

F3a Baldock Competition 2022

For only the second time in the Bury MFC's history, three members flew in a GBRCAA Competition - held on Sunday 31st July 22 at the North London MFC's site at Baldock. They were Mike Rieder, Mark Allen and Peter Jenkins.



The photo shows "The Three Amigos"! From left to right – Mike Rieder, Mark Allen and Peter Jenkins.

The weather forecast for the day had gradually deteriorated during the week, leaving us with a 90 deg cross wind of around 15 mph gusting to 22 mph. The site also had a lot of trees and a large barn that made the turbulence when taking off and landing...er... exciting!

As the wind was blowing outwards, we could see that most pilots struggled to keep their model on the desired 150m line out from the pilot. Some ended up being blown too far out and lost points for doing so.

Mike Rieder was flying his second competition in Masters class with his new aircraft, an Elixir fitted with a contra drive. He started well in the first round but was overtaken by the top three to finish fourth.

Mike had volunteered to judge the FAI(P) class so was quite a busy chap. Since there was only one competitor for each of the Intermediate and Clubman classes, Mike was kept pretty busy either judging or flying in Masters. Phew!

Mark Allen and Peter Jenkins were flying in the FAI(P) class. Mark was flying his well flown Spark with a single prop drive. For the first competition ever, Mark broke the 400 point mark. Only just mind you, as he scored 400.25 with his second-best flight scoring 388.25. This backs up his high score of 396 at the June Knettishall Competition and gave

him a well-deserved 5th place. Well done Mark especially since he doesn't get as much time to practice as he'd like.

Peter was flying his Element with contra drive but after a reasonable start, Peter's marks were disappointing and he finished 7th out of 8. Still, he was lucky to recover his aircraft when he lost sight of it as he exited one manoeuvre against a background of very dark grey cloud. After some discussion with Mark, who was calling for him, Peter eventually got sight of the aircraft and was able to get it back and into the schedule.

This was the first competition flown at Baldock for over 11 years and after witnessing our flying in quite difficult conditions the local club members, who had volunteered to help, were suitably impressed. They were also pleasantly taken aback that the F3A competition types were actually quite down to earth and friendly and not stuck up so and sos! So that bodes well for another East Anglian based competition site for next year.

The photo shows "The Three Amigos"! From left to right – Mike Rieder, Mark Allen and Peter Jenkins.

If you would like to know more about flying precision aerobatics, please contact Peter at peterjenkinsbmfc@btinternet.com.