

Impington Village College Model Aeroplane Club

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

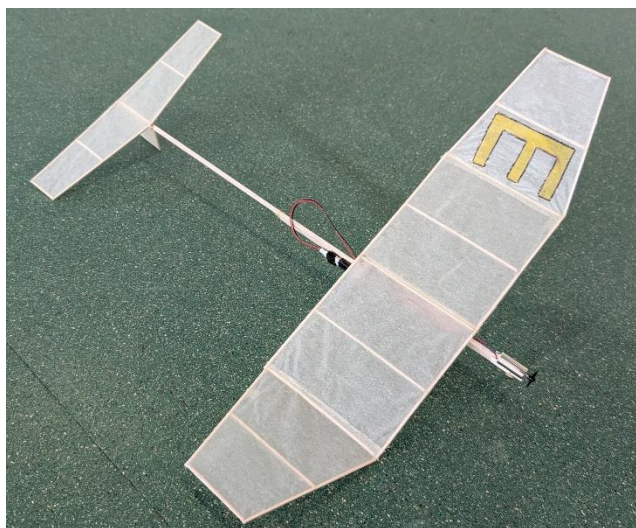


Newsletter May 2025

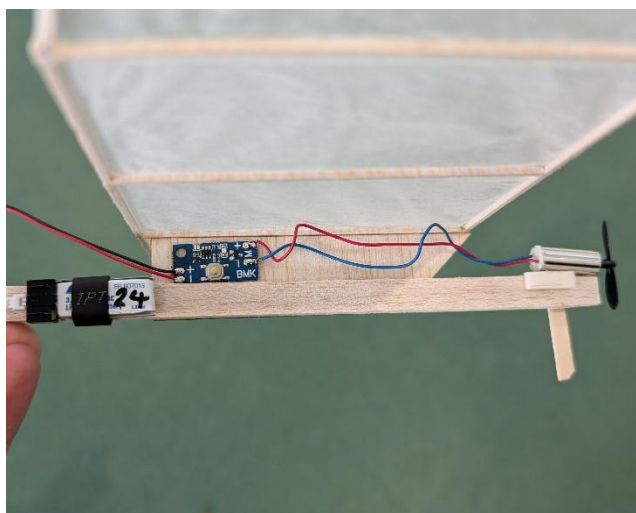
Website ivcmac.bmfa.uk

edited by Alan Paul
alanpaul@outlook.com

Not what you expected?



This is no ordinary Gyminnie Cricket. Roy Bowron was flying it very successfully in the sports hall. It has a small electric motor – you can buy 4 of them for £6, and is powered by a small 1S Lipo. It took a few attempts to get the timing right and it now flies with a 25 second timer – the key being to get a slow rate of climb so it doesn't reach the ceiling too quickly.



The timer is a BMK device bought from Mike Woodhouse at Free Flight Supplies. The motor came with a bigger prop, but this delivered too much power, so Roy found some smaller props and push fitted one onto the motor.

It really flew just like a free flight model.

All boxed up



4 beautifully made free flight models in Nigel Masters equally well constructed box. All models well spaced out to avoid hangar rash unlike some boxes we have seen!!

Name that iconic cockpit



Seen at Duxford and the star of many films, this iconic Boeing aircraft is one of the last flying examples of the 12,600 that were built during the war. It is of course the B17 "Sally B".

