

WESSEX Low-Cost 600RES LEAGUE 2011

Scores after the 2nd round at Flamstone Farm on Saturday 25 June 2011

Having cancelled an earlier round due to bad weather, I sensed a certain keenness to run this round even though the forecast was for strong winds all day. This turned out to be the correct decision as we had an entry of 10 pilots all of whom flew in every round and whose models survived the day with very little damage. Our 600RES models cope surprisingly well on a windy day and some good times were achieved throughout the day.

The event was run over five rounds, with each pilot having one flight in each round. My matrix format allows competitors to know the order of flying in advance. This was universally acclaimed as a big advance as it allows adequate time to plan model preparation and the charging of batteries.

After the usual pilots' briefing with a warning not to land in the very wet surrounding crop of oilseed rape, it wasn't long before somebody had a very wet pair of trousers! However, they soon dried out in the warm wind.

Once again, as interest in this deceptively challenging 600RES class gains momentum, we had two pilots attending their first ever 600RES Round Robin event. Simon Oylott, chairman of the Wincanton Falcons, and Steve Howe had recently built models based on the Roly Nix Swallow fuselage and an Apollo wing. Steve ended up in seventh place with four wins, but this could so easily have been three more wins had he not landed out having out-flown the others in his first flight. This would have put Steve in a tie for an excellent second place, however, instead it meant a model retrieval from the wet crop.....

Ian Pratt and Mark Annandale, both from the Wimborne MAC, each had two wins and had entered for the second time with Ian winning the fly-off for eighth place. Mark had obtained a Parkzone Radian 2m ARTF foamy and fitted the required drive train, this combination shows promise as a very easy, economical way to start or have as a spare model. It would probably have performed better in lighter winds.

Our venerable octogenarian Dick Hanley continues to find lift from his comfy seat, and having four wins throughout the day, proceeded to beat Steve in the fly-off for sixth place. First round winner Rick Farrer suffered from a fragile, but very light model, but secured five wins along with the Apollo designer Peter Kessell. However, Peter's experience showed in a very close fly-off for fourth place.

Armed with a clutch of beautifully constructed new models, Denis Grocott produced some excellent flights using his standard 1.8m Swift to upset the form book by beating some of the leading pilots to finish in a strong third place with 6 wins. I was in second place with seven wins, only losing out to Denis and the eventual, unbeaten on the day, winner Tom Airey. This was only Tom's second round robin event and together with local knowledge, as he and Denis were flying on their own patch, and superb flying skills, Tom had nine wins. Tom's day was not without incident as he had to take the

motor and ESC out of his spare model when the motor seized on the flight line. I find it useful to make up a spare power train of motor ESC and prop just in case, after all, the cost is minimal. Interestingly, both Tom and Denis were flying lightweight 1.8m Swifts whereas I had chosen to fly my heaviest model, tipping the scales at 1390g (that's a hefty 49 oz in real money) and 1.9m span. This model is over seven years old and shows that we have stability in the rules as models do not become obsolete or uncompetitive over time. However, when building a model I would suggest that you aim for a target weight of 1200g.

Our thanks go to the Salisbury MFC for the use of their excellent flying field. The competition was run alongside club members who were sport flying their own models, and with consideration being shown all around this worked well. Thanks go to James Parry and George Barnard the timekeepers for helping to run the event so smoothly. Our best wishes go to our regular scorer for a speedy recovery from her eye operation - come back soon, we miss you Nancy. Pilots taking part in this series are also invited to join in with the monthly postal event, see the website for full details.

After a successful second round we look forward to round 3 on Saturday 16 July at Templecombe the home of the Wincanton Falcons, where I hear that at least six members are in the process of building or have already built 600RES models. Watch this space at www.wessexaml.co.uk for all the latest information. The Flamstone Farm results are as follows:

1st Tom Airey 9 wins 2nd Chris Hague 7 wins 3rd Denis Grocott 6 wins
 4th Peter Kessell 5 wins 5th Rick Farrer 5 wins 6th Dick Hanley 4 wins
 7th Steve Howe 4 wins 8th Ian Pratt 2 wins 9th Mark Annandale 2 wins
 10th Simon Oylott 1 win

Low-cost 600RES

	Round	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	Rick Farrer	10	6				16
2	Peter Kessell	9	7				16
3	Chris Hague	7	9				16
4	Denis Grocott	5	8				13
5	Ian Pratt	8	3				11
6	Tom Airey	-	10				10
7	Dick Hanley	4	5				9
8	John Taylor	6	-				6
9	Steve Howe	-	4				4
10	Mark Annandale	2	2				4
11	Malcolm McKendrick	3	-				3
12	Geoff Collins	2	-				2
=12	James Parry	2	-				2
=12	Simon Oylott	-	2				2

Remember it is the best 4 scores to count.
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Chris Hague