

F3B - Round 4 Black Bridge Hawke's Bay



Dave Jame's Shinto



Andrew Stiver with his Fosa

The event was planned for the first weekend of September on our busy soaring calendar. The forecast wasn't exactly brilliant, but we had good entries and wished to push on, hoping for flyable weather. The Hawkes Bay boys had secret practice on the Friday with Andrew Stiver test flying an all new Fosa he had just purchased and Kevin Botherway sorting out his Shinto on his new Jeti radio. The wind was blowing quite hard but good enough for some testing and launches. Andrew Hiscock and Myles Moloney joined in as well for some practice.

F3B is a demanding discipline within radio-controlled gliding, testing pilots across three distinct tasks: Duration (Thermal), Distance, and Speed. Each round challenges competitors to extract the best performance from their gliders, balancing precision flying with tactical judgment.



Action at Base A with Kevin Botherway and Andrew Stiver competing in distance

Saturday started with clear skies, ideal for early thermals but by midday, the wind picked up a little and remained fairly constant for launching into a slight side on breeze. Some epic distance slots were flown with some great total laps over the 20's

Our new F3B system worked flawlessly, and we got 2 rounds of distance and duration away with 3 rounds of speed. As usual the thermal slots first up did do some damage to the scores as

these planes aren't the greatest for thermaling. And thermals were on then off with some short flights. We had a turnout of 10 entries with a bit of downtime during the day. Speed runs were slow for most and the average time was way slower than usual

We had a great lunch break with Joe on the Barbecue. That evening we had a meal at the local pub and watched the All Blacks win against the Springboks (the serious comp for the weekend!).



Peter Williams helping with lunch

Robert Morgan also helping with lunch

Sunday was looking quite windy in the forecast, but we hoped we may get lucky and some flying away. We assembled as usual in the morning and set all the gear up with the weather suggesting it may get a little breezy. First round of duration started then the real wind arrived with the four contestants having serious trouble getting their planes back to the ground in one piece. After this slot we decided to hold off. Unfortunately, the wind strength continued to increase which resulted in the end of the competition.

There is no doubt that the flying quality has been improving. It certainly gets tough towards the sharp end of the scoreboard – Thank you so much to everybody with heaps of help all round in setting up and especially Jane Hiscock who did approximately 25,000.. steps fetching winch lines!



Jane Hiscock winch line fetching

A fantastic result for Richard Thompson, flying really smooth and controlled although he did dispose of 3 winch lines for the weekend! Rowdy and Joe were virtually tied, with the smallest of margins between them.

Best distance was 23 laps by Richard Thompson

Best speed was 16.62secs by Joe Wurts

All scores online : <https://www.gliderscore.com/OnLineScores.aspx>

Results To Round 3

#	Name	Ctry	Score	Pcnt
1	Thompson, Richard	-	6791.53	100.00
2	Wurts, Joe	-	6745.71	99.33
3	Botherway, Kevin	-	6745.50	99.32
4	Williams, Peter	-	6687.24	98.46
5	Glassey, Peter	-	6430.71	94.69
6	Stiver, Andrew	-	6308.12	92.88
7	James, David	-	5896.76	86.83
8	Moloney, Myles	-	5561.03	81.88
9	Hiscock, Andrew	-	5544.48	81.64
10	Morgan, Rob	-	4844.09	71.33