

2016 WESSEX AEROMODELLERS LEAGUE Low-Cost 600RES Competition

Scores after the 1st round at Blandford on Sunday 24 May 2016

The first round of the 2016 season started with a change of venue. Originally scheduled to be flown at Cashmoor, the northerly wind that was forecast would have meant that we would be launching over the bridle path, therefore as an alternative venue was available, with a different site layout, a last minute decision was taken to use Tarrant Hinton. Thanks to websites, emails and mobiles everyone was informed at short notice.

This was, to the best of my knowledge, to be the first Wessex Aeromodellers 600RES League event that we were not to be listening to and flying against our much respected colleague Peter Kessell. At the pilots briefing we spent a few moments in silent contemplation just remembering Peter in our own private thoughts.



As we would like to remember Peter Kessell, always smiling, he continued to develop the excellent Apollo design every winter.....

There was a good entry of thirteen competitors who had arrived with great enthusiasm for the new season. We were able to welcome two new contestants, Mike Sims and Bob Corfield, both flying replicas of the late Peter Kessell's Apollo models. The event consisted of five rounds, resulting in a total of nineteen slots. Not counting any fly-offs at the end of the day for pilots with equal scores, each pilot flies five times in this Round Robin competition. The slots are so designed that each pilot will fly once against every other pilot in the competition.

Although the wind was strong and gusting, all the flights were completed successfully and Round 1 got underway. This consisted of four pilots in each slot and so it paid to be quick out of the starting blocks as three win maximums are at stake. Ian Pratt and Andrew Fellows picked up maximum scores with flights of under five minutes. However, the toughest slot was flown out over a much longer period. Glenn Woodford flew for over 10 minutes just to be first to land - how tough was that? Darren Bumpass was next down having flown for over 12 minutes. Nevertheless, the contest flew on to over 13 minutes when Jeff Fellows landed a mere 16 seconds before Chris Hague, who was the eventual winner. If that was to be the pattern of the day then we were in for a long contest, but that was not the case as these four flights proved to be longest of the day.

Round 2 produced some very close contests with flight times of around five or six minutes. Malcolm McKendrick, Rick Churchill, Jeff Fellows and Mike Sims all picked up two wins. Peter Rose and Mike Sims easily outflew Chris Hague in this round, thus inflicting his only defeats of the day, but more of that later.

There was some welcome sunshine and some big white fluffy clouds around by the time Round 3 got under way. Malcolm McKendrick, Glenn Woodford, Jeff Fellows and Chris Hague all scored maximum wins. Chris's win over Andrew Fellows, his only defeat of the day, was by a mere seven seconds, but they all count! Dave Ashenden, Bob Corfield, Roly Nix and Peter Rose were unlucky not to score some wins with good flights of over nine minutes. At this stage no one pilot had a perfect score and several had only one defeat, keeping the final outcome unknown.

The wind had dropped somewhat by the start of Round 4 when Jeff Fellows (but only just from Malcolm McKendrick), Chris Hague (but only just from Bob Corfield), Ian Pratt (but only just from Glenn Woodford) and Andrew Fellows (but only just from Peter Rose) all won their slots.

As usual, the final positions were still to be decided by Round 5 and today was no exception. Peter Rose beat Glenn Woodford to ensure a fly-off against him as well as Rick Churchill. They finished the fly-off in that order thus securing seventh place overall for Peter Rose.

In his first 600RES competition Bob Corfield finished a strong second to Ian Pratt in the final round to secure an excellent sixth place overall. A second place in this round enabled Malcolm McKendrick to finish in fifth place, just one win behind Ian Pratt who finished fourth overall. Jeff Fellows lost out to the eventual winner, Andrew Fellows, in this the final round and so a fly-off for second place was required against Chris Hague. Having beaten Jeff in an earlier round this was to be Jeff's opportunity for revenge! The flights looked set for a marathon but at around the 12 minute mark Chris decided to gamble on some predicted lift in the distance, only to be proved wrong (again?). Jeff emerged the winner by a minute to take a well earned second place overall.

After some misgivings about the wind strength and although the wind was gusty at times I believe that only two models suffered minor damage throughout the day. Congratulations go to Andrew Fellows on his overall win, with only one defeat all day. The Tarrant Hinton results are as follows:

1st Andrew Fellows 11 wins; 2nd Jeff Fellows 10 wins; 3rd Chris Hague 10 wins; 4th Ian Pratt 9 wins; 5th Malcolm McKendrick 8 wins; 6th Bob Corfield 6 wins; 7th Peter Rose 5 wins; 8th Glenn Woodford 5 wins; 9th Rick Churchill 5 wins; 10th Darren Bumpass 3 wins; 11th Roly Nix 2 wins; 12th Dave Ashenden 2 wins; 13th Mike Sims 2 wins.

600RES Class	Round	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	Andrew Fellows	25					
2	Jeff Fellows	24					
3	Chris Hague	23					
4	Ian Pratt	22					
5	Malcolm McKendrick	21					
6	Bob Corfield	20					
7	Peter Rose	19					
8	Glenn Woodford	18					
9	Rick Churchill	17					
10	Darren Bumpass	16					
11	Roly Nix	15					
12	Dave Ashenden	14					
13	Mike Sims	13					

Remember it is the best 4 scores to count.

Our thanks go to the DMFG for the use of their excellent flying field. Thanks also to the timekeepers James Parry and Phil Smith who volunteered throughout the day. After a successful first round we look forward to **Round 2 on Sunday 8 May at the the same site, Tarrant Hinton**. Watch this space at www.wessexaml.co.uk for all the latest information.