

COMBAT REPORT. Log 22052023.

Welcome back to COMBAT, I am glad to see RC COMBAT addressing our club calendar of events. Although this is not an event that all pilots wish to take part in, it certainly caters for everyone to spectate in. To the pilots flying this style of event allows them to sharpen their skills in flying model RC aircraft mainly reflex action and sheer avoidance skills.

Sunday 21st May COMBAT Round 3 and 4.

A sunny morning with clear blue skies, a slight scattering of white fluffy clouds and no wind. What a perfect start for a round or two of combat, well you can wish for everything and get nothing, Sunday the 21st saw nothing of what was described above.

With four apologies from hopeful combaters, the days combat rounds were to have only 8 starters. Three of which needed to test fly prior to the first round. Combat pilot Mark Hubbard, with the calming launch hand of Tee Gee showed another e-Combat wing successfully airborne. Next was combat pilot Terry Hubbard, that was successfully airborne after 3 rebuilds from not so successful test flights only to prematurely land due to a missing screw securing the carburetor, putting him out of action for the day, I might also like to add that both these test flights were undertaken in drizzling mist and windy conditions. The final test fly for the morning was Owen Gibbens who after a first launch engine flame out suffering a broken prop was back up and flying compliments of the Hubbard's portable workshop. After the longest test flight in history, some 40minutes + was told that the Craig Coleman event is next Sunday the 28th May and land his combat wing so we could start the event. An honorable mention at this point was for the effort and enthusiasm shown by Rod Grant showing up with not one, but three! combat wings made from foam-board, not conducive for wet and windy conditions but he did not want to miss out on the fun. Wing of the meet most certainly belong to Jason Maher's splendidly finished, vibrant pink, with blue markings, no extra points but an honorable mention.

To warm up from the weather, it was decided to conduct the pilots briefing in the warmth of the club house, I think most Combat pilots at this stage would have be happy to sit down with a nice hot coffee and Bacon and egg roll from our great chefs and canteen, and the ever forth coming comments from them both, thanks Tulky and Mossy for the great job you do every weekend for us all.

Now down to business. Due to the extreme conditions, it was decided to negate the 60sec launch condition and opt for a consecutive launch, Nitro wings first, followed by Electric wings with the larger battery variants to launch first over the smaller battery variants and COMBAT start would be once all Combat wings were in the air.

Streamers were handed out and as the yellow streamer could not be taken to the combat area by the combat pilot with the most points, "el presidente Alwyn Brunton" the honor was given to Neil Duffield as he was currently placed second on the Combat pilots leader board, which after some discussion made him the target plane as this streamer carries the greatest number of points for a cut in combat.

All pilots, wingmen, launchers, and officials made their way to the combat arena. (All brave souls.) First to launch, was Owen Gibbens and being the only nitro wing to compete, ruled himself as a non-starter due to engine problems, (Must have been that 40+ minute test flight) electrics then launched in quick succession, and once the last one was airborne, START COMBAT was called, by our official starter Peter Graeber. Suddenly all combat wings went to

full power, a sound that was quite audible even in the strong wind, all six combat wings were now in and looking for the first streamer cuts, of which four were claimed, with two streamer cuts to Tee Gee's Streamer.

All pilots somehow had forgot about the cold, drizzle and very windy conditions as comments were in abundance from the pilots about how much fun we were having, notable mention again to Rod Grant who we all believed was having some fun in the bedroom rather than flying a round of combat. (Well, that's the way it sounded.) After the 5minute bout all combat wings landed and were awarded their points for the round. Congrats to Neil Duffield for protecting the yellow streamer for the entire flight, shortly after TeeGee was on the ground he answered a phone call from the canteen crew the conversation was short and went something like, "You got owned TeeGee!" shortly after, there was silence.

