

# GBRCAA Competition – Knettishall 3rd September 2022



Weather is always a major factor for competitions and after having several different forecasts during the week running up to the 3rd September, I was pleased to see the windsock hanging vertically downwards, sunshine and blue sky with some friendly clouds. However, that was at 7 am and by the time we started flying at 9 am the wind had started up and then from mid-morning onwards started to strengthen. The wind direction at ground level ended up at 90 deg to the strip and wind speed was 15 mph with gusts. So, a little challenging!

Five Bury MFC members were kind enough to help with putting up the gazebo and spotting duties. Thanks for Jim Smetherham, Ron Gray, Andrew Ashberry, Jed Stone and Steve Braden.

Their support allowed the two BMFC members competing, Mark Allen and Peter Jenkins, to just focus on their flying although Peter was also Competition Director.



Mike Rieder was unable to take part as he was on holiday at the time.



The competition entry had reached 18 pilots at one stage before there was a rash of withdrawals leaving us with 13 pilots on the day. This broke down to 2 each in the Clubman, Intermediate and Masters classes with 7 in FAI class. Both Mark and Peter were flying in the FAI class. There were 2 recent GB team members and an Iranian team member flying in FAI so the top three places were likely to be taken by them...and they were!



Mark and Peter were scrapping in the lower 4 places.

Mark had been having some great scores in earlier competitions but he was having a bit of an off day for this one. He narrowly avoided having an unintended brush with the ground which had all of us holding our breath!

Peter had his best results to date although he had to abort his 2nd flight after the canopy departed during the 1 ½ snap roll manoeuvre! Ron Gray was spotting while Mark was calling for Peter. Peter had not noticed the canopy departing until he heard Mark ask Ron to keep an eye on the canopy to spot where it fell. Peter landed his aircraft without further damage and managed to borrow a canopy from another competitor in a different class but who had the same make of aircraft. That allowed Peter to fly his 3rd and last flight, the result of which enabled him to get ahead of Mark for the first time this year! Sadly, we were propping up the bottom of the list.

As in the last competition, Irene & Richard, who run the BBQs for the Mid Suffolk Radio Modellers club provided both breakfast (egg and bacon butties) and a BBQ lunch with tea, coffee and soft drinks all day. That was much appreciated by all attendees.



The model line.



Peter's model, with Graham Gooch (no not the England batsman!) the owner of the canopy he borrowed:



It says a lot for the cooperation and help at these events that Graham was willing to lend Peter his canopy when we didn't really know why the canopy had departed in the first place. In the end, the flight with the borrowed canopy went off uneventfully and so Graham was able to fly his aircraft later in the competition.

Ron Gray very kindly volunteered to look for Peter's missing canopy as he had taken careful note of where it landed. In the event, he was unsuccessful after 2 searches but a further search at the end of the competition found it very much closer than it appeared to have fallen. So, there was no debris left on the farmer's land! The canopy will need a bit of TLC though, as it was a little battered!

If you are interested in learning more about flying precision or pattern aerobatics please contact either Peter Jenkins, Mark Allen or Mike Rieder.

And finally, our author and competition organiser, awarding the prizes:

Clubman



Intermediate



Masters



FAI(P)

