

Scale Free Flight Brief 112 September 2026

Stand by your beds. There's quite a lot for this month.

Nationals

The two Scale Free Flight contests were scheduled for the Saturday of the Nats but the weather had different ideas. The contestants gathered in anticipation and very quickly we came to the conclusion that the high winds, and rain later on, made it unflyable. We agreed to postpone to Sunday and flew in near perfect conditions. Unfortunately, the Sunday contest reduced the entry to the bare minimum as some of the day trip contestants could not return.

Now that the Nats Super Scale contest has been modified to include all the power types the trophies for this contest have been reallocated and awarded in a similar manner to the Eddie Riding contests. One trophy for the overall winner, the Super Scale Trophy, and now a trophy for each of the three power types that previously had individual contests. Top scoring I/C, the Selby Trophy, Rubber, the Brian Downham Trophy and Co2/Electric/Reaction, the Knight and Pridham Trophy.

A report will appear in Pete Fardell's scale column in the Aeromodeller.

Bowden and Stan Horne Memorial Contests.

These contests are associated with the vintage and classic type of models, but I would like to promote these events as a contest suitable for I/C powered scale models. In each precision contest one is required to make two flights of 45 (usually) seconds. R.O.G. is normal but you can opt for a hand launch with a penalty. Models are timed only, with no scale fidelity. Sounds simple doesn't it.

Both contests were held on the same day at Buckminster. It was quite windy at times, and the take-off was on grass, never done that before. Andy Green mowed the grass "bowling short" and an ROG was not a problem for the smaller wheeled free flight models.

Flying my trusty Mercury Tiger Moth I entered both contests and got lucky in the challenging conditions. Managed to make three ROGs and one hand launch, all a bit fraught. Crash landed in the car park, lucky again, no damage. Last flight, crashed again but managed the 35 second requirement spot on. Wing centre section broke so that was it for the day. I came third in the Bowden and won the Stan Horne with two very nice take-offs. I have to admit I used up all my luck on the day. The Tiggy is now repaired and ready to go again.

I am not suggesting you compete with your super scale contest model but have a go with a "lesser" model and have some fun with a good bunch of appreciative ageing modellers.

FF3 Rubber Precision

I have proposed that this class be open to all types of powers, I/C, Rubber, Co2, Electric, etc. The reason is to open the contest to anyone with a scale free flight model in the hope that we can increase the number of entries and not exclude anyone without a rubber

powered model. To facilitate this, I can introduce a provisional paragraph in the rules so that this option is available to the contest CD for the 2027 year to assess the worth of making this class “open” permanently. Any constructive comments?

Peterborough MFC Flying Aces

These contests were flown on 19th September at Nene Park, Ferry Meadows in rather turbulent conditions. We got on with it despite being far from ideal. There are many contests organised for scale and non-scale models. There are restrictions on size and model power due to the public area but if you have a free flight model under 250g (not i/c) you can have a go in a relaxed but enthused event.

For results see <https://peterboroughmfc.org/docs/2026%20FA%20results.pdf>



Spot the difference between KK model and the photo. Any suggestion why this is?

Masefield and Earl Stahl Contests

Doug Hunt, SAM 35 Chairman, and I have been in communication with regard to the running of these two prestigious contests. Doug is seeking an enthusiastic volunteer to run these contests. This is due to changes in the ageing personnel that have for many years been running the contests but are no longer able to carry on with this task. Would you be prepared to step up and have a go organising these competitions? Email me.

Events coming up

4th October. Lodge Farm.

FF2 Scale Free Flight Contest.

Emphasis on kit scale models. Highest scoring kit wins the Kit Scale Print/ Trophy.

Sport flyers with BMFA membership are welcome

£5.00 to fly Plus £5 for the contest

Lodge Farm Church Lane, Sleaford NG34 8QU.

Whatthreewords app location marathons.piston.steamimg

10th & 11th October. SAM 35 Autumn Gala.

Due to the on-going venue availability issues, we will have the final contest on Sunday 11th at Buckminster in collaboration with SAM35.

Eddie Riding FF2 Scale Free Flight contest from about 14.00 once the swapmeet is finished.

Six trophies to be won for the various model power types.

See the Scale Rule Book for the rules

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/doorh/2026-SCALE-MODELLING-RULE-BOOK/#p=1>

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