

2016 WESSEX AEROMODELLERS LEAGUE Low-Cost 600RES Competition

Scores after the 3rd round at Salisbury MFC on Sunday 5 June

The third round of the 2016 season started with yet another accurate forecast from the Met Office, which meant a hot sunny day - almost too hot we complained. Fourteen pilots entered but this was reduced to thirteen after Darren Bumpass had radio and servo problems. Darren then volunteered to do the timekeeping for the rest of the day.

After the pilots briefing the event got under way 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.

Initial flights were of short duration at the beginning of the day and Round 1 got under way with wins for Andrew Fellows, Jeff Fellows and Rick Churchill. James Parry and Darren Bumpass failed to get their models in flying condition and the latter opted for a day of timekeeping.

The rather flat conditions continued in Round 2 and no-one was able to find much lift until the last slot when Chris Hague unlocked some of the potential of his new model and picked up some lift and a comfortable win. Earlier in the round Ian Pratt, Andrew Fellows and Peter Rose collected maximum points.

Flight times increased in Round 3 and they produced very close contests in every slot. Roly Nix scored maximum points by narrowly beating James Parry and Malcolm McKendrick by less than 20 seconds. Andrew Fellows, Rick Churchill and Dave Ashenden finished in that order separated by less than a minute. A welcome addition to the completion this year, both Bob Corfield and Mike Sims have both adapted quickly to the Round Robin format, both narrowly failing to beat Chris Hague by just over a minute. However only 50 seconds separated all four pilots in the final slot with a narrow winning margin going to Jeff Fellows closely followed by Peter Rose, Ian Pratt and Glenn Woodford.

And so to an interesting Round 4 when the "old order" began to change. Peter Rose and Glenn Woodford produced excellent flights to win their slots and pick up maximum points. Bob Corfield only narrowly lost out to Jeff Fellows. However, only 80 seconds separated first to last in the most keenly contested slot of the round. Fortunes ebbed back and forth as firstly Andrew Fellows had the height advantage, then James Parry found lift and went up to an altitude that had exceeded all his expectations. Meanwhile Ian Pratt had found a useful patch of lift close to Chris Hague and then suddenly all four models were at an equal height and the contest was about to liven up. Slowly but surely James and Chris gained a small advantage over Ian and Andrew and then the sink came through and all four models were descending. Ian was first to land, followed by Andrew and it looked as though James was going to win but Chris managed to make a smooth wide circle back to the landing patch to win by a few seconds. Phew! That's what this formula can produce, a really close exciting contest with the winner in doubt until the final seconds.

By early afternoon there were some good patches of lift available in Round 5, it was just a matter of locating it, and then staying in it! Staying in the lift is just what Jeff Fellows and Chris Hague managed to do and fly out to the only maximum time of 15 minutes recorded on the day. Malcolm was unlucky to lose out with a flight of over 10 minutes. Andrew Fellows only narrowly outflew Peter Rose. Maximum scores were collected by Bob Corfield and Glenn Woodford when they won their respective slots.

In the final analysis out of the 13 pilots competing those finishing in the first nine places overall throughout the five rounds won at least one of their slots. After the five rounds some pilots had an equal number of wins and so took part in a fly-off. Of these Malcolm McKendrick beat Dave Ashenden (who had repaired his damaged model from the previous event) and in a very tight fly-off Glenn Woodford beat new entrant Bob Corfield and an out-of-form Ian Pratt who had suffered from several minor model maladies. This just left first place to be decided as Jeff Fellows had an equal number of wins to Chris Hague. This was sure to be a close contest as when flying against each other in Round 5 they both found lift and flew out to the maximum 15 minutes. And so to the launch, Andrew produced his javelin type throw for Jeff with Roly emulating it for Chris. As we have come to witness, Jeff gained a significant height advantage during the 25 second motor run phase of the flight and for some five or so minutes remained at a height advantage. Chris meanwhile had no option but to seek out some lift in another part of the sky and this gradually reaped its reward. Soon Chris had a height advantage over Jeff and it was Jeff's turn to shadow Chris in an attempt to catch up. It was not to be however, as when Jeff landed after a flight of over 11 minutes, Chris's model was still flying high with altitude to spare. This ended what was generally acknowledged as an excellent day's flying, in superb weather at a great flying site.

The Flamstone Farm results are as follows:

1st Chris Hague 10.5 wins; 2nd Jeff Fellows 10.5 wins;
 3rd Andrew Fellows 10 wins; 4th Peter Rose 8 wins; 5th Rick Churchill 7 wins;
 6th Glenn Woodford 6 wins; 7th Bob Corfield 6 wins; 8th Ian Pratt 6 wins;
 9th Roly Nix 4 wins; 10th Mike Sims 3 wins; 11th James Parry 3 wins;
 12th Malcolm McKendrick 2 wins; 13th Dave Ashenden 2 wins.

600RES Class		Round	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	Andrew Fellows		25	25	23			73
2	Jeff Fellows		24	24	24			72
3	Chris Hague		23	23	25			71
4	Ian Pratt		22	21	18			61
5	Peter Rose		19	18	22			59
6	Glenn Woodford		18	20	20			58
7	Malcolm McKendrick		21	22	14			57
8	Bob Corfield		20	17	19			56
9	Rick Churchill		17	14	21			52
10	Roly Nix		15	16	17			48
11	Mike Sims		13	15	16			44
12	Darren Bumpass		16	19	-			35
13	Dave Ashenden		14	-	13			27
14	James Parry		-	-	15			15

Remember it is the best 4 scores to count.



7th placed Bob Corfield with Apollo 2.3m 1st place Chris Hague and timekeeper Darren Bumpass



The happy band of contestants at Flamstone Farm

Our thanks go to the Salisbury MFC for the use of their excellent flying field. Thanks also to the timekeepers Darren Bumpass and James Parry who volunteered throughout a scorching hot day, a sterling effort.

After a successful third round we look forward to **Round 4 on Sunday 17 July at Collingbourne Kingston** the site of the Marlborough MFC. Watch this space at www.wessexaml.co.uk for all the latest information.

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Chris Hague