

2017 WESSEX AEROMODELLERS LEAGUE Low-Cost 600RES Competition

Scores after the 2nd round at Flamstone Farm on Sunday 4 June

The second round of the 2017 season was flown at Flamstone Farm in very breezy conditions, the rain that all had forecast (not me I hasten to add!) did not arrive until the competition was over. We again used the CAM height limiter, set to 30 seconds motor run time and 200m altitude.

There was a good entry of nine competitors, the event consisted of four rounds with equal slots of three pilots in each. The slots are so designed that each pilot will fly once against every other pilot in the competition.

Although the wind was strong and the adjacent crop of oilseed rape very high all of the test flights were completed successfully and Round 1 got underway. This resulted in maximum scores for Andrew Fellows, Chris Hague and Jeff Fellows. (that order was to become significant by the end of the day.)

However, Round 2 produced the first of the 'crunch matches' this one being between Andrew Fellows and Chris Hague, Andrew's superior launch gave an initial advantage. However, in gaining height Chris strayed out of bounds and was quickly punished for this demeanour as height, as well as the flight, was lost upon return to the correct area of the sky. (The timekeeper Rick Churchill, correctly issued an official warning – a repeat would have resulted in a zero score!). These proved to be the two longest flights of the day with Andrew exceeding 14 minutes - not quite a 15 minute draw and the subsequent shared points that might have been. Jeff Fellows and Mike Sims won their slots for maximum points, but Rick Churchill came a very close second with a long and distant flight of over six minutes.

In Round 3 Andrew Fellows continued his unbeaten run in another crunch match against Jeff Fellows, whilst Chris Hague narrowly defeated Peter Rose and Rick Churchill. Bob Corfield scored a maximum with a fine flight of over six minutes, the longest in this round. Malcolm McKendrick picked up his first and only win of the day against James Parry, whose model suffered damage upon landing and James then retired for the final round of the competition, thus missing only the final round. (This retirement resulted in a change to the points scored, but not overall positions: incorrectly calculated on the field, but corrected here in the results.) So Malcolm will be pleased to have his win re-instated!

Round 4 produced another crunch match with Chris Hague managing to find small patches of rising air (we could hardly describe it as lift) to beat Jeff Fellows by a scant 30 seconds to inflict only the second defeat of the day for Jeff. By now the wind had increased which gave points to the hardy pilots - Peter Rose, Rick Churchill and Andrew Fellows all braving the conditions in the final round.

After some initial discussion about the high probability of rain, we completed the competition before the first few drops fell. I believe that only two models suffered damage, minor in James Parry's case, but a broken fuselage upon landing in the last flight of the day for Chris Hague. The model was over 11 years old but will be repaired to fly again! Congratulations go to Andrew Fellows on his overall win, remaining undefeated all day. Just one defeat resulted in second place for Chris Hague, two defeats meant that Jeff Fellows finished in third place, Peter Rose finished in a strong fourth place with five wins - an excellent result considering that Peter is still recovering from surgery. As the weather became very rough and windy causing two pilots quite correctly choosing not to fly and so the fly-off for 6th place was decided by the toss of a coin. The Flamstone Farm results are as follows:

1st Andrew Fellows 8 wins; 2nd Chris Hague 7 wins; 3rd Jeff Fellows 6 wins;
 4th Peter Rose 5 wins; 5th Rick Churchill 3 wins; 6th Mike Sims 3 wins;
 7th Bob Corfield 3 wins; 8th Malcolm McKendrick 1 win; 9th James Parry 0 wins;

600RES Class		Round	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	Chris Hague		25	24				49
=1	Andrew Fellows		24	25				49
3	Jeff Fellows		23	23				46
4	Mike Sims		22	20				42
5	Rick Churchill		20	21				41
6	James Parry		19	17				36
=6	Bob Corfield		17	19				36
8	Malcolm McKendrick		16	18				34
9	Peter Rose		-	22				22
10	Ian Pratt		21	-				21
11	Roly Nix		18	-				18