After the round the scores were:

| Combat Pilot | Score | Number of Cuts |
|---------------|-------|----------------|
| Neil Duffield | 100 | 1 |
| Jason Maher | 100 | 1 |
| Dan Davies | 80 | 1 |
| Mark Hubbard | 80 | 1 |
| Rod Grant | 30 | 0 |
| Tony Gyoles | 30 | 0 |

After new streamer allocations and given the conditions, the Yellow Streamer carrier was changed to a purple streamer, so it was more identifiable as the one to go after. (Value 100 Points)

Keeping the same start profile, we set off for the second round. This saw five aircraft take to the sky when and if you could see it through the tears, the cold wind was creating in your eyes. After hearing the thump and the sound of a one bladed propellor trying to keep Mark Hubbards Wing in the air, he cut the power and met with the ground in an unfriendly manner. About 2 mins into the flight the number one streamer carrier Neil Duffield, flew through the prop wash of Jason Mahers' beautifully presented pink wing and went spiraling into to ground, it's certainly a heroic effort to protect the streamer Neil but does come with the consequence of a bit more epoxy to be back up flying again. (Commonly known as the epoxy king of glue, if anyone has any questions regarding epoxy capabilities ask him next time you see him.) Suddenly there was a call out from Dan Davies who had cut the streamer of Rod grant and was forced to carry 2 streamers for the rest of the combat, and with one of the smaller capacity combat wings carried out a great demonstration of power control to finish the bout, (What a marvelous effort) After about 4mins 50secs of combat a cry from Rod Grant notified every one he was running low on ions, (That's the term used for fuel left in your battery for you nitro guys.) Tee Gee said to convert what he had left to height so he could glide for the remaining seconds, at least 2 combat wings went in for the cut on Rod's streamer as he slowly descended. Alas he landed about 2 seconds before combat finish was called and all remaining aircraft to land. Scores for the second round are:

| Combat Pilot | Score | Number of Cuts |
|---------------|-------|----------------|
| Dan Davies | 100 | 1 |
| Tony Gyoles | 50 | 0 |
| Jason Maher | 50 | 0 |
| Mark Hubbard | 30 | 0 |
| Niel Duffield | 30 | 0 |

| | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| Rod Grant | 10 | 0 |
|-----------|----|---|

After everyone convening in the warm clubhouse for the presentation, the results for the day were,

| Combat Pilot | Score |
|---------------|-------|
| Dan Davies | 180 |
| Jason Maher | 150 |
| Niel Duffield | 130 |
| Mark Hubbard | 110 |
| Tony Gyoles | 80 |
| Rod Grant | 40 |

After all the fun and post mortems of the days combat, some discussion was had about how the lead streamer carrier was defined, it was deemed that the lead streamer carrier will be determined by the top scorer from the last round, Placing the next round of Combat with Dan Davies carrying the lead streamer, this will make for an exciting next round as Dan is flying one of the lower capacity combat wings in the squadron. (Good luck Dan! It should also be mentioned that his tactics were to let the faster combat wings flyby and then nip up and take off their streamer as they go by. Judging by Dans' score it had proved a good option for the day.) It was also discussed about a trophy of some description being presented to the overall winner of club combat at the AGM (This needs to be confirmed by the committee) and that there be a combat pilots leader board placed in the club house. (This also needs to be confirmed with the committee.)

The Leader board as of 21/05/2023

| Combat Pilot Leader Board | Tally |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Neil Duffield | 260 |
| Dan Davies | 240 |
| Tony Gyoles | 180 |
| Jason Maher | 170 |
| Mark Hubbard | 170 |
| Alwyn Brunton | 160 |
| Rodney Grant | 40 |
| John Nicholas | 30 |
| Terry Hubbard | 30 |

Thanks to all who attended and helped special mention to Peter Graeber for being the official starter and timekeeper, also to Mossy and Tulky for breakfast and the warm clubhouse environment.

The next round of Combat will be 25th June 2023, hope to see more combat pilots there.

Well, that's about a wrap up of the combat held 21st May 2023 and closing of Combat log 22052023.

-as always **Flying Is My Obsession**

TONY GYOLES
FIMO

Note: Anyone requiring more information or a combat wing please call Tee Gee on 04193-04193