

The Thermaleer

OT @ Haddon 24-25 May 2008. *by Barry Barton*

THE LAST GASP?

In 1996 the OT fraternity first went to the Haddon flying field for the Nats, we have endured Ballarat Weather there ever since, which was always offset by the very evident country-style hospitality of the resident club; we had the best hamburgers on the circuit, plenty of firewood for when fires when proper and a meal at the Snake Valley pub which has always been of exceptionally consistent quality.

This event may however spell an inglorious end to all these good things, as only six fliers fronted on a weekend which had a superb forecast and no organising Club can reasonably be expected to get fired up for so few, the only glimmer of optimistic light being the involvement of the locals in the "Queensland 60sec Climb and Glide" event which definitely engendered enthusiasm, after being taken out by local lad Brad Johnson with a time of 15.50 using his Bomber powered by an O/S 25, the OT people couldn't match this performance. A further adjustment to this event; a 90sec climb as in QL, could mean the saving of the whole shebang as an event worthwhile.

Weather was changeable; as expected, mostly bitterly cold and breezy with some moments of warmer perfect flying stuff as on afternoon Day One for 1/2A, mostly however it was excellent Cumulus Weather (witness the results). Chris Lawson once again put up a fantastic flight in Texaco with his Saito 50 powered Lanso Racer followed in by Kevin Fryer and his "uncompetitive" Red Zephyr, the laurels must go to Lyn Clifford for the weekend, as he followed up his great success at Monarto with a first in Burford, a second in Duration and a third in C&G, we will have to dream up some method of stopping this!

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