

Impington Village College Model Aeroplane Club

Based near Cambridge we fly Free Flight, Radio Control and Control Line aircraft



Newsletter March 2024

Website ivcmac.bmfa.uk

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Get your CL handles oiled

Sunday 2nd June is the annual F2b control line competition open to all comers at Girton. This is part of the National F2b contest calendar.

Once again this year there will be a clubman class competition and if you can string a few loops together you can have a go. Talk to John Copsey and get some practice on Friday evenings when we resume outside at IVC.



That's the way to do it – John Copsey concentrates.....

Electronic Wizardry by Greg

If you have been to any of the indoor RC or mixed sessions you will have seen and heard Greg Bradley's amazing LED and sound display that announces the various sessions. Safety Officer Stuart says it has contributed massively to indoor safety. Greg writes -

Hardware wise, at its core are five 64x64 3mm pitch RGB LED matrix panels from AliExpress, £7.38 each - which didn't seem bad considering similar panels from other sources seem to cost £30 each!



I then framed these panels together, in a horizontal configuration, using some 20x20 aluminium extrusion I had spare.



To drive the panels, I had an idle Raspberry Pi 3 B+ retired from "Homelab" duty, so opted to use that. I ordered an Adafruit RGB Matrix Bonnet which is an interface board that makes driving these types of panels from a Pi easy. Along with the RGB Matrix Bonnet I ordered a DS3231 Real Time Clock (RTC) breakout board which allows me to have a precise clock to reference against in order that I can change what is displayed on time, this is wired into the Pi's few unused GPIO pins.



Using the Pi's onboard audio wasn't viable as it interfered with the display, so I used a little "Sabrent" brand USB audio adapter, which a speaker can be plugged into. I also added a shutdown button for the Pi to allow graceful shutdown. That's about it.

The Pi is running the Pi OS Lite operating system, which I stripped down a little further. The key bit is a software library called "rpi-rgb-led-matrix" to control the LED panels.

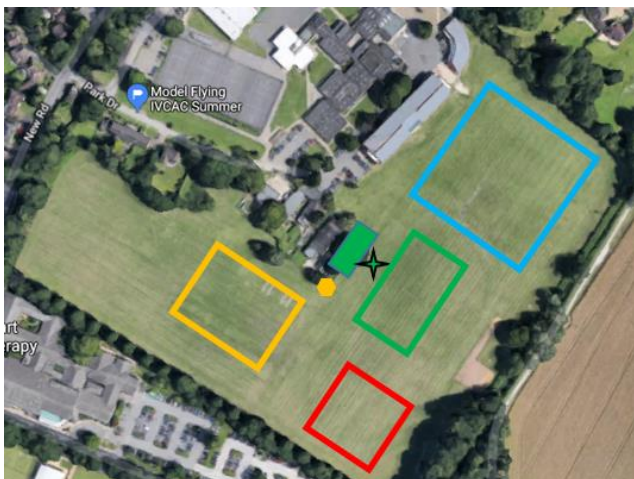
Outdoor flying – quad flying

When our Friday evening sessions restart at Impington on 12th April, we will be setting up a dedicated area for quad flying with gates and flags to fly around.

We will see how this goes but it has the potential for staging informal races and also allowing spectators to have a pilots view by watching on screen or in goggles.

As well as providing an interesting area for the drone pilots, it will also help ensure separation from uninvolved flyers as requested at the AGM. A big thank you goes to our new drone rep Daniel for promoting this initiative.

The new “normal” layout for Friday evenings is shown below and there will be alternatives in case of adverse wind conditions. Details of these flying arrangements will be on each calendar entry on the website for info.



Blue – Free Flight

Red – Control Line

Green – RC fixed wing Pits, Pilots and landing / take off area

Yellow – Low level Quad gates / flags and Quad pits

Girton Fete – Sat 13th July

We will be doing a display of CL and RC flying at the Girton fete again this year. If you are interested in helping out by flying or manning the stand and talking to the public, please let Alan Paul or John Copsey know.

Safety is paramount and due to the display permit rules, only experienced pilots will be able to display on the day.

Catch 'em young.....



Gordon Hannah found this photo of him building a Comper Swift with the assistance of grandson Luke aged 5. It's an old photo as Luke has just graduated from Cambridge University with a 1st in Engineering.

Indoor Control Line

Dave Marquis came along to show us his indoor CL models which are a bit like the indoor RC aerobats. He put on a valiant effort despite his slightly dodgy old LiPos!! Next time we should see some good vertical performance.



Dave Hooper launches the model with a 4 minute on board timer.



Not much room – duck!!



Not much room at the ceiling either. Dave does a carefully judged wingover.



After seeing the action junior member Heath gets into the swing of it by converting his RC plane to control line – well done!!

There is a video of the shenanigans [here](#)

Victor - ahead of its time



Pictured under the lights at Duxford is the restored (non flying) Victor. With its futuristic shape it was probably the most advanced of the 3 "V" bombers, although the Vulcan is probably the most famous and the Valiant dropped the first British H bomb!!

Bruce – world famous at last



Your editors YouTube videos normally get rather pathetic viewing figures, but the video of Bruces 4 gram No Cal Airacobra must have hit the mark with over 120,000 views and complimentary comments about Bruce from all over the world.

He'll be asking for appearance money soon!!
You can see the video [here](#)

New model flying regulations

We have had a number of members worried about this. As Corporal Jones would say "Don't panic Captain Mainwaring". This is for a number of reasons including –

- Any new regs won't come into force till 2028
- The BMFA are seriously battling for us in negotiations with official bodies.
- The dreaded remote ID where you have to stick a transponder on your plane won't apply to model planes being flown from recognised club sites
- If you want to fly away from a club site, by 2028 there will be miniscule Remote ID modules costing 13p and half a chicken that you can transfer between models.
- It's very unlikely that many people will understand or follow the rules anyway!

Photos and articles wanted

If you have any photos of your recently constructed "pride and joy", please let the editor have them for inclusion in future newsletters – thanks!!

From the Archives in 1953.....

The snippet below is from the brochure of the 1953 national championships which were held at RAF Waterbeach (now being converted into a giant housing estate!!).

Note the comments that for children, Aeromodelling was much healthier than playing with toy coshes, pistols and daggers!!

Those were the days eh?

FOREWORD

from the Commanding Officer, R.A.F. Waterbeach

GROUP CAPTAIN A. H. DONALDSON, D.F.C., D.S.O., A.F.C.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome all participants and spectators to the Society of Model Aeronautical Engineers' National Display at Royal Air Force, Waterbeach.

Whilst we cannot guarantee you perfect weather, all of us here are most anxious that you should feel nothing else is lacking.

We, in the Royal Air Force, attach great importance to this comparatively new sport, as we feel that it has a great part to play in making the country air minded. In the past thousands of small children first became interested in aviation through the medium of model aircraft and how much healthier is this sport than most, with its promise of fresh air and exercise. How much healthier it is than playing with toy coshes, pistols and daggers !

So we wish you long and safe flights and an enjoyable meeting.

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R.A.F. Airfield
Cambridge

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D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C.

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