

# **The Andy Plunkett Memorial Cup 2021**

The date had been set for weeks. Club members had been practicing – well, a few had! The tension at the field was palpable.... The day of the Andy Plunkett memorial cup had arrived!

Competition director Ian Payne called the pilots to the briefing, where he explained the two elements:

1. Spot landing
2. Basic aerobatics.

4 brave souls came forward to brave the elements, and the ‘support’ of the assembled spectating clubmates.

## **Spot Landing**

The back story..... the GB ladies beach volleyball team had crash landed in a mountainous area; they had been located and the challenge was to rescue them. To remind the pilots, a picture was placed in the centre of the control line circle. (Personally, I think this back story was just an excuse for Ian to search for pictures of scantily clad ladies without getting into bother!).

To add extra spice, the wind freshened, and was gusty.

Ian was up first with his mini-Katana being blown around something rotten. Despite this, Ian managed three landings and incurred no penalties! One of the landings was clearly rudder followed by wheels and pretty much vertical....

Next up was Andy Figg with his Kingfisher. This plane proved remarkably stable, even with no stabilising electronics. Three safe landing, no penalties.

Then Duncan Scrase flew his venerable foamy P47. Duncan’s novel approach of ending each landing on three points – left wheel, right wheel, nose – proved to be an effective way of minimising post landing rollout. Surely this won’t catch on?

Last up was Ian Payne with his Junior 60. As his plane appeared to spend a lot of time flying backwards, there was concern amongst the watching rabble, who hoped he’d manage 3 landings before dark. They needn’t have worries. Three landings, two of which demonstrated a mastery of setting down on just one wheel, followed by just the other! Again, no penalties.

The crowd waited with bated breath for the results. Ian ensured the tension would remain by announcing that the results would come after the second challenge – aeros!

### **Basic Aerobatics**

The same 4 brave souls stepped forward to demonstrate their mastery of spinny loopery. Same order as round 1.

Ian H's mini-Katana continued to be blown around, affecting all manoeuvres.

Andy flew an accomplished schedule, with his Kingfisher finding itself in attitudes it had probably never seen before! Schedule completed safely.

Next up, Duncan's P-47. The wind continued to blow and gust, and claimed its first and only victim of the day, throwing the venerable Jug to the ground destroying it in the process, and cutting short Duncan's schedule.

Last up was Ian P flying his Galaxy Merlin, a back-up model following some last-minute practice that turned his Acrowot into a powered javelin..... schedule completed successfully! Apart from anything that needed a powerful rudder.

It all went quiet as the scores were totted up..... the results were in!

Spot Landing: 4<sup>th</sup> Ian P; 3<sup>rd</sup> Andy; 2<sup>nd</sup> Duncan; 1<sup>st</sup> Ian H with an average distance from the centre belly-button of just 2.2m.

Aero's: 3<sup>rd</sup> Duncan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ian H, 1<sup>st</sup> Andy & Ian P. Wittily(?) prizes of Aero chocolate bars were handed out.....

Overall: 3<sup>rd</sup> Ian P & Duncan; 2<sup>nd</sup> Andy; 1<sup>st</sup>, and winner of the Andy Plunkett memorial cup, Ian H.

Ian P has promise to organise another event later in the year, where hopefully there will be more entries now that club members have seen how low key this fun event is.

Two big positives came out of the day. Firstly, people had fun; secondly, there were a significant number of members spectating, often seeing other members for the first time in months.



*The immaculately attired Ian Payne gives the pilot briefing .....*



*And carefully places 'the spot'*



*Ian H's mini-Katana reaching for the spot*



*"Surely that's 1.7776666555 metres..." accuracy is everything in spot landing*



*"I need to do what?" says Andy...*





*Andy concentrating on a spot landing approach*



*"That's how to minimise the rollout". Duncan's P-47 in spot landing*



*Ian P's Junior 60 executing his patented one wheel landing in spot-landing*



*"461 metres? That can't be right!" Battling with a calculator...*



*Ian's mini-Katana is typical attitude in aeros*



*Andy's Kingfisher – hopefully in aeros!*



*Duncan trying to find the 'on' switch ahead of aeros....*



*Duncan's P-47 in aeros*



*Ian P terrifies Peppa Pig in aeros*



*"What **have** I written?" Ian P searching for inspiration....*



*Ian H – spot landing champion, who saved the professional athletes..... and received an unsigned picture for his trouble*



*Andy Figg: joint aerobatic champion*





*Ian Howard: Spot Landing and Andy Plunkett Memorial Cup winner 2021*



*Finally, a visitor showing us how the experts fly.....*