

Northern League Inter Club and Traplet Sponsored 'War of the Roses' **R2; Arrowe Park 7/8/16**

The 4th round of our inter club event should have been flown at the Bickershawe site but unfortunately as they have recently lost their flying field the Wirral club kindly stepped in and offered to host the competition there.

This particular round was also doubling as the 2nd round of the Traplet War of the Roses annual event and so a couple of hardy souls had crossed the Pennines to compete on behalf of Mother Yorkshire. Also renowned BMFA scale judge Geoff Brown had been pressed into service, accompanied by our old pals Gary & Jim. With Peter Maw present as the Traplet 'man on the spot' we were ready to go.

I must apologise at the outset for the lack of pictures; my fault I forgot my camera! I will fill in with a couple of stock photos from previous rounds.

The horrendous weather forecast turned out to be 100% accurate with a vicious 20+ mph 90 degree crosswind on the pilots back present all day. As if this was not bad enough it also generated viciously unpredictable turbulence at ground level over the landing strip due to the close proximity of the woodland behind the pits area. All in all a day when sensible flyers would not take off and the reason I'm sure that many of our regulars stayed at home. As a result we had a short, entertaining but still enjoyable day with 7 flyers deciding to chance it. 2 of those were Yorkshire men and so not part of our inter club events. For that reason their positions and point scoring potential are excluded from the final inter club results. Hope that makes sense?

Anyhow due to the reasons outlined above this will be a much shorter than usual report [thanks goodness I hear you say!].

As part of the Traplet contribution to the day RCMW columnist Peter Maw was in attendance as previously mentioned and announced that Traplet Publications had kindly donated a couple of prizes for 1st and 2nd place in the form of a 12 month free subscription to the magazine and a Dennis Bryant plan and wood pack of the winners choice so many thanks to them for their generosity.



This photo from a previous event will give you some idea of the problem. A 20+mph wind blowing from the direction of the trees in the background and at 90 degrees to the flight line hit the models as soon as they cleared the tree line.

1st to fly was Billy Bennett with his Goldberg Extra. Being first Billy became the unwilling guinea pig for us following pilots to let us assess the conditions. As expected once the model had taken off and gained some height it was subjected to severe crosswind buffeting once out from the shelter of the trees. Billy put in 2 solid flights for his club, doing them no harm at all in their chase for points. Billy also mentioned that his latest model, a Mentor has now been successfully test flown although he feels that the Laser 100 is not quite man enough for the job and so he's looking to up the power with a 120 before continuing with it.

2nd was myself again flying the Sukhoi. I normally apologise and grope around for a reason to justify flying it again but not on this day. In weather like this I was not prepared to risk anything more delicate/complex/expensive [delete as appropriate]. Anyhow suffice to say that I did okay and the model is still in one piece despite the best efforts of the weather demons to re kit it!



Not that anyone now needs reminding but here again is my ASM Sukhoi SU26.

The next flyer was Bill Mansell from Yorkshires 'Plane Crazy' club flying a very nice [wish I'd remembered my camera!] Piper Arrow. The model looked to be around 80" span and was I think 4 stroke 120 powered. In flight the model looked quite heavy but flew very well, its weight probably helping it in the blustery conditions. Bills 2 rounds placed him 3rd overall but of course for our inter club scoring purposes his position and points will be disregarded.

Flying 4th was host club stalwart Colin Martin again pressing his electric S'Bach into service. This was far from the ideal conditions for such a small and light model to thrive but Colin grabbed it by the scruff of the neck and did battle with the elements for 2 exciting rounds of flying. Col finished overall 4th [3rd when non Northern League flyers were removed from the results] and so added to a superb haul of club points for the Wirral boys, not to mention doing his individual score no harm either. I will save the blushes of those involved by allowing them to remain anonymous but suffice to say Col would have done even better if his caller had called 10 rather than 9 2nd round manoeuvres! Nuff said!



Collins electric S'bach captured during it's outing at Arrowe Park in July.

