

The Spring Scale Day 6th Nov 2016

The day didn't start well as the Saturday had been so windy that any practice flying was virtually impossible! Sunday morning saw a lot less wind but still more than we wanted and



from the wrong direction. There was a lot of muttering before anyone braved the elements and first up was Col Buckley with his Me163only he was not flying in the comp! Dave Pound, the ubiquitous CD, had the usual array of trophies for the 4 main events



- Over & Under 7kg Civilian and O & U 7kg Military but the day would find only Under 7 Civilian & Military had enough fliers to call

them comps. He brought his Big Me109 and his little Me109 with its new revised, patented drop-off undercarriage. Sadly it finished up in a tree before it had time to drop off!

The first next flier up was Dave Foster with one of his fleet. It was a very interesting ARF model of a UK Fly Baby that the owner had modified to look like a WWI Junkers complete with dummy gunner cockpit and machine gun. It handled the wind well and received a round of applause from the crowd.



Close behind him was Andrew Biddlecombe with an actual Fly Baby model which was looking good except for the empty

cockpit (he says he is still waiting for the pilot to be painted by a friend) and survived the buffeting of the wind. It was about then that the table appeared - what table you ask? Well with the sad demise of ex member Bob Ockendon, his daughter brought a mountain of goodies to sell off. He was a real collector ("hoarder" in his daughters words but then aren't



we all) and the rush of our members soon had the good stuff leaving not much on the table but still a lot of kits for grabs.





And so back to the flying and Ron Clark rolled out his "Jug" for a fly. He had a collection of heavy metal there but wisely kept his B25 and



Lancaster on the ground. It flew with "authority" as they say but was still not happy in the weather.

A very pleasant sight was David Menzies and his Chiltern. This is electric powered to David's own design and build. He says it is "stand-off" scale but it really looks good in the air (if a bit quiet!).



One that can't be accused of being too quiet is Tom Sparkes mighty Laird Turner (twice winner of the Adelaide Air Races)

that roars up and down the field impervious to wind or weather.



Chris Walker flew his small Cessna foamie in the comp and even managed an inverted pass in the wind, but more interesting was his nearly finished Nomad built from plans and powered by 2 "Spark Gassers" though he is thinking about changing it to electric before the first flight - probably a wise move.



At lunch time there were sausages cooked by Grant Furzer and Brian Porman plus assistants - thanks guys!

During the break we had the **One Model Pylon Race** where 6 people had planes to fly. Unfortunately Chris Walkers tank split and Dave Fosters didn't get off the ground which left Dave Pound, Mike Minty, Dave Bolstad and Andrew Biddlecombe to fight it out. It was a close run over the 10 laps though Dave B was clearly the fastest. However when the race was reviewed with input from Peter Lloyd and Col Buckley who had been watching the turns for "cuts" it was found that Dave B and Andrew had so many of them that Mike went from 3rd to 1st thanks to Simon Comish who guided him round the course with no cuts! See the Gallery for great action shots from Jody Redfern.

Speaking of Simon, he entered 2 foamies, his B17 and his PC 9 (See Gallery for pics) which he flew well in the conditions. Phil Morello and Dave Bolstad also flew in Under 7 Civilian, a Slick 360 and a MXR respectively whatever they might be.



Spotted in the ranks was Doug Radfords Tiger Moth (with grandson) wisely not braving the weather unlike Mike Minty who flew his venerable Pup and Tiger Moth. The former went ok until the landing when a nasty down draft about 6 feet off the ground threw it straight down and bent the undercart. The Moth survived though took about 5 attempts to land as the wind kept changing direction!

So by 2.30 everyone had had enough and Dave P, helped by Phil M added up all the scores given by the other pilots to show-

Under 7 kg Civilian

- 1st Mike Minty - Tiger Moth 2nd Dave Menzies - Chiltern
3rd Dave Foster - Junkers 4th Simon Comish - Cessna

Only 3 points separated the first 3 places!

Under 7 kgs Military

- 1st Dave Foster - Fokker D VII 2nd Simon Comish - B17
3rd Simon Comish - PC9 4th Andrew Biddlecombe - Texan

Only 3 points separated the first 3 places in this group too!

And Mike Minty, as last year's winner, awarded **Tom Sparkes** the splendid

Wal van Heekeren Trophy for the best owner built scale model - his Laird Turner.

Thanks to all who helped, don't forget to check out Jody's excellent photos on the web site and see you next time!

Mike Minty

