Kent Inter-club 2-Metre Free 4 All Glider Challenge -2026

This is a “for fun” challenge run by Kent Interclub with the aim of expanding interest in silent flight and to help pilots improve their thermal soaring skills.

Objectives:
The aim is fly your model glider or electric glider 10 times over a 4-hour period with the aim of flying for 6 minutes in each flight and landing within a designated landing area.

The best 6 flights flight times will be entered as your score. Points are awarded for every second flown. Max points 360.

Broader Appeal
Free-4-All has its roots in the growing FXRES competitions for built up models. However, by extending the format to include a more diverse range of models has made for a successful event with more flyers taking part.

We also recognise that a number of flyers would like to participate but only have foamies and built-up models that are larger than 2 metres. To enable these models to take part, and to make things fair and competitive for 2026, the scoring will consider three classes of models. However , larger models will not be eligible for prizes.

1. 2m model which meets the F3L / F5L specs.
2. ~2m model which does not meet the F3L / F5L specs. (Likely to be a foamie with or without ailerons but could, for example, be a built-up model with ailerons and/or just slightly over 2m)
3. Models which are neither within 1. nor 2. above but are within the spirit of the competition format. So, larger foamies/built up models less than 3metres span.

Models with rudder, elevator and ailerons and spoilers are allowed but camber changing must be switched
off. If model has flaps these can only be used for brakes.
Bungees are normally available at these competitions

Scoring
As this is essentially a 2-metre competition, prizes will be awarded to the person with the best result in each of classes 1 & 2.

Those flying in class 3 will still enter their scores to see how they are getting on.

Free-4-All League & Win a model kit
KIC aims to run at least 5 competitions throughout the year and there will be a league for 2026 for the various classes. To help develop the FXRES flying in Kent, Kent Interclub has kindly donated a built-up 2m model kit for league winner in class 2.

Come and join us.
This is a friendly contest with plenty of help on hand. The rules are simple which makes for a relaxed days flying. We fly this competition at various locations in Kent throughout the year, so why not come along and have a go?

Richard Harris 6 Feb 2026

More information

Speak to your club rep for Kent Interclub about giving this a go, also see information on Facebook forums. https://www.facebook.com/groups/1522055401403071

Models - Glider or electric? - things to consider

Weight – Lighter is better for very calm days. Looking at some specs, the pure gliders seem to be lighter which is what you would expect from not having the powertrain and height limiter. That said, lighter models may be at a disadvantage on windier days when a bit of ballast is required.

If you are adept at building, then building fuselages for both electric and glider versions will give you the best of both worlds.

Do I need to buy a model, why can I not use an existing model?

If you have a 2metre model that complies, then why not try it. The rules and regs allow foamies and built-up models (sorry no all moulded glass/carbon models). There will be all sorts of models at these events – even an old fuel-soaked diesel-powered model (minus the prop of course) has been used as a bungee launched glider.

So, if you have an old 2m Sonata sitting in the workshop, well dust it off and give it a new lease of life. Likewise, if the model is a over the 2m still come – we are trying to encourage flying after all.

Bungees (or high start) for Launching Gliders

This comprises a length of surgical rubber tubing 15m long. This needs to be of a specific elasticity to comply with FXRES rules, the reason being to ensure equal launch heights for all (see full Free-4-All rules for specification). The rubber is attached to 100m of fishing line of at least 0,7mm diameter (again to normalise the stretch). Finally, at one end is a ring to go on the glider tow hook and a pennant (so you can see it in the grass). The other end must be secured by a stake. Normally, a corkscrew type dog stake is used. The cost of this stuff is around £70 based on Hyperflight prices.

Electric Systems

To have a self-launching model, you need a small brushless electric motor (from £14), an ESC (Electronic Speed Controller) capable of taking around 20-23A to drive the motor. These cost from around £20. As well as a folding prop, you will need a couple of Lipo batteries. The overall costs for the powertrain are similar to the bungee costs.

Again, to normalise the launch height, you will need an electronic gizmo called a height-limiter to stop you buzzing up too high. The Height-limiter needs to be set up to switch off the motor when the plane has reached 100m or the motor has run for 30 seconds. For safety reasons, most of the height limiters will also allow an emergency motor run. The height limiter is connected between the ESC the receiver, the +/- feed to the Height-limiter passes directly through to power the receiver. When the 100m height, or 30 second limits are reached, the signal line from the receiver to the ESC is cut and the motor stops.

There will normally be height limiters available to borrow at the competitions.

Links & Suppliers

- Hyperflight for models and powertrains https://www.hyperflight.co.uk/
- Leeds Models https://www.modelshopleeds.co.uk/catalog/index.php
- Skyhigh RC provide laser-cut short kits https://skyhighrc.co.uk/
- Bungees https://www.hyperflight.co.uk/products.asp?cat=Other&subcat=Other+Accessories
- FxRES https://www.facebook.com/groups/772042050184151

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