Kriss Best the CD – sits it out patiently at control with everything she needs including the most essential commodity of all – a sense of humour! Photo by Sue Hipperson.

de Birmingham

La Grande Coup

Martin Dilly reports on this late season duration event with a touch of pre-Christmas bonhomme.

With additional contributions by Dave and Sue Hipperson.

n the absence of Middle Wallop for the traditional early December date for the Coupe Europa, the Croydon Club who usually run the event were grateful when Gavin Manion of the Birmingham Club offered to organise it at North Luffenham on December 7th. The forecast was for 12 kts, gusting to 30 and that's pretty much what the competitors found, with some rain in the morning to ensure that dust wasn't a problem, but this kept the entries lower than usual. The max was set at 1:30 and a line of trees a few hundred yards upwind made turbulence a difficulty, with several flights that looked promising for the first few seconds of the climb soon succumbing to its effects.

The events were F1G for the AeroModeller Trophy and Vintage Coupe d'Hiver for the Bernard Boutillier Cup. The latter saw the ever-popular Etienvre predominate, with a Fuit or two in the mix, but F1G attracted the most entries with many deciding that a blustery day in Rutland was preferable to a nice snug day at home, building next year's winning model.

The central venue allowed more from the North to attend and apart from a couple of notable exceptions such as Peter Hall (5 times winner), most of the usual protagonists were on hand to do battle. F1G also saw a welcome French entrant, Didier Chevenard, who looked in a strong position till the penultimate round, when an energetic launch removed the outer panel of his six-panel wing. He had used some Gorban parts, including the motor tube, but when building the wing he had used a 1mm fibreglass dihedral brace



Phil Ball with his F1G winning model. When the class was new in the UK most models were not much bigger than the tail plane on Phil's model! Photo by Sue Hipperson.

FF Event

ght: Pete Brown was ing this very modern odel. Note spectacula rbon blades - the fine nt wire is the tracker rial. Carbon boom ted to motor tube by ry neat aluminium

Far right: Later in the day Pete Brown was brave enough to expose his knees as the weather improved slightly. Conjecture was that they were thermal detecting aids! Photo b Dave Hipperson.







Michael Marshall has a fine model but was not picking the right air on the day.



his Davitt flew his Jump in Vintage, and made sure it was well protected from the weather with his 'stooge' Didier Chevenard made the trip to North set up in the back of the car. Luffenham from France.





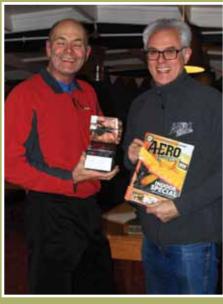


Gordon Warburton making good flights with it. Dennis Davitt used a Jump which due to its nice tight spiral climb handled the very tricky turbulence near the launch ploint very well up until his last flight. On that occasion it appeared the tail was up on a key and the model was ever tighter and more over elevated than it could handle and despite being in reasonable air failed to max by quite a margin. Gerry Ferer with a Bagatelle plugged away very consistently, just losing a





columnist Bill Dennis had Pete Brown was cheerful whether winning or losing! d day in F1G and narrowly d the top 3 placings.



Phil Ball receives the AeroModeller Trophy from your editor Andrew Boddington.





Gerry Ferer flew his Bagatelle to the top spot in Vintage Coupe d'Hiver.

David Hipperson presented the Boutillier Cup to Gerry Ferer.

(If you fancy a go at Vintage Coupe d'Hiver, Michel Etienvre's design will be a free plan in a future issue of AeroModeller – Editor)

Results

F1G for AeroModeller Trophy 1st Phil Ball 1.14, 1.30, 1.30, 1.30, 1.30, 7.14 2nd Ian Davitt 1.30, 1.30, 0.51, 1.30, 1.30, 6.51

 Vintage Coupe d'Hiver for The Boutillier Trophy

 1st Gerry Ferer
 1.30, 1.10, 1.30. 4.10

 2nd Don Thomson 1.11, 1.07, 1.30. 3.48

 3rd Pete Tolhurst
 0.59, 1.30, 1.01. 3.30