

Great Indoor Duration Site – Millenium Dome, UK.



[Euro Champs 2003](#)

Constructed for the UK's Year 2000 Millenium celebrations this vast 160' high dome with its flexible outer skin lay empty for a few years afterwards whilst other users were sought. For a few magical years therefore it became the habitat of that rare species – the British Indoor Duration flyer.

It is now an iconic London landmark near Canary Wharf housing the O2 arena together with many restaurants, cinemas and shops.

Here's a personal recollection from Bob Bailey which follows on neatly from his F1R(35cm) exploits in the Cargo Lifter hangar a year earlier.

“ I remember it being a lovely sunny day in September 2003, inside the Dome the temperature was hovering around the 23 degree mark, very pleasant. I'd had some good flights with my light 35cm model which included a new VP unit, I was sure that the possibility of setting a new British record was on the cards - given the usual slice of luck required for such lightweight models.

So having recruited a couple of timekeepers I put about 2900 turns on the motor, backed off to sensible torque and launched. The model made a nice steady start but needed an early steer to ensure it was climbing into the highest unobstructed part of the ceiling. It climbed very high and stayed pretty central with little drift – no problem in keeping it in sight this time! So after a great flight it touched down with 280 turns left for a new record of 36:50. Hmmm, thought I, shorten the

motor by about 10mm and go for it again. Wound again to 2900 turns, same back off and launched. The model got half way around its first circuit and the motor stick collapsed – such is life. I definitely feel that in the right venue these little models are capable of 40 minute + flights. You do need a high ceiling and stable air though as steering such a small model at altitude is no easy feat. At the moment in the UK or indeed Europe such a venue is not available to us.”

In 2003, following the late cancellation of the European Championships in the Cargo Lifter hangar in Germany, it stepped in to successfully host this event – the last time that a major championship has been run in the UK.

The British Team comprised Geoffrey Lefever, Derek Richards and Nick Aikman.

Here’s Geoffrey’s model getting cleanly away in one of the early rounds:-



How about this for an events calendar?

MILLENNIUM DOME 2004

May 24th/25th. 35 c.m, F.1.D, F.1.M, F.1.L

June 3rd/4th. Mini Stick, F.1.L, F.1.M,

June 28th/29/ 30th. INDOOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP. F.1.D, F.1.M, F.1.L, L.P.P, Mini-Stick, 35 c.m, No Cal Scale, Provisional date for F1D Eurotrials, incorporated into the Nats F.1.D contest.

June 28th Limited Penny Plane, No Cal (Profile Scale).

Various H.L.G & Catapult classes may be held during these dates also.

June 29th. F.1.M, F.1.L, (For the Houlberg Silver Medal), Mini-Stick.

June 30th. F.1.D, (For Houlberg Gold Trophy), 35 c.m.

Also taking place on all 3 days, 2 flights each day, Trials (For the Aeromodeller Trophy) to determine team of 3 for Indoor World Champs 2006

All these Dome dates are mid-week for cost reasons.