

2017 WESSEX AEROMODELLERS LEAGUE Low-Cost 600RES Competition

Scores after the 1st round at Cashmoor on Sunday 21 May 2017

The first round of the 2017 season was flown at Cashmoor in superb sunny but breezy conditions, the earlier date at Flamstone Farm having been cancelled because of the weather. Thus this was to become the first Wessex Aeromodellers 600RES League event using the CAM height limiter, set to 30 seconds motor run time and 200m altitude.



Competitors and their models at Cashmoor on Sunday.

There was a good entry of ten competitors all of whom had arrived with great enthusiasm for the new season. 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 over 10 MPH and gusting, all the test 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.

Andrew Fellows, Chris Hague and Jeff Fellows picked up maximum scores with flights of under six minutes. However, Round 2 produced some close competition with Jeff Fellows maintaining his unbeaten record with wins over Mike Sims and Malcolm McKendrick. James Parry surprised everyone, himself included, with a superb flight of over seven minutes to beat Roly Nix and Bob Corfield. Andrew Fellows continued his unbeaten run with a win over Ian Pratt who seemed to be unable to avoid the adjacent field on landing. Rick Churchill discovered a broken elevator horn and was allowed to fly in a later slot in order to have time repair the model (having been given a far superior replacement horn!)

In Round 3 Jeff Fellows continued his unbeaten run, Malcolm McKendrick picked up his first and only win of the day, and Mike Sims beat Roly Nix by a mere 8 seconds. However, Andrew Fellows suffered his only defeat of the day when landing over a minute before Chris Hague.

Round 4 produced some more very close contests with flight times creeping up to around eight or nine minutes. Ian Pratt narrowly beat James Parry, Rick Churchill beat Bob Corfield by a similarly small margin, Jeff Fellows then lost his first flight of the day by just 19 seconds to Chris Hague.

Flight times continued to improve in Round 5 and having flown for over nine minutes Rick Churchill was beaten by a fast improving Mike Sims in only his second season flying in this competition. With his repaired model Rick Churchill flew his catch-up flight in this round, but was first down. Although Malcolm McKendrick managed his best flight of the day of over nine minutes, he was therefore unlucky to be flying against Chris Hague who had somehow contacted some strong lift and was struggling to get his model safely back on terra firma. Chris Hague had remained unbeaten all day to secure first place on the day. With only one defeat each up until now Andrew Fellows narrowly defeated Jeff Fellows and established their second and third place overall finishing positions.

Mike Sims beat Rick Churchill and James Parry to secure fourth place with six wins throughout the day. Ian Pratt and Rick Churchill were equal on points and in a short fly-off finished in that order. James Parry exceeded his own expectations and after picking up three wins secured seventh place overall. With two wins - and it so very nearly could have been more - was Roly Nix in eighth place. Bob Corfield won the fly-off for ninth place against Malcolm McKendrick.

After some initial discussion about the abundance of the big white clouds and the wind strength, which turned out to be a little gusty at times, a good competition developed throughout the day. I believe that only two models suffered minor damage. Congratulations go to Chris Hague on his overall win, remaining undefeated all day. The Cashmoor results are as follows:

1st Chris Hague 9 wins; 2nd Andrew Fellows 8 wins; 3rd Jeff Fellows 7 wins;
 4th Mike Sims 6 wins; 5th Ian Pratt 4 wins; 6th Rick Churchill 4 wins;
 7th James Parry 3 wins; 8th Roly Nix 2 wins; 9th Bob Corfield 1 win;
 10th Malcolm McKendrick 1 win.

600RES Class		Round	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	Chris Hague		25					25
2	Andrew Fellows		24					24
3	Jeff Fellows		23					23
4	Mike Sims		22					22
5	Ian Pratt		21					21
6	Rick Churchill		20					20
7	James Parry		19					19
8	Roly Nix		18					18
9	Bob Corfield		17					17
10	Malcolm McKendrick		16					16

Remember it is the best 4 scores to count.



Jeff Fellows 2017 immaculate models. Ian Pratt's innovative c/f tube design.

Our thanks go to the Wimborne MAC for the use of their excellent flying field at Cashmoor and a special thanks must go to all who helped with the time keeping. After a successful first round we look forward to **Round 2 on Sunday 4 June at Flamstone Farm, Salisbury MFC's** excellent flying site, Watch this space at www.wessexaml.co.uk for all the latest information.