

Nationals

Not a very satisfactory solution to the Barkston Nats cancellation but really the best we (CFA) could do in the circumstances.

As I write this the deadline for the F2E and 1/2A classes has just past. After a very slow start I can now report that there is an entry of 12 in F2E and 9 in 1/2A so there will be plenty to do on 17th of this month at Darley Moor. I may fly my Frog 150 powered Gazelle in 1/2A (Joke!)

Engine running is only between 10am and 6pm. Eddie told me he had a complaint of a motor bike being run at 1 minute to 10 so check your watch!

I will need volunteers to help me run this (scorers please) as no other CFA committee members will be attending.

Entries for the other classes on 20/21 August are coming in steadily.

CFA AGM

The CFA AGM will take place at 6pm on Saturday 20th August after flying finishes so as not to cut into flying time. Yes I know this may cut into drinking time but too bad!

Proposals for rule changes, properly seconded, to reach me at mick@combatflyers.co.uk or 40 Upthorpe, DURSLEY, Glos., GL11 5HR by Friday 5th August at the latest.

I will then circulate these before the meeting.

Other Upcoming Contests

July 24th Oliver Tiger Combat at Old Warden

July 31st Vintage Combat at RAF Scampton (now confirmed-check list emailed out)

We Got It Wrong!

As you will read in the report of the Darley Moor contest on 26th June there was a problem with one of the semi finals.

If a flyer does not fly level and anti clockwise when his opponent is on the ground that flyer must be disqualified. I remember disqualifying Richard Herbert for this some years ago.

So Richard Evans should have been disqualified giving the bout to John Allcock. This was not done for which I am truly sorry. Centre marshal Vernon Hunt also missed it at the time.

When a line breaks

As you can see from the above we have a problem with this rule. Usually when a line breaks (or the model is damaged) and the model does continuous loops (or bunts) and the other one is grounded it doesn't last very long and we ignore it. Sticking strictly to the rules we should dq the continuously looping model. What if it only does one loop when it should really be flying level?

Should we change the rule to say if a model does continuous loops(or bunts) with the opponent grounded there will be a re-fly.

To me this seems to be the straightforward solution fair to both flyers but what do you think?

Scampton Vintage Combat April 2016

A sunny day but with a bitingly cold wind greeted no less than twenty seven flyers for this the first competition of the 2016 season.

The large entry meant that it was vital to run two circles for the first and losers rounds. Even so the final did not take place until around 6pm. We will need to be more organised than this for future events as most have stipulated finishing times.

Amongst the regulars there were a couple of newcomers and this caused some delay as they familiarised themselves with what was required time wise.

With two circles in full swing I only saw half of the early bouts so if you do not get a mention this is the reason rather than any lack of bribery on your part.(slip a fiver in my hand at Old Warden to guarantee a mention in my report!)

The first couple of bouts I saw proved that the winter lay off had taken its toll as no cuts were scored. After that things did improve a little with John Allcock and Stuart Vickers each managing a singleton and a win against Dave Marshall (newcomer) and Tony Cookson respectively.

Not to be outdone Bruce Dobson had a good win against Mike Waller by a single cut to nil and Roger Fisher did the same against Graham Winch (pretending to be a newcomer but we know different don't we?)

Dave Marshall showed that he has potential by taking a cut off Dave Wiseman even though ground time eventually lost him the bout. An encouraging start for Dave even though he didn't manage a win (it will come)

Tony Cookson's day went from bad to worse when he was debited no less than eleven ground points against Francis Roberts perfect score of zero. Mike Waller then notched up no fewer than four cuts against Douglas Heathcote who flew level after realising he was no match for his vastly more experienced opponent. If we thought Tony Cookson's score was low Graham Winch decided he could do better (I mean worse really) and he clocked up no fewer than thirteen ground points. Not a bad effort considering only sixteen are available!

Well enough about the early rounds. By lunch time we were all eating cake and toasting Caroline and Francis in recognition of their fifty years together. Hearty congratulations to you both.

