

WESSEX Low-Cost 600RES LEAGUE 2013

Scores after the first round at CASHMOOR on Sunday 21 April 2013

The first round of the 2013 season was held in blustery weather conditions at the excellent Cashmoor site of Wimborne MAC. A good entry of 16 competitors arrived with much enthusiasm for their new models, as much model building had taken place over the winter. However, due to the poor weather so far this year very little testing had taken place and so many models were of an unknown quantity. Although very windy for most of the day there were opportunities to find good lift, and no less than seven flights went the full 15 minutes. Whilst this may be good flying it reduces your score as you haven't won the round, neither have you lost, so the points are shared.

With an excellent entry of 16 pilots the event consisted of five rounds, each with four slots, making a total of twenty slots. Not counting any fly-off's 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.

Once again, for yet another year, the rules remained stable with just very minor changes, one being to have a minimum of 300g battery weight. There are also now many variations of the popular 2.3m Apollo model designed by Peter Kessell and in addition there was a proliferation of new models, including further developments of Jeff Fellows's pusher design, which highlights the interest shown in this class, and such a model proved to be the winning combination by the end of the day. The mandatory 4/5 sub C NiMH 2200 packs result in reliable launches every time. After a 45 second motor run the search for a thermal starts. Several models were weighed, and a target weight now seems to be to get below 1200g.

After the pilots briefing Round 1 got under way in light winds, with wins for Geoff Fellows, Andrew Fellows, Geoff Collins and Ian Sapsed. The winning flight times were relatively low and lasted between five and nine minutes. Only two models suffered serious damage, the first in Round 2 when Roly Nix retired after dropping a wing whilst turning on finals low down and landing out. After damaging his new models when testing the day before, Roly had burnt the mid-night oil in order to get a model ready with a wing donated by Malcolm. Flight times remained at seven minutes or below. Narrow wins were recorded by Ian Pratt by six seconds over Malcolm McKendrick, Denis Grocott by nine seconds over Peter Kessell, Glenn Woodford by 25 seconds over John Taylor and by Jeff Fellows by the relatively large margin of 40 seconds over Andrew Fellows. This was to be Andrew's only defeat of the day, although he was to share a three way maximum in a later round.

The wind speed had increased by Round 3 and with it the winning flight times improved to over 10 minutes. Both Jeff and Andrew Fellows and Geoff Collins notched up more wins. Darren Bumpass and Ian Pratt shared the points with excellent flights of 15 minutes. Only the second model of the day to suffer damage, was Rick Farrer's Apollo which landed out, just a bit too far out!

As the wind strength increased throughout the day the flight time required to win a slot also increased and so it proved in Round four with five pilots flying out to the maximum of 15 minutes. John Taylor flew for an excellent 13 minutes only to come last in the slot as Peter Kessell, Ian Sapsed and Andrew Fellows all flew for 15 minutes. Chris Hague was the only pilot not to be beaten by Jeff Fellows throughout the day when they both flew for the maximum 15 minutes, thus sharing the points. Malcolm McKendrick had, unusually for him, flown consistently throughout the day and was rewarded with a fine win in the fifth and final round. His hard work building and testing new models seems to be reaping rewards.

James Parry's model decided to malfunction, with the 2.4 system mysteriously becoming "unbound", just before his fly-off for twelfth place against John Taylor. Rick Farrer narrowly beat Glenn Woodford in the fly-off for tenth place. Darren Bumpass doubled his points tally for the day with a fine win in the final round beating Denis Grocott, Ian Sapsed and Geoff Collins. This resulted in an unsuccessful fly-off against Chris Hague for eighth place overall. In the sixth place fly-off Peter Kessell emerged the winner over Ian Sapsed. Malcolm McKendrick finished in a fine fifth place, Ian Pratt, last year's winner was fourth. After a disastrous second round, flying a standard Apollo, Geoff Collins recovered to finish in third place. With only one defeat throughout the day Andrew Fellows flying a pusher model designed and built by his dad finished in a fine second place. Congratulations go to Jeff Fellows who confirmed the supremacy not only of his pusher design, but also of his flying skills, to win without a single defeat throughout the day.

Our thanks go to the Wimborne MAC for the use of their excellent flying field. Some of the WMAC members who were watching have shown an interest in joining in with the event. Thanks to the timekeepers and in particular Paul Sapsed for keeping all those scores for such a busy competition. Also to James who worked tirelessly with the timekeeping, setting up and clearing the field. We could do with volunteers to organise a BBQ at future WMAC Cashmoor events as some members came without food!

After a successful first round we look forward to Round 2 on Saturday 25 May at the Wincanton Falcons flying site at Templecombe (if wet then on Sunday 26). Watch this space at www.wessexaml.co.uk for all the latest information.

The Cashmoor results are as follows:

1st Jeff Fellows 13.5 points; 2nd Andrew Fellows 12 points; 3rd Geoff Collins 10 points; 4th Ian Pratt 9.5 points; 5th Malcolm McKendrick 8 points; 6th Peter Kessell 7 points; 7th Ian Sapsed 7 points; 8th Chris Hague 6.5 points; 9th Darren Bumpass 6.5 points; 10th Rick Farrer 6 points; 11th Glenn Woodford 6 points; 12th John Taylor 4 points; 13th James Parry 4 points; 14th Denis Grocott 3 points; 15th Rick Churchill 2 points. DNF: Roly Nix.

600RES Class		Round	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	Jeff Fellows		25					25
2	Andrew Fellows		24					24
3	Geoff Collins		23					23
4	Ian Pratt		22					22
5	Malcolm McKendrick		21					21
6	Peter Kessell		20					20
7	Ian Sapsed		19					19
8	Chris Hague		18					18
9	Darren Bumpass		17					17
10	Rick Farrer		16					16
11	Glenn Woodford		15					15
12	John Taylor		14					14
13	James Parry		13					13
14	Denis Grocott		12					12
15	Rick Churchill		11					11
16	Roly Nix		2					2

Remember it is the best 4 scores to count.



1st place Jeff Fellows



2nd place Andrew Fellows



3rd place Geoff Collins



4th place Ian Pratt



5th place Malcolm McKendrick



6th place Peter Kessell, Apollo & Darren Bumpass



The launch



Denis Grocott and 1.8m Swift