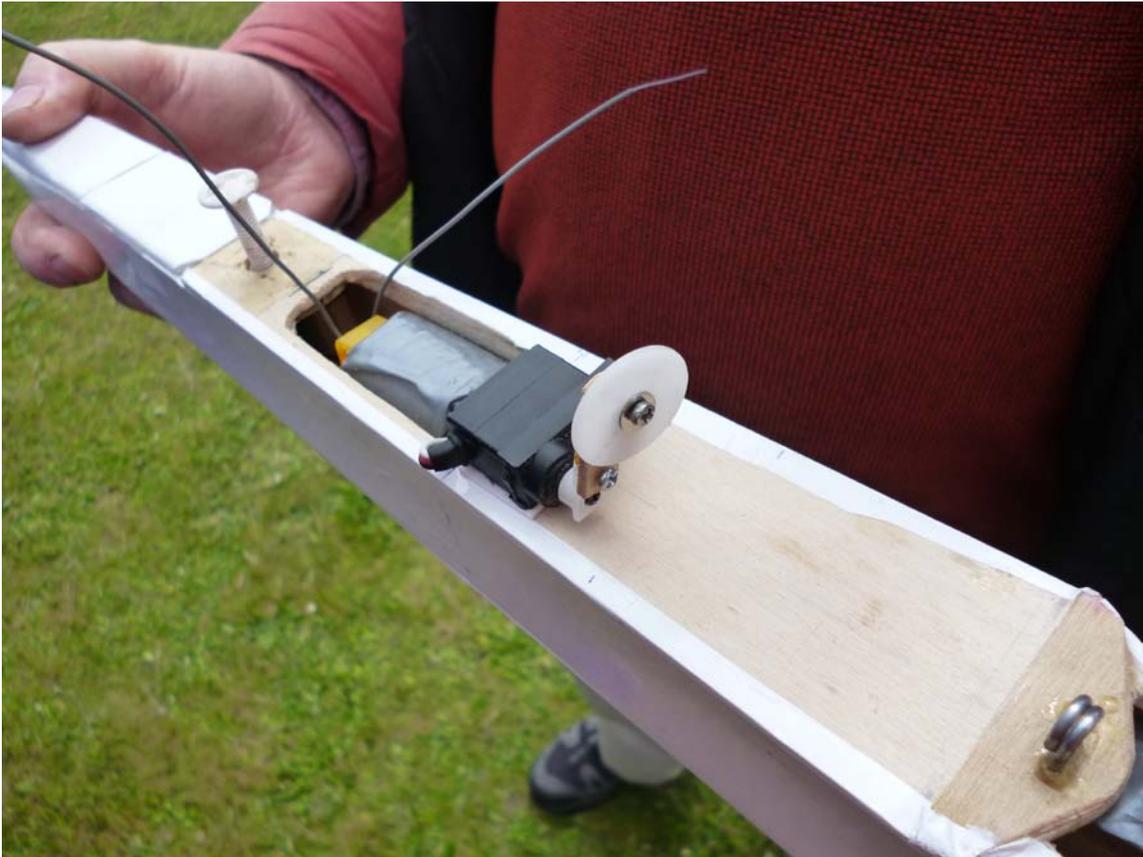
Remember it is the best 4 scores to count.



Chris's broken but repairable fuselage.



Bob Corfield's competitive 2.3m Apollo



Rick Churchill's innovative mechanism to operate the wing spoiler on his newly constructed Sky Rover. The servo arm rotates and the wheel spins as it lifts or lowers the spoiler, operating through a gap in the underside of the wing. Brilliant.

Our thanks go to the Salisbury MFC for the use of their excellent flying field at Flamstone Farm and a special thanks must go to all who helped with the time keeping. After a successful second round we look forward to **Round 3 on Sunday 2 July at Collingbourne Kingston. Marlborough MFC's** excellent flying site, Watch this space at www.wessexaml.co.uk for all the latest information.