A four bout eliminator was then needed to get the number down to sixteen.

Bruce Dobson was supposed to lose to Francis Roberts after scoffing all that cake and booze but he had memory lapse and all Francis could do was to accept defeat graciously which he did.

The bout between John Leggott and Richard Herbert was excellent and resulted in a draw (or is it a tie? never did know the difference)

The re-fly was just as good with Richard scraping through by a mere two seconds!

Steve Malone seems to have put engine problems behind him which is more than can be said for his opponent Bob Payne. Had Bob's engine stayed on song I think the gap would have been much smaller (it was five points). The final eliminator saw Simon Miller on top form taking no less than three nice cuts off John Spink who only managed some ground time.

The first flyer to reach the quarter final was Tim Hobbins, who had been flying well all day, with a win over the 'luckless' Dave Wiseman who only managed one minute of airtime. Moggs Morris then had a similar win over Bruce Dobson before Chris Fisher took on Nick Bridges. Nick was 'over the moon' with his new Kanible GT which is apparently very economical to cover! However Chris Fisher was not over impressed winning by two cuts to one. Richard Perks then defeated Mike Waller without a cut being taken as Mike's engine just refused to re-start after hitting the ground. Steve Malone did a very professional job on Chris Moore winning by no less than sixteen points before the bout of the round between Roger Fisher and John Allcock. Clean flying throughout saw Roger emerge the winner by three cuts to two and not a single ground point for either of them.

The bout between Simon Miller and Stuart Vickers was 'one of those'. Certainly the worst bout of the round and possibly of the day as well?

Just two laps after the start signal there was a serious 'coming together' which destroyed Simon's model. Stuart needless to say flew on to victory as his model was still flyable.

Eamonn Forsdike continues to fly very well but can't seem to convert this into victories. This time he lost out to Richard Herbert who took the whole streamer in one go and should have been made to pay. However despite coming close several times Eamonn just could not remove any of Richard's streamer.

Moggs Morris made it through for a rare semi final appearance by defeating Tim Hobbins after a re-fly and Chris Fisher ended the involvement of Richard Perks by clocking up less ground time as neither flyer had managed a cut. Steve Malone made no mistakes in his re-fly against Roger Fisher by chopping crepe no fewer than four times without reply.

There was a lot of interest in the bout between Stuart Vickers and Richard Herbert. Stuart was flying the new Finale against Richard who had stuck to his well tried and tested Piranha XL. As it turned out Richard got in too quickly and removed all of Stuart's streamer. With nothing to hold him back Stuart used the Finale to good effect and took three cuts for victory.

I will not dwell too long on the first semi between Steve Malone and Moggs Morris it went like this.

Moggs spent two minutes on the ground. Steve only needed two minutes to take four cuts without reply. Nuff said.

The second semi resulted in a win for Stuart Vickers over Chris Fisher as when leading by a cut Chris crashed and the resulting ground time cost him the bout.

The fly off for third place was a 'comedy of errors'

Moggs Morris had no streamer left but was leading by two cuts to one. 'you have won' said Chris 'so just fly level' However Moggs only heard the 'fly level' and must have thought Chris was 'trying it on' so he went for the knot which remained on Chris's model. Yes you have guessed what happened next. Moggs crashed, broke his model and lost on ground time.

Much was expected of the final as both Steve Malone and Stuart Vickers had been outstanding all day. As often seems to happen it turned out to be a 'damp squib'

Steve one cut and no ground time against Stuart one cut and two ground points. Both had removed the whole of the others streamer after very little airtime.

Congratulations to Steve on his win and to all those involved in this highly successful day.

Thanks to Alan Watson of the Scampton club who not only hosted us for the day but provided the bottles as prizes too.

Is the Finale too good and will dominate the class? I would say the jury is still out on that one. We need to see more.

