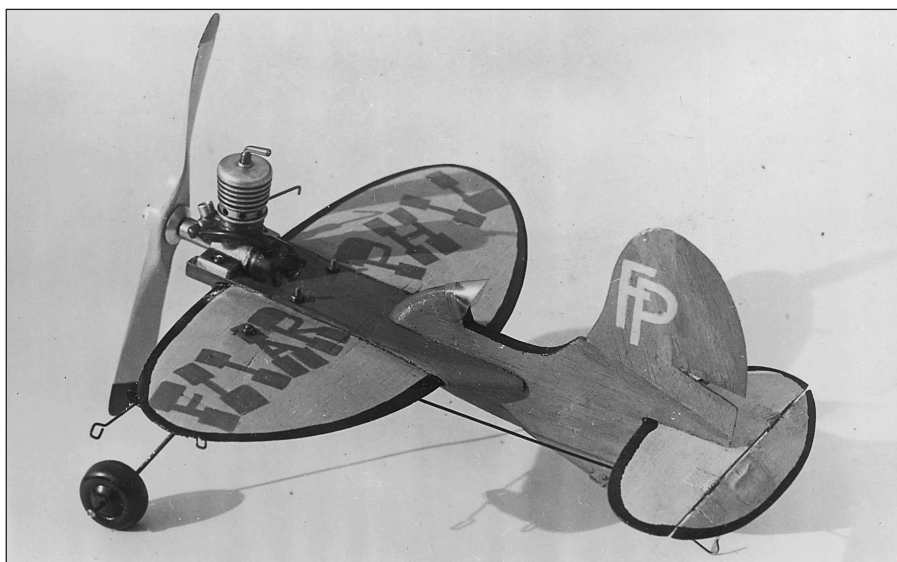
"It was a spectacular sight to see the small controliners with .5 cc engines speeding around. The day after evening meetings when we flew indoor controliners, you could see a thin film of oil sprayed over the walls around the art room – but nobody ever complained".

Alan who also witnessed the potentially lethal goings-on said, "People sitting around the circle when we were giving indoor diesel flying demonstrations usually received a dollop of oil on their knees and their legs, but took it in good measure. Can you imagine what they would say if it happened today".

Alan also recalls one of his encounters with Ray during a club session. "Ray came up to me and said 'I may not be able to teach you anything about art, but I can certainly teach you how to carve a propeller' and he did".

### **Malmstromisms**

When Ray was not designing and flying model aircraft and using his stentorian voice to keep a rebellious mob of art students in order, he was uttering, what can best be described as "Malmstromisms". These were pithy observations on the passing



*Fliar Phil – control line model designed in 1949 and powered by a ED .46 diesel.*

scene, or his genuinely held views on a particular incident.

For instance, there was the time when his prototype Hanriot, which eventually proved to be a remarkably good flying machine, went into a hedge surrounding the Impington Village College playing fields.

The errant model was retrieved easily, but one of the club members who helped in the rescue process observed to Ray that the paper pilot in the machine had fallen out and was nowhere to be seen.

Ray's immediate response was, "I can't blame the poor bloke for hiding. If I was a pilot in one of my models, I should want to fall out and hide myself".

His comments were many and a few of the most famous and popular ones are here for your amusement.

Each evening when Ray turned up at a club meeting with a new model he would exclaim, "Here's another little confection for your delight".

### It ain't natural

He attempted radio-control only once, throwing down the transmitter after two minutes, when the glider was spiralling earthwards. He proclaimed to the onlookers. "Radio control – it ain't natural". He never touched any radio equipment again.

### Circles

His view on control line flying: "I like this because I have been



*Meanderer – twin rubber powered model – designed during late 40's – no plans are known to exist. Many of Ray's early "near scale" models were based on full size types.*

going around in circles most of my life".

### Up in smoke

A constant smoker in his younger years Ray commented after one of his flaming Jetex models had crashed, "I can think of a better way of seeing my money go up in smoke – give me a fag any day".

### Roses gang up on Ray

Ray did a lot of his test model flying in the garden behind his home at Harlton village. On one occasion when the model landed in a clump of roses he was heard to declare, "My wife loves roses – but they hate me. Every time I go near them to find my model, the roses gang up on me and attack".

### A dressing down

Ray's knowledge of aeromodelling was unquestioned but his dress sense was questionable.

For years he arrived at flying evenings dressed in the same

ancient diesel fuel/rubber lubricant soaked trousers. He said he had become attached to them – probably literally.

A club member asked Ray if Father Christmas was bringing him a new pair of trousers.

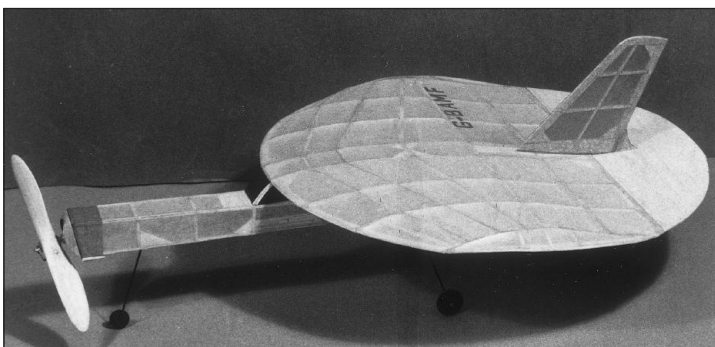
Ray replied, "I don't care how I look like providing I am legally covered". He was urged to build a flying scale model of the trousers – but he never did!

### Square wheels

These and many other of Ray's anecdotes are still remembered with affection by his former students as well as club members. But the comment that has gone down in local history is the all-time classic utterance.

"Any fool can make round wheels. But it takes a genius like me to make square wheels that work".

The spirits in Heaven must be on Cloud Lucky Seven, because, no doubt, Ray is still entertaining everyone.



*Another "unknown" model unearthed after 50 years. No name – no plan. No doubt it flew well, like all the rest of them.*



*One of Ray's "diversions" into boats. Another half a century ago "unknown", appearing to be a hovercraft.*