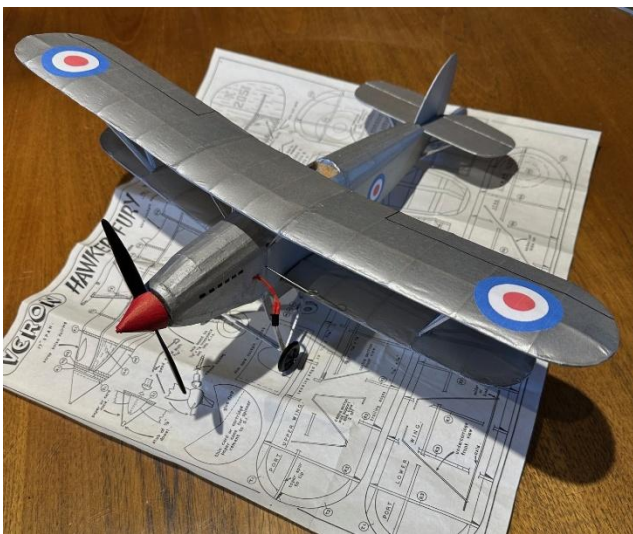
Your editor plus grandson were thrilled to be given a guided tour by club member James Fawcett who was volunteering as part of Sally Bs engineering team. We were spotted by James as we were taking notes as part of a school project.

Keil Kraft Erco Ercoupe



Roy Bowron bought this KK kit at the sale we had in February and he converted it for RTP, It flew well during the RTP session in April.

Veron Hawker Fury



Not content with quickly building the Ercoupe. Roy also built another of John Broads kits from the model sale – this time a lovely Veron Hawker Fury which he has also converted to RTP. It also flew well.

Watch your props!!

With more serious outdoor flying now, a timely reminder to watch your electric props – they are sharp and dangerous, and they don't stop till they reach the bone. Always treat them as "live" and do your testing with the prop off!!

Don't take your eye off it



This was the rather expensive result of a momentary distraction whilst flying a high performance 80mm ducted fan Red Arrows Hawk jet. Just looking at your transmitter to find the retracts or flaps switch can be fatal.

Sadly no amount of UHU Por and cocktail sticks could repair this one and a large black bin liner was required!!

There is a moral to this story but we are not quite sure what it is.....

RC Factory Puddlestar



This is the RC Factory Puddlestar – a lightweight and highly aerobatic twin engine floatplane. Built for either line of sight or FPV proximity flying off land or water – what could possibly go wrong?

A video taken of the maiden flight by Malcolm Bates is [here](#). And the maiden crash [here](#). And the first water flying [here](#).

Editors note – if you want an aerobatic plane of under 1m wingspan that flies fantastically, is crash resistant and won't break the bank, have a look at the RC Factory range at Aerobax. These models have been designed by experts and can be bought with a high quality electronics pack that matches the models perfectly. They are also an interesting and quick build project.

Girton Flying Site

Now that we are hopefully nearing summer, Girton is getting busier and we need to fly there safely!

We have noticed that the gate is often open, and if so you can drive straight through, but keep your speed down and an eye out for pedestrians. The general idea is that we leave the gate as we find it. The code and lock have changed. The new code is 4722.

Once on the field, people should not be walking dogs anywhere other than the edges, but they often do, so keep a sharp eye out especially if you are on your own. Don't launch or land if anyone is in the immediate area.

U3A course tutors required

Club member James Fawcett is working with the University of the 3rd Age (U3A) to set up a model building and flying course which would start in early 2026. The plan is for 10-12 weekly 2hr sessions on a day of our choosing with 8 students.

We will make a couple of simple balsa & tissue free flight models e.g. the BMFA Gyminnie Cricket and Frog. Once built we would help with flying and trimming at our Saturday sessions. We would then move on to a simple foamie RC trainer like the RC Factory Step One ready for the Friday evening outdoor sessions.

We would need a pool of "tutors" both to help with the classroom building and also the subsequent flying and repairing!! If you feel this is something you would like to help with, please contact James at jamesfawcett108@gmail.com

Super SE5a



This is Malcolm Bates new e-flight SE5a – after a brief ground handling incident it flew perfectly in a nice scale manner – although it has the power and aerobatic capability to unleash the inner devil in the pilot!!



Nice cockpit detail including the obligatory pilots scarf. Video [here](#)

Mercury Aeronca Sedan

Gordon Hannah writes - For quite some time I have been dropping hints that I would be interested in combining with a club member who would like to take on the R/C elements of a model whilst I did the construction. Flying would also most likely be done primarily with the other partner.