ML (20-04-2016)

Old Warden Report

May 2016

What a great day of Vintage Combat. With no fewer than 32 entries (who said control line was dead?) we had to work hard using two circles to achieve the stipulated 5.30pm finishing time. I'm very happy to say that this was done with time to spare. A good job too as the (only) Anson arrived back early which could have been a problem. We watched it from the safety of the car park.

A word here about safety. I had emailed everyone before the event saying that space would be 'tight' and to make sure circles did not overlap. It has also been suggested that crash hats should be worn when practice flying rules say crash hats must be worn when flying 2 in a circle but for our own safety we should consider them in confined areas as well.

It would seem a simple matter of dividing the names into two groups of 16 for the two circles.

However this just does not work as much time is then lost when teams are required in two circles at the same time. To overcome this problem I try to put all team members into the same circle and this

seems to work really well.

In circle one the first round went much to the 'form book' but in circle two Tony Cookson took out Richard Herbert whose bell crank ended in three pieces I'm reliably informed.

The losers round and round 2 continued in two circles so I only saw the bouts flown in circle 1.

The Bristol quartet of Pete Tribe, Darryl Hinton and the Nicks (Stowe and Bridges) all progressed to round two after wins in the losers round. Stuart Vickers also did the same after his loss to Roger Fisher in round one.

In round two Tony Frost lost narrowly to Tony Cookson by one point. Mr F just needed a cut to win but Mr C was on the ground for the last part of the bout so it was a lost cause.

Team mate Mick Lewis also went out at this early stage to Alex Reid. The tactic of taking your time can backfire especially if the engine cuts before the end due to a loose fuel tank.

Other winners were Roger Fisher over Mike Waller and Moggs Morris over John Leggott.

SECA continued their run of success when Simon Miller put out Eamonn Forsdike and Richard Herbert just got the better of Francis Roberts by two cuts to one.

With 12 flyers left an eliminator round was run to bring the numbers down to eight.

Chris Fisher, John Allcock, Tony Cookson and Stuart Vickers all got byes and progressed to the quarter finals.

Simon Miller and Richard Herbert had straightforward wins over Pete Tribe and Alex Reid respectively but Richard Evans had his work cut out against Moggs Morris. Both had fast tight turning models but Richard's Piranha XL just had the edge. Eventually this told and Richard won by two cuts to one.

Thinking he had lost to Carl Severne in the previous round Tim Hobbins had to get it all back out to face Roger Fisher. As it turned out it was well worth it as Tim defeated his experienced opponent by two cuts to one in a very entertaining joust.

So at long last we were into the quarter finals. We had kept well to time and the atmosphere was very relaxed.

Simon Miller continued his good form against Tony Cookson before Richard Herbert added insult to injury against Tim Hobbins as when two cuts up Tim's Liquidator XL ceased to function (need I say more?)

Another 'smashing time' followed when Chris Fisher removed the tail fin of Richard Evans' Piranha XL.

Everyone knows fish can't swim without a tail so as they say 'that's all folks!' or 'goodnight Vienna' In contrast John Allcock and Stuart Vickers had a good clean bout with Stuart edging it by two cuts to one. Most entertaining!

With three SECA flyers in the last four two of them were bound to face each other. The draw put Simon Miller and Richard Herbert together leaving Chris Fisher to fly Stuart Vickers.

With Richard leading Simon by a cut to nil Simon went for it from inverted flight. He got the cut he sought but in doing so hit the deck. The point he then lost being his downfall.

Chris Fisher and Stuart Vickers got into the 'mother' of all line tangles. Unable to free his lines and with his model grounded Stuart had little choice but to concede. A tough way to lose but it happens! Stuart however had more luck in the fly off for third place defeating Simon by two cuts to one and also with less ground time.

And so to the final between Richard Herbert and Chris Fisher. It looked like a straight forward win for Richard by two cuts to one but it certainly was not as easy as it sounds as Chris pushed Richard very hard.

