

Electric and Thermal Glider Day 15th Oct 2016

At last, a day without a howling gale blowing, well not at first anyway. The usual suspects gathered at noon (minus a few who were constrained by house repairs or eye operations) and the bungee was laid out in preparation for Thermal Gliding in the gentle breeze which immediately changed direction by about 180 degrees! Before the bungee could be relaid the wind had moved again and it was obvious there was not going to be a constant direction until that predicted in the weather forecast.



So it was time for **Electric Gliding** where you can launch the plane in whatever direction you want or need to. Nine members were ready to do battle but David Foster was too busy to get in the "let's do a photo now in case we don't all survive" photo, so here are the rest. Dave Pound our regular CD gave Mike Minty and his "Maxie" the dubious privilege of being first to go for the 5 minute flight target from the minimum motor run and a spot landing. His



resulting 256 point flight wasn't going to win any prizes and was easily surpassed by Walter Metzger and his "Radian" that clocked up 298 on his first flight from only an 11 second motor run. Clive Weatherhead launches his venerable Thermal Rider here for a perfect 5:00 flight that was let down by too much motor time (58 secs against the general run of 20-30) and with no spot landing points he was in with 242 points.

Next up was Chris Walker and his Thunder Tiger "Eagle" with a nice 5:11 flight but again a high motor time but made up for with 20 landing points to give 254 points. Chris Jordan and his chubby HK "Walrus" went up for a respectable flight and spot landing to produce 272 points. He was followed by Nick Hendel and his HK "Phoenix" that, despite looking just as good as a "Radian", just doesn't fly as well and his high motor time and no landing points left him with 233 points. Phil Morello bravely entered with a profile foamy 3D model that has all the gliding ability of house brick! It took 2:31 of motor time to get a 4:41 flight but at least he got 20 landing points to manage 233 points. Then another "Radian" under the skilful thumbs of Grant Neil got a perfect 5:00 time from only 17 secs of motor AND a maximum landing score of 30 to give a total of 313 points - whoa, this will be hard to beat! Dave Foster was the last to fly in Round 1 and had a good try with a 4:58 from 22 secs and a 20 point landing to give 296 points.



Round 2 saw some similar results with time close to the magic 5 minutes, Clive missed it by 5 secs, Chris W by 3, Grant by only 1 and Dave by 9. It meant Grant was steaming ahead with 316 points and Dave chasing hard with 292. Sadly with the wind springing up Walter had his Radian blown up on the ridge and he couldn't get it back. He spent a long time looking but it's still up there somewhere!



Round 3 saw Mike Mike with a hastily repaired plane (he had a rather heavily enthusiastic landing in Round 2!) manage his best flight to join the 300

point club with Chris J getting a very close 297 also with a much repaired model as a result of round 2 - here is the new bound up nose! Once again Grant creamed it with 305 points while Dave had a problem getting it down in the 5 min time and only collected 288 points. So when all points were added we got



1st Grant Neil 934

2nd Dave Foster 876

3rd Chris Jordan 860;

4th Mike Minty 782

And now the wind was from the NE and getting stronger time for the Thermal Glider event.

Thermal Gliding Round 1 and there were 5 people entered , Mike Minty and his "Bird of Time", Clive, Walter and Grant with "Amigos" and Dave Foster with his venerable "Gentle Lady".

Dave Foster was going to be first up. It was a tense moment as the wind was quite strong and it, and the 5kgs from the bungee, can easily cause a glider to "clap hands" on the way up! Dave came off the bungee early and in trying to get back to the spot for a better score he hit the ground too hard and that put paid to his other flights. Here Grant launches Clive's "Amigo" which showed its wings are plenty strong enough! There was a lot of lift down over the dam and Clive easily got 5:07 and a 10 point landing got him a nice 303 total. Grant's "Amigo" went up almost vertically and his 4:52 and a perfect spot landing netted him 323 points. Mike's first flight got him a 5:10 flight and a total of 310. Walter, having returned from a long "bush walk" decided to give this event a miss.



Round 2 Saw Clive come off early and only managing a 1:06 flight though a 20 point landing helped a bit. Mike struggled to get down at the end of the flight and over flew for 5:19 (remember time over the 5 mins gets deducted from the flight time) but a perfect spot landing for a 311 total. Grant flew another cracker - a perfect 5:00 plus a perfect spot for 330 points, you can't get better than that!

Round 3 saw Clive getting so much lift he couldn't get down and finished up circling the spot about 5 times before coming down after 6 mins! Grant did a good but not perfect flight for 294 points and was clearly going to win and all Mike had to do was a reasonable flight for 2nd place But things don't always go to plan. After a high lift flight of 4 mins he started a full spoiler, spiralling flight down to find he couldn't get back to the field and finished up in the trees near the road!

So the points added up gave

1st Grant Neil 952

2nd Clive Weatherhead 629

Mike Minty 621

Dave Pound thanked all the participants and helpers as we packed up at the end of an enjoyable, if damaging day of flying. All that was left was to photograph the smiling prize

winners and look forward to February and the next event. Those of you with gliders, dust them off ready. Those without, why not get an "Amigo", not expensive and good flyers.



**** See the web site for more great pics courtesy of Jody Redfern.