



Combat Flyers Association Newsletter-3 Nov.03

The Association-(first annual report)

Since its formation in January the association has considerably increased in size now numbering almost fifty “members” although by no means all of these qualify as “active”. A reminder here that to be a full member of the CFA you MUST belong to the BMFA, this is because the CFA is a “specialist group” within the BMFA.

The constitution of the association states that it will “arrest and reverse the decline in the popularity of the sport” and to this end it will continue to inform interested parties who are not BMFA members of its activities.

The season began strongly with comps. in April and May being well attended and most enjoyable (reports and pics.were published in Newsletter-2) however for some strange reason the events in June and July suffered from very poor turnouts.(see later in this newsletter)

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the CLTC we were able to enjoy a control line “Nationals” at Oakington near Cambridge in place of the usual Barkston event over the August bank holiday weekend. The site was fine if rather dusty due to the long dry spell and the standard of combat was quite outstanding-congratulations to all the winners. The event went off without any problems of noise or litter-well done all those who attended.

Jim Carolan our founding Chairman without whom the CFA would not have been formed resigned at Oakington.We wish him well in his new pursuits but hope to see him back within our ranks one day in the future.

Financially the association remains sound due to members donating their Nationals expences. No joining fees will therefore be introduced at present.

With the cancellation of the Halton International Model Show we were faced with the

prospect of Oakington being the last competition of the season which seemed highly unsatisfactory so the CFA set about organizing an additional event.

Thanks to hard work by some of our members we were able to get the use of a site in Milton Keynes at quite short notice and put on a final Vintage event of the season.

All “active” Vintage flyers were informed by post and a dozen turned up for what was to be a splendid days flying. (See report in this newsletter)

Apologies to anyone who wasn’t informed who might have gone but it was a very last minute thing!

So all in all the CFA has had a successful first season and can hopefully look forward to the future with confidence but we must first replace Jim with a new Chairman.

If you wish to nominate any member for the post (with their agreement) please fill in the form at the end of this newsletter and return it to me by post.

Mick Lewis(sec.)

Rule Changes

The following rule changes were passed by the “active” flyers at the AGM (including postal votes.)

1. The line length in VINTAGE and OLIVER TIGER to be plus or minus 75mm.
2. The line length for 1/2A to be 12.875m plus or minus 75mm.
3. Any 1.5cc DIESEL ENGINE in 1/2A(NO GLOWS)

These rule changes will appear in next year’s BMFA rulebook.

Bilston 15-6-03

The weather was wonderful which may have had something to do with the low turnout at this event (Bilston isn’t difficult to get to for most people) Perhaps flyers were off sunning themselves?

Flying his one and only Warlord to make up the numbers organiser John Allcock seemed to lead a charmed life bringing the model through to the semi-final stage without a scratch. Also going well were friends Stuart Vickers and Alec Herring who was just too quick for me in round one winning by two cuts to a single reply.

It was no surprise then that John, Stuart and Alec reached the semis to be joined by myself after victories over Nigel Etheridge and Mick Tiernan.

In the first semi Alec admitted being surprised by the speed that John had suddenly found from his PAW. Although both models were well matched John managed to edge the bout by virtue of his early cut taken while Alec was still “settling in”.

In by bout with Stuart I was certainly second best in the speed stakes but was able by virtue of a very good "Yeti" to cut enough corners to take the cuts I needed to win. In their fly-off for third place both Stuart and Alec agreed to use their second string motors instead of their number ones. As it turned out Alec's second motor was far superior to Stuarts and he won comfortably.

So I was left to face "one model" John in the final.

An early crash for absolutely no reason must have given my opponent a lot of confidence but having said that Johns wing was just no match for my tight turning Yeti and I was able to emerge victorious.

Mick Lewis.

South Bristol 22-6-03

Sadly the entry this year was only half that in 2002 with several members saying they intended to fly but not turning up on the day. We hope for a better turnout in 2004, as the Berkeley site with its clubhouse is without doubt the best on the circuit.

The first round went according to the form book with each bout going as expected The luckless Steve Tromans was drawn against the vastly experienced Dave Wiseman whose "straight out of the box" PAW 19 is arguably the quickest one ever. Although Steve was going well he just had no chance with such a speed deficit.

However Steve did win his second bout and progressed to the semi-final stage of the competition.