All the CFA 'kit' eventually found its way back to the car park and I'm grateful to the people who helped with this.

So after watching the Anson land as mentioned earlier we gathered round for the prize giving.

Glass trophies were presented to the first three flyers with bottles of wine as usual.

Our Chairman Richard Evans gave a vote of thanks to all the helpers and invited everyone to recommence battle at the South Bristol Gala on 12th June.

South Bristol Gala Report 2016

The lashing rain hitting the window woke me early about 7am. As I lay there thinking about getting up my thoughts turned to anyone daft enough to be making their way to Berkeley for the South Bristol Gala. Surely this weather would translate to a very poor turnout for all classes including of course the vintage combat.

The day before I had been like a drowned rat after spending time marking out the three flying circles and I just hoped they had not been washed away into the nearby river Severn.

Arriving at the site around 09.30 hrs the rain was not at all bad and a few others were there already. After changing their minds almost hourly the day before the clever weather forecasters had eventually agreed that by mid-day the rain would clear to give a mainly sunny, if breezy, afternoon. Caroline was keen to relieve everyone of their cash and when this was done we counted no less than 26 flyers. I had taken the decision not to fly myself due to workload and Richard Evans decided likewise.

The flyers were told that they had 1 hour (until 11am) to sort out their gear but must only fly in the marked out circles for safety reasons. They were also strongly advised to wear hard hats when 'active' either flying or launching.

On the dot at 11am Chris Moore took on Frank Marshall who, sadly for Chris, beat him by two cuts to nil.

Honest man Bob Payne said 'I'm disqualified' in his bout with Darryl Hinton as he showed his failed wrist strap to the centre marshal.

Richard Stitson accepted victory over Simon Miller who retired with a broken model before Tony Cookson had a good win over Chris Fisher whose T4 was well off the pace seemingly running 'very hard'

Eamonn Forsdike was going really well against Nick Stowe and took three nice cuts. Nick managed a cut but seemed more interested in keeping his opponents tally down to just the three.

Moggs Morris got his tactics spot on against Tony Frost. At two cuts to nil up he crashed and spent almost two minutes on the ground which meant Tony was not able to respond. These things happen but they are to say the least 'annoying'

Other first round winners included John Allcock, Steve Maolone and Richard Herbert whose score of 4 was the highest of the day.

Best bouts of the losers round saw Chris Fisher and Simon Miller make it through into round two. Chris had a comfortable win over Nick Bridges but Simon's bout against Nick Stowe was a much closer affair. Simon won by one cut to nil but Nick flew his best bout for quite some time.

In the eliminator to 16 Eamonn Forsdike and Simon Miller had a 'smashing' bout. When the bits were counted Eamonn progressed without either flyer managing to cut streamer.

Darryl Hinton and Frank Marshall also exited the competition at this stage their victors being Francis Roberts and Peter Tribe whose PAW was well on song.

So into the round of the last 16.

For the third time running Chris Moore failed to chop his opponents streamer whereas John Spink made sure of victory by cutting streamer twice. Perhaps a check on your line length might be in order Chris?

Despite having more ground time than his opponent (Richard Stitson) young Chris Fisher ensured victory by taking 2 cuts without reply. Tony Cookson was having a good day and with a 2 - nil win against Moggs Morris, who can be a very tricky customer at times, progressed to the quarter finals. (Editors note:- The 'tricky' referred to here has nothing to do with a certain Mr Evans)

A combat flyers nightmare for Tim Hobbins who 'took the lot' against Eamonn Forsdike. With Eamonn having two cuts Tim realised he could not win and conceded graciously.

Also conceding from a similar situation was John Allcock against Peter Tribe. This time it was one cut all when John hit the deck clocking up ground time.

The Steve Malone against Tony Frost bout was a good one. Steve removed Tony's streamer at the knot and even though his motor was rich Tony replied taking half of Steve's streamer. However the rich motor didn't allow him to make the most of the situation. Instead of Tony getting a second cut it was Steve who removed the knot for a 2 cuts to one victory. Moral of the story is 'don't soldier on with a bad setting'

Richard Herbert was up to his high scoring again in his bout with Francis Roberts. This time it was 'just the three' against a single reply by Francis.

