

Glider Day 20th Oct 2013

We approached the day with some concern, there had been high winds most of the week, twice your ace reporter had been to the field to practise and both times been unable to fly due to the high winds.

However, Sunday was fine and with almost no wind so we got straight into the Electric Glider session with 8 pilots ready to do battle (where was everyone else - we usually have a better turnout than that?) and Mike Minty and Col Buckley chosen by the CD, Dave Pound, to lead the charge. Col was first up and turned in a very respectable 5:09 time but missed the spot and needed 27 secs of motor run. Here he is launching and now seeking the elusive lift.



Mike faired better with a 4:57 flight from 18 secs of motor and a 10 pt spot landing

bonus. George Kaley managed a 5:15 flight (but remember seconds over 5 minutes count negative!) from 21 secs of motor plus a spot landing but son Robert was not so lucky, he managed to fly but finished with a tail pointing in the wrong direction - for him it was a KO in Round 1.

Tom Sparkes has shall we say a "Mature Model" which makes an interesting



grinding noise as it climbs to the heavens (seen here launched by Dave Menzies) and needed 36 secs to stay up for 5:25 but did pick up 10 spot landing points and then El Presedente stepped up and showed what's what! Clive got 5:08 from a 20 sec run AND maximum 30 points landing - a score of 302, the highest so far. David Foster had a good go at it but stayed up for too long on 5:24 after an impressive 19 second climb.

Last man in the round David Menzies got a near perfect 5:01 plus a max spot landing but took 35 secs of motor to do it. Clive was the man to beat, the only one to exceed 300 points!

Round 2 saw a general improvement with 3 over 300. Mike got 305, Clive scored 310, while Dave F got 312. Here David M launches his own plane for a 294 pointer while Mike waits to launch (photo courtesy of Freddie).



Round 3 was rather variable, the lift seemed to have vanished and everyone was needing to use more motor time. David M had the best flight time of 4:59 and a perfect landing but 37 secs of motor time kept his score sub-300. Col made a good landing while Tom demonstrated how to go round and round the spot 6 times without actually landing.



Adding up all the points gave:



1st Clive 889, 2nd Dave F 871, 3rd Dave M 844, 4th Mike 828

And so to **Thermal Gliding** where there was some discussion about which way the wind was, is and might be blowing. It was decided from the Eastish and with the flying order reversed Round 1 and Dave M was first up to find no lift worth having and he was back in 1:51 as opposed to t'other Dave who shot up the bungee, found lift for 4:30 but blew the landing. Best not to talk about Clive's first flight, 0:50 will not impress anyone but then it is an electric glider with the prop blades removed! And then there was Robert and his brand new, un-tried, very pretty Golden Eagle. That was the good news, the bad news was the loud creaking noise on launch, the cracking noise at 100' on the bungee and then the dramatic "clapping of the hands" as the wings folded, departed and landed about a minute after the fuselage whacked home. This was not turning out to be Robert's day!



George didn't have a glider so Dave F lent him his old one and he turned in 2:10 on his first flight but no landing points - it's a lot harder with a thermal as opposed to electric glider. Mike was last to fly for a modest 3:38 and 10 landing points.

Round 2 was better, a breeze sprang up which meant more tension on the bungee which meant more height which equals longer flights. Dave F, Clive and Mike all got over 4 minute flights and although Col only got a 2:22 he got the full 30 points for the landing. George managed a sad 1:32 and started re-thinking tactics.

Round 3 saw Dave M pull a very nice 5:05 out of the hat together with a 20 point landing 315 points out of a max of 330 - could this be "Morts Mug"? (trophy for best single thermal glider flight)

Col, being launched by Clive here, had another premature wosname and left the bungee early for a 0:53.



George gets away from a Dave F launch and decided if there was not much lift over the dam



then try the car park! It's a risky strategy cos if there's none there you are stuffed - he found it and produced 5:00 plus a 20 point landing - 320 capped Dave Ms 315. Mike was last to fly - could he overtake George? Nail biting stuff! He also went to the car park and looked like he had blown it but suddenly picked some lift up and the race was on. He got to 4:30 but came in too early and despite a 30 point landing could only manage 311 points.

So more arithmetic from Clive and CD Dave Pound and we had



1st David F 826, 2nd Mike 814, 3rd David M 782, 4th Clive 583

And George pulled out the rabbit to win Morts Mug!

Here's the happy flyers (after the Electric round) and the winners with trophies



Thanks to all participants and Dave P, the CD.

Lets hope to see more next time, it all good fun!



And there's more.....



George sends his Radian off in a gentle climb while Dave F has a watch in each hand to record flight and motor times.

Mike gives Tom the heave how (to much grinding of the ancient motor)



Clive throws, Dave P times and Robert takes a picture of Mike taking a picture of them!



Dave F self launches but
.....

Will he make the spot?



Mike M hurls his mighty
Maxie Fly (while Freddie
tries to capture the
moment)



Here's *George* heading straight for the spot (you can just see it on the right of the frame)

And DM launches for DF in Thermal Gliding



You can never get away from the paparazzi!

Extra photos thanks to Robert and his telephoto lens