Big upset of the semi-final saw the demise of local hero Richard Evans. Flying against Nigel Etheridge there was an almighty mid-air collision in which Richard's model had its outboard wing, including the tank completely removed. You don't go anywhere without a tank!

Meanwhile to the relief of everyone else Mike Purnell disposed of "fast guy" Dave Wiseman by scoring a direct hit on his fuel tank.

In the other semi Steve Tromans came up against an in form Mike Purnell. They were evenly matched and after an entertaining four minutes Mike emerged the winner and progressed to the final to fly Nigel.

The first attempt at a final didn't last long as Mike's model fell apart when he hit the ground. Well we were not going to let them get away with that so we made them re-fly it. This time they gave us the bout of the day with Nigel finishing with his nose in front and thus claiming the gold medal position.

Editors note: - Sadly Mike died in a motorcycle accident in early September.

Milton Keynes 20-7-03

The third poorly supported competition in a row!

Due to a mix-up of dates I was on holiday and so unable to visit the new Manor Fields site in Milton Keynes so I only know what I heard on the grapevine.

The five flyers flew a "round robin"(everyone flew everyone)

Rising star Mick Cain was going extremely well and could have won had Richard Herbert lost his last bout of the day. As it turned out Mick had to settle for second place as Richard made no mistakes and took the very nice shield home for his mantlepiece, lets hope he keeps it clean for next year!

ML

National C/L Championships 2003-Combat Report

(By MICK LEWIS)

With the demise of the traditional Nationals the C/L technical committee lost no time in organizing this replacement event at Oakington near Cambridge. The site was fine for our needs and the hard work that had been done on our behalf was obvious and very much appreciated. That special feeling that one gets at a "proper" Nats was however impossible to reproduce and let us all pray that such a situation never recurs! With the site only being available for the Sunday and Monday it would clearly be difficult to run all five combat classes unless the number of entries was down on previous years and as it turned out this was indeed the case.

Half-A Combat

This year, after running the PAW only event for a number of years it was decided to revert to the "open" class which allows the use of any 1.5cc engine and this produced a very pleasing entry of eleven pilots.

The increased interest seems to stem from the availability of the new "Fora" engine and ready built models from Russia.

Surprise of the first round was the defeat of former world F2D champion Merv Jones at the hands of newcomer Vale who flew really well and took full advantage of Merv's below par performance.

Also going well in this round were young Ben Johnson and Graham Ives both using Foras, Stuart Vickers using a PAW and Richard Herbert using a CS.

In the first semi-final Martin Kizel flying his refreshingly unusual own design model put away Richard Herbert by two cuts to one, Martin's PAW matching Richard's CS for both pace and reliability.

Quickest man on the day Stuart Vickers joined Martin in the final after disposing of Graham Ives who outscored Stuart for cuts but spent far too long on the ground-it seems the Fora likes fiberglass props but they don't get on well with terra firma.

And so to the final in which Stuart had a clear speed advantage over Martin. With the models seemingly evenly matched for turn it was no surprise when Stuart went two cuts up. With his streamer gone Martin's speed disadvantage was much less and he set about some serious chopping. One cut then a second. Would he be able to make it three and take the title? This was top class combat, thrilling stuff, those watching engrossed and willing the under dog on. He's done it-the third cut flutters down-it's all over!

The whole event was a great advert for this class of combat and I believe that it will continue to increase in popularity. I even saw Richard Evans sneak a Russian half-A model into my car for the drive home and guess a Fora is on his Christmas present list!

Oliver Tiger Combat

Sadly the entry was a little down on previous years with just a dozen pilots.

In the first round Steve Tromans had a convincing win against Mick Tiernan whose tailed model was just not suitable for the limited power available from a "Tiger". To add insult to injury Steve was flying a Mick designed Anduril!

Richard Evans last years champion had an easy bout against Dave Wiseman whose model was so outclassed that he gave up at two cuts to nil, flew level and allowed Richard to take a couple more!

In the quarter final round the only real surprise was the defeat of Richard Evans by John Davidson. In reality Richard defeated himself by losing line tension in the strengthening wind and falling in on the wingtip.

The first semi-final saw Richard Herbert in complete control as his motor was decidedly more powerful than Steve Malone's. Once again an "Anduril" proving itself far superior to a tailed model at these power levels.