Steve Malone had a relatively straight forward win by 2 cuts to nil against Eamonn Forsdike who spent far too long on the ground. The bout between Chris Fisher and John Spink resulted in a nasty mid air (is there ever a nice mid-air?)

I think I counted Chris' model in three pieces but luckily for John his damage was to his outboard wing which was soon removed. As in his previous bout he flew his half model on to victory.

A similar fate befell dad Roger in his bout with Tony Cookson the only difference being that Tony took two cuts just to 'rub it in'

Last man into the semi finals was Richard Herbert with just a single cut this time he put the skids under Peter Tribe who had done well throughout the day and seemed happy with his performance. Steve Malone just got the better of John Spink in the semi final by virtue of having a cut which wiped out John's ground time advantage.

The other semi between Richard Herbert and Tony Cookson had to be re-flown after scores were tied. At the second attempt Richard just managed to get the better of his far less experienced opponent by a cut to nil. Not one of his most convincing victories by any means.

There was some consolation for Tony when he took third place leaving John Spink to settle for fourth spot.

And so to the final. Well very early on both flyers were going 'hell for leather' which resulted in a massive line tangle downing Steve's model. Without thinking his pitman inexplicably ran into the circle with Richard's model still in the air. The centre marshal applied the rules and a great days flying didn't end as we all hoped. Disqualification is not a nice word for any flyer but when it is in a final that makes it even worse.

Steve to his credit took it philosophically and I'm quite sure Richard did not want to win that way either.

Trophies and prizes (wine) were presents and the usual thanks offered to all concerned.

It had been a great days flying and thanks again to the weather Gods for answering our prayers.

ML (14/06/2016)

Vintage Combat Darley Moor 26th June

An early phone call from Richard Herbert to say that he could not make it to Darley due to family reasons meant that it would not be possible to run a second circle if the entry was large. (Richard has all the second circle equipment) However as it turned out the entry was only twenty two which meant a single circle would suffice.

After a clear cut victory for Stuart Vickers over Chris Moore it was the turn of regular F2D GB team member Harry Walker to take on newcomer to vintage Dave Marshall. Harry won although to his credit Dave took the only cut of the bout.

Moggs Morris then had a notable win over John Allcock due to less ground time as each recorded just a single cut.

It was also good to see another F2D flyer Graham Ives having a go at this class although on this occasion he could not get the better of the experienced Tim Hobbins due to having ground points which Tim managed to avoid. Simon Miller then took on Tony Cookson in a good bout for the first

round. Simon just shaded it on ground time and was into round two.

It took no less than two re-flies to separate Richard Stitson and Karl Severne who was not to be denied for a third time. Steady John Spink was next up against Nick Stowe who seems to lack aggression for some reason. Having said that he flew well enough to take two cuts the same as John. Sadly for Nick some ground time cost him dearly and he made his way into the losers round. No scores were recorded for either Eamonn Forsdike or Nick Bridges so all I can say is that Eamonn was the winner (probably a mid-air?)

Sam Severne, who had not picked up a handle since last years Nats, put up a plucky fight against John Leggott. However the rustiness was evident as she had difficulty keeping out of the hard stuff. It didn't look good early on for Mick Lewis in his bout against Dave Chalk as his lines parted and new ones had to be reeled out. However once back in the air Mick took four cuts without reply which saw him safely into round two.

Francis Roberts then had one of his best results when he defeated Richard Evans by a single point without a cut being taken by either flyer.

In the losers round John Allcock made up for his first round loss when he defeated Nick Bridges but Nick Stowe needed two attempts before he did likewise to Dave Marshall.

