

Impington Village College Model Aeroplane Club

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



Newsletter October 2025

Website ivcmac.bmfa.uk

edited by Alan Paul
alanpaul@outlook.com

BMFA Club of the Year 2025

IVCMAC are the inaugural winners of the BMFA club of the year award. This is open to all 800 BMFA clubs, and as well as reviewing the clubs documents and websites, it placed particular emphasis on recruitment and a welcoming attitude to new members.

Our motto has always been "Friendship, Flying and Fun" and the committee wants to thank all members who help to create a friendly and helpful environment for each other and especially for new members.

Several clubs were very close at the top of the scoring, but we were the only club to cater for all the main flying disciplines, and this probably tipped the balance in our favour.

Chairman John Copsey will be collecting the Robin Gowler memorial trophy at the BMFA annual awards dinner in November.

I'm sure that Ray Malmstrom who founded the club in 1946 would be proud.

Next year the club is 80

We are looking to celebrate this in style next year and we may be able to get a little bit of BMFA funding. Any ideas would be welcome.

Ideas so far are for an expanded outdoor Birthday Bash with a FF Ray Malmstrom competition open to other clubs and perhaps inviting other flyers for a CL fly in and an RC streamer length competition!

For the indoor celebration we are looking at several options, but would like to set a record for the maximum number of Malmstrom models in the air and also the longest indoor RC streamer competition. It would also be nice to get a decent number of indoor control line flyers. Again, this would be open to other clubs if they are taking part in the various activities. We are hoping that Stuart can get a suitable Malmstrom plan into Aeromodeller.

Both these events will be free to members and guests.

A day out at Buckminster

Stuart Marsden reports from BMFA HQ



I noticed that Tony Rushby was organising a Senator Day at Buckminster, this was advertised in my SAM35 magazine some months ago. I asked Phil Bailey if he would like to come with me, in the end he took me in his fantastic Camper. We had a great time.



Phil hadn't been to Buckminster, so we started our day looking around the ever-growing collection of Aeromodelling memorabilia which adjoins the main office. We both went back to our youth, viewing boxed kits which we had purchased for a few shillings.

We trundled off to the gathered mass and set up for a good flying day. I took a Senator made by Mick Staples, flying this in his honour, while Phil took his Hepcat out for some airing. Phil assembled his own design stooge, which of course he made himself, this proved to be a great asset, which helped two old men, while they considered their motors and blast tubes.

This made me realise my flying box with its own restrainer was just not good enough I need a decent stooge of my own, so if you have a spare that you don't need, please contact me on 07752 905956 or stuartmarsden0@gmail.com



Phils winding stooge in action

The competition was based on similar principles to the Rubber Bowden, a projected time of 60 seconds with plus marks either side of the time, i.e. 50 second flight = +10 marks, 70 second flight +10 marks again. Flown over 5 rounds, the lowest marks wins.



The day was advertised as all welcome, competition entrants or not, so although plenty did enter, we decided to have a day trimming and flying. It has been ages since me and Phil had a flying day together. Both of our models were close to flying out of the field, one of mine actually did, but no damage done.



Stuart launches his Senator



Phil launches his Hepcat

If you haven't done so yet, treat yourself and a friend to a day out at Buckminster, just £10 to fly all day. The stepometer on my phone recorded 25,600 steps that day, so you can imagine we were both tired as we drove back down the A1. We are planning more days - Mondays are prioritised for Free-flight at Buckminster but always call to check if there are big events on before travelling.

Aeronca Sedan first flight

Gordon Hannahs building and Paul Burlings electronic conversion culminated in a successful test flight on 14th August. Paul writes -

Using a 4 Max PO-3541-1070 / 12x6 Wooden Propeller and a 3s - 11.1V - 2200mAh Lithium Polymer Battery easily provided sufficient power to get the aircraft into the air.



When designing the conversion to this free flight model we calculated the following:

Calculated flying weight = 1400g
 Estimated thrust = 1300g
 Estimated Speed = 25mph
 Using a 40 amp ESC = 35amps
 Duration of flight = approx 3.5 mins



After the maiden flight, I checked the battery level and I was surprised that the motor had only consumed 25% of the battery capacity. This is down to the design of the airframe (Free Flight) and the efficiency of the motor. The aircraft easily rotated on one third of the throttle, climbing out without any issues. The AUV of 1.8Kg was not a problem in any way and one could say this is a STOL Aircraft.

The C of G could be moved towards the front approximately 10mm to reduce the climb when flying into the wind. I found myself pushing slightly down on the elevator to maintain level flight at low throttle setting at this stage. Alternatively, I could trim this out easily as the throws were not over sensitive.

The Rudder authority works well on the ground and in the air, especially when the motor is working above 25%. The manoeuvrability becomes less so below 25% or when the motor is turned off. I think the aircraft could go very slow into a head wind without stalling, but care should be taken when changing direction.

The structure of the plane is first class, works well with good moving surfaces and thrust angle and plenty of power.

