

CLAPA CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009

Overview & F2B report by John Benzing

Landing *in* rather than *on* the ground was the order of the day for many of the competitors at the 2009 Champs. The weather Gods gave us the thumbs down this year for sure, although on Friday we had a great practice day with all three circles occupied almost from dawn to dusk.

Saturday however dawned dull and wet, but at the pilots briefing the consensus was that we should carry on as normal. Just as well we did, because Sunday morning brought sheeting rain and thunder. It took just a matter of minutes for the pilots to agree that the rest of the event should be abandoned.

So what of the flying on Saturday? Needless to say F2B was dominated by Rob Kitley, with the rest of the competitors scrapping for the lower placings. Gary Church continues to improve (up to 6th from 8th last year) so is now a real threat to the leaders.

The new P40 event was a great success and attracted a total of 10 competitors, although some of the P40+ flyers in this event have been accused of being 'stunt bandits', but I'm sure that thought never crossed their mind!

As usual, thanks must be extended to all the officials – judges, scorers, and runners etc. who did a magnificent job in very challenging conditions.

CLAPA CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009 - Classic

Report by Peter Jackson

Well the top four flyers were fairly close in the first round with the weather reasonable. Paul leading with Mick T and Mick C and Ian G following. The second round was a different matter with the wind shifting about and blustery. The scores were a lot lower and significantly Paul missed the second part of the vertical eight thus scoring a zero, which left the door open for Mick T to put in a better flight. Mick C had some particularly bad air and gave up before he destroyed his lovely Hurricane. Strangely Kevin and Alan put up scores, which were better than their first flights, so some gratification there. Unfortunately we had one fatality, that of Eric Hawthorne's Coy Lady, which was destroyed in the blustery conditions. Chris Gilbert has improved on his previous years flying and is progressing well. Peter Tindal had engine problems which hampered his potential. Me too!

CLAPA CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009 - Class 2

Report by Bill Smith

Nine pilots braved the very blustery, wet and turbulent conditions, which also made the scores quite low this year due to many models being blown out of the manoeuvres. The first round in circle three took 1½ hours, but due to the high attrition rate the second round, this time in circle one, took only 1 hour. I did expect the scores to improve, but the turbulence in this circle was even worse, causing Dave Hough, Terry Baker and Stan Robinson to crash. The strangest crash was Tiny Church who got a fly in his eye! Congratulations to Keith Powell and Bill Daniels, both long campaigners in Class 2 for coming 1st and 2nd and also to Richard Place for 3rd position in his first ever CLAPA Champs. Andrew Green also did well to be 6th in his first competition considering that the CLAPA training day in May was the first time he had completed a vertical eight! Generally, starting and take-off was better and most pilots scored 10. Reverse wingovers should start in front of the judge and not be flown crosswind. Eights should not be lazy eights as technically the manoeuvre has not been completed and should be scored zero. Some square manoeuvres were too tight and are better completed larger initially so as not to stall the model and then made smaller with practice. (Keep the airspeed up). Landings begin after the engine has cut at the 5ft level and the model should then descend over one lap for a bounce-free touch down. All in all, well done under the exceptionally poor conditions to get a result.

CLAPA CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009 – Vintage

Report by Mick Castell

Because of the atrocious weather it was only possible to fly one round on the Saturday, the two rounds programmed for Sunday being washed out. Mick Taylor won flying his 'Trixter Invert' with a PAW 35. Maurice Doyle was close behind with his venerable 'Taurus'. He might have come even closer but lost points for flying too low. Remember, level flight (and inverted) is at a height of six to ten feet in the Vintage rules.

Eric Hawthorne was third with his 'Humongous'. Kevin Barry put in a lovely smooth flight, also with a 'Humongous', but unfortunately missed out the horizontal eights which meant that he also lost the twenty-five bonus points for completing the schedule in order. This left a large hole in his score. With a bit more attention to the finer points of the Vintage schedule (and completing the schedule!), Kevin could be competing for top honours next year.

CLAPA CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009 – P40

Report by Roger Ladds

It was good to see a healthy entry for the P40 event, but rather disappointing that the weather was so bad. Everyone who flew handled the conditions very well, in particular the non-experts and it was Keith Powell who put in the most convincing flight, although the other P40 entrants showed a very methodical approach to their flying. The most common mistake was the lack of concentration during each manoeuvre, you just cannot afford to relax until the end of the flight. It was also encouraging to see the P40+ flyers entering into the spirit of the event and offering help and advice to the other entrants – even the judge was seen to help with engine starting! It is however quire clear that there is work to be done to improve the model trim and engine settings as well as the flying, so we have a new event but we still seek perfection.



Above: All the participants at the 2008 CLAPA Champs – the year it didn't rain! (All photos by Mike Parry)

Three different ways of enjoying the rain.....



Bill Grieve



Mike Nelson



Bill Draper