

Soarchamps 2024

What a wonderful four days of weather for flying Soarchamps this year in Hawkes Bay! We had an ambitious schedule for this year's Soarchamps, with a total of seven events scattered over four days. We flew all events, with zero weather issues, other than a winch change on the first day, which was expected due to the weather prediction for the day. It was very nice to see a couple of new faces to Soarchamps, as well as a few that had not been for a few years.



David Achery

Peter Mcevoy & Joe Wurts Aneil Patel & Chris Kaiser

Day 1 Thursday F3B the Formula 1 of Soaring!

The weather forecast had SW winds in the morning, changing to NE around 11 AM. When arriving on the field, the SW wind was moderately strong, so we set up to launch into the wind, knowing that we would be changing later. Everyone was helpful in getting the sighting bases set up, and we started with flying duration, with 11 competitors. After a single slot, the wind changed as per the weather predictions. So, we flipped the winches 180 degrees, and the sighting base A became base B and vice versa. We flew two rounds of duration, then broke for lunch which was catered by Joe with smoked brisket sandwiches. Rowdy got the perfect flight award for an exact 10 minutes and a 100 landing, taking some points off Joe.



Peter Glassey & Peter Williams

Andrew Hiscock & Richard Thompson

Rowdy procured a new wireless signal system for distance and speed, which was used for the first time in this event. There were a few niggling issues, but the consensus was that it will be a far superior system once we get a couple details sorted. Thanks Kev! After lunch, we flew two rounds of distance. It was very surprising that we had so many ties in distance, so many 1000 scores! David James did the highest number of laps during the two rounds with 24 in the second round, with Stew Cox getting 20 laps. Stinky did a great job taking a lap off Joe for one of the few non-tied slots in the first round. Then we flew two rounds of speed. Joe flew a clean 16.64, with Richard Thompson doing 18.01, Peter Williams with 18.20 and Andrew Stiver at 18.76 for the sub 20 second flights in the first round. In the second round, Joe did 17.53, with Peter Glassey close at 17.73, Kevin Botherway at 18.64, and Peter Williams at 19.68.

F3B Results

1 Joe Wurts	5942
2 Peter Williams	5795
3 Kevin Botherway	5729
4 Peter Glassey	5693
5 Richard Thompson	5691
6 David James	5576
7 Andrew Stiver	5168
8 Stew Cox	5126
9 Pete Brown	4471
10 Andrew Hiscock	3878
11 Rob Morgan	3273

Day 2 Friday eRES and F3J

We started the morning with flying eRES, with 11 competitors. The conditions were nice with little wind. That is, after the first slot which had some very difficult light thermals. After a couple of rounds, it was apparent that landing accuracy in both time and position were going to decide the results. Joe ended up with two perfect flights (5:00 and 50 landing), with Kev having one perfect flight. Friday's hot lunch was pulled pork with various sides and was well received.



eRES Results

1 Joe Wurts	4000
2 Kevin Botherway	3994
3 Peter Williams	3980
4 Richard Thompson	3962
5 Wayne Bilham	3829
6 David Ackery	3824
7 Stew Cox	3817
8 Andrew Hiscock	3788
9 Rob Morgan	3638
10 Peter Glassey	3601
11 David James	3508

It was nice to return to flying F3J. There is something special about executing a high tension F3J launch correctly, followed by a change of pace to doing efficient thermal flying. There were thermals around, so launch time was important. Landing accuracy was also very important. For landings, Joe dropped five points over four rounds, Rowdy dropping fourteen points, and Peewee dropping eighteen points. Joe had the two longest flight times of the contest, with a

9:56.8 and a 9:56.9, securing the win. Rowdy was close behind in second, with Peter Williams in third and Peter Glassey close behind him in fourth. It was nice to have a newcomer to F3J, Pete Brown flying in his first every F3J event. He isn't a newbie, just new to these fancy composite soaring planes. If only he did not have to depart a couple of rounds early to burn kerosene, he could have finished much higher!

F3J Results

1 Joe Wurts	4000
2 Kevin Botherway	3991
3 Peter Williams	3977
4 Peter Glassey	3949
5 Richard Thompson	3695
6 David James	3617
7 Andrew Hiscock	3567
8 Stew Cox	3309
9 Wayne Bilham	3262
10 Rob Morgan	3160
11 Pete Brown	1926



Friday evening had a very nice BBQ and social hosted by Andrew and Jane Hiscock. They always provide an excellent feed that should not be missed.

Day 3 Saturday Radian and F5J

Time for the events that are most hotly contested. It is interesting in that one event is the most low-tech event with aircraft that have not been in production for quite some time, and the other event is a rather high-tech event with fancy composite aircraft. We started in the morning with Radian, with good conditions, light winds, sunny, and fluffy thermals. It once again became apparent that both timing and landing accuracy would determine the results. After the first round, Stew Cox was in the lead with a perfect flight, followed by Joe, Rowdy, and Andrew Hiscock with a single second error in landing. In the second round, Joe was the only person to get a perfect flight, with Rowdy a single point behind, with Richard Thompson and Andrew Hiscock just three points behind Rowdy. Both Joe and Rowdy had perfect flights on the third round so they finished 1st and 2nd, with Richard Thompson pipping out Andrew Hiscock by a single point in the last round. It was a great morning to fly Radians!

