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Seasons Report

What a great season for Vintage and Oliver Combat!

Apart from having to call off what should have been the season opener at Wittering in April all other comps have gone ahead. Most have seen good flying weather but as forecast it blew very hard at South Bristol which kept entries down and lead to the cry of 'chicken' when a couple of well known flyers pulled out after breaking models in round one.

The Darley Moor International in May was blessed with excellent weather and was voted a 'great success' by all who attended. The Saturday evening meal at the 'Spinning Wheel' was a nice feature.

I had expected to see a report in Aeromodeller but sadly it did not appear. As the event is to take place once again in 2014 I hope someone will make the effort to get a report into print.

Entries are 'on the up' and have usually been in the mid twenties with thirty five pilots contesting the Nationals.

A full six pages of Nats combat is in the latest issue of Aeromodeller with stunning pictures by our own Alex Reid. If you do not subscribe then shame on you! Hunt a copy down in larger W H Smiths stores.

I know we all live busy lives and like lots of advance notice of comp dates for the next season so I have put down what I know so far. These are.....

- Old Warden May 4th
- Darley Moor May 24th and 25th
- Old Warden July 20th (Oliver)
- Nationals Aug 23rd,24th and 25th
- Old Warden Sept 28th

Probable dates are.....

Festival of Flight June 8th

South Bristol June 22nd

I will confirm dates as I get to know them.

Now back to the late season 'happenings'

Old Warden Vintage Combat 8th September 2013

Vintage is surely on the up! With 25 entries and at least five notables not present we may be even getting back to the halcyon days of the sixties and seventies. Well not really but the event is becoming very healthy indeed.

Flying time is now extended at OW from 9.30 to 6.00pm which is a great help. Some years ago we ran out of time and had to postpone later stages of a comp. On this occasion we finished before 5.30 despite some time lost due to showers. The weather was largely kind but not so warm when the sun went in. Winds were light and variable. The grass was closely mown to a larger area than usual.

The comp began promptly at 11.00 and progressed more or less on time due to pilots landing their models after completing the bout.

Early rounds produced no great upsets but surprisingly the carnage began early on and continued throughout the day.

Much to his pleasure Alex Reid won his first bout against Sammy Severne. No clinches in the middle please Alex! The dreaded Moggs then beat Sammy's dad Karl too! Tony Frost only took one cut against Graham Chilvers but flew with style. In his first season Tony is showing us that he can deal with Vintage as well as F2D. It's more difficult too! Fast flying Martin Kiszal went down to Richard Stitson who declared himself "Just a beginner" Richard Evans had a great bout against John Spink winning three nil but both models were destroyed in the latter stages. Pete Happle beat Sion Burns 2-1. Can't you get a flight home Sion? Highest scoring bout was Mick Lewis against John Leggott with 4 to 2.

There were only two eliminators needed to get the number down to sixteen. Frances Roberts beat Karl in a less than notable contest. The bout between Moggs and

Richard Evans was slightly different but I'll leave that to Mick to comment on that as I only saw it from the inside!

Second round proper saw the destruction of Roger Fishers model against John Spink. In the Miller Happle bout Simon took three cuts whilst Pete suffered unusual engine problems. One feature here was when Simon took one cut, the crepe remained around the prop driver and substantially slowed the model. Suddenly the streamer threw itself off and the model regained its original speed allowing Simon another two cuts.

The quarters saw the demise of Nationals runner up Simon to John Spink who is going from strength to strength. Stuart Vickers deposed of the second Fisher, Chris, Tony Frost nearly lost his Rothwell on a very loose pod and went out to a steady flying Bob Payne. Mick Lewis put on a great show of evading Alex after taking two cuts very early on. Go on Alex, you're getting there. Watch your opponents model, not your own!

The first semi saw a great bout resulting in a 3-2 victory for Stuart over John Spink. Very little ground time and lots of close following were the features here.

Lewis versus Payne was not so memorable (in fact I've forgotten it, just reading from score sheets here) but Mick beat Bob 2-1 with Bob spending too long on the ground.

Bob Payne was low on models and decided to concede third place to John Spink who added this to his fourth place at the Nats.

And so to the final. Mick Lewis flew the same Supermonger he had flown with out damage all day. Stuart used a Liquidator XL which as usual was very tight turning. Hostilities began very quickly with Mick starting the attack and probably having a very slight edge. It was fast and furious but didn't go the whole distance. With Mick leading two cuts to one there was a mid air and both were grounded but Stuart was soon up again. Mick's lines were broken and, deciding that there was not enough time to replace, threw in the towel. Then to his surprise Stuart's engine cut and he landed for the second time. In fact his engine had blown up , leaving Mick with the one cut advantage and thus winning. It was good while it lasted!

