

Fun Fly Nationals 2025

Our Fun Fly Nationals took place over the weekend of 16th/17th August at Buckminster and the weather was fine and dry! Entries were a little down this year due to many factors, but with many more promising to be back next year! We ended up with 5 entries in Class 1, 10 in Class 2 and 9 in Class 3. We also had a couple of new entrants, which is always great to see.

At Saturday's briefing, the mystery rounds were drawn, which gave Classes 1 & 2 Touch & Go Pylon Race and Class 3 ending up with Doughnut Dropping. After the trimming session, the first task is always Longest Glide, but this year we were using the new rule changes for the first time, that saw two squares in use with two pilots starting simultaneously from a whistle, then trying to glide for as long as possible using the same air! This really added a lot more excitement and interest to the task and also meant we completed it quicker! The climb times were also reduced for classes 1 & 2 to 10 seconds, but a very impressive height was still being achieved however.

Over the two days, four rounds plus the mystery round were flown in all three classes without any incidents. Highlights included a new Touch & Go record in Class 1 (our top class) for Martin Bell, who took the record up to an amazing 75 in two minutes! Also in Class 1, John Ruck, in a one-minute fly off, managed a totally incredible 39 Limbos!! If that had been over the normal two minutes, he would have smashed the present impressive Limbo record!

In classes 2 & 3, the top half of the leader board was really quite close for most of the weekend, with the playing of Wildcards being important towards the end to decide places. Both classes ended up with first time winners, which is great to see!

Another thing we like to see are models that are very inventive and unique, which explore totally different design approaches to Fun Fly models. We certainly weren't disappointed this year, especially in Class 1 and with newcomers too. Some really ingenious designs were seen as well as the usual successful kit-built designs, with a new kit also making it's successful debut. Unfortunately, there were no Foamies within Class 3 this year, which is a shame as they are the perfect way to easily start in Fun Fly competition flying.

At the end of Sunday, we had our presentation of the certificates, medals and Trophies, with the winners being:

Class 1 Martin Bell (Avicraft Cup)

Class 2 Chris Morris (Evolution Models Cup)

Class 3 David Colley (Malvern Models Cup)

Overall Nationals Champion, with a perfect score of 500, for the Robin Jones Trophy was Martin Bell.

A big thank you to the team and all that helped, for all their hard work over the weekend, to Manny and the team at Buckminster for allowing us to use that fabulous site and to the pilots for flying so well and really entering into the spirit of Fun Fly and making it such a fun and rewarding event to run!

Do see our BFFA Fun Fly Group facebook page for more photos and videos and please do come and join in the Fun next year!

James Gordon

August 2025