

WESSEX Low-Cost 600RES LEAGUE 2013

Scores after the 2nd round at TEMPLECOMBE on Saturday 25 May 2013

The second round of the 2013 season was held in superb thermal-hunting weather at the excellent Templecombe site of the Wincanton Falcons. A good entry of 13 competitors arrived with much enthusiasm as there had been only limited opportunities to fly since round one. At times the lift was massive and there were six occasions when pilots needed to fly out the full 15 minutes of the slot, although on one occasion Malcolm McKendrick only just managed it with a second to spare. Only one model suffered serious damage throughout the day when a total of 71 competition flights were eventually flown.

After the pilots briefing Round 1 got under way in light winds, with wins for Jeff Fellows and Roly Nix. Andrew Fellows and Chris Hague shared the points as they were given an identical time of 5 minutes and 9 seconds, a result which was to have repercussions later for Andrew.

In Round 2 Roly Nix won his slot again to remain unbeaten so far and shared the overall lead with Andrew Fellows by the end of the round. In this round Malcolm McKendrick, Andrew Fellows, Richard Farrer and Jeff Fellows all flew out the maximum 15 minutes in their slots. Richard Few picked up the first of two wins in a slot won by Geoff Collins.

Malcolm McKendrick, Peter Kessell and Jeff Fellows had clear wins in Round 3. Once again two pilots, Andrew Fellows and Geoff Collins flew for over 15 minutes and shared the points. This was to be the third time that Andrew shared the points, demonstrating just how hard to beat he was proving to be and he was, in fact, to remain undefeated all day.

The wind had changed direction for Round 4 but the lift was still there to be found, notably by Jeff Fellows, Geoff Collins, Richard Farrer and Andrew Fellows all winning comfortably. Glenn Woodford had his best flight of the day to pick up two wins. Peter Kessell lost his model upwards and subsequently downwards (thanks go to Malcolm and Kate for retrieving it from another field). In the same slot Chris Hague misjudged the distance of his plane and landed in the long grass, missing the landing area by just two feet, the second time this has happened at Templecombe. (Ed. Must try harder.)

Peter Kessell recovered from the earlier mishap to win his slot in Round 5 (proving the value of having a good spare model) when Ian Pratt, last year's series winner, picked up his first win of the day. Ian had been experimenting with a new minimalist design (see photo below) throughout the day and results were not up to his usual standard. This also illustrates just how competitive this event has become as an off day can soon drop you down, way down - in fact all the way down, the results sheet. Tim Bailey from the host club picked up his third win of the day, so gaining one more than fellow club member Richard Few. Flight times were shorter during this round but Malcolm McKendrick, Andrew Fellows, Richard Farrer and Peter Kessell all won their slots without having to fly over six minutes. However, some of the results were close, Richard only beating James Parry by two seconds, Peter beating Ian by six seconds and Malcolm beating Geoff by just 10 seconds, illustrating once again how close this competition has become.

Fly-offs were needed to separate some contestants with equal scores. Glenn received a walk-over from Tim for tenth place. An improving James beat Roly, whose early form had deserted him, for eighth place. Geoff narrowly beat Rick for fourth place. After flying for over ten minutes and a lot of low level circling, following each other round in the same batch of air and after a very close contest, Andrew beat his father Jeff by just 14 seconds.

With no defeats, but three drawn flights throughout the day, Andrew Fellows proved to be a worthy winner. Closely followed in second place, with only one defeat and one drawn flight, was Jeff Fellows, thus confirming the supremacy not only of Jeff's pusher design but also of both his and Andrew's flying skills. The challenge is now upon the rest of us to improve both our models and our flying as they head the league table after two rounds.

Our thanks go to the Wincanton Falcons for the use of their excellent flying facility. Two members from the host club took part and it is to be hoped that more may wish to join in when we return to Templecombe later in the season. Thanks go to the timekeepers and in particular Kate Mignano, Simon Olyott, Roly Nix and James Parry for keeping the scores in such a busy competition, also to Simon for organising a BBQ.

After a successful second round we look forward to the third round on Sunday 9 June at Flamstone Farm, the flying site of Salisbury MFC. Watch this space at www.wessexaml.co.uk for all the latest information.



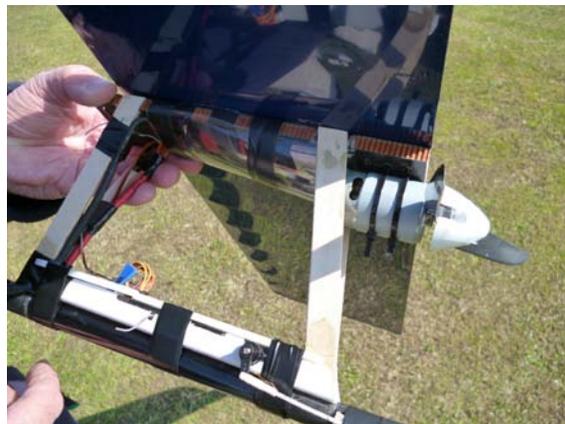
Jeff Fellows (2nd) Andrew Fellows (1st) Malcolm McKendrick (3rd)

The Templecombe results are as follows:

1st Andrew Fellows 10 wins; 2nd Jeff Fellows 10 wins;
 3rd Malcolm McKendrick 9.5 wins; 4th Geoff Collins 7.5 wins; 5th Rick Farrer 7.5 wins;
 6th Peter Kessell 7 wins; 7th Chris Hague 5.5 wins; 8th James Parry 5 wins;
 9th Roly Nix 5 wins; 10th Glenn Woodford 3 wins; 11th Tim Bailey 3 wins;
 12th Richard Few 2 wins; 13th Ian Pratt 1 win.

600RES Class		Round	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	Jeff Fellows		25	24				49
=1	Andrew Fellows		24	25				49
3	Geoff Collins		23	22				45
4	Malcolm McKendrick		21	23				44
5	Peter Kessell		20	20				40
6	Rick Farrer		16	21				37
7	Chris Hague		18	19				37
8	Ian Pratt		22	13				35
9	James Parry		13	18				31
10	Glenn Woodford		15	16				31
11	Ian Sapsed		19	-				19
12	Roly Nix		2	17				19
13	Darren Bumpass		17	-				17
14	Tim Bailey		-	15				15
15	John Taylor		14	-				14
=15	Richard Few		-	14				14
17	Denis Grocott		12	-				12
18	Rick Churchill		11	-				11

Remember it is the best 4 scores to count.



Ian Pratt's experimental minimalist pusher design.



Templecombe 25 May 2013



Relaxed pilots

Ref: WSSX600RR213



Peter Kessell's latest Apollo

Chris Hague