

## **HIGH FLYERS by Topical Twists**

Perhaps those who campaigned so energetically to get model flying recognised as a sport should have been a little more careful what they wished for. While the lottery grants and corporate sponsorships we were promised seem to be stuck somewhere in the pipeline, the darker side of sporting status is very much upon us, for a while ago I heard that international team members are now asked to sign an anti-doping declaration.

Of course, I was outraged; I mean, I know it makes the house a bit whiffy, but it's bad enough with the flyers looking all saggy and wrinkly without their tissue being likewise. Fortunately it turned out to be more do with 'performance enhancing substances', which are hardly a problem in the genteel world of aeromodelling... or are they? Without regard for personal safety, Topical Twists went deep undercover to track down a retired aeromodeller prepared to blow the whistle.

"Have you witnessed British flyers using performance enhancing substances?"

"All the time. The Bowden Trophy's the worst. They're all at it - Werther's Originals, Vick's vapour rub, you name it. Why do you think they're burned out by their mid-nineties? I can't speak for FAI crowd, they probably get some fancy Russian lozenges made out of beetroot or such like by cottage industries in Ukraine".

"Shocking. Surely indoor flying must be cleaner?"

"Worse if anything. How d'you think the F1D lot keep up that pace all day? Ovaltine, that's how. I know one guy who's so strung out on cocoa that he can sit through a whole episode of Loose Women without kicking the screen in."

From Aeromodeller January 2017