

OLD WARDEN 19/20th SEPTEMBER VOETSAK TRIBUTE RACING.

We had very fine weather for the only Old Warden model flying event on the weekend of 19th and 20th September, but a strong wind on both days wasn't good for the free fliers, though flyable for control line events. Attendance at the airfield was down on last year's aeromodelling weekends, due to the uncertainty about being able to go ahead until just 2 days previously and the general Covid restrictions, but there was a decent attendance of both flyers and spectators for the control line activities and it was fairly easy to maintain social distancing requirements. 4 teams turned up for the new Voetsak Tribute models (scale 70% of the full size Voetsak for AM 25 power only), out of some 30 or so of these models which have been constructed or are still being worked on that we are aware of, so it was easy to run two timed 10 laps from RoG speed flights for each entrant on both days, the best of the 4 individual times being used for the ranking; 2 up team racing events could not be held because of pandemic conditions. Much working on engine settings and propeller types and sizes was undertaken during practice and timed flights, shown by the improvements on the second day, all of the teams going at least a bit faster (except me, nobbled by a detached pushrod). All of the models used unmodified AM 25 engines, which will be mandatory for the 2021 season's events, to keep a level playing field for the 2 up team racing league table for the grand £200 prize money. The results were:

- 1st Andy Housden and Ray Ewart in 41.3 seconds, much improved from 47.0 seconds on the Saturday.
- 2nd Dave Cowburn and Brian Greenaway in 42.5 seconds, slightly up from 42.8 seconds.
- 3rd Brian Waterland and Brian Lever in 43.1 seconds, well up from 51.4 seconds.
- 4th Steve Betney and Jan Huning at 43.5 seconds on Saturday, DNQ on Sunday.

It can be seen that times are very close, and the lap time of about 4 seconds on our 50 foot lines makes for a pretty relaxed rotational speed, and all models flew in a very stable fashion in the stiff breeze. It is hoped that we can hold a further 10 lap RoG only Voetsak Tribute racing event at the October 17th and 18th SAM 35 Octoberfest event at Buckminster, which is anticipated to be held unless any new Government restrictions are applied which prevent it taking place under the strict social distancing etc conditions currently in place. Hope to see a lot more Tribute models make an outing then, perhaps a final construction spurt for some still underway might be motivated?

STEVE BETNEY 21st Oct 2020.









