

## LEG and OPEN Electric Perth Nationals 2012 by Bill Pettigrew

As most Australians are aware, Perth has one of the best climates in the country with at least 320 days of sunshine a year, averaging nine hours a day. The weather ran pretty much true to form throughout the 65<sup>th</sup> Nationals with superb flying conditions. Five glider events over six full days allowed each event to be run for at least six rounds. In the case of F3B, sixteen were flown over two days. The two Electric events were run at the Kalamunda Aeronautical Model Society field south of Perth.

LEG was the first electric gliding event with a total entry of ten. However, on the day, only seven turned out to fly. A mid-week date and the fact that the LEG event is virtually unknown in the west had its effect. Being such a simple event, everyone who did come caught on quickly and by the start of the first round everyone was up to speed. The weather was perfect, calm and warm sunshine. The computer scoring and draw programme designed and provided by David Peterson of Queensland made the job of the scorekeepers, Margaret Pettigrew and Bruce Hunt, quite straight forward. The pilot order was set up in minutes and the scoring done as fast as the figures were entered. I must thank Rob Watson for recommending David's programme to me and thank David for letting us use it. Simply brilliant and applicable to other events as well.

The LEG event was won by Chris Barrenger of Bunbury, WA, flying an original design from South Australia called the ALLEGRO 2m using a Hacker B-40 and 1300MAH pack. Second place went to Darren Harper of Perth using an ARIANE V10 with a Hacker B40 and a RF 13x9. Stephen Gleesen of Perth was third using an ORGANIC 2m B-40 and a 2S pack. All three motors were geared. Their respective scores were 5000, 4935 and 4907.

Rain showers were predicted for the following morning but after a short drizzle the sky cleared to

blue sunshine and the OPEN electric was under way by 9.30am with booming lift starting to sky out. Open electric was flown with five contestants due to numbers of drop outs of the ten entrants before and during the contest.

Nevertheless, this proved to be the most closely contested event. By the end of the first three rounds, Chris Barrenger was leading with 3000 normalized points closely followed by Terry Hunt with 2965. Unfortunately for Chris, he broke the wing of his ALLEGRO in the fourth round trying to get down quickly from a great height. Terry Hunt flying a GENESIS 2.6m with a Hacker A30 outrunner and a 3S 2200 pack flew out the contest very steadily to finish first with a perfect 5000 after he dropped his worst round. Nigel Molyneux with 4978 flying a 3.8 PIKE PERFECT placed second using a Hacker B 40 and RF 17 x 10 and a 3S 2200 pack. Chris Barrenger struggled with his Back up RADIANT but succeeded in placing in third position scoring 4488.

With the relatively small entries in each event, both were complete in the early afternoon by which time, Malcolm Retalack, KAMS Master Chef in the canteen had well fed and watered everyone. The Nationals medallions were presented and everyone agreed they had enjoyed themselves and had learned at least one new event. Our thanks to the contestants and timers; to KAMS members for the use of the field and congratulations to the winners.

*President's Note: Thanks to Bill and Margaret Pettigrew for promoting these events and making sure they took place - they did all the organising and scoring.*

**Two views of Phil Stevenson's Bleriot in flight at the NEFR  
David Lucas photos.**

