

Millennium Cup Round - 5. Maddens Plains - 13th October, 2002.

Looking back at last years round, I was surprised to see just 16 competitors contested the H.S.I round of the Millenium Cup. This year we had 15 competitors, and I really expected a lot more support from local Clubs. Not to worry, we had a great time, and close scoring, generally.

On leaving home at 8am, the skies were blue and sunny, with only the lightest breeze blowing from the north west. Perfect conditions. Arriving at Maddens Plains, (which apparently supports its own ideas on ecosystems) I saw that the wind was blowing about 10 knots and appeared to be getting stronger.

Competitors began arriving, so the reflex tow system was laid out and the spots set, so that we could get away on time.

With the wind, there was no great stress put on the towers, and many launches required only a few steps at walking pace, to keep loads of tension on the line, as the models went up on tow. For once, I was happy not to be the first to fly, thanks to the laptop computer deciding the draw.

Tony Shearman, who was only flying in his second comp, kicked off the day, and made a good flight with his Saggitta 2m. Third cab off the rank, Michael Towell, made an impression when his wings decided to flutter violently for a second or two, on the tow. He noticed that the wing sheeting was split for quite a distance, after round four, so called it a day. Owen Pearcey, from IMAC took out the first round, and I did see him practicing as I arrived at the field, earlier on. Many of us do not practice often enough - including me.

Round 3 saw a big thermal drift through, with those fortunate enough to be launching around that time, getting into lift. In fact, most pilots achieved their times, or close to it, in this round. Laurie Bestel pinged off the tow, into lift, but the model couldn't stand the extra stresses and blew apart. The fuselage came spearing past my model, and the fin clipped my wing. No damage sustained to my model, but Laurie's was a mess. I continued on to achieve 5.57 and a 2m spot winning the round. John Kinlay had trouble getting out of the lift on time, and flew over by 12 seconds. An enjoyable round, on the whole.

I was writing down the scores as they came in, and didn't really pay much attention to them, as the rounds were running quite smoothly and quickly, and I no sooner finished flying, when it seemed time to go again. One of our Junieur members, Mark Demol, was only flying in his 2nd round of the year, and appeared to be doing very well indeed, flying a Spirit 2m.

The wind was gusting in excess of 8m/sec, and one round saw me flying with loads of down trim, but progressively going backwards. The turbulence down low, also made for exciting landings and many miscalculations. It seemed that the strength was getting worse as the time wore on, and 30 knots was the weather forecast. Max Stone, John Kinlay and Peter Sikora were getting some serious height on their zooms. Composite construction and carbon fibre wings can stand a huge load, and it played a big role in the additional height these guys achieved on launch.

Bruce Robbins was running an efficient contest, as always, and we actually flew the six rounds, by lunchtime. His lovely wife, Megan,

brought down hot bar-b-que chicken, chips and bread rolls. The smell was enough, to call a halt, and everyone enjoyed the feast.

Six rounds were completed comfortably, and as the wind picked up even more, Bruce called a halt to the day. A good decision, as the models were in danger of getting damaged with the worsening conditions.

Scores were collated by the computer, and it was a pleasant surprise to see Max Stone coming home strongly. Max had a big grin on his face, so he definitely enjoyed the result.

The final scores for the top ten places, were:

1st Max Stone	1719	- O.D. composite construction
2nd Mark Demol (jnr)	1636	- Spirit 2m
3rd Peter Sikora	1451	- O.D - PS 1 composite construction
4 th Matthew Greenfield	1442	- Spirit 2m
5 th Klaus Weiss	1436	- Spirit 2m
6 th John Kinlay	1415	- PS1 composite construction
7 th Jack Murphy	1321	- Spirit 2m
8 th Tony Shearman	1251	- Saggitta 2m
9 th Matthew Brand	1246	- Spirit 2m
10 th Don Farrar	1113	- Saggitta 2m



Max Stone 1st place



Mark Demol 2nd place & 1st juniour



Peter Sikora 3rd place

A shame that Ian Roach missed the round, but he is in a strong place anyhow, so it will not have harmed his chances of taking out the series. As a matter of fact, there is opportunity for a lot of guys to take out the series, as it is the best five rounds, out of seven, with the worst two dropped. Hope to

see a few more at the next comp at IMAC on the 27th October and then the final round at Nowra on 17th November.

Klaus Weiss.