Back across the field the usual prize giving was held with wine and trophies for the winners. Kind words were spoken and votes of thanks given. Most participants were looking forward to the final event of the year at Darley Moor on the 22nd September where the winner of the Vintage League will be finally decided. It's currently very close with only Stuart Vickers and Richard Herbert in contention.

So, another great day of Vintage Combat. Although there was some light rain in the latter stages it not did dampen spirits too much and the event finished well in time.

Terrific to see so many new faces this year. Also great to see so many different models in use. Very different to five years ago when it was just a Yeti/Squig benefit..

With all this enthusiasm and continual combat threads being discussed on the Barton website, I can't help but feel that 2014 could truly be Vintage! See you there.

Richard Evans Chairman CFA

Richard Evans v Moggs Morris at OW on 8th Sept 2013

This bout was something very special in anyone's book and it gives me pleasure to report it here.

Richard was flying a very fast and tight Piranha XL (Mick Lewis kit) against Moggs who was using one of his usual Supermomgers. After a slow start Richard got 'in the groove' and was looking for cuts however before he could take any there was a very nasty mid air which completely removed Richards outboard wing. So one cut up and soon back in the air it looked like an easy win for Moggs. With his 'never say die' attitude Richard tried to fly his half model but it would not take off under control. The pitmen thought that was the end of it but Richard instructed them to try again. This time the half model got away and was now even faster in level flight than it had been before. Manoeuvres however were less than good needing great skill to keep it in the air. To great cheers from the crowd Richard took half the streamer and was soon out for more. However the clock was on the side of Moggs who managed to avoid being caught a second time. With the scoreboards showing one cut all Richard thought he had pulled off a fantastic victory. Sadly for him the scorers had seen a second cut for Moggs but not put it on the scoreboard. So hard luck Richard but you gave us a 'never to be forgotten' bout.

Darley Moor 22nd September 2013

A great weather forecast of hot and sunny (which turned out to be spot on) saw a large entry of twenty five flyers arrive at the excellent Darley Moor site for the final Vintage comp of the season. Richard Herbert was assured of winning the league and it appeared that Stuart Vickers would be runner up. Third place looked like a shoot out between Simon Miller and Mick Lewis.

Early action saw John (Spanker) Spink (Well its Spanker 'cos we already have a Wacker!) against Dave Wiseman the latter having engine problems and a less than sound model (loose wing)

Never happy with equipment failure Dave somehow found his Shogun 'getting under his feet' at the end of the bout.

Karl Severne had a good win over Alec Herring before Vernon Hunt took on Willie Wallace who had travelled all the way down from Fife with team mate Richard Haughton.

Willie had a motor/model combination 'to die for' and despite being followed throughout by Vernon managed a narrowest of wins by one ground point.

John Leggott was holding Richard Herbert at one cut all when he landed so as not to trigger his pacemaker which had gone off at the Old Warden event two weeks previously.

Jeff Sizer then won against Pete Happle who was quicker and tighter but somewhat less under control. Victory for the snail against the hare comes to mind.

Simon Miller looked cool and in control flying his Piranha XL against Alex Reid who is improving all the time before Bob Payne and Tim Hobbins flew out a very entertaining draw at two cuts each. Bob managed to win the resulting re-fly by two cuts to one.

Simon Groom then took on Chris Moore who was using a Harrison powered Kanible GT. Not much between the models but Simon took the bout on ground time.

Mick Lewis then gained revenge for his loss to Graham Chilvers at the Festival of Flight this time coming out the winner by four cuts to two.

The battle of the Richards saw Mr Evans defeating Mr Haughton by three cuts to two in an excellent bout.

Nick Stowe, who had a bye, then took on Graham Chilvers. If I say Nick lost and the score was minus ten to minus nine I think you will get the picture? I'll say no more!

The losers round saw Alec Herring, Tim Hobbins, Alex Reid and Richard Haughton all through to round two. Joining them was Vernon Hunt who was possibly a little surprised at how well his opponent Sammy Keverne flew. One instance I remember was when Sammy flew some inverted stuff her dad would have been proud of.

There was then an elimination round of three bouts which saw Alec defeat Alex. Alex flew very well but just could not get the one cut he needed for a famous victory. Keep at it Alex you will get there!

Simon Groom removed all of Pete Happle's streamer early on leaving plenty of time for Pete to respond. Again the model seemed to have a will of its own and would not do as it was told. It attracted the attention of Richard Herbert who flew it after the bout and gave Pete some friendly advise?