A video of the first flight is [here](#)

Flight of the Lico

A dusk flyaway of Rodrigos little Lico had a happy ending.



After disappearing over the trees, it covered 700m before landing safely in a field where it was discovered the next day.



Night flying at Impington

Several of us have been dipping our toes into flying at dusk now we don't have to wait till midnight!!

It is amazing how disorienting it can be, even with planes like the Night Radians and Night Walrus that have hundreds of bright LEDs fitted. As it gets darker, it gets harder!

For a video of the tomfoolery, click [here](#).



Alan and Greg with their Night Radians



Simultaneous launching – what could possibly go wrong?

Indoor flying has restarted

A video from the first RC session is [here](#)

And the first FF session [here](#)

Why not come along and get some guaranteed flying whatever the weather?

Petrol powered Taylorcraft



This is Greg Bradley's new model which he recently picked up second hand. It's a Hangar 9 model based on the real Taylorcraft MT-1 by Jim Moss. Just over 80" wingspan. 26cc petrol 2 stroke.



The pilot doesn't look too happy but with Greg's flying skills I'm sure he will be OK!!

Christmas Party 4th Dec

This will be held at the Motor Boat Club at Clayhithe – all the details are on the website events calendar [here](#).

Please note that this will be a relatively simple event with a cold buffet and cheap drinks from the bar. Think of it as a social get together rather than an expensive slap up meal. We hope that this encourages more people to come along for the evening. The cost per person (excluding drinks) will be £15.

If you want to come, please let me know and transfer £15 per head to the club or give me a cheque or cash.

No pole needed.....



Bruce is pictured with Clives Birthday Bash flyaway. His Sorta Senator disappeared over the trees on one flight caught in some good lift. Bruce and Tony Harper clambered through the ditch and brambles and eventually found it 50ft up a tree and well out of the reach of Bruces pole. They had to abandon it on the Sunday.

Bruce went back the following Thursday and there was no sign of it in the tree. Lo and behold, there it was sitting on the ground pretty much unscathed!! Luckily this was during a spell of dry weather – well done chaps!!

The model was presented back to Clive at the first indoor free flight session.

Control Line trio



Chris Caruanas latest creations – from the left KK Firefly, Sig Beech Staggerwing and KK Champ.

The master of foam

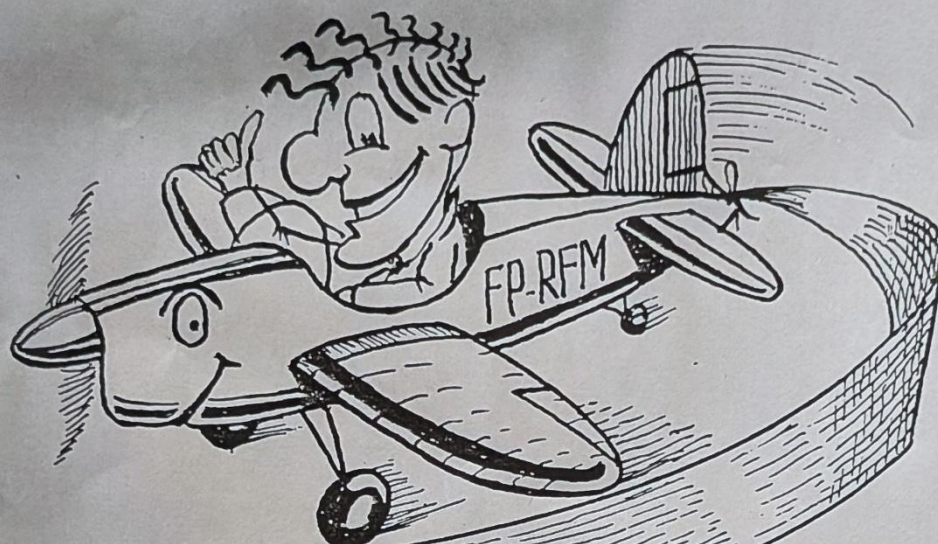


We usually see John Valiant competing at the Nationals with exceptionally beautiful scale free flight models carved from blue foam, but here he is with a Flite Test Speedy Cub.

Greg helped out on the maiden flight and it flew very well. John had to rebuild the wings as some inbuilt stress had conspired to give one wing a load of washout. It was bought as a kit from eBay and originated in the USA. You can get the plans and foamboard separately as well. Nice model.

Do you have a certificate signed by Ray Malmstrom?

"FLY FOR FUN" DAY
OLD WARDEN. AUGUST 17th. 1986.



THIS IS TO CERTIFY

THAT, Peter Jude

TOOK PART IN THE "FLY FOR FUN" EVENT
AT OLD WARDEN ON SUNDAY AUGUST. 17th/1986.
AND WHO'S CONTRIBUTION WAS MUCH APPRECIATED.
MANY THANKS AND HAPPY LANDINGS.

Ray Malmstrom

IMPINGTON VILLAGE COLLEGE
MODEL AEROPLANE CLUB.



*Happy landings
Peter
Cordially
Ray*