

# CFA NEWSLETTER 5 June 04

## RICHARD HERBERT

—  
As reported in the previous newsletter Richard tore his Achilles tendon some months ago. Sadly, after having the original cast removed, he injured himself again resulting in an operation being necessary. He is now back in plaster and will not be on the combat scene for a considerable time. We wish him a speedy recovery as he is much missed at vintage combat comps.

## SCRATCHWOOD VINTAGE 18/04/04

Late in the afternoon on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> I received a text on my mobile. It read “I think I just saw a blade of grass move”. It was Malc Pinnock as always taking the p.s out of me over the fact that I don’t like flying in windy conditions! I replied with “Maybe we won’t go then”. Which of course was what we should have done. Not gone!

But it wasn’t the wind that was the problem the next day, it was the rain.

On rising at about 6.30 (WHAT?) the conditions in Bristol were not so bad, and there was a strip of blue sky in the direction of Wales. Unfortunately it stayed there all day.

I travelled over 150 miles to Scratchwood and the weather worsened on approaching the M25. On arrival at the site it was only spitting with rain but there was a fair amount of “Why do we do this?” from the small crowd already in attendance. However, led by Russell Clifton and Mike Waller we hoisted our gear and set off to the circles in the woods. There we were met by the news that a bunch of trials bike fans had churned the field up and left half of it like a quagmire. As luck would have it the main competition circle was reasonable. We are also lucky that the ground conditions here are quite peaty and drain well.

In the past it has usually been impossible to run competitions in such damp conditions. However we have to thank CFA Secretary and mainstay Mick Lewis for making good wet weather streamers. They are cut from paper/plastic table cloth and work remarkably well, staying together in light rain and being cuttable without tearing the whole lot off (Except in my case!)

An entry of 9 was most gratifying considering the conditions and flying was underway by 11.00ish

Jeff Sizer was first up flying some nice new Squigs in a wonderful florescent green (at least someone had been busy over the winter). He lost out to Bob Paine when a line snapped near to the end of the bout.

Mike Waller was going well with a good motor in a Chaos and beat Steve Tromans in a clean bout. Both Mick and myself won but I was very pleased that Andy Kirk had problems starting his very fast 19. He did get it going in the next round when he achieved the highest score of the day award taking 5 cuts from Russell. I might add that Russell has made real progress since last year and the bout was very entertaining!

I made a swift exit in the next round losing to Roger Fisher who had had a bye in the first round.

Roger’s model was untrimmed but he still managed to beat me when I took the lot and lost a ground point. Ho Hum.

Andy took out Steve Tromans and Mick beat Bob Payne.

In the semi’s Roger stalled his way round to beat Andy who was still going at a great rate of knots. Mick flew Mike Waller but managed to have his Ironmonger fall in on him collapsing the tip (Must be design fault) The lightweight nylon held up ok though...Mike was flying very well but couldn’t beat Mick’s lifetime experience of flying combat. How many years is it???? Next time Mike!

Due to the conditions (we were all very wet by 3.00) there was no fly off for 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

The final pitted Rog, still flying the same rather wayward Squig, against Mick who had dug in his (wet) polybag for a good Yeti. The Lewis model definitely had the edge but due to a little upwind artistic interpretation it made a hole in the ground. The pitman (me) got it back up but lost a point and the advantage was lost. Rog cruised to victory with Mick mumbling "Only got myself to blame". True.

Amazing what fun you can have in a wet field with a bunch of your mates! We missed the other Richard, still nursing his Achilles tendon, but then he can't win them all can he?

All in all an enjoyable day. However we must book the weather for Old Warden much further in advance!

Cheers, Richard E

Richard who is of course the CFA Chairman presented wine to the first 3 places.

## **Combat Report**

### **Old Warden 16 may 2004**

What a splendid day. If your kit hadn't dried out from the waterpolo match at Scatchwood last month there was certainly no excuse for having damp bits at Old Warden, glorious sunshine all day. And guess who forgot to take his Sun block.