Radian Results

1 Joe Wurts	1409
2 Kevin Botherway	1408
3 Richard Thompson	1404
4 Andrew Hiscock	1403
5 Peter Williams	1396
6 David Crook	1379
7 Stew Cox	1370
8 Peter Glassey	1351
9 Rob Morgan	1147
10 David James	1119
11 Wayne Bilham	1022

After the Radian event concluded, we flew two rounds of F5J before lunch. The first two rounds had low wind, but the thermals were a bit difficult to sort out. There were a few sub-100-meter launches, with Joe doing a 44m launch in the first round, followed by a 33m launch in the second round, with Peter McEvoy doing a 55m launch in the second round and Rowdy doing a 95m launch in the first round. The hot lunch was smoked chicken with streaky bacon. After lunch, the sky turned cloudy, and the wind off the ocean picked up. There were only a few sub 100m launches in the last four rounds as the wind picked up and the cloud cover increased. It even got kinda cold! Rowdy did an excellent 49m launch in the third round, which unfortunately ended up as his dropper due to a late start from technical issues. Joe did an 89m launch in the fourth round against Rowdy's 114m launch, with Joe and Rowdy doing 78 and 82m respectively

in the fifth round when flying against each other again (both received 1000 points in round five as Rowdy had two more seconds flight time). Round six had Joe with a 91-meter launch with a full time with nobody else getting more than six minutes. Rowdy launched to 94m in round six which was a challenging slot. Chris Kaiser showed fortitude in this slot, climbing out from a rather low height while being rather downwind. There were many memorable flights from many pilots. It was a fun flying day overall. After the flying concluded, most of the pilots met up for a social and meal at the Dukes in Taradale.

F5J Results

1 Joe Wurts	5000	
2 Kevin Botherway	4982	
3 Peter Glassey		4874
4 Peter Williams	4850	
5 Andrew Hiscock	4792	
6 Dave Larsen	4788	
7 Peter McEvoy	4756	
8 Stew Cox	4621	
9 Chris Kaiser	4470	
10 David Ackery		4164
11 Rob Morgan	4005	
12 David Crook	3974	
13 Wayne Bilham	3705	
14 Richard Thompson	3548	
15 Aniel Patel	2837	
16 David James		1564



Day 4 Sunday F3K (Discus hand launch) and F5K (Electric Hand Launch)

This was again another stunning Hawkes Bay forecast with light winds and sea breezes. The plan was to run 2 rounds of each discipline back-to-back. Miles Moloney entered for only Sunday as he had the flu during the early days of SoarChamos. With a short day scheduled, we managed four rounds for both F3K and F5K. There were nine entries in F3K and eight in F3K. Thermal action was weak at the start in F3K, Despite that, six of the pilots managed to get a 5-minute flight in 7m working time. Another short task was then flown 2 x 3-minute flights in 7m working time which half of the field achieved. F5K was the same first task as F3K, although launch height came into play to provide an extra differential on the results. Round two of F5K was a 1,2,3,4 flight which as the wind built was proving tricky to get a three- and four-minute flight. Then back to F3K for 3 x 3minute flights with Joe, Peewee and Andrew Hiscock full flights, and scores were starting to separate. Then the 1,2,3,4 for round four, which had much more score separation. Lunch was prepared and served by Joe (pulled pork returned by popular demand), a great spread as usual. The wind was getting stronger, which made for a bit more challenges in the last two rounds of F5K. The third round was all up last down four minutes and three flights. There was heaps of score separation. The fourth round was three flights with 3, 3, 4 minute maximum in challenging conditions, providing even more score separation. Stinky did extremely well, finishing in second place only a wee bit below the first place position. Final flights were around 2.00pm on Sunday in time for pack up refreshments and prizegiving.

F3K Results

1	Joe Wurts	4000
2	Peter Glassey	3930.5
3	Andrew Hiscock	3890.2
4	Richard Thompson	3674.0
5	Peter Williams	3669.5

6	Miles Maloney	3581.4
7	David James	2998.4
8	Stew Cox	2373.1
9	David Crook	2079.4

F5K Results

1	Joe Wurts	3979.1
2	Andrew Stiver	3939.1
3	Kevin Botherway	3825.7
4	Peter Williams	3771.1
5	Richard Thompson	3224.7
6	Peter Glassey	2987.3
7	Andrew Hiscock	2794.7
8	David Crook	766.9

Joe had flown very well throughout Soarchamps and had well deserved wins in all the events cleaning the complete table of trophies, including Soarchamps champion!



Thank you so much to everyone a great turnout with lots of enthusiasm and fun throughout a great weekend of soaring.