

Welcome(Editorial)

So yet another season has passed and here I am producing my nineteenth newsletter. Despite a really poor summer Vintage comps have,almost without exception,been blessed with great weather. I think F2D have had it pretty good too.

If you think combat is fantastic(and who doesn't?)why not write your thoughts for a future newsletter. If you think you do not get "a fair crack of the whip"then put pen to paper. We would love to hear from you.

This time I have responded to complaints from the Chairman that "there are no pictures in the newsletters anymore"and included a few but only on plain paper to keep costs down.

For me it is time to start thinking about next seasons contest calendar.

I would welcome news from flyers of any venues we could use. I have tried several times to get the use of "Campbell field"at Nuneaton but without success. On a brighter note I believe Barton have talked about the possibility of Vintage and/or Oliver at their site. We await any further developments.

Scratchwood has become very overgrown and has other problems due to its location. It may be possible to tag on to BMFA centralised events at Cottesmore and/or Waterbeach but like at Scampton we would need to register a couple of weeks in advance.

Of course there is the South Bristol perfect site at Berkeley(Gloucestershire)

The experiment of holding Vintage on the Saturday this year was not a success with only four people travelling.

Thoughts for 2009 are to hold Vintage on the Saturday and Oliver on the Sunday.It is a great site with camping,bar,food,etc all readily available.

If you have a view on this please let me know.

Finally I will end my ranting by saying that the committee feel indebted to Steve Rothwell in Australia for producing an engine for British Vintage Combat.We have lost flyers recently due to the lack of availability of a suitable engine.

P.A.W ceased production of the CT3 earlier this year and many of the older ones are coming to the end of their useful lives.

The Rothwell's we have tested recently are up with the best PAW's in use at the moment and due to a good exchange rate cost around £150.

I'm sure we will see lots of them very soon.

A full Nats combat report has been sent to Model Flyer and should appear soon!

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Rule Changes for 2009

Vintage Combat

4.4.4.1 (d)

The sentence.....

As from the 2006 season the use of ICAREX/VENTEX type kite material over MYLAR is permitted.

To be REMOVED and REPLACED WITH.....

The use of ICAREX/VENTEX type kite material or AIRSPAN/LITESPAN synthetic tissue over MYLAR is permitted.

Passed at the CFA AGM by 10 votes to 7.

ADD at 4.4.4.12(d)

Mechanics may only enter the flight circle to retrieve a downed model when there is no line tangle or to help clear a line tangle when BOTH models are grounded.

Line tangles when just one model is airborne must be cleared by the pilot and Centre Marshall.

The Centre Marshall will indicate to the mechanics when the line tangle is cleared and that they may enter the flight circle.

Carried without objection on safety grounds.

4.4.4.2 Engine

Add under Super Tigre G30.....

Rothwell 320

EGM postal vote of all the active Vintage Combat flyers gave the following result: -

In favour 16 against 3 no return 4

Oliver Tiger Combat

4.4.8.2(b)

The number 12000 rpm at the end of this sentence should be changed to 12500 rpm.

Passed at the CFA AGM by 13 votes to 4.

Scratchwood 14th September

Well what do you know? There is a “Combat God” as after weeks of wind and rain this comp was held in almost perfect flying conditions. The Sun was a bit of a problem but as it was putting in one of its rare appearances this summer we should not complain.

The first round draw threw up a couple of tasty looking bouts with the Richards Evans and Herbert starting proceedings followed a couple of bouts later with Steve Tromans against Mike Loughlin.

Richard Evans decided to stick to the first round model he had prepared before seeing the draw but as usual Richard Herbert was flying "good stuff"

Suffering with the ageing Yeti and his second motor Richard Evans put up a valiant display but as expected went down by two cuts to one.

The Loughlin/Tromans bout resulted in both flyers cutting string on their first attacks meaning that a re-fly was necessary.

Sadly and uncharacteristically Mike repeated the trick leaving Steve loads of time to take the two cuts he needed for victory. Steve was flying really well considering it was only his second comp of the season.

With both Mike and Richard Evans in the losers there was a one in three chance of them being drawn together. However this didn't happen as Mike drew Simon Timperley and Richard drew Bob Payne.

Bob's engine wasn't at all happy and this meant he had little chance of beating Richard who was, as ever, charging around the sky. Richard took the only cut to proceed into round two.

