



Duncan Osbourn was a very happy and well deserved Champions group winner



There was some excellent flying in both groups over the two days



One of the competitors almost takes on a bit of hedge trimming



Although the sky was a bit grey, it did stay dry throughout the competition



After a week of what can only be described as mixed weather conditions, everyone was very happy to see things clear up just in time for the start of this year's

event. Taking place at Sean Brown's excellent LHC venue, there was a nice relaxed start to proceedings giving the pilots plenty of time to sort themselves out and have a few test flights. The competition, being run to the accepted 3DX format, kicked off on the Saturday afternoon

with the Intermediate group set manoeuvres round.

After this there was then a short break during which Dave Wilshire and Rotorworld contributor, Jamie Cole put on a short demonstration flight of the new Razor 600E (see review in this issue). This was then followed by the first Champions group freestyle round, during which some of the pilots unfortunately suffered first round engine glitches.

As the first rounds had gone so well the organisers then decided to finish the day off with a fun-fly to try and relieve some of the tension and allow everyone to leave in a relaxed mood and prepare for the next day's competition.

DAY TWO

Luckily the weather remained dry for the second day and after a short pilots' briefing it was straight in to the Intermediates freestyle round. This saw some superb performances from both the newcomers and more experienced pilots alike.

After another break and another demo flight, this time from Andy Hornyak with his Synergy N9, it was

time for the Champions to take to the air for their set manoeuvres round.

So with the first rounds completed there was a scheduled lunch break while the scores were worked out. The top five pilots from each group were then announced as making it through to the fly-off finals.

FINAL TIME

With plenty of spectators gathered along the flightline, the tension was building as the top five pilots in each group prepared to commence battle again. Once again the Intermediates group got things started with their set manoeuvres round, quickly followed by the Champions.

During another break Bob Johnston took to the air and put on an amazing 3D demonstration, wowing the crowd with some incredibly daring manoeuvres and finishing off with one of his trademark mega high autos.

Once everyone had had time to get their breath back the competition restarted with the Intermediates freestyle round. Then it was the turn of the Champions

Info

For more information and full results please visit the official UK 3D Championships website at: www.3dchampionship.co.uk

UK 3D CHAMPIONSHIPS

TAKING PLACE OVER A WEEKEND AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER, THIS YEAR'S UK 3D CHAMPIONSHIPS WERE ONCE AGAIN ORGANISED BY THE SUCCESSFUL TEAM DUO OF ROB TURNBULL AND MIKE EDDINGTON AT THE LEAMINGTON HOBBY CENTRE IN WARWICKSHIRE. ROTORWORLD WAS THERE TO BRING YOU A FULL REPORT. PHOTOS BY ANDY SHRIMPTON AND NEIL MEAD



Charlie Cave put on a demo flight with his Knight 3D at the end of the competition



Charlie Cave returns to the pits after his successful demo flight



One of the pilots attempts to impress the judges with some close-up 3D action



Top three in the Intermediates group: Richard Mead, Sam Tse and Steve Roberts

to come out and show what they could do and they didn't disappoint. The standard of flying was extremely high with Duncan Osbourn performing a truly stunning flight to some very loud music which unfortunately ended a little prematurely due to a technical problem with his heli.

THE RESULTS

While the overall scores were being worked out and verified the raffle was drawn and it was then time to announce the results and give out the prizes. Bob Johnstone did the honours and presented every competitor with an engraved glass trophy, sponsored by Align for the top three in each class and Skyline Models for the rest.

The results were read out in reverse order which served to build up the tension as everyone knew it would be a close call as to

who would win each group. And a close call it was, particularly in the Champions group with only 8.5 points separating the winner, Duncan Osbourn from second placed Stuart Mott, with Wes Crockett not too far behind in third. Although not quite as close as the Champions, the Intermediate group was also hard fought with Richard Mead taking the honours from Sam Tse, with Steve Roberts in third place.

WELL DONE

Overall the entire event was a great success and everyone seemed to really enjoy the excellent flying and relaxed atmosphere. Congratulations to the winners and well done to Mike and Rob for keeping the competition running like clockwork. Also thanks to the rest of the organising team, Roger Hamilton for his entertaining commentary, LHC and of course the judges. ←



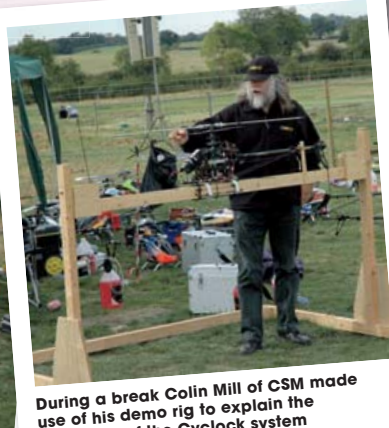
Top three in the Champions group: Duncan Osbourn, Stuart Mott and Wes Crockett



The 'dynamic duo' of Mike Eddington and Rob Turnbull who did a great job of organising the event



The busy pit area



During a break Colin Mill of CSM made use of his demo rig to explain the principles of the Cyclock system

A JUDGE'S PERSPECTIVE

by Nigel Fraser Ker

All four of the judges were impressed by the high standard of flying. Of course there was the occasional attack of nerves and one or two of the pilots lost points needlessly with faults such as poor centring and attempting manoeuvres that they hadn't really mastered. The decision to split the pilots into two groups created two exciting competitions and in the Intermediate class the mature and extremely confident style of Richard Mead made him stand out straight away as being a potential winner. I should also mention Steve Roberts who flew in a beautifully smooth and controlled manner, a style of 3D we should see more of. I think the biggest question on everyone's minds was about who would win the Champions' trophy which



The event judges, Russ Deakin, Dean Jackson, Nigel Fraser Ker and Jon Fox

came down to an incredibly close battle between Duncan Osbourn and Stuart Mott.

"Judging the freestyle rounds we had to strike a balance between scoring the pilots' technical merit and the overall artistic impression. Stuart's flights were the most technically competent, but Duncan chose to fly his to music and produced some truly unforgettable routines. After the final round we knew it was close but had to wait with everyone else to find out that Duncan had won.

> UK 3D CHAMPIONSHIPS CHAMPIONS GROUP RESULTS

>>> Position	Pilot	Score	Helicopter
> 1st	Duncan Osbourn	826.6	Align T-Rex 600N
> 2nd	Stuart Mott	818.1	JR Vibe 90
> 3rd	Wes Crockett	789.1	Avant Aurora
> 4th	Daniel Crozier	754.8	JR Vibe 50
> 5th	Trevor Burley	608.5	Align T-Rex 600E

> UK 3D CHAMPIONSHIPS INTERMEDIATES GROUP RESULTS

>>> Position	Pilot	Score	Helicopter
> 1st	Richard Mead	596.7	Align T-Rex 600N
> 2nd	Sam Tse	509.4	Align T-Rex 600N
> 3rd	Steve Roberts	500.3	JR Vibe 50
> 4th	Rob Shaw	440.1	Align T-Rex 600N
> 5th	Ashley Davis	407.3	Align T-Rex 600E