

# Impington Village College Model Aeroplane Club

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



## Newsletter June 2025

Website [ivcmac.bmfa.uk](http://ivcmac.bmfa.uk)

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### Chris Strachan

Most members will know that past club President Chris Strachan died on 30<sup>th</sup> April. Chris was a fantastic builder and flyer of mainly free flight models and was definitely not afraid of a challenge.

Chris joined the club in the early 1980s and was recognised early on for his prowess.



This drawing by Ray Malmstrom was sketched in 1983 and was accompanied by the article below in the club newsletter from Oct 1983.

There's no holding our very own superman (as we so rightly described him last month) - Chris Strachan of course. Not content with knocking them for six at Old Warden and mopping up a large handful of indoor events on the way he has now won the club's coveted REN-Cup and the CO2 Trophy. The lovely sunshine of the last Sunday in September saw Chris at full stretch at RAF Oakington. He notched up around a five minutes total in the REN-Cup with his boooootiful Condor Clipper then got his little CO2 Puffin a' puffing around the sky to win the second trophy of the afternoon. Longest flight was well over four minutes and reports Chris "It came down next to the scrap metal yard!" Is there no stopping this chap? How about some team racing of Gold Trophy stunt, Chris? Congratulations from all the club - and to all other club contest winners too.

Chris carried on winning events for the next 40+ years both indoors and outdoors.



Chris won the Ren Cup in 2017 and is seen here accepting the prize from Michael Marshall. Chris was an avid outdoor flyer who travelled widely with large outdoor free flight models packed in extravagantly decorated boxes.

The Ren cup is awarded to the winner of the outdoor competition held at Newmarket every summer. The cup was given to us by Maurice Reynolds who owned Renbros model shop on East Road in Cambridge.



Chris was winning competitions up till June 2022 when he won the Malmstrom Trophy "bow tie" for the best Malmstrom design at our annual summer fly in "Birthday Bash".

He is seen above receiving the trophy (another one) from Michael Marshall.



Chris was very keen on racing planes and built quite a collection including this rare Hurlburt Hurricane – a midjet racer from the 1940s



It was somewhat fitting that on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April, just days before Chris died, his wife Christine was presenting the newly created "Chris Strachan Trophy" to the best racing plane at the free flight indoor scale Nats at Wolverhampton.



This picture shows Christine presenting the Chris Strachan trophy to Tim Horne at the Indoor scale Nats.

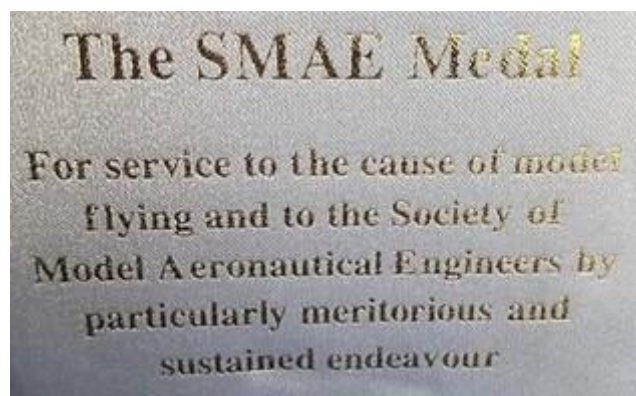
The new trophy was designed and donated by his friend Gordon Hannah. It is made of glass and has an engraving of one of Chris's racing models on the front face.



The trophy pictured with some of his models before being presented at the Nats in April.



In November 2022, Chris was awarded the coveted SMAE medal at the BMFA prizegiving and annual dinner ceremony.







The SMAE Medal awarded to Chris



Chris even dabbled in the dreaded foam and radio control....!! He secretly rather enjoyed it.

Chris had a long and happy life where model flying was one of his passions and where he was very highly regarded amongst his peers.

We will miss his enthusiasm and skills.

## Flying down under!



Don't complain about the state of our grassy fields – this is a picture from Merv Harris in Adelaide who says it plays havoc with his undercarriage!!

Merv contacted us after seeing a picture of "Humbug" in one of Bryans 2016 newsletters and has stayed in touch.



Has anyone got a plan for "Humbug" which was designed by Phil Stubbs.

## Impington all weather pitch

Some of you will know that IVC have been trying to get an all weather pitch through the planning process for a couple of years. The plans have now been approved, but there is no start date yet. We are in contact with the college and will give you an update when we get it.

The new pitch will be in the area where RC flying takes place and will have a 4.5m fence all around it and floodlighting. This could prove to be a challenge or an opportunity for our Friday evenings!! See below for details.



Above is an extract from the plans. The running track shown in the top right is just grass still. The darker green bit on the right is a storage area.

Overleaf is a better picture showing where the pitch will be.





Location of the new sports pitch

## Birthday Bash all day fly in

This will be held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August on the field at Impington. Everyone is welcome to fly free flight, control line, fixed wing RC and drones.

It's the usual format of Friday evenings, but all day with some lunchtime refreshments provided free of charge.

The only change from Friday nights is that fixed wing RC will fly from the other side by the sandpits to keep the sun behind us.