A much better bout was Simon Timperley against Mike Loughlin. Using his trusty Ironmonger Simon put up a real fight against Mike's Yeti going down by two cuts to one in a very close contest.

As the original eleven flyers had been whittled down to eight there was no need for an eliminator and the quarterfinal was drawn which threw up the exciting prospect of Richard Evans against Mike Loughlin.

The first bout saw the rapidly improving Simon Miller take on his mentor Richard Herbert. Simon put up a gallant display just losing out by the odd cut in three.

With the dedication he shows it will not be too long before Simon starts getting the rewards his efforts deserve.

And so to what on paper was the tie of the round. Richard's Supermonger was flying superbly and Mike was suffering because his best motor had gone "bang" a short while previously.

In a demonstration of clean flying Richard emerged victorious by two cuts to one without a hint of any ground time from either flyer. I personally look forward to many more great bouts between these "gents"

The fight between Roger and Steve was by comparison a dour affair. Steve had bags of ground time and no cuts whereas Roger had less of the first and one more of the second. (Hope that makes sense)

Chris Fishers flying style has improved out of all recognition and he was able to push Mick Lewis all the way in their quarterfinal. Mick finally emerged with a three cuts to two victory with neither pilot recording any down time.

The semi-finals drew themselves. As the two Richards had flown each other in round one it meant that Richard Herbert and Mick Lewis would be first to fly followed by Roger against Richard Evans.

It seems that for some strange reason Mick and Richard have lost the knack of avoiding line tangles. There was one in the Nats final between the pair and again this time. That's not to say that there wasn't some good combat but it was limited by the down time suffered by both flyers. Richard moved through to the final by virtue of his two cuts to one victory.

The second semi was quite different. Before things had really got going Richard Evans had what was at first thought to be a line failure. After running out the spare

lines the pit crew discovered that the loop on the end of the leadout had worn through. This isn't the first time Richard has suffered this fate. Be warned that this could happen to you if you re-use old leadouts like Richard does (hopefully now a thing of the past?)

So Mick Lewis and Richard Evans would have to fly off for third place before the final could take place.

Richard decided to use one of his Supermongers whilst Mick chose a Yeti he considered more disposable. Both models had similar airspeed but the Supermonger was a little tighter turning, which allowed Richard to take the first cut. While doing a low pull out Mick's lines caught on a patch of wild flowers (about two feet tall) and the model crashed losing an all important ground point. At the end of the bout the cuts were two all and the wild flowers had handed the victory to Richard.

So the final was to be an all SECA affair!

(Quiz: - what does SECA stand for? Answers on a postcard.....)

As we all know finals can be downright dismal but no so this time.

Richard had his usual model advantage but Roger is a past master at winning when the "underdog". His Anduril was used to its full potential and with about a minute to go he needed to add a second cut to his tally to equal Richard's count and take the bout by a single ground point. Sadly at this exciting point the Anduril bit the dirt and the final was over. A well deserved victory for Richard Herbert, which makes him favourite to lift the league title this season.

Mick Lewis

Vintage Combat at Old Warden by Richard Evans Sept 28th

Despite 2008 being one of the worst summers for many years nearly all our flying events this year have taken place in good weather. The last Vintage event of 2008 at Old Warden was no exception and although cool, was calm and hazy making for almost perfect flying conditions. Mick Lewis and myself travelled from Gloucestershire arriving at about 9.30 in time to set up the now obligatory security tape and prepare the circle area at the far end of the grass runway. Soon the usual array of traditional free flight models were filling the air but due to the very light winds few travelled as far as the combat circles.

Most of the "Usual Suspects" were in attendance but overall the entry of eleven was quite disappointing. Practice soon began and the first bouts took place at a leisurely pace.

There being no major conflicts in the first round results were more or less as expected. There was carnage early on when Richard H and Chopper Simon had a major mid air. No cuts but a lot of ground time and Richard discovering again that a model with one wing will fly quite well. No such luck for Simon.....

Simon Miller and I had a good scuffle although a line tangle late on finished the bout early. I must learn how to take cuts in these tangles. Simon certainly managed it but not enough to win!

Chris Fisher had his Warlock destroyed by Tim Hobbins in the first of the losers. Chris had a bye in the first round and thus flew in the losers round. Dad Rog contemplated the cyano solution but then decided that it was beyond repair! A strategic boot in the right place made sure it could never be used again. Numbers dictated one eliminator bout, which saw the demise of Chopper at the hands of Mike Loughlin. Mick did a lot of defensive low flying after taking the whole streamer, just coming up every couple of laps to satisfy the rules!