John Spink had a one point victory over Bob Payne to continue his run of good form at recent comps and proceeded to the round of the last sixteen.

Martin Kiszal and Willie Wallace then both chalked up negative scores. The least negative was Willie so he was first into the quarter finals. Richard Herbert only managed one cut against Richard Haughton but it was enough as the Scot was unable to get anything back.

In a good clean bout Stuart Vickers won over Graham Chilvers by two cuts to one before Simon Miller took on Tim Hobbins. Mid bout there was a tangle and both models were grounded. Sad to say the red mist descended for Tim who rushed out grabbing his model and getting the JSO19 going with an almighty flick. An instant disqualification for pitting inside the circle was the inevitable result. Vernon Hunt defeated Jeff Sizer before his old mate Simon Groom dealt out the same treatment to Alec Herring.

Next up was Mick Lewis against the much improved Karl Severne. Karl was first into the attack and took a cut. Mick's motor was not at all happy being (as RE had rightly told him earlier) over compressed which caused it to cut. Soon back up with just one point lost Mick levelled the score. One more cut each and one ground point for Karl saw a re-fly necessary. Determined not to make the same mistake twice Mick went through by two cuts to one much to his relief. In a very clean bout Richard Evans defeated John Spink by three cuts to one both models being unmarked at the end of the fight.

The first quarter final saw Willie Wallace up to his old tricks of running away from Richard Herbert. Willie you must attack sometimes just like your namesake did against the Sassenachs. Richard's streamer was never in danger and he won by a single strike to nil.

Stuart Vickers then lost another completely negative affair to Simon Miller before the bout we were all hoping to see took place. This was the first time in over thirty years that Vernon Hunt and Richard Evans had flown each other. Expecting great things from two European Champions is probably the wrong thing but we lived in hope more than expectation.

Vernon was using a PAW 19 powered Warlord XL while Richard had a quick Rothwell in a laser cut Piranha XL. First blood went to Vernon but he had taken all of the streamer seemingly leaving himself at Richard's mercy. Richard followed at a distance for a while but he then removed the whole streamer and much worse a tangle developed which downed the models. Vernon was first back up and won by

virtue of one point less ground time. Look guys next time we expect the spectacular from you two.

Simon Groom was next up against Mick Lewis. After Simon took an early cut there was quite a line tangle but they managed to fly out of it. Not learning their lesson they allowed another to develop which was much more serious. This time Simon hit the ground and began to untangle the lines. However it became clear that he was going the wrong way as Mick's model got more and more difficult to control. Eventually the tangle was undone but by this time Mick had won on ground time.

The first semi saw Vernon Hunt taking on Richard Herbert. This appeared to be a fairly even fight but at the end of the day Richard was a worthy winner by three cuts to one.

The remaining semi between Simon Miller and Mick Lewis was thought to be the league third place decider (more of that later) and was an excellent bout with both pilots taking turns to be on the attack. Consecutives were the order of the day and it was not unusual to see four loops or bunts but every time tangles were avoided. Two cuts to one in his favour saw Mick through to face Richard Herbert in the final.

Vernon conceded third spot to Simon and we all had fingers crossed for a decent final.

The determination of both pilots was obvious from the off. Mick got in first and removed about half the streamer. Richard responded but removed the whole streamer leaving Mick with a great chance of taking the bout. I think it must have been when Mick took a second cut that there was a terrible line tangle. Mick's model flew on into consecutive bunts as it only had the down line connected and sustained a gaping hole in the outboard wing. However the unusual had taken place in as much as Richard's model was flying around attached to Mick's lines about ten feet from the handle. Both pilots (and everyone else) just had to stand and watch until eventually fuel ran out.

A lousy final but interesting to say the least!

So Mick added a win at Darley Moor to the one he got two weeks earlier at Old Warden.

Although it was not realised at the time this had taken his best six points tally past those of Stuart Vickers.

Trophies and wine were presented for the days competition and for the league. The Frank Smart trophy for his umpteenth league win was presented to the most consistent flyer Richard Herbert. Second place was given to Stuart Vickers and third to Mick Lewis although we now know these should have been the other way round. Swap over at the first comp next season Stuart?

Thanks were given to the Darley Moor club for allowing us the use of their excellent site and to all those involved in CFA organisation throughout the season. A great day of Vintage Combat and I'm already starting to put together next seasons calendar.

Have a good winter with not too many colds and see you all in 2014.

Mick Lewis

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Just a few of the excellent photographs taken by Alex Reid at Old Warden.