

## **WESSEX Low-Cost 600RES LEAGUE 2012**

### **The final round held at Cashmoor on Sunday 7 October 2012**

**by Chris Hague**

After two postponements earlier in the season at last we were lucky enough to have a perfect flying day. The easterly wind direction suited the excellent Cashmoor flying site and the wind strength of around 6 MPH suited the 600RES thermal gliders down to the ground! Above the ground the lift was there, somewhere, and an entry of 11 pilots endeavoured to find it. And find it they did! There were some excellent flights throughout the day, although no-one needed to fly out the 15 minute maximum in order to win their slot.

We have had a different winner in each of the first four rounds of the competition - would there be a fifth different winner today? This emphasises just how close the event has become. With consistent finishes in earlier rounds the overall winner was going to be either Ian Pratt or Chris Hague. There had been a lot of pre-match friendly banter over this whenever the two protagonists were up at Cashmoor at the same time! Second place was being contested by Rick Farrer, Glenn Woodford and Peter Kessell. After the pilots' briefing at 10.30 the first round was soon under way. Early in the day flights of up to six minutes were required to win a slot. Round One produced good wins for Ian Pratt, Rick Churchill and Glenn Woodford (by just one second from Chris Hague).

There were wins in Round Two for Ian Pratt (but only just from Malcolm McKendrick and Glenn Woodford), Rick Farrer (but only just from a rapidly improving Darren Bumpass), Chris (by just one second from Geoff Collins) and to his surprise James 'I didn't mean to do that' Parry.

In Round Three both Rick Churchill and Chris Hague returned to their winning ways, Ian Pratt lost for the first time to Rick Farrer, and Darren Bumpass flew brilliantly with one of the longest flights of the day, for over 14 minutes, to beat Geoff Collins.

Round Four was the round that evened up the scoring with Rick Churchill beating Ian Pratt, Rick Farrer losing out to Geoff Collins, and Peter Kessell putting in a strong flight to beat Chris Hague and Glenn Woodford picking up two valuable points against Darren Bumpass and James Parry.

This left Round Five to sort out the final placings with only one point separating the five protagonists: Ian, Rick F, Rick C, Glenn and Chris. The wonders of the round robin matrix conspired to pair up pilots (by pure chance) to make this final round a tense affair. First up the two Ricks competed and Rick Farrer won by over a minute. Glenn lost out to an unpredictable Geoff Collins having one of his superb thermal finding flights when he becomes unbeatable. Ian found the best patch in the sky and beat Chris by over two minutes.

In the fly-off for seventh place Peter flew for over five minutes to beat Darren. Glenn, Chris and Geoff finished with six wins each and in the fly-off for fourth place Glenn's flight of 8 minutes 38 seconds was enough to beat both Chris and Geoff. With seven wins each the two Ricks were competing for second place with Rick C flying for a magnificent seven minutes forty-four seconds, only to be beaten when Rick F managed a whole second longer flight time! Phew, that was close! Congratulations go to Ian as this left him our fifth different winner of the season with eight wins.

Now to the overall results for the season: counting only the best four scores Ian Pratt turned out to be a worthy winner with one first place, two seconds and a third. It is interesting to note that Ian designed and built his own lightweight models in very much his own inimitable style and that his perseverance with the development of the models has finally paid off. Second overall goes to Rick Farrer with one first and two second places, again using lightweight models very much of his own design. Flying a relatively heavy, much modified Swift 2m for most of the season, Chris Hague, winner over the past two seasons, finished with a first and second place in third. Close behind in fourth place was Glenn Woodford with one first place, whilst the fifth different winner throughout the season was Tom Airey who finished in seventh place after only entering three rounds. Throughout the season 21 pilots took part, highlighting just how popular this class has become. Once again we have equality of the models, and hence launch heights and the rules will remain unchanged for yet another season in 2013, thus allowing existing models to remain competitive and encouraging further development over the winter, as all those "ground breaking" ideas are put into next year's model. Or you could just build one of Peter Kessell's Apollo's and know that you will be competitive all season! Whatever you choose, I along with co-promoter James, look forward to more of the same during 2013. It's been a superb season with great camaraderie amongst the pilots.

Nearly all the models were weighed on one set of scales throughout the day and I will publish the results separately. Our thanks go to our host club, the Wimborne MAC, for the use of their excellent flying field, and to John Bainbridge for organising such a superb flying site and to John, Nancy and James for minding the BBQ throughout the day.

Next year I plan to start the season off with a special event, more details of which later. Watch this space at [www.wessexaml.co.uk](http://www.wessexaml.co.uk) for all the latest information.

The Cashmoor results are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Ian Pratt 8 wins; 2<sup>nd</sup> Rick Farrer 7 wins; 3<sup>rd</sup> Rick Churchill 7 wins;  
4<sup>th</sup> Glenn Woodford 6 wins; 5<sup>th</sup> Chris Hague 6 wins; 6<sup>th</sup> Geoff Collins 6 wins;  
7<sup>th</sup> Peter Kessell 5 wins; 8<sup>th</sup> Darren Bumpass 5 wins; 9<sup>th</sup> Malcolm McKendrick 4 wins;  
10<sup>th</sup> James Parry 1 win; 11<sup>th</sup> Roly Nix 0 wins.

<b>Low-cost 600RES</b>		Round	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	Ian Pratt		<b>9</b>	8	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>36</b>
2	Rick Farrer		<b>4.5</b>	-	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>32.5</b>
3	Chris Hague		2.3	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>
4	Glenn Woodford		<b>10</b>	2	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>29</b>
5	Peter Kessell		<b>8</b>	3	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>26</b>
6	Geoff Collins		<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	-	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>
7	Tom Airey		<b>2.3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	-	-	<b>19.3</b>
8	Rick Churchill		<b>2.3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	2	<b>8</b>	<b>18.3</b>
9	Ian Sapsed		<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	-	-		<b>13</b>
10	Simon Oylott		<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	-	<b>5</b>		<b>13</b>
11	Malcolm McKendrick		<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	-	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>
12	James Parry		1	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>
13	Darren Bumpass		-	-	-	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
14	Jeff Fellows		<b>4.5</b>	-	-	-		<b>4.5</b>
=15	Roly Nix		-	-	-	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
=15	Phil Anning		<b>2</b>	-	-	<b>2</b>		<b>4</b>
=15	Robin Caswell		<b>2</b>	-	-	<b>2</b>		<b>4</b>
=15	Steve Howe		<b>2</b>	-	-	<b>2</b>		<b>4</b>
=15	Gordon Mignano		<b>2</b>	-	-	<b>2</b>		<b>4</b>
=15	Phil Mitchell		<b>2</b>	-	-	<b>2</b>		<b>4</b>
21	Richard Few		-	-	-	<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>

Remember it is the best 4 scores, **shown in bold**, to count.



2012 winner Ian Pratt receives his trophy from Chris Hague



Happy 600RES pilots at Cashmoor

Ref: WSSX600RR512

Chris Hague