



PMFC NEWS

News and Views from Peterborough Model Flying Club

Winter 2026

Online and in Print

INSIDE...

- ***Winter flying at Bushfield***
- ***Vacuum form your own components***



Free handy calendar for 2026 Events



Editorial



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Cover photo: Heath Garner (6) pays close attention while winding a rubber motor on a small model. Bushfields Sports Hall 30.11.25

As we head into 2026 this newsletter comes to you at my first opportunity as for a few weeks now forthcoming I shall be otherwise engaged. So in this moderate edition I capture literally the end of one year and the start of the next.

The indoor meetings at Bushfield seem to have been pretty well supported with an interesting variety of models on show. There are some pictures on the centre page ... and don't forget to view the video montage I managed to capture of just a few bits of the action. It is also great to see the interest from the youngsters that have attended. Thanks to all who supported this. For me it was also trip down memory lane – something approaching 30 years since I last flew a full sized Gyminnie Cricket in a competitive environment. The experience was interesting, but I soon found that my past experience and knowledge of flying this model had completely left me! Well done to the guys who were clocking over a minute for a single flight – sounded easy - wasn't!

A little extra for you is included in this edition. A suggestion made to me a while back got at least one other endorsement so that was good enough for me. to produce an *Events Diary* card. Keep it handy and use as you wish. I know by the time you are reading this some dates will have passed but for completeness and neatness I have kept it to run from January to December.

Finally, do please keep submitting any articles, workshop builds or anything else you would like to see in this magazine.



Tom

FF3 AND THE SLINGSBY SWALLOW GLIDER

Bert Whitehead's insight on Brian Lever's bungee suggestion

There is a movement within the club to try to boost the flagging scale comps, both locally and nationally using our respected influence in the small model Free Flight world. One way would be by incorporating scale gliders in FF3 (IC engine and rubber), thus giving judge Brian Waterland even more headaches!

Brian Lever has come up with a suggested bungee scale glider, 35.5 ins. span, not too difficult and will let your artistic talents run wild. – *The Slingsby Swallow Glider.*

It is a West Wings design now kitted by several retail outlets (inc. VMC).

If you want to make your own, a cockpit canopy can be purchased from



VMC. Lots of information and photos of the full size craft are available online.

I borrowed a plan and traced it on to laminating plastic with a sharpie pen. At the library I re-enlarged the reduced drawings back to correct size.

I was short of 1/8" balsa so I laminated 2x1/16" sheets to produce tail feather components, bulkheads and mainplane outlines. 1/8" ply components were fashioned from B&Q offcuts and a pilot carved from balsa and covered with PVA glue for strength before painting with acrylic. A firework rocket stick sufficed for wheel, and tailskids. Bamboo skewers were used for webbing between the wing spars and wing band dowels. The tail feathers are fixed on with 1mm bamboo dowels and 2 mm plastic bolts.

INDOORS AT BUSHFIELDS (Nov, Jan meets)



Left Roger Simmonds holding his *Avionette*.

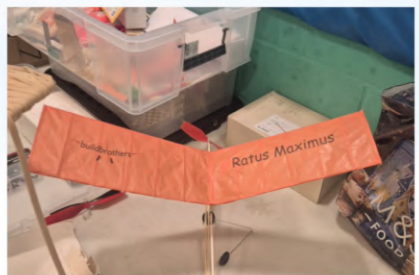
Right: Theo Kennedy receives his Junior prize from Brian Waterland,



SCAN THE CODE TO SEE VIDEO OF INDOOR FLIGHTS



Theo and elders deep in conversation. It was great to have some juniors attending both meets this season so far.



Andrew Leftwich's *Ratus Maximus*



Wide model variety! Right, Colin Hutchinson with *Legal Limit* (Legal eagle Class)



Bert Whitehead took 2nd place in the November Gymninnie Cricket comp'.



Above: Steve Haines: *Bucker Young Jungmeister* scale.

Right Bert educates young Heath Garner in the art of timekeeping. He successfully timed Chris Grant's flight.



Left: Brian Levers winning Bebe Jodel at the November Bushfield Scale Competition Built from a 50 year old original Veron kit. Model weighs only 26.5 grams.



TWO VAC. FORMERS

Scale model help from Bert Whitehead

This year PMFC are taking part in more Scale comps and activities at both club and national level to try and positively influence the ailing number of participants. Our club is well known for trend setting so hopefully club members will respond to the challenge. My first two models will be a *Swallow glider* (as featured in this newsletter), and a Spitfire. They both require canopies so I have made two vac-forming machines.

No.1 was made from pallet wood sawn and planed to A4 size. But initial experiments with plastic bottles and meat trays haven't worked and purchasing plastic sheet is expensive.

No.2 I have made from an unbuilt kit given to me by Andy Green – he received it from Andrew Boddington. The kit came with 150 clear plastic sheets and 50 white A4 sheets, 7mm (27 thou.) thick. It was 40 years old and needed a couple of missing bits replacing and modifying to suit A4 and A5.

It works by connecting the base unit to a domestic vacuum cleaner with the bag taken out. The plastic is fixed to the top frame with double-sided tape and suspended 4" above an electric stove ring until the plastic sags deeply. It is then quickly plunged onto the bottom unit and mould plug, and then instantly forms the cowling, pilot, machine guns or whatever you have a mould for etc.

The Mould plug itself is made from a balsa block built on the model then 3/8" extra wood was added to the end and base to eliminate any crimps forming at the platen junction.



Thin strips of masking tape can be added to the mould which reproduce on the moulding as framework. The mould plug should be coated and polished. (try grout and PVA or sanding sealer.)

