

# Indoor Scale Nationals News

Keeping you informed with the planning and progress for the 2025 BMFA Scale Indoor Nationals



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## Notes from the Organising Team

By Paul Rich

This is the final newsletter before the Scale Indoor Nationals take place over the weekend of the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

With entries now closed we have the following entries:

**Scale Indoor RC – Flying Only – 17 models, Kit Scale – 12 models, Open Scale – 7 models – total competitors for scale Indoor RC – 20.**

**Scale Indoor FF – Open Rubber – 12 models, Open CO2/Elec – 6 models, Intermediate – 16 models, Kit scale – 24 models, Peanut – 24 models, Pistachio – 9 models, No-Cal – 11 models – total Scale FF competitors – 39.**

With more competitors entering this year, (including a few modellers who are competing for the first time), the weekend is shaping up to be a fantastic event.

### Playing with the big boys!

The 30<sup>th</sup> of March saw the annual Large Model Association, (LMA) show take place at the British Museum at Gaydon Warwickshire.

The Scale Technical Committee attended and put on two exhibitions: one consisting of smaller Scale FF rubber, IC, and Glider models, along with Scale Control line and Scale Indoor RC Models.

The other exhibit promoted the FAI 2026 F4 Scale World Championships, which are taking place at the BMFA National Visitors Centre at Buckminster <https://worldscale26.bmfa.uk/>

Attending to display the smaller end of the Scale aeromodelling world were Danny Fenton, Ron Johnson, Simon Rogers, Brian Spencer and Paul Rich.

The team were kept busy though out the day, talking about their various models to an interested and engaged public.

Several of Pete Iliffe's models were also on display. Pete was a superb and popular modeller who regularly attended the Scale Indoor Nationals and the LMA Show in Gaydon to display his models before he sadly passed away in 2020.

Pete's diminutive FF Fokker Spinne, (powered by a Gasparin G24 CO2 motor), and now owned by Brian Spencer, was certainly a model that created much conversation, and can be seen below.



The STC would like to thank Andy Johnson, Chairman of the LMA, for the invite to attend the Gaydon Show and look forward to the opportunity to attend again next year.

## News from the flightline and more

By Paul Rich

### "May Welsh" – a new Scale Free Flight Event in North Wales

Martin Pike, regular Scale FF Indoor Nationals competitor, has organised a new Scale FF event taking place over the weekend of the **9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> May 2025**.

The event will see both outdoor and indoor flying taking place over the weekend in the beautiful countryside of Bethesda and Bangor, North Wales.

Martin intends to run some competitions over the weekend but there will be plenty of opportunities for fun flying as well.

For further information contact Martin Pike at [members@sam1066.org](mailto:members@sam1066.org) or 07831 141418.



### Scale Indoor Nationals Retail Therapy!

One of the biggest requests the Scale Indoor Nationals Organising Committee receive is the lack of retailers selling aeromodelling items over the weekend of the competition.

Those of you up have visited the Scale Indoor Nationals over the years will remember SAMS Models being in regular attendance selling their wares.

Unfortunately, since SAMS ceased trading, we have not had any retailers attend the Scale Indoor Nationals.

However, for 2025, we have some exciting news to share with you.

Thanks to our growing relationship with the Vintage Model Company, (VMC), who are one of our valued sponsors of the Scale Indoor Nationals, (see the article in this newsletter relating to their generosity regarding our respective Kit Scale Competitions over the weekend), we can provide a stall selling several of their kits and items.

Doug Hunt, Chairman of Sam 35 and Scale Indoor Nationals FF Static Judge, has kindly agreed to man this stall over both days of the indoor Nationals.

As well as a selection of VMC kits for sale, there will be selected items of former stock from SAMS Models that will be of interest to both the Scale FF and Sport FF indoor aeromodeller.

To see more of what the Vintage Model Company offer, you can view their website at:

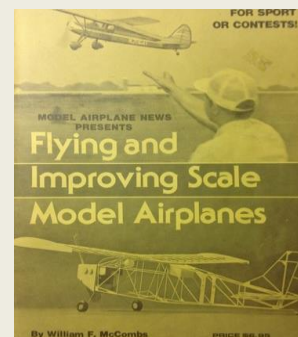
<https://www.vintagemodelcompany.com/>

A big thank you to Doug for agreeing to organise and run the stall for us over the weekend, and to Hadi Kanan of the Vintage Model Company for allowing us to sell the items on behalf of VMC.

**Please note that cash and electronic payments will be accepted over the weekend.**



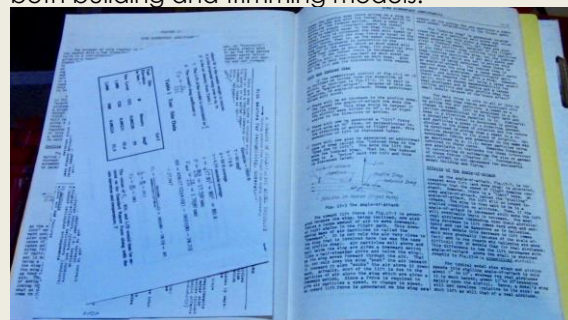
### Book of the month:



### Flying and Improving Scale Model Airplanes by William F McCombs

This classic book was written by William F McCombs, who was a stress engineer at Vought Aircraft, which provided him with a real understanding and appreciation of aerodynamics.

Written in the style of a notebook, (see image below), this volume is now considered the "go to" reference manual for scale FF modellers for both building and trimming models.



Published by Model Airplane News in 1977, it is now a rare publication, with copies exchanging hands for large sums of money.

if you see a copy for sale on eBay or at a swap meet snap it up, you will not regret your purchase.



### Video of the Month

Jiroaerop – Pistachio Waterman Gosling Racer  
(build and flight video) <https://youtu.be/W-4M25f4-B1c>

### **Vintage Model Company (VMC) Kit Scale Trophies and Prize Money**

As was mentioned in a previous article the Vintage Model Company, (VMC), have generously donated the following trophies to be awarded to the winners of the Scale Indoor RC and Scale FF Kit Scale classes for the 2025 Scale Indoor Nationals.



As well as the trophies, which the respective winners get to keep in perpetuity, VMC have also generously donated £200, (£100 each for both RC and FF kit scale) to be awarded to the competitors who find themselves on the podium, the first three places. The prize money will be split as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - £60
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - £30
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - £10

The addition of both the trophies and prize money add an exciting dimension to what are always popular and keenly fought classes at the Scale Indoor Nationals.

The organising team would like to thank Hadi and the VMC Team for sponsoring our Kit Scale classes so generously.

### **Chris Strachan Trophy and Model Display**

Regular readers of the Newsletters will be aware that 2025 will see the Inaugural award of the Chris Strachan Trophy to the highest placed model in all FF classes on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

Chris was a regular competitor at the Indoor Nationals for several years and had a real passion and ability to produce excellent models of racing aircraft, so it is only fitting that the trophy bearing his name should be awarded to a model of an aircraft in this genre.

His Howard "Pete" model can be seen below.



To recognise the fact that 2025 is the first time the Chris Strachan Trophy will be awarded at the Scale Indoor Nationals a display of his models will be on show in the hall alongside the trophy.

Members of Chris's family have been invited to attend the Scale Indoor Nationals on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April as guests of the organising team.

It is also hoped that they will award the trophy to the winner as a fitting tribute to Chris and his contribution to the U.K. Scale Indoor aeromodelling scene.