

WESSEX AEROMODELLERS LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

(Updated 1 October 2010)

The Aeromodelling Link for Dorset into Wiltshire, Hampshire, Somerset and Devon

From James Parry and Chris Hague

What's happened to this year! It seems to have finished before it started as regards the flying season which extends from January 1st to 31st December, although the only thermals at either end tend to be worn rather than flown in!

Amazingly, 2010, which I heard on Radio 4 so it must be true, has had the driest period for twenty or so years. That may statistically be the case but our statistics are that nearly all events have been negatively affected by weather be it wind, rain or even both! Still, only one comp was cancelled although the horizontal driving rain and wind and almost freezing conditions should not have deterred our resolve to continue, there comes a point however...

Despite the weather, the League, now in its third season, has had a really good year with the two prime competitions growing, the Tomboy class having 11 entrants and Low-Cost 600RES class 13 entrants throughout the year.

The control line mini speed competition has proceeded at a slower rate than that of the models, which have raced around at over 70 MPH. A quote from Den Saxcoburg sums up this deceptively challenging formula *"I'm finding my interest in this class is really growing it's much more of a challenge than I thought..... I'm already considering detail mods for next years model based on this seasons steep learning curve.....I'm also hunting down a potential source of some other 1.49 plain bearing engines that may be of interest but they may be rubbish and this may not come off"* However, with the grand final at Cashmoor on Sunday 17 October, league positions may well change as competitors exchange information and fly head to head, weather permitting of course. Never a dull moment with our hobby!

The plan is that 2011 continues to develop further using the successful format used throughout 2010. We plan to be returning to the four sites used this year with the possibility of a new venue to be added in 2011. Watch this space! The great thing is that no two sites are the same, each having their differences, and of course with change of venue there is a change of friendly faces to chat to. Aeromodellers seem to have an immediate rapport and seconds after meeting someone you feel like you've known them for ages.

The Low-Cost 600 RES rules do not require any change for 2011 and with a supply of motors (£9.95), props (£10.25) and speed controllers (£25) all from Puffin Models www.puffinmodels.com/index.php and 2200x7 cells NiMH batteries at approximately £15.00 per pack + P&P from Component Shop www.component-shop.co.uk the power train is inexpensive and should last for several seasons. It is interesting to note that whilst ARTF models predominated earlier these are now giving way to scratch built models such as Peter Kessell's Apollo and also several own designs such as flown by John Taylor, Rick Churchill, Geoff Collins, Malcolm McKendrick, with several other models in the pipeline for 2011.

In addition to the five Low-Cost 600RES meetings each year for the Round Robin League, the Phoenix and Wimborne Clubs have each held a monthly competition for the same model but to a different set of rules. However, those competitors not belonging to either club were unable to take part therefore for 2011 anyone competing in the round robin league events will be eligible to join in. The rules for this Wessex Aeromodellers League Monthly Postal competition can be seen on our own website. www.wessexaml.co.uk Monthly results are simply emailed or phoned in to Chris Hague who will keep overall account and a league table will be produced for the months April through to August. In addition, time and weather permitting, there maybe an extra round at the final round robin event which will be held at Cashmoor in September.

The Tomboy competition for 2011 does contain a few rule changes based on comments and experience gained from active competitors. The main change being the reduction of the fuel tank capacity from 3cc down to 2cc. Please note that 2cc fuel tanks are readily and cheaply available. This is to remove the concern over the height that these models now get to when using 3cc of fuel. In other words, the aim is to keep the model well within the range of normal eyesight. There aren't many competitors who haven't found their Tomboy still climbing at a great height, still under power and entered into panic mode at some time! The 2cc tanks are available now and will cost approximately £10.00. The other main change being the use of any two-bladed propeller. This allows an engine's performance to be maximised by careful prop selection thus providing lots of opportunity for experimentation, or in other words plenty of fiddling and diddling time so much loved by aeromodellers the world over. Wouldn't have it any other way!

The power duration classes have not developed this season, one reason probably being the time spent on the main events. However, for 2011 there will be a couple more models around, mainly Zoot Suits, so hopefully a league comp will go ahead. Contact Bill Longley at Tasuma (tasuma@btconnect.com) for further information.

What of the future? Well the main 2011 flying season is pretty much taken care of so James is considering the possibility of a slope Winter League event using two-channel models with rudder and elevator, although the concern being the number of people who would want to join in. If such a meeting, say four over the winter period with three best scores to count, appeals to you please email James ASAP, if not, it's back to the drawing board!

We would like thank all the host clubs and their members for the hospitality shown throughout the year. We have all enjoyed seeing the different models and meeting other aeromodellers.

The following photos were taken at the final rounds of the Low-Cost600RES event at Cashmoor and the Tomboy event on Salisbury Plain (Flying Druids).



Rick Churchill and OD Bitser



On your marks, get set.....



Rick Farrer's Watts-Up 600RES model



Assembling for the off



Cool dude, Dick Handley waiting for next flight



John Taylor and OD Blacktail



The happy band



Paul Netton's Tomboy 36



Barry Collis's Tomboy 36



Derek Collin doing a stunt take off



The pits!



Lots of advice! (Too much?!)



The waiting game



and they're up.....



and they're down

More information about the Wessex Aeromodellers League and results to date can be seen at: www.wessexaml.co.uk