No. 2 machine is for club use. I will gladly lend you the machine or help you mould your canopy at my house or by post at your expense.

Thanks to Kevin Tatlow and Bryan Lea for their patience and valuable advice.

From the workshop of Luke Goymour

Although Fr Luke Goymour is obviously quite busy every weekend, he does find time to embark on some interesting projects. These pics are from a late Autumn build. The Lizzie, (Westland Lysander) from VMC.

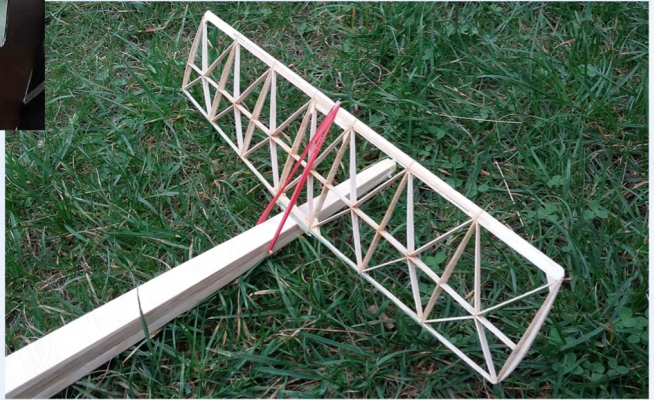


VMC supply this as a Rubber powered kit. Luke has converted it to an RC 3 channel

Struggling with Geodetics ?



An article in the last magazine (Autumn 2025) where Bert Whitehead described making a geodetic structure in some detail contained a photo that was not particularly clear – so here is one that shows the structure clearly.



Congratulations Mark Benns on being made a Fellow of the BMFA.

Besides his competition success in FF and indoor at home and abroad, Mark has been a member of the FF and indoor Tech Comm: BMFA Hon Sec. and Sporting Director and is responsible for much of Buckminster's infrastructure.

Result Roundup

The top three scores after two meetings for the **Gyminnie Cricket**:

- 1) Steve Haines 184 seconds
- 2) Andy Sephton. 179 seconds
- 3) Bert Whitehead. 173 seconds

All very close to play for the £100 prize money. Score is created from the total of three duration flights less the total error from three precision flights.

Precision flights attempt the following times: 47 seconds, 23 seconds, 39 seconds
All flown in strict order.

A total of 108 flights have been made after two meetings by 18 competitors

EARLY SEASON INDOOR FLYING RESULTS FROM THE TWO COMPETITION MEETINGS AT BUSHFIELD (November and January)

A **scale** competition was flown at the November meeting. Flights were judged by Chris Grant for:

- Take Off • Climb • Cruise • Descent
 - Landing • Scale Speed • Flight attitude
- Points out of a maximum of 50

1. Brian Lever. Bebe Jodel. 36
2. Andy Sephton Tiger Moth 32
3. Richard Crossley Focke Wulf 26

It should be noted Richard had to forgo his take off points as his Focke Wulf had no undercarriage.

Junior certificates at both meetings were awarded to:
Heath Garner and Theo Kennedy

PMFC DATES FOR DIARY 2026



JANUARY	Sat 10 - PMFC Indoor: Bushfields 10.00-14.00 Fri 16 - PMFC Indoor meeting: Peakirk: 10.30	
FEBRUARY	Fri 20 - PMFC Indoor meeting: Peakirk: 10.30	
MARCH	Sun 1 - PMFC Indoor: Bushfields 10.00 - 14.00 Sun 29 - PMFC Indoor: Bushfields 10:00 - 16:00 (includes trimming session for Indoor FF Nats)	
APRIL	Sat 11 - Sun 12 SAM35 Spring Gala: Buckminster Fri 17 - PMFC Club competition: Ferry Meadows Sat 25 - Sun 26 BMFA Scale Indoor Nats: Wolverhampton University. (RC 25th)	
MAY	Fri 8 - PMFC Club competition: Ferry Meadows Fri 22 - PMFC Bernie Nicholls Trophy: Ferry Meadows Sat 30 - Sun 31 - Modelair Mayfly: Buckminster	
JUNE	Fri 5 - PMFC Club competition: Ferry Meadows Fri 12 - Sun 14 - SAM35 Retrofest: Buckminster	
JULY	Fri 10 - Fri 17 - World Scale Championships: Buckminster	
AUGUST	Mon 17 - SAM/PMFC/CLEEMAC Keil Kraft Rubber: Buckminster Sat 29 - Mon 31 - Free Flight Nationals: Sculthorpe	
SEPTEMBER	Fri 4 - Sun 6 Control Line Nats: Buckminster Fri 11 - PMFC Club competition: Ferry Meadows Fri 11 - Scale Nats. RC & CL: Buckminster (TBC) Sat 12 - Scale Nats Free Flight & Eddie Riding: Buckminster (TBC)	Sat 12 - Free Flight Gala: Oxford, Port Meadow Sun 13 - Scale Nats RC and CL: Buckminster (TBC) Sat 19 - Flying Aces: Ferry Meadows Sat 19 - Sun 20 - East Anglian Free Flight Gala: RAF Sculthorpe Sun 27 - Scale Gala: Oxford, Port Meadow (TBC)
OCTOBER	Sat 10 - Sun 11 SAM 35 Autumn Gala: Buckminster Sat 24 - Midlands Free Flight Gala: North Luffenham	
NOVEMBER	Fri 20 - PMFC AGM: Peakirk Sat 28 - PMFC Indoor flying: Bushfields	
DECEMBER	Fri 11 - PMFC Peakirk indoor meeting 10.30	