



Ian Jemmeson with the PAAGeboy that he built in 1954 from the article by Vic Smeed in AeroModeller in July 1953.



Ian Jemmeson's 60% size PAAGeboy for Indoor Flying, still flying well five years after it was built. It has a small 2s Lipo battery and Spectrum Rx on 2.4G driving a small brushless motor.



Ian Jemmeson's PAAGeboy for Indoor flying, C of G being checked before covering the model.



Ian's Vic Smeed Tom Boy, gifted from clubmate Tom Bladier, who built it 45 years ago!



The 45 year old Tom Boy with the engine and 27MHz RC gear removed ready for a small brushless motor and 2S Lipo battery to be installed, along with modern FrSky RC gear.



Don Bladier, who built the Tom Boy 45 years ago.

VIC SMEED PAAGEBOY IN AUSTRALIA

In January we received a very interesting letter, via email, from Ian Jemmeson in Australia. Ian's email contained a fascinating account of his Vic Smeed designed 'PAAGeboy', which Ian built in 1954.

Over to Ian to describe his history with the PAAGeboy.

"Over Christmas I read with interest a copy of your Sept 23 magazine.

They are not easy to locate in Melbourne usually, but I managed this one.

In the article on the BMFA Bowden Trophy I noted a reference to an old Vic Smeed model by Andy Green, the 'PAAGeboy'.

I built a PAAGeboy 4' 6" Wingspan FF with a Mills 75, when I was just starting out as a 16 year old in 1954.

One day, after months of flying, I put a bit too much fuel in it and the swing up tail dethermallizer did not release, so it flew away never to be seen again by me.

Smeed designed it to compete in the Pay Load competitions generated by PanAm airways at the time.

The design had a small balsa pilot figure under the C of G that was progressively filled with lead shot. Or so I believe. I never tried it.

Many years later I am now 85 years old and after many working years I am still flying at two outdoor clubs, mostly gliders.

Currently building a Goldberg Gentle Lady from his kit.

However for the last 12 years I have been the Secretary of an Indoor club in Melbourne of 70 members approximately,

who fly in 4 Basketball venues. (See <http://www.indooraviation.com>).

The website will give you a lot of information about the group.

At one of our morning coffee Show and Tell sessions I showed the old photo of me holding the PAAGeboy, and one of the group said he still had the plan, why don't I rebuild it? He had a laser cutter and offered to cut the components. I said not a full size one, he suggested a 50% model. Well we settled on 60% which gave about 580 mm Wingspan which has been ideal for indoor.

I built it about 5 years ago and it is still flying well.

I had a bit of trouble balancing it, as the gas motor and fuel were heavier than the RC gear in the short nose. So the battery hangs like a bomb under the nose.

It has a small 2s Lipo battery and Spectrum Rx on 2.4G driving a small brushless motor.

It has been great to have the flying experience of it with RC as the old FF thing was limited. However I see you guys are still at it, well done!

For your information, I attach the old black and white photo and a modern coloured version of the indoor model.

For your information the original story I used, leading me to build the PAAGeboy was covered in the July 1953 Aero Modeller, 71 years ago.

Here are two build photos of the indoor PAAGeboy if you want to use them, while I was doing early balance checks.

Nicely under cambered wings and a lifting tail! This model is usually the only

balsa model going around indoors among a cloud of foam commercial and home built models. Luckily I have managed to avoid any damaging collisions.

Another crazy thing about a Smeed model that you can include if you wish! We often discuss Vic Smeed's Designs and one day the guys were discussing the Tom Boy.

A 95 year old friend of mine in the group who still flies rubber-powered models with film covering etc. sitting next to me said " I have a Tom Boy hanging up in the workshop! Would you like it?" I quizzed him about it and he said he built it 45 years ago and never flew it. It had old 27 MHz RC gear and a brushed motor with a locked up gear drive which was the problem.

So I took it on and cut the nose off, installed modern 2.4g FrSky gear and a brushless motor on a 2S Lipo battery.

The model was magnificently built and flew well on the very much delayed maiden flight. My wife recorded it and I sent him a movie.

The next week he came to my place and I took him to the field and flew it extensively for him!

Of course he was over the moon to see his old model fly so well. Very satisfying. It is still flown occasionally; although I limit the things I do with it to preserve it. The white numbers on the side are his original MAAA membership number."

Regards, and Happy New Year to all the flyers.

Ian Jemmeson, Melbourne Australia