Put the date in your diary!!

## Nats report - ME Bf 109 K-4

This is John Valiants latest entry for the BMFA Scale Indoor Free Flight Nationals 2025 Peanut class held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April at Birmingham University.



The model is a Messerschmitt Bf 109 K-4 made from blue foam and hand painted using

acrylics. It weighs 12 grams with rubber and had two successful trimming flights before the Nats.



This picture shows the documentation that is required for the scale part of the competition. Luckily he found on the web a colour picture of the remains of white 16 for colour comparison.

John placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the scale judging (equal with Garry Flacks FW190D-9) but was 12<sup>th</sup> overall after 2 best flights of 38 seconds. Garry placed 9<sup>th</sup> overall after flights of 47 and 33 seconds.

The Messerschmitt Bf 109 K-4, also known as "Kurfürst," was the last production version of the iconic German fighter, introduced in late 1944, and featured a powerful engine and impressive climbing capabilities.

Unlike previous variants, the K-4 was purpose-built as a high-performance fighter, not recycled from older airframes. It entered squadron service in October 1944. Only around 700 Bf 109 K-4s were manufactured, with the last leaving the production lines in April 1945.

The K-4 was equipped with a powerful Daimler-Benz DB 605 supercharged engine, offering a maximum of 1,850 hp. It featured a two-stage centrifugal supercharger with MW50 injection into the supercharger intake. The engine spun a three-blade constant speed propeller.

It was armed with a 30 mm MK108 cannon installed in the propeller hub and two 13 mm MG 131 machine guns on the engine cowling. It had impressive climbing capabilities, even exceeding those of some Allied fighters.



In Kit Scale Garry's Aeronca Champ (Veron) came 7th and in Pistachio his Westland Wyvern had two best flight times of 28 and 26 seconds and came 6th.



Garry's miniscule Pistachio scale Westland Wyvern alongside a piece of A4 paper!!

In the Air Race John only managed 2 laps and retired with a broken wing. Garry got halfway through but then got caught up on one of the balloon strings and then retired.

Better luck next year and bring the Chris Strachan trophy home to IVCMAC.

## Girton Fete – Sat 12<sup>th</sup> July

Once again, we will be doing a CL and RC flying display at the Girton fete and would welcome members to fly, display models and talk to the public. It is usually a good do as well.



Pilots flying must be approved in advance and on the official display permit – please contact Alan or John Copsey if you would like to fly on the day. Spectators and helpers can just turn up and enjoy the fete!!

## Ray Malmstrom Cup

This annual CL F2b aerobatic competition open to all comers will be held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June at Girton.

Full details are on the website or contact John Copsey. Everyone is welcome to fly or watch the cream of control line aerobatics. There is a cup for the overall winner and also the highest placed IVCMAC member.



CL line up at a previous RM Cup

## Model flying regulations

You probably saw the message from the BMFA about the proposed rule changes and how they will affect model flyers. The thing to take away from this is that in almost all cases, the changes will not affect us in any way at all.

All our sites will be nominated as official sites and we'll be able to carry on using them exactly as before. Don't panic Captain Mainwaring!!

## What's this then?





## Jons Dakota



Jon Oakley pictured after 2 successful flights with the Dakota at Impington. This model was donated to us by Nickie Butler, whose father was Lindsay Brown a club member from many years ago.

The model was given to Lindsay about 19 years ago by friends and colleagues from Bourn Airfield including our own Peter Cunnison who refitted the model with brushless motors. Sadly Lindsay died before he could fly it.

Jon restored it over the winter and it had its first flights in May. It was made by Great Planes originally with brushed motors.

Nickie and her family were very pleased to see the model flying after all those years.

Video [here](#)

## BMFA News

Eagle eyed readers may have spotted the Club Corner article about IVCMAC in the latest edition. If not, why not.....!!

## Girton CL fly in 18<sup>th</sup> May

This was an extra CL fly in to compensate slightly for the loss of the much loved Old Warden Mayfly event.

Some 25 people came along and had a great time. Hopefully some photos will emerge from the event for a future newsletter.

Thanks to John Copsey for organising this. Hopefully it will become an annual event.

## VMC "Finn" catapult gliders



The club has purchased some of these models which are great flyers – either thrown or catapulted. These are available for members at £5 for juniors and £10 for adults. Stuart Marsden should be able to demonstrate them on Friday evenings. Even Bruce our CLG expert was impressed!!

## That's a long pole



Bryan Kenzie wields his 37ft pole made from amateur radio antenna parts. It put Bruce's pole to shame but sadly we were unable to rescue Karas quad from the top of the fir tree. If you know an out of work tree climbing chimney sweep urchin, let Kara know, or don't they do that anymore?

## Answer to What's this then?

Spotted in Jersey it's a relic from the Nazi occupation of the islands from 1940 to 1945. It's a 6m wide stereoscopic rangefinder for the coastal battery. The unit in front is the azimuth calculator and inputs from the 2 devices are fed into the guns.



The future of flying? – from the 1966 Aeromodeller Annual

