

WESSEX Low-Cost 600RES LEAGUE 2010

Round 3 Saturday 26 June Flamstone Farm Salisbury by Chris Hague

Glorious weather conditions prevailed all day at the excellent Flamstone Farm site of the Salisbury MFC. Blue skies with a slight haze developing required the model to be watched carefully at all times and each pilot employed the use of a helper/spotter. This is good practice and added to the enjoyment of the competition for all those involved as various "tactics" soon came into play, some of which even proved to be beneficial!

Despite the superb weather none of the rounds went to the full 15 minutes. Swift and Apollo variants remain popular and successful, filling three of the top four places. With the rules remaining unchanged we have a few more home designs appearing, and John Taylor was flying his beautifully constructed "Black Tail" (so named because that was the only colour he had available to cover the tail assembly). John probably requires a little more wing area to be fully competitive. Rick Churchill reverted to last year's "Bitser O/D" to finish in fifth place – the new wing built over the winter has not proved successful. Denis Grocott, from the host club, flew his now well-developed Swift into fourth place. He would have tied for a fly-off for third place had his score not been spoilt by a landing out in one round, by only a few feet. Geoff Collins, who finished a strong third, has now come up with a competitive own-design after flying for years with an overweight, but superb, model. His "new" model turns well and works even the smallest patch of lift successfully.

The last round of the Round Robin flown was between an unbeaten (up until then) Chris Hague and Peter Kessell, who had only been beaten previously by Geoff. Peter won comfortably which meant a fly-off for first place which was closely contested at launch height for some time. As the planes descended Chris found some low-level lift which Peter just missed and so Chris became the overall winner on the day.

As a little extra Denis organised an AULD extra bit of fun flying at the end of the day. Six took part using the standard 45 second motor run for climb and it soon came down to a trial between the trio, Peter, Geoff and myself. For safety reasons Denis opted out after 13 minutes because he was losing concentration on the model at height. Around the 20 minute mark it looked as though Geoff had lost lift and made an approach over the patch at about 50ft, only to fly into more lift as he continued over the edge of the landing area. Exploiting this new lift Geoff was able to get his model back up to the height of Peter's for a while, albeit in different part of the sky. Peter & Geoff continued to about 25 minutes or so when Geoff landed, leaving Peter airborne and triumphant. These were the longest flights of the day.

In particular, Dick Hanley, our most senior contestant, would like to express his thanks to all who helped him throughout the day. What a pity we didn't find more lift for you, Dick! This is a good example of the excellent camaraderie that exists within the Wessex League events and goes such a long way to making them such an enjoyable occasion - competitive, but cooperative and friendly.

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Our thanks go to the SMFC Chairman, Tony Warrilow, Denis Grocott and the members of Salisbury MFC for the use of their excellent flying field. A special thanks must go to James Parry who was not able to change his Fleet Tx crystal (my apologies for not reminding everyone) to an odd number and spent the day doing starter, timing and spotting duties to the benefit of all of us. Thanks also to the other timekeepers, to the Salisbury club members who helped throughout the day and to Nancy Kessell for keeping all those scores on such a hot day. After two successful rounds we look forward to Round 4 on Saturday 25 July at the Wincanton Falcons site at Templecombe. Details of all our Wessex League events can be followed on our website: www.wessexaml.co.uk

The Salisbury results are as follows:

1st Chris Hague 5 points. 2nd Peter Kessell 5 points. 3rd Geoff Collins 4 points.
 4th Denis Grocott 3 points. 5th Rick Churchill 2 points. 6th Dick Hanley 1 point.
 7th John Taylor 1 point.

600RES Class		Round	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	Chris Hague		10	C	10			20
2	Peter Kessell		9	A	9			18
3	Denis Grocott		8	N	7			15
4	Geoff Collins		4	C	8			12
5	Dick Hanley		5	E	5			10
6	Rick Churchill		3	L	6			9
7	James Parry		7	L	-			7
8	Malcolm McKendrick		6	E	-			6
9	John Taylor		-	D	4			4
10	Roly Nix		2		-			2
11	Bill Longley		1		-			1



Chris Hague (Apollo 3) and Peter Kessell (Apollo Super) before the fly-off.