Sports centre update

Members will recall that we had been getting a huge discount for hire of the Sports Hall and that new management had decided to squeeze the pips on hirers like us. They informed us that our hire rates would go up from £21.67 per hour for the hall to £49. The field hire for Friday evenings would go up from £14 per session to £15 per hour.

We have been in negotiations for the last couple of months and have agreed a new contract with them to hire the hall for £24.50 per hour for 4 hour Saturday sessions and the field for £15 per session rather than per hour. The sports centre manager has been very helpful to our cause. This special rate only applies to 4 hour Saturday bookings!

The committee will be recommending some increases to our membership fees from $1^{\rm st}$ Jan 2024 when we produce our annual report in November. There are no changes for the rest of this year.

Because 75% of our costs are for indoor flying (about £3,000 per year), it is only fair that indoor flyers bear the brunt of the costs. The proposed new fees from $1^{\rm st}$ Jan 2024 are £30 for club membership (which includes all outdoor activities like Friday evenings, Girton and the annual BBQ birthday bash plus spectating and socialising at the indoor sessions). This has been at £28 for at least 10 years. The indoor flying season ticket is proposed to go up from £30 to £40 to cover all 28 indoor 4 hour sessions per year.

Members will get a chance to have their say at the AGM in December, but this is a heads up so you can comment now if you like. Just let any committee member know your thoughts.

Having agreed the new rates with the Sports Centre, we have now booked all the indoor flying for next winter to get the bookings in the bag, so indoor flyers can look forward to plenty of flying next winter.

All the dates are now on the website calendar.

Indoor FF scale Nationals



These were held in Wolverhampton on 23rd April and the club were well represented and John Wynn came 4th in FF intermediate with his Aeronca Champ.

In kit scale, Paul Hoey was 6th with his Auster J4 from the Aerographics kit, Garry Flack was 7th with his Veron Aeronca Champ and John Wynn placed 12th with his KK Piper Family Cruiser

In Peanut, Paul Hoey was 7^{th} with his Salta Fossi, John Valiant was 10^{th} with his Morane Saulnier and Garry was 12^{th} with his Westland Wyvern. Garry also came 6^{th} with his smaller Westland Wyvern in the Pistachio class.

Garry took home the Veron Phil Trophy for the 3^{rd} time for best Veron kit model. It's a heavy Tiger Moth trophy and he was heard to mutter that he's had to lug it back and forth for the last 3 years! He and John Wynn also came 2^{nd} in the air race.



Our own Gordon Hannah was a judge at the Nats and obviously found it hard work!!



John, Garry and John at Wolverhampton.



John prepares his Piper Family Cruiser



The Piper waits its turn



John Valiants Morane Saulnier



Paul Hoeys Salta Fossi



Garrys Pistachio Westland Wyvern

Veko Super Chief



Pictured during construction is Chris Caruanas new Veko Super Chief 53" span CL aerobatic model. Looks a fantastic build and will be fitted with an MDS 40 engine.

Chris says it's his biggest build yet. This is a proper vintage model dating from the 1950s.

Famous Air intakes



Can you name the aircraft? But don't mention the war. This was spotted at IWM Duxford – answer at the end.

BMFA World Record attempt

This took place for the second year running on 14th May and once again we decided to hold the event indoors in the Sports Hall. Last year we had 34 models in the air but this year we increased our number to 36.

We had 23 actual modellers but due to extreme cunning several were able to launch 2, 3 or even 4 models. Various ingenious methods to keep FF models wound prior to launch were used.



Pictured above are the happy band of flyers just after the event – thanks to cameraman Chris Constant. It was, as usual, total carnage and a video of the event is here.

Having the event indoors ensured that we had good weather and we had a good mix of rubber powered free flight, hand launched gliders, fixed wing RC and a drone.

Last year 263 clubs flew 3,109 planes. This year it was a bit lower with 182 clubs and 2,224 planes in the air. Thanks to everyone who came along.

Indoor flying



Mark Parrys large biplane flies by. Is it a pup or a Camel?



Alans Clik does an acceptable attempt at wall hanging

Tiger meet Hunter



Is this Malcolm Bates latest folly – the Dynam Hunter in Swiss Tiger meet colours.

Don't embarrass him by asking how the test flights went – just look at the video here

However, since then he has removed the flimsy undercarriage and it now hand launches with a good hard toss and lands perfectly. See the improved flights here.

Answer to What's this then?

It's a V1 flying bomb pictured at Duxford.

If you haven't been to Duxford for a while, it's definitely worth a visit.

Get in there!!



Gordon has a bit of trouble poking his rubber motor into his very nice Bulldog. It looks a lovely evening in the photo but there was a chilly North wind blowing. Here's hoping for good weather on Fridays from now on!

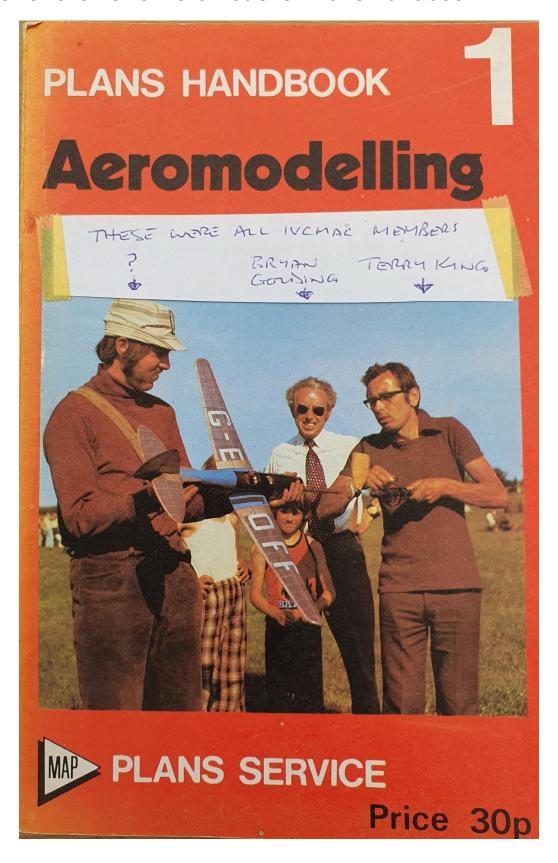
Bruces micro sized No-cal



Bruce has been building some fantastic larger No-cals for a while and at the world record attempt was flying this pistachio sized No-cal Piper Cub. As usual it flew pretty well and Bruce hopes to get a 2 minute duration from it.

I thought the "No-cal" referred to No Calories, but someone commented on one of my videos that it actually stands for North California where the idea originated. Does anyone know the real meaning for No-cal?

Cover of the 1975 Aeromodeller Plans handbook



Can any members identify the unnamed 3rd club member on the cover? Thanks to Chris Hinson for the loan of the handbook from his collection.