So into the quarter finals where all the fun began. Well, not for me actually! Mike Loughlin and I have flown each other five or six times this year already and I suppose it was his turn to win. It was great bout with lots of our trade mark wiggles and dummies. Supermonger versus Yeti. I managed to dummy Mike into the ground but then did it to myself breaking a valuable prop and losing a point. As I had already taken the whole streamer all Mike had to do was nip in and get a cut, which he did. Exit me! Good fun though.

Not to be outdone, my team mate Mick Lewis decided he ought to lose as well and offered Tim Hobbins two freebie cuts, which he accepted with grace. Also wishing to join the club of sad old has beens, Richard Herbert then proceeded to lose to Chris Fisher! Richard had already wrecked two good models early on and was down to his Banana Anduril. But he DID have his best motor truly on form. This didn't save him from wily old (young) Chris who, at second attempt won 3-2 in style. Not many people have done this to Richard recently and it must be on many combat flyers wish lists!

The first semi allowed Rog Fisher flying an Anduril to perform against Tim Hobbins with a Supermonger. At one cut all and lots of ground time to Tim, he gave in. His Harrison PAW had been great early in the day but at this stage seemed very off tune. It could have been Tim's first final this year, but in fact it was Roger's second at successive events.

Now Chris doesn't like to be upstaged by Roger so, in no uncertain terms, he continued his giant killing ways and beat Mike L in the second semi. Chris was down to his last Squig, which in all fairness was past it's best. However he really got the best out of it and managed to follow Mike's fast and manoeuvrable Yeti at crucial points in the bout. He took two cuts to Mikes one to progress to meet his Dad in the final, which turned out to be one of the best of the day.

Rogers PAW Anduril had the edge on Chris's Squig but neither were at their best. However, both pilots squeezed every last bit of performance from their models. Within a few minutes both father and son removed the others whole streamer but Chris left the knot on Rog's model. The mutual chasing continued but then Roger went on the run, which was his downfall. Chris was able to cut off at the corners (probably because his model was stalling badly) and removed his Dad's knot! The crowd applauded loudly.

Chris Fisher won his first Vintage combat competition by consecutively beating Richard Herbert, Mike Loughlin and finally his dad in a hugely entertaining series of bouts. Giant Killing indeed! Well done!

Results:



1st Chris Fisher 2nd Roger Fisher 3rd Mike Loughlin 4th Tim Hobbins (Close, but no cigar)

The prize giving of glass trophies and wine were presented by Secretary Mick Lewis and myself in beautiful conditions in front of the control tower. (Chris's mum specified which bottle to choose)



Vintage League for The Frank Smart Trophy

Also presented were the trophies for the Vintage Combat League.

Travelling to Old Warden Mick Lewis and I had calculated that if Richard H had lost in the first round AND the losers re-fly we could win the league. One of us then needed to win the event . Well none of that happened so the results are:



1st Richard Herbert 2nd Richard Evans 3rd Mick Lewis



LEFT Nats first and second Mick Lewis and Richard Herbert.

RIGHT Richard Evans shows off his Nats “Secret Weapon” which he was keeping for the final!



You may contact me at 40 Upthorpe,DURSLEY,Glos.GL11 5HR tel 01453542367

Or email mick@combatflyers.co.uk

Oliver Tiger Sweatshirts

Much to my pleasure (and surprise) sales of Oli T/shirts were very good at this year's Nationals. However, the few sweatshirts and hoodies that I had printed were snapped up quickly and I had many requests for more. Some people even offered to pay in advance. Needless to say I took up their offers!

I am going to do another run of shirts in the near future but this may be the last for some time. John Oliver personally approved the design and wears one himself. If anybody would like one of these iconic garments please let me know soon.

I will print good quality Fruit of the Loom hoodies and normal drop shoulder sweatshirts in pale grey or pale blue. Just right for dirty hobbies like ours! As much as I would like to print on the colour of mud, I'm afraid that orange will not cover anything so dark.

Prices will be: Sweatshirts: £14.50 and hoodies £17.00 including postage.

All sizes are available including XXL (no names mentioned) As rough guide I wear a large (or XL after the Nats weekend of excess eating and drinking!)

If you want to order then please email me on vickyrich@btinternet.com or phone me on 01544 327683.

P.S. Hope you like my foot in the picture

Cheers

Richard