Every time I fly here we seem to get a different spot. We were tucked up against the trees, to the right of the runway at the bottom of the airfield. (Sounds like a description of Bill and Ben's garden) Its was a bit cramped and we had  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the contest circle on mown grass and the remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$  was over very long,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mtr, grass, which occasionally made things a bit awkward. There was a slight breeze blowing from the road, causing the free flight models to wander overhead all day, even landing on the circles from time to time. Followed of course by the inevitable retrieval crews who went crashing around in the undergrowth behind us. One large hapless model got itself caught in the trees right over our heads.

With 14 entries things were set for a good days flying, some new names, some old names, which was good. Tim Hobbins brought a new flyer, Martin Coe. He showed a lot of promise at only his second event. Martyn Vale (similar to Martin Coe but not a spelling mistake) was teamed up with Mike Waller but was still getting kit sorted, I think I saw him flying with a silencer or collector fitted at one point.

Down to business. Round 1 started with Jeff Sizer v Martyn Vale. I think this was the bout Martyn sounded and looked like he had the silencer fitted, with predictable results. Jeff winning. Next up was Andy Kirk (me) v Nigel Etheridge. 1 cut all and no streamers left so a refly. I won 2 cuts to 1 with me having to go defensive, flying some very low reverse 8 eight's, Roger, who was pitting for me didn't think it was such a good idea to do one manoeuvre for so long, but it worked. Nigel took my entire steamer and that was that. At one point Nigel was trying to explain to me the "Dutch Rule" for F2D. Last time I heard of anything called "The Dutch Rule" I was exceedingly drunk at the time. Tim Hobbins beat Bob Payne. I then centre marshalled for Pete Clarke and Steve Malone. Hmmm, that was an interesting bout. Things weren't helped by Pete struggling with his helmet strap while he was flying, with it falling off at one point, leaving me to put it back on his head and trying to do the strap up. It all got a bit confusing. A number of interesting line tangles and some ground time for Steve who eventually won, taking a cut which by my reckoning was within 2 sec's of the end of the bout. The Roger Fisher V Richard Evans bout was one of the best of the day. Richard was unstoppable winning with something like 5 cuts to 2. And Rogers no slouch. Richard hadn't

even put his lucky feather in his hat yet! (I came away without the score sheets so I only know who won and lost but not what the actual score was)

The losers round saw Vale beat Fisher after bellcranking Roger, well breaking his leading edge, which is just as effective, and Pete Clarke beat Mick Waller, Mick coming off worst after another mid-air.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> round flyoff Richard Evans beat Pete Clarke after another interesting bout which saw the loose helmet tactic come into play again. And Pete trying to fly Richards model while his own was on the ground. (Suggestion no 1. Make sure your helmet is done up *before you say you are ready to start engines*. I'm sure if it were the Nats you would be DQ,ed ) Mick Lewis beat Andy Kirk (me) 2 to 1. I don't know if I accrued some ground time after a line tangle and hitting the ground. Well what do you expect after 5 consecutive loops. I did manage to look surprised though. After the 4<sup>th</sup> loop my lines had locked so I had no choice but to follow Mick round.

In the quarters we saw Evans v Sizer with Richard flying superbly, getting the win and again Jeff wasn't exactly flying like a novice, Lewis v Malone ended with Steve breaking the leading edge on his Fuchsia pink Yeti. There was a coming together earlier which removed about 4 inches of the in board trailing edge of Steve's model. He then crashed and broke the LE in two places. Tim Hobbins beat Steve Troman's. And Bob Payne beat Marten Vale.

Semi finals. Richard Evans v Tim Hobbins with yet another superb flight by Richard, a mid-air broke the tail section of Tim's Yeti sealing his fate and in the Lewis v Payne, well shit happens. Mick had a torrid time, line tangles, ground time etc culminating in broken lines for Mick. One line snapped at the handle and the other at the model leaving Bob Payne set for a Finals

There was no 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> place flyoff. Mick giving the place to Tim after getting all hot and bothered in his bout against Bob.

And so to the finals. Pretty boring as finals go, and compared to the rest of the days flying as well. Bob's engine gave problems with it failing to start for 2 and ½ minutes at one point. Richard didn't even need any cuts.

And that folks is combat. Many thanks to all those who officiated without whom the day simply would not happen. Ta!

I think the highlight of the day for everyone was the little FF model that looked like a dinner plate or perhaps the Starship enterprise that climbed up to about 1000ft and the glided back down to the owners feet 10 minutes later. Almost the entire airfield was at one point looking up shielding their eyes from the Sun and straining their ears to see if the engine was still going. It was flying like that all day.

