

## Electric & Thermal Glider Day Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 2016

Not a cloud in the sky ..... this was going to be a hot one and with luck a lot of thermals turning up ..... which was more than could be said of competitors!

By the time Comp Director Dave Pound was ready for the Pilot Briefing there were 3 (yes three - here they are!) pilots ready for both events and Peter Lloyd & John Channon had



come along to watch and help. It was decided to hold the **Electric** event first in case the thermals developed later. Dave Foster and Walter Metzger both had identical foamie Radians while Mike Minty had his Maxie (weighing about 5 times as much as a Radian! ).

Dave was first up (launching below) and turned in exactly 5 minutes of flight time from a 26 sec motor run plus a bonus 20 points for a landing within 15 metres of the

spot. This gave a score of 294 points - a great way to start. Mike's Maxie did its usual sharp left hand turn on launch but got to a reasonable height. With a total of 32 secs motor and no spot landing his 268 points was not going to get him far.



Despite same prop, motor and plane Walters Radian climbs noticeably faster than Dave's (shown here being launched by Dave) and was up to a good height with only a 16 sec motor run and his inside 10 metre landing shot him into the lead on 314 points!

The second round saw Dave with a better spot landing but a bit off time on 4:42 to pick up 304 points. Mike fared no better, the Maxie is a bugger to spot landing as its weight brings it in fast on landing, he managed 271 points. Despite another great landing Walter took a couple of goes to get it so overran time 5:28 (remember seconds over or under the 5 minute target lose points) and finished up with 275 points. Mike managed another 270 - not competitive but

consistent! Walter overran again but from only a 12 sec motor run and with a spot landing bonus of 30 collected 299 for that round. When the totals were added Dave & Walter were both on 888 points so they opted for a fly-off and Dave's 4:58 from 26 secs and a perfect spot saw his 302 points beat Walters 258 by a handsome margin.

And so to the **Thermal Gliding** where Mike had his Bird of Time, Walter his Omega (with the motor removed and a neat screw on nylon nose plug to replace it) and Dave had his modified Gentle Lady .



Mike was up first and it was obvious there wasn't much lift around. He managed 3:21 and a <15m landing to score 221 points. Walter was unsure how much strain his Omega ARF wings could take so opted for a less than full stretch launch. He couldn't find any lift or the spot so only collected 145 points. Dave had even less luck on the lift but did at least pick up a 20 point landing to make 130 points for

the first round.

Round Two saw Mike pick up better lift to manage 4:06 but the spot eluded him. Walter found even less lift than round 1 but his spot helped him to 140 points while Dave (seen here being launched by Peter Lloyd) managed a better flight to pick up 180 points.

Round Three had Mike manage a 3:58 flight but again blew the spot (he found his spoilers were coming up very unevenly and throwing the plane of course) while



Dave managed a respectable 3:07 plus an excellent landing of +30. Walter decided he had to get more height so he really stretched the bungee and the resulting rocket climb saw ..... the dreaded "clap hands" from the wings. The noise as the bungee at full stretch pulled the plane into the ground was impressive (the nose went in about 8cms!) but knowing Walter it will fly again after some serious mending!

So after all the points were added up we had David Foster winning Electric and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Thermal, Walter 2<sup>nd</sup> in Electric and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Thermal and Mike winning Thermal and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Electric. Mike also won the Morts Mug for the best Thermal flight and here they are ..... With their trophies ..... All alone .....



No other competitors - WHERE WERE YOU GUYS, we know you are out there but if you don't turn up next time we will have to cancel the comp, we can't close the field to regular Sunday fliers for 3 entries! Come and join the fun, it really is a relaxed comp with lots of wingspan and little strain and plenty of peace and quiet too. Thanks to Dave Pound for organising it and to Peter & John for helping.

Mike M