

Scale Free Flight Brief 103 October 2025

Thanks to Paul Rich for this report and photos.



Sunshine, Scale Models & Soaring Success at Buckminster!

After a foggy start, the sun broke through to deliver near-perfect flying conditions for the final outdoor Scale Free Flight competition of 2025, held at the BMFA National Visitor Centre, Buckminster. With summer's unpredictable weather cancelling several events, this showdown was more than just a season finale—it was a battle for some coveted trophies!



Trophies Up for Grabs:

- **Aeromodeller & Model Aircraft Designs Print** – for the top-scoring model built from a published plan.
- **Free Flight Kit Scale Print** – awarded to the best kit-built model in a nominated Scale-only event.

This year marked a milestone with the introduction of the new FF2 Scale Free Flight rules, allowing rubber, electric, and IC-powered models to compete side-by-side. Each model had a pre-flight assessment for realism and craftsmanship, with a maximum of 200 points up for grabs. Six competitors brought eight models to the field—the highest turnout in years—despite a few regulars unable to attend.



Models & Magic in the Air: From Gareth Tilston's compact Keil Kraft Piper Family Cruiser to Bill Dennis's majestic IC-powered Piper Super Cruiser, the diversity of designs was a treat for spectators and judges alike.

The informal flight format kept the skies buzzing, as competitors launched their models across four rounds whenever ready. The crisp October air at Buckminster proved ideal, with every entrant achieving at least one qualifying flight.



And the Winners Are...

- **1st Place:** *Gareth Tilston* – Keil Kraft Piper Family Cruiser (rubber powered). Gareth also claimed the **Kit Scale Print**.
- **2nd Place:** *Bill Dennis* – Keil Kraft Piper Super Cruiser (IC powered). Bill earned the **Aeromodeller Print** for his stunning Bristol Bullet, built from an Eddie Riding plan.
- **3rd Place:** *John Bowerman* – Herr Design Fairchild Argus (rubber powered), with consistently strong flights.

Gareth's victory proves that small, well-built models can punch above their weight when the conditions are right!



Thank You! A huge thank you to all of the competitors, CD Mike Smith for his tireless organisation, Flight Judges Paul Rich and Graham Kennedy, Monz Lyons for capturing the action on film and retrieving more than a few wayward models!, and our SAM35 hosts for welcoming the STC to their Autumn Gala weekend.

Here's to a fantastic season of Scale Free Flight—and to even bigger, bluer skies in 2026!

SAM35 Autumn Gala
2025 at Buckminster



Scale Free Flight Results Record

(2025)



Name	BMFA	Model	Kit, Plan, Own Design	Pre-flight Assessment	Best Flight	Total	Place
FF2 Free Flight Scale (Double entries were permitted) Aeromodeller and Model Aircraft Designs Print Trophy. Kit Scale Print Trophy							
Gareth Tilston	83155	Piper Family Cruiser	KK Kit. Rubber	140	1590	1730	1*
Bill Dennis	62686	Piper Super Cruiser	KK Kit I/C	160	1540	1700	2
John Bowerman	30308	Fairchild F24	Herr Kit. Rubber	170	1520	1690	3
Mike Smith	66560	Tiger Moth	Mercury Kit. I/C	155	1450	1605	4
Bill Dennis	62686	Bristol Scout	Aeromodeller EJR Plan. I/C	150	1440	1590	5**
Mike Smith	66560	Rans S7 Courier	Own Design Rubber	180	1380	1560	6
David Boote	134225	Auster Arrow	KK Kit Enlarged. Rubber	120	1150	1270	7
Andrew Hewitt	42798	Dyott Monoplane	Own Design I/C	175	970	1145	8

Perfect weather conditions. Almost Summery with just the slightest wind drift.

*Gareth Tilston. Winner of best Kit Scale model awarded the Kit Scale print.

**Bill Dennis. Winner of best Aeromodeller and Model Aircraft plan-built model. Awarded the AMMAD print.

Thanks go to Graham Kennedy and Paul Rich for Flight Judging.

Monz Lyons gets a mention in despatches for outstanding efforts in photography, model recovery and car key "finding"

CD Mike Smith.

