



The brand new T-Rex 600 Nitro - all the hype seems to have been justified!



The T-Rex 600 was a popular choice for pilots at the competition - this electric version belongs to Sam Tse.



Former 3D Masters winner Kevin Targett gave some demo flights with his Bergen Intrepid, now imported by King Cobra Distribution and reviewed in this issue.



Sam Tse, who came second in the night flying competition, concentrating hard during one of his routines.



Ashley Davis took his T-Rex 600E to a creditable eighth place in his first event.



Adam Boon made spectacular use of the scenery to enhance his scores with his T-Rex 600E.



Another event co-ordinator taking a keen interest was Mike Eddington, who will run his UK 3D Championship from LHC in September.



Top 3D judge Simon Brown was once again in attendance.

CLUBMAN 3DX



NIGEL FRASER KER TRAVELS UP TO THE MIDLANDS FOR THE UK'S FIRST EVER 3DX AFFILIATED EVENT

➔ For the very first time, in 2007, the Leamington Hobby Centre became the venue for the Clubman 3DX competition. Although only in its third year the Clubman event has already become established as the place for up-and-coming UK pilots to get noticed by sponsors and with a guaranteed place in the ultra-hard-to-get-an-entry-for Sportsman's class of the 3D Masters, the competition is hot! If you want to know who will be

the next Duncan Osbourn, then this is definitely the place to be. The thing I really love about 3D is the wonderful sense of camaraderie between the pilots. Indeed, during this event, it was great to see all the competitors talking and helping each other out in the pits on the Saturday, which was officially supposed to be a fun-fly but turned out more like an extended practice session. They were joined by some non-competing top pilots including Bob Johnston, Steven Gerrard, Wes Crockett, Stewart Mott and Ade





Another shot of Steven Gerrard's T-Rex nitro.

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Law, who was flying the brand new and much talked about T-Rex 600 Nitro. Also attending was former 3D Masters Champion Duncan Osbourn, who put on an impressive display of flying to music. The weather was fairly windy, which made conditions challenging; a hedge about 30 metres beyond the flightline gave everyone something to think about, too!

Last year's event was supposed to have been the setting for the country's first ever night-flying competition, but the English weather had other ideas and so it

was postponed until 2007. And so, at about 10.00pm on the Saturday night, when it was considered sufficiently dark, the pilots strapped glow sticks and light strings onto their helis and flew their routines. I was honoured to have been asked to be a judge, along with Kevin Targett and Roger Hamilton, and so I got an excellent view of the flying, which was very impressive.

One of the most memorable incidents was Steven Gerrard's. His routine began with the helicopter tearing into the sky at full speed, followed by various horrible

chopping noises and a rapid descent to the ground - all in all perhaps about three seconds of flight! Apparently, the canopy had found its way into the main rotor with frustrating, although not completely, disastrous results.

The man who came up trumps in the end was Duncan Osbourn, who put on a beautiful flight - perhaps the best bit of night flying I have ever seen, being graceful and highly technical at the same time. The crowd loved it, and so did the judges. This performance won him the 'Sky at Night' trophy, provided by Skyline Models. I must also mention Sam Tse who, flying in his first 3D competition, put in a really solid performance and came in as a very worthy runner up.

THE BIG DAY

The main contest began on Sunday morning with Simon Brown, Paul Lison, Duncan Osbourn and John Parker acting as judges. First up was the 'Set Manoeuvres' round, in which each pilot picks five manoeuvres from a list published by the organisers. Each has a 'K' factor, or level of difficulty; the pilots' points for each manoeuvre are multiplied by that factor to give a score. One thing I did notice was that some pilots had not practised as hard on their 'Sets' as they had for the 'Freestyle Round' that followed - however, Andy Hornyak (Synergy N9) did not fall into this category, and his excellent flying placed him in the lead at this early stage.

The Freestyle came next, with

Steven Gerrard actually touched the ground with his blades in an amazingly low demonstration of knife-edge tic-tocs



some very spectacular flying from many of the pilots including Adam Boon (T-Rex 600E), who really made the crowd sit up and pay attention. The pressure was on, because only the top five pilots would go through to the finals.

Once the first two rounds had finished, those who didn't make it through 'the cut' could relax and watch the last five battle it out for honours. Although he did get through, Adam Boon finally came to grief when his tail hit the ground. Steve Boothman (Hirobo Freya and T-Rex 600E) managed fourth place with some very skilful flying, including aerobatic autos that even some of the top pilots would be pleased with.

Trevor Burley (T-Rex 600E) showed he will be a strong contender at the 3D Masters, with some very technical moves such as a nice pirouetting snake - he had clearly worked hard on his set manoeuvres, too. Runner up was Patrick Arnould (Knight 50 3D), whose smooth and

controlled style clearly impressed the judges. However, I don't think anyone was in any doubt that the winner should be Andy Hornyak, whose mature and skilful style put him clearly ahead of his fellow competitors. A well-deserved victory, and one which earned him that all-important place at the 3D Masters in July.

SHOUT OUT

Of course, the Clubman 3DX competition can't take place without its sponsors and so I'd like to close by saying a big thank you to them all (full list on the website - www.clubman3d.co.uk). Finally, we must all thank Paul Lison, Neil Wildman and their organising team for putting on another great event. See you next year! ←

Nigel Fraser Ker



Ade Law's T-Rex 600 nitro on a demo flight. →



Trevor Burley (3rd), Andy Hornyak (1st) and Patrick Arnould (2nd) enjoy the spoils of competition.



Andy Hornyak - winner of Clubman 3DX 2007.

>FINAL RESULTS

>>> PILOT	SET MANOEUVRES	FREESTYLE	OVERALL
> Andy Hornyak	285.8	340.0	625.8
> Patrick Arnould	257.6	281.0	538.6
> Trevor Burley	213.7	299.0	512.7
> Steven Boothman	233.9	252.0	485.9
> Adam Boon	72.1	41.0	113.1