

WESSEX Low-Cost 600RES LEAGUE 2011

Scores after the 3rd round at Wincanton Falcons on Sunday 24 July 2011

An entry of 11 pilots and a breezy day provided the recipe for an enjoyable action-packed day. This round had been postponed from the previous weekend when the weather had been totally unflyable. Several members of the host club now have 600RES models and are busy practising at every opportunity - even the day before! Remember, if you break a model the day before a competition it reduces your chances of flying in that competition. However, I am sure all will be repaired for the next round and that those who managed, just in time, last minute rebuilds, felt it was all worthwhile.

The event was run over five rounds, with each pilot having one flight in each round, run to the now familiar matrix format. This allows competitors to know the order of flying in advance, giving adequate time to plan model preparation and the charging of batteries. Using the 2200 mah NiMH battery, it is possible to re-charge between flights by charging straight after landing, thus requiring only one battery all day. The newly acquired JP Power Speed 660 motor (part no. 5510350) was used successfully by several competitors.

After the usual pilots' briefing the competition got under way. The wind was variable with launches first in one direction and then another. Whilst this was a little unsettling for the visitors the landings soon became more of a concern. Low level turbulence caught a number of pilots out and eventually resulted in two retirements. Having not competed in more than 75% of their flights their scores were then discounted. There is a growing variety of models, with the Swift and Apollo variants remaining the most popular. Wing spans ranging from 1.8m to 2.3m are the most consistently successful. 11 models were weighed and all were under 1300g - the lightest being Rick Farrer's 1080g Apollogy 2m.

All the pilots managed at least one win throughout the day. After seven scores Roly Nix landed in the tree (there aren't that many trees!) and although it was only slightly damaged he was forced to retire when the wind then blew his model off the chair and finished off the wing. Robin Caswell had six wins under his belt before a turbulent landing damaged his Apollo, forcing retirement whilst in with a strong chance of challenging for the overall win. Simon Oylott, chairman of the host club, and Mark Annandale both managed wins. Denis Grocott finished third in round two but in the windier conditions only managed two wins. Denis is currently experimenting with the ARTF foamy Easy glider Pro as a possible entry model in this formula. The Parkzone Radian 2m ARTF foamy might be another possibility.

Peter Kessell, the Apollo designer, won the keenly contested fly-off against Steve Howe for fifth place. Peter is flying pod and boom versions of his Apollo and has not yet achieved his earlier success. Steve had a new wing built just in time after a major crash the previous weekend. Mr Unpredictable, Malcolm McKendrick, had some good flights and finished in fourth place, each time measuring the height achieved by his model. If you want to know just ask.

Landing in the long grass cost Chris Hague two valuable wins in the first round, but he recovered sufficiently to win the fly-off against Rick Farrer for second place. Rick started flying his lightweight Apollogy in the early rounds, but due to the strong winds later changed to his equally lightweight Swift to good effect, achieving good launch heights. However, despite a lower launch height, by searching far and wide, Chris managed to find a small patch of lift to climb back up and win the fly-off. Flying his 1.8m Swift, consistently achieving the best launch heights, Tom Airey flying impeccably, remained un-beaten all day and won his second event in a row.

Our thanks go to the Wincanton Falcons 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 Kate Mignano and George (I'm still waiting for my cup of tea!) Barnard, the timekeepers, for helping to run the event so smoothly. And of course to our regular scorer, Nancy Kessell, who has the unenviable task of keeping all the scores and producing the final results. 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 third round we look forward to round 4 on Saturday 20 August (if wet then the next day) at the Marlborough MFC. Watch this space at www.wessexaml.co.uk for all the latest information. The Wincanton Falcons results are as follows:

1st Tom Airey 8 wins; 2nd Chris Hague 6 wins; 3rd Rick Farrer 6 wins;
 4th Malcolm McKendrick 4 wins; 5th Peter Kessell 3 wins; 6th Steve Howe 3 wins;
 7th Denis Grocott 2 wins; 8th Simon Oylott 1 win; 9th Mark Annandale 1 win.
 DNF: Roly Nix, Robin Caswell.

| Low-cost 600RES | | Round | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Total |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------|----|----|----|---|---|-------|
| 1 | Chris Hague | | 7 | 9 | 9 | | | 25 |
| 2 | Rick Farrer | | 10 | 6 | 8 | | | 24 |
| 3 | Peter Kessell | | 9 | 7 | 6 | | | 22 |
| 4 | Tom Airey | | - | 10 | 10 | | | 20 |
| 5 | Denis Grocott | | 5 | 8 | 4 | | | 17 |
| 6 | Ian Pratt | | 8 | 3 | - | | | 11 |
| 7 | Malcolm McKendrick | | 3 | - | 7 | | | 10 |
| 8 | Dick Hanley | | 4 | 5 | - | | | 9 |
| =8 | Steve Howe | | - | 4 | 5 | | | 9 |
| 10 | John Taylor | | 6 | - | - | | | 6 |
| 11 | Mark Annandale | | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | 6 |
| 12 | Simon Oylott | | - | 2 | 3 | | | 5 |
| 13 | Geoff Collins | | 2 | - | - | | | 2 |
| =13 | James Parry | | 2 | - | - | | | 2 |
| =13 | Roly Nix | | - | - | 2 | | | 2 |
| =13 | Robin Caswell | | - | - | 2 | | | 2 |

Remember it is the best 4 scores to count.

Ref: WSSX600RR311

Chris Hague