

Bongo takes to the air

Part two of the further adventures of Bongo.

If you're reading this you've already found <http://www.hornetsmfc.co.uk>. Well done! You might want to click on the video link on the left hand side of the main page and have a look at our latest indoor meet. A very good evening was had bursting balloons *although that wasn't quite what was planned*. Still the hall had a good 'buzz' all evening with Bongo performing quite well, but there's always room for improvement. Firstly the CD-rom motor lost a magnet after its first flight so repairs had to be made. Trim was also miles out resulting in a steep climb on take off. Roll and climb rates weren't brilliant, and if I'm honest I was a little disappointed. But that's down to my tuning and not the model itself.

So I sat down and made some adjustments. First I repaired the motor although I had to remove the offending magnet and place it safely in my flight box. Then I adjusted the trim and took to the air once more. Much better this time! Given Bongo doesn't create much lift (none to be exact) she takes a little getting used to. You can fly her with quite a steep nose up attitude and with careful throttle control she will fly slowly, or you can drop the nose, level her somewhat, and she will pick up speed quite noticeably. Quite a handful in the hall at speed but still controllable.



Several flights later and numerous heavy landings, collisions, and departures resulted in the bits of damage shown in the picture. As a result of her first flight I have made some *post indoor meeting mods*. The first is the purchase of a new motor from Robotbirds, the second is the extension of the servo arms to provide better throw of elevons, and the third is to score the hot glue hinges as she was a little tight in the movement department. Just need to wait till next month to try her out although with the evenings getting

lighter I may well venture out on a half day somewhere quiet and breeze free.

So for under £20 (if you supply your own radio gear and motor etc) the Bongo is a real laugh. The two hour indoor meeting whizzed past, five lipos were used, and the corresponding videos show the fun had. No helicopters were damaged, only one mid-air took place, but most importantly several balloons were catapulted into extinction.

As per the last article Bongo along with other EPP models is available from <http://www.flyingwings.co.uk>.