

2016 WESSEX AEROMODELLERS LEAGUE Low-Cost 600RES Competition

Scores after the 2nd round at Blandford on Sunday 8 May 2016

The second round of the 2016 season started with another accurate forecast from the Met Office, which meant a strong easterly wind. So far so good, fourteen pilots entered but this was reduced to thirteen after the practice flights as Dave Ashenden damaged his Red Eagle beyond an easy repair at the flying field. This was the model that Dave has been flying so well recently having won the April monthly postal competition. Almost all the entrants now bring along two models and this highlighted the wisdom of having a second model available.

After the pilots briefing and a big computer glitch the event finally got under way after a short delay, with thirteen pilots taking part. 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.

Round 1 got under way with Malcolm McKendrick winning the first slot by surprising everyone and flying downwind. The winning margin was so great that we were all left wondering (well, I was at least!) if the traditional launch and subsequent flight upwind was not going to be successful today. This led to my downfall in the next slot as Jeff Fellows and I were striving to stay aloft in opposite ends of the field, Jeff to the left of the sun and myself to the right and downwind. My gamble did not pay off by just 37 seconds in a very close contest, Jeff requiring to fly for just over 10 minutes to win. In the next slot Bob Corfield, Glenn Woodford and Rick Churchill all produced excellent flight times, and Andrew Fellows needed to fly for over 11 minutes to get maximum points.

Upwind and to the left of that extremely bright yellow thing in the sky seemed to be the favourite place to fly, and Round 2 produced some excellent flight times. Maximum points went to Darren Bumpass, Glenn Woodford, Andrew Fellows and Chris Hague who only narrowly beat Peter Rose after a flight of over 13 minutes.

Round 3 produced very close contests in every slot. Roly Nix scored maximum points by beating Mike Sims by just two seconds, Rick Churchill having landed only moments earlier. This involved a game of "chicken" either side of the hedge, Roly winning just as his plane disappeared from view and to everyones surprise, only to re-appear all in one piece moments later. Chris Hague just scraped a win against Bob Corfield and Ian Pratt, the result being decided by just 22 seconds. Jeff Fellows narrowly beat Glenn Woodford. The widest winning margin in this close fought round was just over a minute when Andrew Fellows outflew Malcolm McKendrick who was still persevering with flights downwind which on this occasion did not pay off.

By the start of Round 4 the wind had dropped somewhat. Maximum points were scored by Jeff Fellows (but only just from Malcolm McKendrick whose downwind sorties were by now becoming the stuff of legends!), Andrew Fellows (but only after a 13 minute battle against Chris Hague), Peter Rose (but only just from Bob Corfield) and Ian Pratt (but only just from Glenn Woodford) all won their slots.

As usual, the final positions all down the list were still to be decided by Round 5 and today was no exception. Chris Hague, Jeff Fellows, Ian Pratt and Andrew Fellows all won their slots. The win for Ian Pratt and a strong second place for Glenn Woodford placed them in a fly-off against Malcolm Mckendrick for fourth place overall. Malcolm's persistence with his downwind flying paid off as he beat Ian Pratt by 51 seconds. Darren Bumpass gained valuable wins to secure sixth place overall. The three-way eighth place fly-off was decided in favour of Peter Rose, just 24 seconds ahead of Bob Corfield and 41 seconds ahead of Roly Nix. Mike Sims was only 16 seconds ahead of Rick Churchill in the eleventh place fly-off. John Taylor had not had one of his better days in this competition and to compound the problem he was sidelined in the final round with an electrical problem. However, had there been an award for the best built, own design model, it is highly probable that John would have been in first place. With only two defeats throughout the day Chris Hague finished in third place, Jeff Fellows was only defeated once and finished in second place. Congratulations go to Andrew Fellows, undefeated all day (but there were some close run contests) who emerged a worthy winner for the second time this year.



The Tarrant Hinton results are as follows:

1st Andrew Fellows 12 wins; 2nd Jeff Fellows 11 wins; 3rd Chris Hague 10 wins;
 4th Malcolm McKendrick 7 wins; 5th Ian Pratt 7 wins; 6th Glenn Woodford 7 wins;
 7th Darren Bumpass 6 wins; 8th Peter Rose 4 wins; 9th Bob Corfield 4 wins;
 10th Roly Nix 4 wins; 11th Mike Sims 3 wins; 12th Rick Churchill 3 wins;
 13th John Taylor 0 wins.

600RES Class		Round	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	Andrew Fellows		25	25				50
2	Jeff Fellows		24	24				48
3	Chris Hague		23	23				46
4	Ian Pratt		22	21				43
=4	Malcolm McKendrick		21	22				43
6	Glenn Woodford		18	20				38
7	Bob Corfield		20	17				37
8	Peter Rose		19	18				37
9	Darren Bumpass		16	19				35
10	Rick Churchill		17	14				31
11	Roly Nix		15	16				31
12	Mike Sims		13	15				28
13	Dave Ashenden		14	-				14

Remember it is the best 4 scores to count.

Our thanks go to the DMFG for the use of their excellent flying field. Thanks also to the timekeeper Phil Smith who volunteered throughout the day a sterling effort.

After a successful second round we look forward to **Round 3 on Sunday 5 June at Flamstone Farm** the site of the Salisbury MFC. Watch this space at www.wessexaml.co.uk for all the latest information.