

FAI F5J Electric Soaring Event- Black Bridge Hawkes Bay

Event Overview and Format

F5J is a competition class focused on flying remote-controlled gliders powered by small electric motors, where pilots aim to achieve a 10-minute flight duration from as low a launch altitude as possible, followed by a precise landing. The motor is limited to a maximum run time of 30 seconds, and take-off altitude is measured with onboard electronics, with penalties for excess altitude. Scoring combines flight time, landing accuracy, and penalties to rank pilots effectively. Typical F5J gliders have wingspans between 3.5 and 4 meters and often use lightweight, carbon fibre construction for optimal performance.



The F5J competition held in Hawkes Bay on the 30th and 31st of August 2025 was a significant event in New Zealand's model gliding calendar, attracting skilled pilots competing in electric-powered thermal duration glider flights. We had eleven competitors overall with the forecast not looking great for the weekend we hoped on things changing which it did for the better and we flew most of the weekend completing eight full rounds with three to four in each group.



Kevin Campbell with his Plus

With a little wind on the Saturday the lighter models were left in their boxes and with a little thermal lift around launch heights were about medium high with most getting the full ten minutes. During the day the lift became a little scarcer and launch height went up along with the wind speed by around three o'clock the wind was getting to model damaging level, so we called the competition off until the next day. This gave us time for an evening meal and a catch up with everyone at the local, also speculate about the Sunday forecast, rain....

Like usual Hawkes Bay came into play with just overcast skies so we setup with the hope of a few more rounds. We had four complete rounds already and managed another four on the Sunday with few small rain showers. The target of around 180 to 200m gave you a full flight time of ten minutes and every now and then a thermal to! Mostly hanging in the wind in a buoyant corridor was the safest answer. Peter Glassey really solved the flight time shortage with a launch of 259 metres which gave him some severe penalties over 200m.



Miles Moloney with his Plus X

Peter McEvoy from Auckland with his Elasto

Results are online : <https://www.gliderscore.com/OnLineScores.aspx>

#	Name	Ctry	Score	Pcnt
1	Botherway, Kevin	-	7000.0	100.00
2	Wurts, Joe	-	6938.3	99.12
3	Williams, Peter	-	6870.9	98.16
4	Campbell, Kevin	-	6490.2	92.72
5	Hiscock, Andrew	-	6293.7	89.91
6	Moloney, Myles	-	6180.9	88.30
7	Glassey, Peter	-	6158.9	87.98
8	Ackery, David	-	5959.7	85.14
9	McEvoy, Peter	-	5505.6	78.65
10	Morgan, Rob	-	5356.4	76.52
11	Clarke, Bruce	-	5135.0	73.36

Soaring Rocks see you next weekend at F3B!!!!!!!!!!