

DMAC Easter Open Day & Swap Meet

Sunday 16th April 2023

There was glorious weather for setting up the marquee on the Saturday before the event so it was with some dismay that we woke on Sunday morning to gloomy skies and drizzle. The forecasts suggested that things would improve later in the morning but they lied! It remained cold and overcast with drizzle interspersed by periods of heavier rain for the duration. Nonetheless, at least fifty people turned up once the gates opened at 10:00. We also had a surprise visit from our ex-chairman (now resident in Tunbridge Wells) who took the opportunity of a visit to his father-in-law to drop in and say hello. Due to the conditions, there was little interest in the cold drinks on offer but hot tea and coffee were welcomed to complement the pastries.

Swap meet tables were setup in the marquee out of the rain although as usual the best kit shifted before it had a chance to touch the deck. Colin Campbell had a superb display of 3D printed pilots which attracted much interest and helped to stuff his wallet.

Notwithstanding the unsuitable conditions (low cloud and drizzle), Les Fletcher bravely opted to fly his turbine Cougar. The low cloud meant he had to keep his turns low and flat and there was always the possibility of a tip stall. There was much relief when, after several low passes, the model was put down safely on the strip and wheeled away to the pits to be covered in a warm blanket.

Colin Whiteside was fortunate not to lose his Trex 600 when the linkage between the tail servo and rotor came away in flight. Superfast reactions allowed him to auto rotate to a safe landing with only marginal damage to the tail belt drive. Unfortunately, he was not so lucky with his Extra 300 when he had a "dead stick" while attempting to pull away from a prop-hang at low level. With insufficient height to recover, the model was totaled when it impacted the strip.

Shortly after, there were gasps when the lower covering on the left aileron of Alan Griffiths' Laser 200 came away in flight. Alan was able to regain the strip and land without damage.

The remainder of the day was less eventful; the weather conditions meant that not much flying took place with the focus on social chat and catching up with news. By 14:00 people were starting to leave with just a hard-core remaining after the committee locked up the containers and left.

Thanks to Colin Campbell for organizing such a successful event and to all those who helped with setting up, running around on the day and clearing up afterwards. Apologies for any omissions and errors in this report; feel free to get in touch with corrections.

Your Chairman

Frans King