

AFFS Champs 2000
By John Fletcher

Free Flight Team Selection Trials report - Narranderra NSW - 30th Sept to 2nd Oct 2000

Friday 29th - A half dozen or so keen flyers turned up early on the Thursday night to suss out the new field and get in some practice. The weather outlook was not good with a front predicted to arrive Saturday. The field was a newly negotiated one of some 2,200 acres of grazing paddock situated in about 25 sq kilometres of grazing land with no trees on the Colombo plains 50 kms south of Narrenderra. The land was very flat and but was covered in small areas of standing water needing careful driving to avoid bogging vehicles. Having got the practice group started I left to put up sign posts all the way back to town. On arrival back at the field there was light rain and freshening wind so after just a couple of flights it was time to call it quits.

Saturday 30th - This year I started the contest mid day Saturday giving later arrivals the chance to check fly early Saturday before committing to contest flights. This sorted out a few early contest nerves and miss-launched flights. At the start a farm worker asked us to move away from the farm buildings, which we duly did, and the launch area remained the same in the middle of the field over the whole weekend even though the wind swung by over 180 degrees. By midday the wind was fairly strong leading to very long downwind retrieves. I offered a prize for the flyer who hit the first tree and got no takers all weekend Even though the grass cover wasn't all that long there were great difficulties experienced finding models. This despite the fact just about everyone had trackers fitted. Maybe due to the high upper level wind strength and maybe due to the great clarity of the air models were travelling three or four times as far as Flyers had judged leading to many missed rounds. Included in this group were Phil Mitchell, Jon Fletcher and Bill East.

Sunday 1st Oct - Back to an early start saw the line laid out at daybreak but the wind quite strong from the start. Whilst I was away retrieving my second flight, the wind got up over 9 metres/second and the Members of the Subcommittee present put a hold on after the second F1B & C round and then after the third F1A round. I called a stop for one hour then measured the wind speed again. I repeated this for a second hour then cancelled the remaining rounds for that day. The wind was up at 9 metres/second gusting to 12. All tripped wearily back to the Town for an

impromptu AFFS meeting (with the Team selection system on the agenda!) a few beers and some rest.

Monday 2nd Oct - The wind was mercifully less and had swung to come from the south. The better conditions showed in the scores with over half maxing out over these last three rounds. However the wind got the better of the South Australians who had left to start the homeward journey. A couple of people got bogged in some of the soft patches and many thanks are due to Peter Summersby who fitted in towing activities while topping the F1A results. Also many thanks go to Alana Mitchell who single handedly ran the comp. for me allowing me to compete in F1C. Alana was aided by brother Brett and Noelene.