

PLANE PAPER

Free Flight in the South East

Issue 68, August 2011



7th Area Meeting, Ashdown Forest, 7th August 2011

BMFA Combined Rubber, Team

| | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------------|----------|
| 1 | Rob Taylor | East Grinstead (A) | 4.25 |
| 2 | Ken Taylor | East Grinstead (A) | 4.13 |
| 3 | Robin Willes | Crawley (A) | 4.04 |
| 4 | Peter Norman | Crawley | No Score |

BMFA F1A Glider

| | | | |
|---|--------------|---------|------|
| 1 | Robin Willes | Crawley | 2.50 |
|---|--------------|---------|------|

BMFA E30

| | | | |
|---|------------|---------|----------|
| 1 | Peter Lang | M.F.F.G | No Score |
|---|------------|---------|----------|

RAFA Combined Rubber

| | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------------|----------|
| 1 | Rob Taylor | East Grinstead (A) | 4.25 |
| 2 | Ken Taylor | East Grinstead (A) | 4.13 |
| 3 | Robin Willes | Crawley (A) | 4.04 |
| 4 | Peter Norman | Crawley | No Score |

RAFA F1A Glider, Nordic Shield

| | | | |
|---|--------------|---------|------|
| 1 | Robin Willes | Crawley | 2.37 |
|---|--------------|---------|------|

RAFA E30

| | | | |
|---|------------|---------|----------|
| 1 | Peter Lang | M.F.F.G | No Score |
|---|------------|---------|----------|

NOTICE

If you have a Rrafa /Area Trophy please don't forget to return it so that it can be engraved.

Contents

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1 | BMFA Comb. Rubber |
| 1 | BMFA F1A |
| 1 | BMFA E30 |
| 1 | RAFA Comb. Rubber |
| 1 | RAFA F1A |
| 1 | RAFA E30 |
| 2 | A Free Flight Tale |
| 2 | RAFA Points |
| 2 | RAFA Positions |
| 2 | Weather |

Free Flight, An Impressionists Tale.

Friends Clump car park. It was already windy on arrival, too windy for my liking and the forecast seemed to suggest it was quite likely to get windier so it seemed there was no need to rush putting models together. I had a feeling we was going to have an interesting day. Robin piped the start of the day by playing Black Adder on a flute, most entertaining, I hoped it might improve later, the weather that is!

I strolled down to the usual launch area down the slope both to check out what it was like and also with a pair of bins and stop watch in hand ready to time the first flight away from Robin Willes flying a Tripstick rubber model. I wasn't sure at first whether it would escape from the ground turbulence but once it got out over the valley it did very well and eventually paddled up into a good patch of lift, dting down just behind a group of trees beyond the plateau. Both Ken and Bob Taylor also maxed their first flights comfortably in rubber.

There was a brief shower when it came over pretty dark but it didn't last long and soon the sun was back out and everything looked bright again ...apart from the wind speed and direction which was now getting borderline ...the gorse ..the hill...the turbulencethe treesthe Romans ...etc etc.

Apart from Robin only John Richardson chose to brave the elements in the Nordic with a brand new glider unfortunately this suffered quite a bit of damage after it towed in and tried to rekit itself. Peter Lang attempted to fly E30 electric class at a particularly tricky time of the morning just after it had rained but didn't get away still nice to see him at Ashdown.

An ex Free Flighter appeared he seemed a good bloke. Typically I was so engrossed with what I was doing (or not doing) I forgot his name but welcome to free flight. He'd seen there was an Area meeting on so had come along to see how we was all doing. I spoke to him while I was, for some reason, foolishly piecing together my glider with thoughts that I might even fly it, but whilst sitting in boot of car the Friends Clump trees seemed to be whistling some sense in the wind...ie don't do it! Eventually I came to my senses and said "If you are going down to where they all are could you tell dad Ive decided to pack my model away again!"

Meanwhile Robin's TripStick was still stuck fast up a tree just out of his reach so he chose to fly some glider flights with a Jedelski winged F1A which eventually came in quite fast and under elevated with a bit of a wing flutter problem. That seemed a good time to stop for a sardine lunch, whilst Alex Cameron and myself went and got his Tripstick out of the silver birch it was caught up in. On our return he switched back to rubber flying and entertaining the lesser braves watching him. The few seemed to have now completely abandoned hopes of flying themselves, there seemed to be much talk of allotments and how best to grow runner beans.

Robin's efforts were finally rewarded with a super entertaining late flight with his very highly decorated Bazooka "water lillies" by Monet was mentioned and there was a suggestion that it might fly best to the sounds of Don Meleans Vincent (Starry Starry night) as it powered away on the extra strands he'd decided on. Everyone cheered though, when it got clean away, flying high up over the woods landing safely in the middle of an open field, not a max but still a great flight and a nice easy get for a change.

Bob topped the rubber table with his last flight flown from the Box car park, followed close by Ken and Robin who'd done enough to secure top in glider.

Good support as always despite lack of flying, most stood around chating as the weather wasn't too bad for talking! Encouraging those that did attempt to fly with words of wisdom just short of what the Australians would call Sledging, its all good humoured stuff. Flying entries naturally were down due mostly to a very poor wind direction again which worsened swinging models more and more Southerly during the day. When your faced with the possibility of woods in under 30sec naturally not too many chose to pull models out of their boxes and risk it. Wind strengths also increased at times to 25mph +

.A lone Harvard flying past late afternoon was an unexpected highlight, maybe it was Gary Numan if he still flies them, I thought I heard his name mentioned, it definitely wasn't Elvis!

Well done to Robin, Ken and Bob, John and Peter for giving it a go, disappointing it wasn't a more flyable for all

East Grinstead seem poised to regain the Shield but there's still one meet left and there's always a chance I might have made a terrible mistake in the points totals. Hoping for a better last one of the season. I hope to see you all next meeting at Ashdown.

Gaz

RAFA Points

| <u>Pos</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Club</u> | <u>%age</u> | <u>Points</u> |
|------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | Rob Taylor | Comb/Rubber | East Grinstead | 58.88 | 4 |
| 2 | Ken Taylor | Comb/Rubber | East Grinstead | 56.22 | 3 |
| 3 | Robin Willes | Comb/Rubber | Crawley | 54.22 | 2 |
| 4 | Robin Willes | F1A Glider | Crawley | 52.66 | 1 |

| | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th | 6th | 7th | 8th | Total |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| East Grinstead | 26 | 12 | 17 | 101 | 8 | 75 | 7 | | 246 |
| Crawley | 10 | 7 | 26 | 59 | 7 | 52 | 3 | | 164 |
| Maidstone | 4 | 2 | 2 | 20 | 0 | 17 | 0 | | 45 |

Weather

Mostly sunny & bright but very windy 25mph+ gusting more at times, increasingly poor direction swinging Southerly.

John Richardson, 21 Beaver Road, Ashford, Kent. TN23 7SE

Tel: 01233 668767

john-richardson@btconnect.com

PLANE PAPER