One advantage of being a SECA member is that you avoid flying your clubmate Richard Herbert until the final and so it was on this occasion as Roger Fisher had a comfortable victory over John Davidson.

Now when clubmates face each other in a National final we have come to expect a great bout as they are used to each other's styles. This was something of an anti-climax as Roger took "the lot" leaving Richard plenty of time to get the two cuts needed to seal victory.

Vintage Combat

Star turn of the first round was John Davidson who took on the vastly experienced Mike Whillance and came from behind to win by four cuts to two. This was in no way a fluke as John flew the best I've ever seen him fly.

Richard Evans was also in "nibbler" mode and took five out of Mick Cain with over half the streamer remaining at the end of four minutes.

The contest CD had elected not to seed the draw and as so often happens in cases like this last years finalists Richards Herbert and Evans were drawn together. The bout was fast and furious between these two aces and all fingers were crossed hoping that it would not end in a mid-air collision, as had their previous four or five meetings. This time Evans handed his opponent the bout on a plate by removing the whole streamer in one go (a far cry from his five cuts of the previous round)

Maintaining his cool but hardly able to hide his joy Herbert took the two cuts he needed for victory.

Nigel Etheridge then defeated the luckless Stuart Vickers for whom everything that could go wrong did go wrong and Roger Fisher was never troubled in his bout with Mick Waller. The "Chaos" kept shedding its elevator each time Mick hit the ground. A rethink on the way you fix them on would seem to be in order Mick!

In the last of the quarterfinals I took a small cut early on against Mike Whillance but then for some reason I'm still trying to understand I inexplicably hit the ground. The resulting loss of a point meant that although we finished at two cuts all Mike was through to the semi final and I was on my bike!

Sadly only one semi-final was needed as Mike Whillance had vanished into the ether (no pun intended) thus giving Roger Fisher a bye into the final.

Nigel Etheridge was no match for Richard Herbert who won at a canter and as in the Oliver class joined his SECA teammate in the final.

Sadly for Roger this final proved to be a carbon copy of the Oliver final. Roger took the lot Richard took his time and ended up with four, to do the double over his friend.

F2E Combat

Now I have to admit that I did not see all of the early bouts in this class but of those that I saw one in particular was of exceptional quality. It was between the young Sergei Dementiev from Moldova and our own Stuart Vickers. Now Stuart is no slouch as we all know but the young Moldovan made him look like a novice winning by no less than five cuts to one!

Dad Igor was less fortunate losing to Roger Fisher in a very close encounter. Roger went on to eliminate Sergei who wasn't able to reproduce his excellent earlier form.

Mick Tiernan had been seen secretly practicing with F2E models at the Bilston meeting back in June and was soon to show that practice makes perfect as he eliminated first Richard Herbert and then Dave Riley in the semi-final.

The other half of the draw brought together Roger Fisher and Mike Whillance in the second semi-final. This bout just did not live up to expectations as they had both been flying well. It turned out to be a dour affair with Mike winning by one cut to nil to proceed into the final.

So the final was to be a repeat of their first round clash which had gone Mick's way by a very small margin. It looked all over for Mick when Mike went three cuts up but with his usual determination he began a comeback. One back, then another. A third would mean victory by a few ground points but time was fast running out. With only seconds to spare the third cut came and Mick was champion.

An excellent high scoring final, high-class entertainment just as the half-A final had been earlier in the day.

F2D Combat (report by CD John James)

This year's entry set a couple of records (I think!). There were 3 juniors entered, and 3 father and sons flew.

Yet again the Nats had an international flavour with 4 entries from Sweden and 2 from Moldova. There would possibly have been more but the logistics of accommodating everyone this year was too complicated.

As usual, every bout was a hard fought affair. In fact so hard fought that it took Nicklas Nilsson 4 attempts to win his first bout, and 3 attempts to lose his third round bout.

Igor Dementiev looked to be an early favourite, comfortably winning his first three bouts before coming up against Jonathan Crabtree, fresh from placing third junior at the recent European Championships. Yet another re-fly but despite Igor using a few 'tactics', Jonathan came away the winner. Mike Whillance also lost his first life in this round to Mats Bejhem. Mike was 2 cuts ahead, and was also up on ground time when, with only about 30 seconds of the bout to go, Mats went into overdrive, chased Mike all over the sky and took the necessary 3 cuts to win.