This came to fruition as a result of two things. First was my attempt last year to make and fly a model which had long been in my bucket case - a Southerner 60 Keil Kraft kit of the 1950's - which I built to a reasonable standard but made a complete Horlicks of a flight and wrecked it last summer.

Retiring to my workshop with my tail between my legs I thought that was that.

Things changed with the second thing which was the appearance on the BMFA auction last year of the Mercury Models Aeronca Sedan - another bucket list item from long ago.

Somehow Paul Burling and myself got into conversation about this kit and he called round and we talked about how we could make a viable R/C model from it.

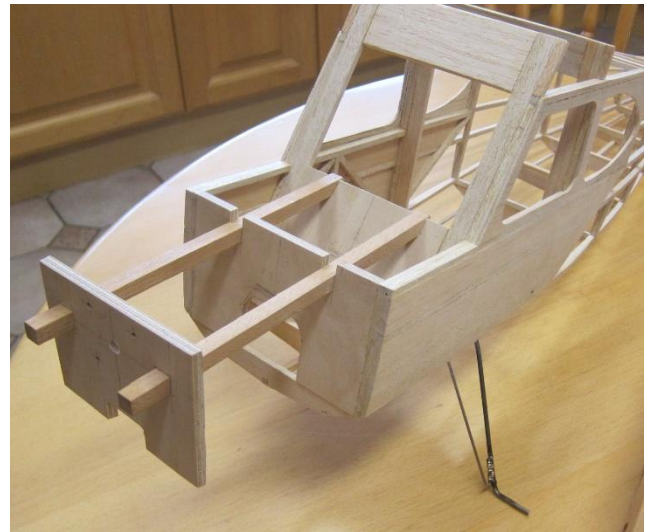
It was well into the construction of the model before we thought the trials and tribulations of this project may be of interest to club members.



On opening the box it became apparent there was a lot of timber and of sizes which as an indoor modeller were somewhat larger than I am normally used to. The wood is of pretty good quality but a lot heavier than the lightweight stuff I am used to - apart from needing a razor saw instead of a scalpel this was no problem. In fact there were significant advantages as I don't seem to do as much damage during construction due to clumsy handling as I normally do.

We set to by looking at the major alterations required. The kit was designed around a side mounted diesel (about 1.5 - 2.5 cc) and we are to use the electric motor from the late Southerner. So the front end needed a complete redesign to incorporate a 1/4 ply bulkhead onto which the motor is to be mounted. The engine bearers provided in the kit are used to beef up the connections between the forward bulkheads. The kit had

balsa for these items which we have replaced with ply.



The undercarriage detail in the kit was an odd arrangement whereby the whole thing swung back restrained by rubber bands. A recipe for disaster, so we decided on a fixed, solidly built arrangement in the traditional style. There were no wheels with the kit, but fortunately I had a very suitable pair.

Precise fitting of all the R/C items has to be sorted in detail but the voluminous cabin will make this no problem, other than the tailplane and fin are set rather high will need careful thought as to their mounting arrangements.

Safety on Friday evenings

Members have been reminded about following the guidance for RC flying on Friday evenings. It can get quite crowded and we all need to take care. The guidelines are on every calendar entry on the website or [here](#).

Control Line fly in 18th May

There will be an extra event at Girton this year to compensate to some extent for the cancellation of the Old Warden model flying events. We hope to have 4 circles of various sizes including a 22 Metre diameter circle for a low key F2b competition if anyone is interested. Clubman Stunt will be run if there are sufficient entrants.

Contact John Copsey for full details which are also on our website calendar.

From the Archives..... 1970s Radio Control

This was the step up from single channel – a 12 channel “Reed” switched system. Don’t get excited as it was in reality a 6 channel set with 2 channels for each control giving, for example, full left or full right aileron with no proportional control. You effectively had to blip the switches either way!! And to rub salt into the wound, it cost more than a decent radio today!

