AFFS Champs 1998 By John Fletcher

21st AUSTRALIAN FREE FLIGHT SOCIETY CHAMPS 10th-13th April 1998, Dubbo, NSW

This was the first ever event to be held at the field at Dubbo. The area is a flat farming area of some 5 by 6 kms with few trees. Lack of any rain for the four months up to the contest and grazing of sheep on the stubble ensured that the field was going to be pretty flat and open. Following the double World Cup contests held a few days before at Omarama, NZ the event attracted six flyers from the USA and Europe but strangely no one from NZ.

## Saturday 29th

The day was clear and sunny with F1A starting at 7.00am. There was little drift, but this was 180 degrees from the wind direction of the practice day necessitating relocation to another field on the property, which by good fortune had virtually no grass to snag towlines......

Five flyers made the first round max but this had narrowed to three by round two and only Victor Stamov by round three, who maxed out for an eventual outright win.

Freshening wind needed a line change after round three and the group relocated to the adjacent field to the north which proved to be the best field so far. Avoidance of downdrafts proved critical with both low scores being recorded along with models thermalling strongly to possibly 1,500ft before DT.

## F<sub>1</sub>A

Place	Name	Rnd 1	Rnd	2 Rnc	3	Rnd	4	Rnd	5	Rnd	6	Rnd	7	Total		
1.	V Stam	210	)	180		180		180		180		180	180	1290		
2.	V Morg	an	164	180	)	180		180		180		180		180	1244	
3.	B Lewi	S	210	180	)	129		180		180		180		180	1239	
4.	P de V	isser	210	180	)	110		180		180		180		180	1220	
5.	P Find	ahl(Sı	we)	150	)	140		180		180		180		180	180	1190
6.	P Mitc	hell	168	107	,	180		180		180		99		180	1094	
7.	A Nutt	gens(	Ger)	189	)	115		180		108		180		180	128	1080
8.	V Lacy		171	86		180		180		180		51		180	1028	
9.	J Thom	as	81	180	)	75		180		180		131		180	1007	
10.	P Scot	t	154	142		86		180		59		126		41	788	
11.	M Camp	bell	137	59		60		180		180		55		58	729	
=12.	R Blac	kam	210	0		0		0		0		0		0	210	
=12.	A Niec		210	0		0		0		0		0		0	210	
Sunday 30th																

Terry Isted and Per Findahl took over as CDs for the day allowing Jon Fletcher to compete with his F1C's. The group returned to the large field in the centre of the property but were greeted with freshening winds that promised a hard contest with long retrieves and so it was to be.

In F1B nine of the fifteen flyers secured the first round max. With the strengthening wind which gusted to 7 m/s the line was moved again to gain the maximum advantage from the fields' length. Everyone hates moving lines and Anselmo Zeri said after the move that the upwind position was now even good enough for a World Champs.....

Three flyers maxed out to fly off for the five minute max. Leigh Morgan did not contact useful air and Richard Blackam was unlucky enough to develop a stall well into the flight leaving Anselmo to win his first Australian contest.

## F1B

Place Name Rnd1 Rnd2 Rnd3 Rnd4 Rnd5 Rnd6 Rnd7 Subtotal Fly0ff Total

1.	Α	Zeri(Ned)	210	180	180	180	180	180	180	1290	300	1590
2.	R	Blackam	210	180	180	180	180	180	180	1290	258	1548
3.	L	Morgan	210	180	180	180	180	180	180	1290	154	1444
4.	D	Lacy	210	180	180	180	153	180	180	1263	-	1263
5.	W	Gordon	210	180	180	152	178	180	180	1260	-	1260
6.	D	Blackam	210	180	180	144	180	180	180	1254		1254
7.	Α	Brush	210	180	180	180	180	139	161	1230	-	1230
8.	Т	Bond	124	180	180	148	180	180	180	1172	-	1172
9.	G	Baynes	210	66	180	93	163	0	0	712	-	712
10.	Α	Thomas	191	180	119	0	0	0	0	490	-	490
11.	J	Lewis	210	156	101	0	0	0	0	467	-	467
12.	G	Maynard	0	0	180	0	180	73	0	433	-	433
13.	S	Montes	128	166	67	0	0	0	0	361	-	361
14.	Α	Edwards	64	92	0	0	0	0	0	156	-	156
15.	L	Brownlow	22	46	0	0	0	0	0	68	-	68

Run concurrently with the F1B contest the field expected F1C Grand Master Evgueny Verbitsky to max out but tricky air saw him drop the third and fourth rounds to leave the contest wide open. However other flyers also dropped times resulting in Evgueny earning a hard fought win in tricky conditions with strong wind. Flown to the 5 sec engine run for the first time at an AFFS Champs the times were incredibly close and the lead changed several times during the event.

## F1C

Place Name Rnd 1 Rnd 2 Rnd 3 Rnd 4 Rnd 5 Rnd 6 Rnd 7 Total E Verbitsky(Ukr) 240 J Fletcher 240 2. G Zengeller(Hung) 240 3. 4. D Thomas 5. P Nash 

R Summersby 237 6. 7. W East 

As overall Contest Director for the event I am indebted to the following people for their help:-

Terry Isted - contest direction and scoring Per Findahl - contest direction and scoring

Rosemary Fletcher - on field catering and scoring

George Car - toilet tent erection Jack Shanks - The Farmer without whose boundless generosity this would not have been possible