

Impington Village College Model Aeroplane Club

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



Newsletter January 2025

Website ivcmac.bmfa.uk

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Round the Pole – 28th Dec

The RTP flyers will be in the sports hall on Saturday 28th December from 12 noon to 4pm. Members are welcome to come along to see them in action. This is a session just for them as they are paying for the hall.

David Hooper



We have just had the sad and shocking news that club member and regular control line flyer David Hooper passed away suddenly on 28th November 2024.

Although not many members will have known Dave H who was only 73, he was a regular visitor to Girton and was well known on the CL events circuit. An interesting character, and a very good control line pilot, David also flew large RC Gliders and was also into model boats and trains. He was the complete model builder/operator in the old fashioned sense.

Another little known fact about Dave was that for many years before retirement, he was a senior manager at the Houses of Parliament where he was in charge of a team maintaining the building and all the furniture and the equipment within it.

Nijmegen Indoor Fly-In

Club member and BMFA stalwart Paul Hoey attended this event and sent in his report.

For 12 years the Nijmegen Club in the Netherlands has been organising an International Indoor Fly-in in the largest sports hall I've ever seen. The event attracts some of the top indoor scale modellers from the Czech Republic, Sweden, the UK and the Netherlands (and me for the first time). In all there were 40 participants across a range of classes from Pistachio to Peanut; Kit Scale to Open classes.



Pauls Veron Tiger Moth – 2nd in kit scale

As would be expected the top competitors built and flew magnificent replicas. Somewhat, encouragingly even the best didn't always have trimmed models. But then there were the Czechs, who pretty much cleaned up with Tonda Alfrey winning 8 trophies. Tonda's Open electric winning Curtis Condor even had retracting undercarriage.

There is much more I could write but the best way to view the models and videos is by going to the HipPocket Aeronautics site at Nijmegen

[IIFI](#) Peter Fardell, will also be reporting in a future Aeromodeller and Mike Stuart on his [ffscale](#) website.

How did I get on? Well, a 12th place in Peanut and middle of the pack was ok. The ceiling of the hall was, in my case, 10 seconds too low which meant I could only wind to 1375 turns. But a 2nd in Kit Scale was a complete shock. An hour before the first round my Veron Tiger Moth hit the wall on a trimming flight and knocked off the starboard wings. A speedy repair and a quick trimming flight actually improved the trim.

So that's the briefest of summaries of an amazing and exhausting weekend hosted by Bernard and Roel who didn't miss a trick, even providing lunches and a meal on Saturday evening. Congratulations Nijmegen, see you next year all being well.

Boy Racer and Bug



Steve Midson of Midair models has made 2 new prototypes – pictured above is the Boy Racer and below the Bug.



I have ordered 2 of each on a personal basis to try them out and to save postage. If anyone wants to buy one, just let me know.

Tiger Tiger burning bright

Mike Jasztal brought along an amazing slow flyer to a recent RC session and writes –



Ever since I first started RC flying a few years ago after retiring I was drawn to trying to build slow flying indoor RC models. Although trying to build light I was always hampered by using a Futaba Tx and the lack of lightweight radio kit. I recently set myself a challenge to find a way to build an indoor plane that would fly much slower than my current models and could accommodate an Eachine TX02 camera for FPV flying.

To achieve this I decided to use 1 mm Pichler Super board (Vector PP foam) and a spare 'brick' from the Eachine/Volantex 40cm warbird range (I have the Spitfire with the accompanying Tx). This combined Rx/Stabiliser can operate in 3 or 4 Ch mode and only weighs about 9g.

Interestingly, in 3 CH mode the only way to get the brick to work correctly with stabiliser on meant I had to route the rudder linkage across the fuselage or add in a pivot link, I chose to do the former.

After anguishing between whether to attempt a flying wing or a biplane I decided on the latter. A couple of years ago I built a 'SlowBipe' from photos on RC Groups (model now defunct) and thought that could be a suitable plane to modify accordingly (the 1 mm board is very flexible !).

