



Invicta Model Flyers

Feb 2025 Bulletin

Hi everyone,

A fairly brief bulletin this time to update you on a few items.

Kent Interclub Competitions

You will notice that the 2025 Contest Calendar (att) for gliding competitions run by Kent InterClub seems somewhat packed this year. Following the success of the Free-4-All 2m glider competitions that were run last year, it has been decided to add more to the calendar. These fun events will also be hosted by more clubs around Kent including Bickley Club who now have a number of flyers busy building models.

Invicta will again be hosting a number of events at the field in Sutton Valence, so feel free to have a go, or just come along to see what goes on.

Interglide 2025

Interglide is part of the established F5J Eurotour competition series staged throughout Europe. This year's Interglide is taking place 28-29 June and is again being staged here in Kent at Hamilton Farm (near Ashford). This competition is a prestigious event and attracts talented flyers from around Europe, indeed the recent F5J world champion is a regular competitor.

Even if you are not flying, it is still worth coming down to see what goes on (especially as its free). Much to see and learn. Details can be found here <https://www.interglide.co.uk/>

A spot of help required with Interglide (with a bribe of a free lunch)

Kent InterClub is actively involved to make the event a success and needs some help from us to provide a number of independent timers that are required for each round of the competition.

Anyone who is not participating can be an independent timer and are there just to verify competitor flight times. Timers are not required to 'manage' the slot time, but would need to lookout for any overfly events. Both relatively simple and a really good opportunity to watch and listen to how others fly.

Requirements:

- The competition format has 6 rounds flown on the Saturday and a further 3 rounds on the Sunday followed by the flyoff for the top 9 pilots. (Note flyoff is not so critical for independent timers as pilots who didn't make the flyoff can support)
- A total of 6 independent timers are required for each round.
- Proposal is to have a number of groups of 6 timers to cover one of the Saturday am/pm or Sunday am sessions.
- Training (such as is needed) will be provided to make sure all is clear.
- A free lunch will be provided.

Club outing? The suggestion is for clubs to try and round up a few volunteers for one session, the total of 6 being then made up of say a couple of clubs. So, what about spending a few hours with your mates helping out at this prestigious event?

Please let us know if you can spare a few hours to make this a success.

Transmitter Technology

When I joined Invicta in the early 90s, I bought a Multiplex 3030 transmitter which was then considered to be a high-end piece of technology. I still use this transmitter for slope models and still happy with it. For the more complex F5J type models, I wanted a little more functionality so ended up with a newer Multiplex Profi Tx, sticking with Multiplex due to the number of receivers in various models.

The Tx is a large piece of kit and weighs substantially more than my F5J models. It also has a dedicated, laptop style cassette battery that lasts for months. So, after fixing a succession of silly quality issues and spending hours on the programming trying to work round shortcomings, I finally got to grips with the Tx. So far so good.

Now however, Multiplex have decided to no longer stock the battery (which was £100+). Being bespoke to the Tx, when the battery expires, so does the transmitter, I fear.

So where to now? Rather than spending the best part of £1000 on a fancy Tx and the same again for receivers, I am in the process of going to the other end of the spectrum (no, not Spektrum). I have bought a pre-loved Radiomaster Tx16s for not much more than the price of the Profi battery.

The plan was to embrace new ELRS technology and keep the cost down since Radiomaster receivers are cheap. Additionally for £60, I can add a module that should allow me to use my existing receivers.

On the flip side is the complexity in programming the edgeTx software. EdgeTX is an open-source firmware for RC. It is highly customizable, allowing users to configure their transmitters and adjust settings to suit their individual preferences and specific needs

I have had the Tx for a couple of weeks and conclude that it is a steep learning curve and it will be many months before I am confident to risk an F5J model. That said, I already appreciate the flexibility in programming.

The best part though is the support. Whereas the support from Multiplex was downright poor and dwindled along with the number of buyers, the support from Edge Tx is fantastic. Being open source, there are already thousands of users round the globe developing the software and sharing various techniques and updates. Pop a question on the social media and up comes helpful suggestions.

Watch this space to see how I progress.

Items for Newsletters

Reminder if anyone has any items they would like to share via either our website or the next bulletin, please let me know.

Richard Harris

Feb 2025

Kent Interclub Competition dates - 2025

Date	KI Event & location (+other local competitions)	Organising Club	CD	Gs & Backup	Notes and Other Events
March 30					<i>Mother's Day</i>
April 5	Free-4-All 1 at Invicta	Invicta	KF	N/A	
April 13	Electric1 at Richborough F5J	Bloobirds	IN	RH/TL	
April 20					Easter Sunday
April 26/27	Glider 1 at Invicta	Invicta	RH	TL/BR	<i>Reserve for G1</i>
May 4	<i>Reserve Electric/Glider 1</i>				<i>Bank Holiday 5th May</i>
May 10/11	(F5J at Horsham)				
May 17/18	Bickley Glider Event* Includes 2m Free4All	Bickley/Bromley	BR	N/A	
May 25	Fun Fly- Month 1				<i>Holiday 26th May(Radioglide)</i>
May 31/1	Glider 2 at Sittingbourne	SADMAC	LT	NJ/IN	
June 7/8					<i>Bromley/Bickley scale day</i>
June 14/15	(F5J Tonbridge)				<i>Father's Day</i>
Jun 21/22	Electric 2 at Invicta F5J	Canterbury	NJ	IN/RH	
Jun 28/29	(Inter.glide)				
July 6	Bickley FunFly (open to KIC) Fun Fly Month 2	Bickley	BR	N/A	<i>Loire F5J</i>
July 12/13	Glider 3 at Tonbridge	Tonbridge	BH	IN/TL	
July 20					
July 26	Free-4-All 3 Maidstone	Maidstone	DA	N/A	SATURDAY COMP
Aug 3	Glider 4 at Sittingbourne	SADMAC	TL	RH/NJ	
Aug. 10	<i>Reserve for E2/G3</i>				
Aug 16	Free-4-All 4 at Sittingbourne	Ashford	DT	N/A	<i>Manston Air Show</i>
Aug 24					<i>Bank Holiday BMFA Nats</i>
Aug 31					<i>Southern Model Show</i>
Sept 6/7	Kent Cup at Gravesend	Bickley/Bromley	BR	NJ/RH	
Sept 14					
Sept 20/21	(F5J Tonbridge)				
Sept 27/28					
Oct 4/5	(F5J Towner Trophy)	Tonbridge			Likely to be earlier date
Oct 12					

Note1: Glider events will be run to Multi-Launch rules. Electric events will be F5J competitions

Note2. Saturday/Sunday events: The preferred day is the Sunday, but if the weather forecast is bad and the Saturday looks better, then the comp will be on the Saturday. Decision made on the Thursday before.

Organisers, Contest Directors (CD) & Gliderscore (Gs) Coordinators. BH=Bob Hope DP=Derek Price
NJ=Nick Jackson IN=Ian Nicholls TL=Terry Letchford KF=Keith Fisher RH=Richard Harris BR=Bob Ryan DA= David Ashby

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