5th to go was Jim Brown from Cleckheaton club with a very large IMAC style petrol powered Extra of around 100+” span. This model was expected to perform very well in the difficult conditions but of course these models are purposely built with very low wing loading to allow them to achieve their extraordinary performance. The down side of course is that it seemed just as susceptible as our smaller models to the side winds that blighted the day. There were a couple of ‘hairy’ moments during Jim’s flights but he handled them well and got the beast up and down in one piece. Well done indeed.

Number 6 on the list was Keith Fear flying for Skelmersdale. Keith had taken along 2 models; his latest pride and joy the Moth Minor and also a newly commissioned [although quite old] Flair CMP Extra 300 which he has put together specifically to cope with conditions such as those we faced today. Keith originally planned to fly the Moth but was ‘persuaded’ to leave it on the ground as the Extra would probably cope better with the conditions. I’m sure Keith would now concede that this was a wise move having observed the effects of the weather on those models that flew. At least the Moth lives to fly another day! As I mentioned no camera means no pics of the Extra but I’m sure we will get the chance to see it at future events.

Last man up was Wirral flyer Mark McKee again flying his Blackhorse Spitfire. Mark has powered this with an O.S. 33cc petrol engine and it certainly needed the power today. Flying fast and smooth Mark managed to keep the Spit out of harms way and would have scored even better than he did but for a cruel gust on his 2nd round landing which lifted the tail and caused a nose over. Still for all that second place overall and a free 12 month magazine subscription will hopefully ease the pain?



Marks Blackhorse Spitfire from an earlier round.

By the end of the second round we were all relieved to have our models still in one piece with no damage sustained, a remarkable result given the conditions. So with a quick thanks to Traplet, the Wirral club and our 3 judges Gary, Geoff and Jim and finally to the pilots who braved the difficult conditions to get some flying done it's on to the results;

Firstly the results as recorded on the day;

Position	Name	Club	Model	Score	Club Points	Ind. Point
1 st	Alan Glover	Liverpool	Sukhoi SU26	182	10	10
2 nd	Mark McKee	Wirral	Spitfire	164.5	8	8
3 rd	Bill Mansell*	Plane Crazy	Piper Arrow	161	0	0*
4 th	Colin Martin	Wirral	S'Bach	155	7	7
5 th	Keith Fear	Skelmersdale	Extra 300	152	6	6
6 th	Jim Brown*	Cleckheaton	Extra 300	151.5	0	0*
7 th	Billy Bennett	Wirral	Extra 300	146	5	5

Note; those competitors highlighted in blue* are not participating as members of Northern League clubs. Hence the pilot placed immediately below is promoted by one position as regards inter club and individual points allocation.

Next are the current club positions after 4 rounds;

Position	Club	Points
1 st	Skelmersdale	56
2 nd =	Liverpool	54
2 nd =	Wirral	54
4 th =	Bickershawe	0
4 th =	Delyn	0

Finally the current top 10 individual places;

Position	Name	Points
1 st	Alan Glover	34
2 nd	Colin Martin	21
3 rd	Keith Fear	20
4 th	Andy Bowman	17
5 th	Barry Shreborne	14
6 th =	Mark McKee	12
6 th =	Mike Rawlins	12
7 th	Ian Bottell	11
8 th =	Billy Bennett	10
8 th =	Graham Green	10

That's 4 of the 5 events done for this year. The final event will take place at Delyn Club's 'Singing Kettle' field on Sunday 4th September. Here's hoping the weather is better and that I remember my camera! As you can see from the above table the club positions could not be closer this year and so the final positions are all dependent on the final round turnout and results.

Just a final bit of info before I go. The annual Ted Williams Memorial open scale day fly in at Skelmersdale is scheduled for Sunday 14th August [that's next weekend] at the White Moss Flying site. 'Kick Off' 10.00am. As stated this is a fly in not a competition so if you have a nice scale model then why not come along and give it an airing. The rules such as they are are very simple. Bring a model, fly it and if you are lucky go home with a bottle of plonk, what could be simpler? The map below will show how to get there and if any more info is needed just ask. Jim Dobson, Andy Bowman and myself will do our best to answer any questions.



Cheers for now.

Alan.