1<sup>st</sup> R. Evans  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Payne  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tim Hobbins  
4<sup>th</sup> Mick Lewis

PS

According to my spell checker Tromans should be Trombones.

The wine for the first 3 flyers had been left in the Jag (Steve Tromans sells them!) and had tried to escape from the bottles due to the heat. After forcing the corks back in it was presented to Richard and Tim but Bob had slipped away so he will have to wait for his!

BELOW:- Richard Evans flies around patiently waiting for Roger Fisher to start Bob Paynes motor in the rather poor final at Old Warden(see text)



## Vintage Combat Merit Award

As the vintage combat league has ceased to exist the EIFFLAENDER TROPHY was in danger of being left in the BMFA vaults.

With the support of the Eifflaender family the CFA is asking the BMFA to present the trophy for continued effort and support of vintage combat. The recipient will be a flyer who has not won a National championship but in the opinion of the CFA committee deserves recognition.

A free ticket to the BMFA dinner will go with the trophy, which will be presented at that function in November.

## Rules, who needs them?

We all know how easy it is to misinterpret rules. Way back in 1973 at the Spaarndam International in Holland the organisers read the rule on scoring in F2D which said, "no points shall be awarded for cuts of the string line"

Well all the flyers knew well that this meant then, as it does now, this only applies if there is no streamer attached. Argue as we might we could not sway the organisers on this so the whole comp was flown that if you cut the string (as many did with the whole streamer attached) you got nowt.

The strange thing was that the previous year they had used the proper interpretation of the rule!

Well what is the point of all this in 2004? Did you know that many of the written rules are never applied in Vintage, Oliver or 1/2A and we even use the wrong scoring method in 1/2A?

In order to bring the rules "up to speed" with what actually happens (and presumably we are all happy with) your committee is to undertake a review of the rules in Vintage, Oliver and 1/2A combat. It is hoped to put any proposed changes forward to be voted on by the active flyers at the Nationals 2005. Now just before anyone starts to throw their toys out of their pram the idea is to only change the written rules, no one should notice any difference whatsoever in the way comps are run. We want to continue doing exactly what we do now as it all works so well

CFA Committee June 04

## Equipment

If you were planning to buy 1/2A models from Merv Jones, hard luck they are all gone! Also the FORA 09 has been delayed, these and the 1/2A models are scheduled to arrive at the Nats. Merv does however have plenty of F2E models available, give him a call if interested.

## CS Engines

CS Oliver clones are now available from Flair (01793721303)

The standard motor is £75 and the chromed one is £80. If I were you I'd go for the chromed version as it will last far longer!

Also available from the same source is the CS09 1/2A combat motor at about £55.

The South Bristol team has just taken delivery of theirs and first indications are that this is a fine ABC motor and terrific value for money. Expect to see these in use at the Nats. More info is available from Malc Pinnock on 01249657671

## For Sale

Pre-shaped leading edges (Very light) at £4 each plus £1.50 p&p (for up to 7)

Lightweight ripstop nylon (white only) at £2 per sq. yard plus £1 p&p (up to 5sq yds)

Roger Fisher tuned PAW 19 Vintage combat motor at £120 plus £4 p&p

60 cc fibreglass combat tanks at £10 plus £2 p&p (up to 6 tanks)

For any of the above contact me on 01453542367 or email [olmik@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:olmik@tiscali.co.uk)

## Rule Changes

Anyone wishing to propose rule changes for next season must submit them in writing (with seconder) to me at: -

40 Upthorpe, DURSLEY, Glos. GL11 5HR by 24/07/04.

They will then be circulated with voting papers well before the AGM at the Nationals.

## Virgin

Virgin have noticed that I'm no longer one of them (haven't been for many a long year!) and are thus closing down my mick.wings email address. Note my new email above.

Mick Lewis (sec)

## COMING UP!

**JUNE 13<sup>th</sup> Vintage Combat at Bilston**

**June 20<sup>th</sup> South Bristol Gala at Berkeley Power Station**

Includes vintage Combat and racing classes-BAR OPEN ALL DAY!



Action from the 2003 final at Berkeley!