By round 5 there were only 6 fliers left, all having lost a life. Jonathan Crabtree finally lost to Mervyn Jones, Mike Whillance beat Igor Dementiev and Mats Bejhem became the only overseas visitor left by

beating Pete Grange.

Mervyn then disposed of Mats leaving Mervyn and Mike as the two finalists. In one of the best finals for a few years, Mervyn did most of the chasing beating Mike by 2 cuts to 1.

Milton Keynes 28-9-03

The final comp of the season took place at Milton Keynes (old site) in quite chilly conditions. Luckily only a single shower delayed proceedings for a short while mid-morning.

Star performance of the first round came from South Bristol's Steve Tromans who had a good victory over Roger Fisher by two cuts to one, Roger also clocking up loads of ground time. Richard Evans had a lucky escape against Mike Waller who was badly let down by an inconsistent engine run (we all know that feeling!)

The losers round saw Dave Chalk with a good win over Bob Payne and Roger Fisher redeem himself against Andy Kirk making his only appearance of the season-let's hope we see more of him next year!

One eliminator was required to bring the numbers down to eight, Mick Tiernan and Richard Evans being the chosen lucky ones. In a bout that was much closer than the score line suggested Richard went through to the quarterfinals.

Geoff Sizer who had defeated him at Old Warden looked like doing the same thing to Richard Herbert yet again as Geoff took a cut off Richard early in the bout and Richard was unable to reply. Sadly for Geoff he lost four ground points and thus faced a re-fly. The push rod had pulled through the hole in the elevator horn on Geoff's model and instead of changing it he elected to move it up to the next hole for the re-fly. Lacking sufficient movement of the elevator now meant that Richard had a distinct advantage and won another fine bout by two cuts to one, neither pilot suffering ground time.

I had brain fade (it's my age!) whilst flying against Roger Fisher's half model, as after taking one cut which was enough to win the bout I stupidly went in for another!

In the resulting mid-air Roger got a cut and my outboard wing was removed complete with tank. And that's how not to do it!

Steve Tromans was just as annoyed with himself after losing to Dave Chalk, he just kept muttering "how did I do that? How did I do that?"

Richard Evans managed to avenge his Old Warden defeat by Stuart Vickers. In a really fast and furious bout cuts were three to two and no ground time. This was vintage combat as it is meant to be flown-well done chaps!

The high standard continued into the semi-final between Roger Fisher and Richard Evans and in another super bout Richard came out on top by four cuts to two. All (poor old) Dave Chalk could clock up in his semi against Richard Herbert was ground time as his model had a will of its own. In the short time he managed to keep it in the air Richard Herbert took a cut and then concentrated on staying out of the way!

Dave decided that enough was enough and let Roger take third place rather than try to struggle through another four minutes of hell.

So Evans and Herbert were to face each other yet again just as they had done at this years

and last years Nationals. Their first effort did neither justice and ended all square so we were to be treated to a re-run. This second attempt lived up to expectations and produced a fitting spectacle on which to end the season. In the final analysis both had cut the others streamer three times but Richard Herbert had ground points thus leaving Richard Evans the winner. I for one can't wait for them to be "at each other" again next year.

ML

Why not write a report on one of the comps you attend next season for inclusion in the newsletter. We all enjoy different viewpoints and would love to hear from YOU!

Contest Calendar 2004

If you are organizing a comp. in 2004 please let me know the dates as soon as they are confirmed so that I can put a calendar together-thanks.

Nomination Form- (please make certain that the person nominated has agreed to stand.)

I wish to nominatefor the post of Chairman of the CFA.
Seconded by

I wish to nominatefor the post of Competition secretary of the CFA.
Seconded by.....

Please return the nomination paper to: -M Lewis, 40 Upthorpe, DURSLEY, Glos. GL11 5HR by 1st Jan. 2004.

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“bright”)

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Shaped leading edges (Very light) £4 each.

Fibreglass combat tanks (made to order so take 3 to 4
weeks) £10 each.

All plus p&p. Contact me on 01453542367 or
mick.wings@virgin.net

Latest news is that Barkston is available for the
Nats.next August(normal circumstances prevailing)