

## **The Mildura Open October 24/25, 2009**

Report Greg Potter

As usual, many fliers arrived at the flying field at different times during the day on Friday for some practice, and as usual it was a beautiful day for it. Most had arrived by dinner time Friday.

Saturday dawned a lovely sunny day but the breeze was not as forecast but the winches were setup according to the forecasted Easterly which was then to turn Southerly. But we had a Westerly which turned to a Northerly just as the first heat was about to start at 9:30am. The first two launches showed how difficult it was going to be launching downwind so we all packed up, moved down the field about 75m and set up again towards the North.

This proved to be fine until mid afternoon when the forecast finally came true and the breeze turned Southerly so the last few rounds were downwind.

The conditions were excellent with light winds and big thermals. Most heats turned into landing comps for most of the competitors, so landings were critical.

There were a large number of Pike Perfects of different sizes and layups, interspersed with a new Tragi 801, a Zenith, a couple of Escapes, a Supra, an Explorer, a Shooter and an Aspire. Unfortunately the Supra was lost when Roy lost sight of it down wind and became dis-oriented.

We finished earlier than we could have due to the downwind conditions and the fact that nobody wanted to move for a second time.

Sunday was scheduled to start at 8:30am and the forecast this time was spot on, cloudy, cool and a strong southerly. It was fairly consistently around 15 knots all day making for completely different conditions to Saturday. Out came all the F3B ships and the ballast.

Nick, Theo and Mike were making huge height with their Radical, Ceres and Freestyler respectively. There were several Carachos, an old Tragi, an Epada RL, A Victor and a Nyx amongst the Perfects etc. of those who did not have heavy weather models.

Despite the wind the thermals were huge. If you could get it one early you were way down wind and very high in a couple of minutes. Landings were extremely difficult due to the wind and the turbulence low down.

There were a number of out-landings. I think I hold the record though with two out-landings with two different models in one heat, fortunately with no damage to either model. However some were not as lucky. Paul unfortunately damaged two models with two nasty landings down wind.

At round 10 many people had had enough of the wind and there was vote as to whether to stop at 10 or go on to 12 to allow another dropper. A compromise decision

was made to complete round 11 as another round would have made the finish a bit late for those who had to travel 6 hours or so back to Melbourne.

Garry, Darrel, Jennifer and Michelle put on their legendary catering with roast meat and salad for lunch Saturday and a BBQ and salad for lunch on Sunday, cooked by some of the local flying club members.

Everyone received a prize and at least one bottle of wine at the presentation. Nick Chabrel won the weekend convincingly, followed by Mike O'Reilly and Dave Pratley. Our dual World Champ David Hobby was down the rankings because all of his models have been built and setup for the European conditions expected at the next WC and so after a close shave with a shed he did not fly the last three rounds. A wise decision under the circumstances.

As always Dave was offering his advice to whoever wanted it on model setup – especially for the Pike Perfect, and other pearls of wisdom. He had some great dinner time stories about his recent 6 week sojourn at McMurdoch base in the Antarctic. He has now built an igloo in the Arctic and the Antarctic.

The comp was run to the new LSF rules with 150m lines and F3J landing tapes. It worked well and showed that 150m is plenty for a good launch. Nick observed that he thought the general thermalling skills of most pilots had improved as a result.

Final scores are listed below. I have shown the SA pilots in bold. Five out of the top ten. A good effort showing that our skills are improving.

Rank	Name	Score	%	Raw Score
1	<b>Chabrel, Nick</b>	9974	100	10909
2	<b>O'Reilly, Mike</b>	9743	97.68	10405
3	Pratley, David	9668	96.93	10339
4	Whitfield, Garry	9483	95.08	10196
5	Carter, Gerry	9398	94.22	9751
6	<b>Nancarrow, Jamie</b>	9262	92.86	9517
7	Arvanitakis, Theo	9203	92.27	9670
8	<b>Potter, Greg</b>	9150	91.74	9481
9	Houdalakis, Jim	8946	89.69	9518
10	<b>Morris, Simon</b>	8834	88.57	8834
11	Blow, Darrel	8816	88.39	9042
12	<b>Carpenter, Chris</b>	8191	82.12	8508
13	Hobby, David	8076	80.97	8076
14	<b>McDougal, Jim</b>	7696	77.16	7786
15	<b>Moorefield, Paul</b>	6809	68.27	6809
16	<b>Calnan, Roy</b>	6641	66.58	6641
17	<b>Rufenacht, Joe</b>	6172	61.88	6418
18	<b>Lewis, Waren</b>	2473	24.79	2473