Sam Severne seemed to have lost her rustiness in her bout with Chris Moore when she took two nice cuts without reply. Richard Evans was keen to make amends for his rare first round defeat against Graham Ives. He managed it but it was by no means a straightforward win. His two cuts meant that even with a lot of ground time against him he was a clear winner by four points.

In the last bout of this round Tony Cookson and Richard Stitson both had considerable ground time however by virtue of taking the only cut Tony progressed in the competition.

One elimination bout was needed to bring the numbers down to sixteen. Having had a bye in the losers round Dave Chalk was automatically one of the flyers but who would he fly?

Tim Hobbins turned out to be the lucky one and he took on Dave whom he dispatched with a score of one to Dave's score which must have been less but was not recorded on the score sheets!

So into the round of sixteen we went with Stuart Vickers first up against Moggs Morris flying, as usual, his very quick Rothwell powered Yeti. Stuart's PAW's are also some of the fastest motors around and this enabled him to get the only cut of the bout and with it a well earned victory.

Karl Severne fresh from his first round marathon against Richard Stitson had no such problems against Harry Walker winning by two cuts to nil. Harry went away mumbling about being unhappy with his burbling T4.

Simon Miller dispatched John Spink by a cut to nil and Eamonn Forsdike did exactly the same to Nick Stowe.

About time somebody got a few cuts!

Well it all happened in the very next bout between Tony Cookson and John Allcock. Although down on ground time John squeezed past his opponent by a single point thanks to the three cuts to two cut count. Not to be outdone up steps Tim Hobbins and matches John's score of three cuts this time without reply against Francis Roberts.

Mick Lewis flying a Piranha XL for the first time ever in a bout looked 'ill at ease' against John Leggott. However before the rear end was removed from the Piranha Mick had managed a cut which was enough for victory.

Richard Evans, who seemed to be getting through models at a rate of knots, flew like the perfect gentleman against Sam Severne but nevertheless got the job done by two cuts to nil.

Another great bout began the quarter final round when Karl Severne took on Stuart Vickers. Both models were fast and tight and it was anybody's to win. Possibly Stuart's greater experience, for which there is no substitute, saw him home by three cuts to two? Karl had flown well all day and shown a great deal of promise for the future. John Allcock easily defeated Simon Miller whose lines broke. But for this I'm sure it would have been a really good bout with a close result but as they say 'that's combat'.

Back to his reliable Supermonger Mick Lewis seemed much happier in his bout with Eamonn Forsdike. There was clearly little between the models or motors and the bout was fast and furious.

Mick had two cuts and Eamonn had one but was ahead on ground time. A second cut would see Eamonn through but Mick managed to stay out of his way until the final whistle.

Richard Evans and Tim Hobbins finished the round in 'smashing' style. Richard got home with a score of minus three to Tim's minus four. I think that says it all!

The first semi final brought together Stuart Vickers with his PAW powered Finale and Mick Lewis who elected to continue with the Rothwell powered Supermonger which had served him well in the previous round. So far the Finale has looked very good particularly when Stuart defeated Richard Herbert at Scampton but Mick felt the need to find out for himself. Was it so good there would be calls to 'ban it'?

In a clean bout the Supermonger held its own giving Mick victory by two cuts to one. So it seems the Finale is just another good model and probably we will not hear calls for a ban (famous last words?)

The second semi was to say the least very controversial. Richard had a damaged model and could only fly loops. Had John stayed in the air 'no problem' but when he came down Richard should have flown level which he could not do. The centre marshal should have given Richard a dq but he did not. The score in cuts was three apiece and a single ground point against John.

So it was Richard who went through to fly Mick in the final but it should have been John.

As it turned out John took third by defeating Stuart Vickers but that is probably little consolation.

The final itself was a very open contest with a win for Richard when he took a cut in the closing seconds to out score his opponent by three cuts to two with little ground time for either flyer.

Presentations of trophies and wine followed and everyone seemed in good spirits after another great day of VINTAGE COMBAT!

ML (June 2016)

Now for some action!