The resultant model is indeed a slow flyer, able to fly slower than Vapors. Wingspan is 61 cm, the weight of the airframe is 55.5g and I fly with a 10.6g 1'S' 200 mAh battery, giving a wing loading of 4.9g/dm². In this configuration it flies nicely and I am very happy with how the plane performs. The

plane is tail heavy and currently needs the stabiliser on to be able to fly.

If I add on the Tx02 camera and 100mAh battery I have to fly at max throttle to keep it afloat which, though slow is still a bit fast for FPV control so I think I might need to find a way to loose some weight by both cutting out fuselage holes and trimming of surplus foam where I can. I may also then be able to get the CofG forward to the right place?

Incidentally, the colour scheme came about because as a foamy white model it looked a bit boring, so I added the Tiger face. I then though I'd add a few stripes and before I knew it I'd covered the whole thing! Some of my friends messaged to say 'Its grrreat!!' I'm sure you all remember Tony the Tiger of Frosties cereals fame?

Foam Stampe



Fred Drew pictured after the maiden flights of his new Stampe biplane. This was a partial kit produced by Chris Stewart and it flew really well with Fred at the controls.

Biplanes do seem to be great slow fliers indoors with all that wing area at the cost of very little additional weight.

Supercapacitor FF "Komet"



This is Jon Oakleys latest creation and he writes -

The model is based on a central 3mm Balsa strip onto which the motor, supercapacitor, switch, and a former to make the wing aerofoil shape are mounted.

The wings, tail, and fuselage sides are all made from 3mm B&Q foam. The motor is a 7mm x 20mm coreless motor (0720) mounted in the nose, the supercapacitor is a 2.7v type with 10 Farad capacity (10F) and is mounted at the rear of the model for balance. Wingspan is 20", weight 23g.

It has flown successfully several times now, though it does have a tendency to go out of trim in storage. Just to prove it can fly, a video can be found [here](#). The capacitor was charged for approximately 10 seconds from a 4.5v (3 x AA) battery pack.

I've just ordered another 10 of this size supercapacitor from China for my own stock. I don't really need that many, but I avoided paying postage if I bought 10. If anyone does want one for themselves, I'm happy to part with a few at £1.50 each once they arrive.

Annual General Meeting

This was held on Saturday 7th Dec in the sports hall during a brief lull in the flying.

Over 30 members attended and the minutes have been published on the club website [here](#).

Not enough lift?



Tony Welch attempts lift off with 3 small helium balloons at the Christmas dinner. I suspect his calculations were somewhat impeded by alcohol LOL.

Hazy days of summer



Stuart winds his Ajax at the Old Warden summer event. There was a great turnout of club members and I kept bumping into people I knew – Ed.

The Chris Strachan Trophy

Gordon Hannah has purchased a new trophy for the BMFA to be called "The Chris Strachan Trophy" which will be awarded at the Indoor Scale Nationals for the 'best model of a racing aircraft in the view of the judges from any of the free flight classes'.



The trophy is in the form of a glass octagonal column with the top cut at an angle and engraved on the top with an outline of one of Chris' racing models together with the inscription "The Chris Strachan Trophy".

Next indoor meeting

The first indoor session of 2025 is on Saturday 4th Jan and it's a mixed session with RC from 1pm to 3pm and Free Flight from 3pm to 5pm. Check the website for updates and details as usual.

RC Limbo Competition

This will take place during the 4 "At your Peril" slots on Saturday 18th January – check the website for full details [here](#).

Happy Christmas and New Year to everyone.

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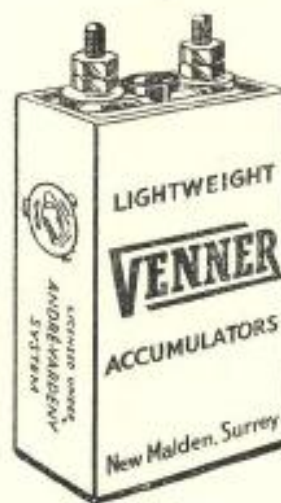
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