

Complaint to the Director.

8th May 2023 - 11am

NOTES

The purpose of balloon competitions is to improve pilots' flying & navigation skills.

All that was proved this morning was that some pilots were lucky enough despite near-misses and potential damage to others, to get airborne & complete task. The fact that a number of experienced balloon pilots damaged their equipment in various ways attempting to get airborne is empirical proof that the conditions were unsuitable for take-off.

The conditions favoured certain types of balloons (racers) over standard shape balloons and ruthless competitive pilots over more cautious & therefore generally safer pilots.

NOTES

It therefore did not enhance safe flying and promoted a more cavalier devil's reward - may-care, win at all costs attitude.

I therefore believe the pilots who were unable to launch safely should be awarded the median score. Due to unsafe conditions and the actions of others.

L. T. Springett
Competition # 18

P5

(At least 5 balloons out of 20 sustained various degrees of damage)