

2018 WESSEX AEROMODELLERS LEAGUE Low-Cost 600RES Competition

Scores after the 1st round at Cashmoor on Sunday 27 May 2018

The first round of the 2018 season was flown at Cashmoor in superb sunny, almost perfect, conditions, the earlier date at Flamstone Farm having been cancelled because of the weather. After an experimental year in 2017 it was decided to use the CAM height limiter, set to 30 seconds motor run time and 150m altitude.



Competitors and their models at Cashmoor on Sunday.

There was a good entry of eight competitors all of whom had arrived with great enthusiasm for the new season. The event consisted of four rounds, resulting in a total of twelve slots. Not counting any fly-offs at the end of the day for pilots with equal scores, each pilot flies four 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 many local areas had experienced thunder and lightning during the previous 24 hours, the weather stayed clear of thunder but remained very warm which produced some fantastic lift.

Only a couple of weeks ago we heard the sad news that our long time 600RES competitor and very good friend, Malcolm McKendrick, passed away after a massive heart attack. I started running electric thermal competitions in the year 2000 and I would estimate that Malcolm has competed in every one. At the pilots' briefing we all remembered Malcolm; he will be greatly missed.

Round 1 got underway and set the tone for the remainder of the day with all the flights being over 10 minutes.

James Parry and Tom Airey picked up maximum scores whilst Rick Churchill and Peter Rose flew out to the maximum of 15 minutes to share the points. By way of contrast, no winning flights exceeded nine minutes in Round 2. All three slots produced some close competition, with Rick Churchill maintaining his unbeaten record, and Roly Nix beating Ian Sapsed by just one second. Rick's record remained intact in Round 3 as flying against Roly they both shared the points with 15 minute maximum flights. Mike Sims and Tom Airey both won their slots by the narrowest of margins.

And so to the final round: Ian Sapsed landed just three seconds after James Parry; Roly Nix picked up another win in a close contest against Peter Rose and Mike Sims, and Chris Hague's flight of over 14 minutes was not enough to beat the all-conquering Rick Churchill. In fact, Rick managed to produce flights of 15 minutes or more in each of the four rounds - a magnificent achievement, and 'well done' to Rick who, of course, was the overall winner on the day. In second place with his best result so far in this competition was Roly Nix; Chris Hague was in third place just half a point down; a further half point behind was Peter Rose in fourth place; in a fly-off for fifth place James Parry beat Tom Airey by 70 seconds, and Mike Sims won the seventh place fly-off against Ian Sapsed by just 50 seconds.

The lift was superb throughout the day, and I don't believe that any models suffered any damage. Congratulations go to Rick Churchill on his overall win, and for remaining undefeated all day (although two were drawn at the maximum 15 minutes!). The Cashmoor results are as follows:

1st Rick Churchill 7 wins; 2nd Roly Nix 4.5 wins; 3rd Chris Hague 4 wins;
 4th Peter Rose 3.5 wins; 5th James Parry 3 wins; 6th Tom Airey 3 wins;
 7th Mike Sims 2 wins; 8th Ian Sapsed 2 wins.

600RES Class		Round	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	Rick Churchill		25					25
2	Roly Nix		24					24
3	Chris Hague		23					23
4	Peter Rose		22					22
5	James Parry		21					21
6	Tom Airey		20					20
7	Mike Sims		19					19
8	Ian Sapsed		18					18

Remember it is the best 4 scores to count.



Rick Churchill with his all conquering own design SkyRover 600RES model

Our thanks go to the Wimborne MAC for the use of their excellent flying field at Cashmoor and a special thanks must go Gordon Cook who undertook the time-keeping task for every flight during the day. After a successful first round we look forward to **Round 2 on Sunday 3 June at Flamstone Farm, Salisbury MFC's** excellent flying site. Watch this space at www.wessexaml.co.uk for all the latest information.