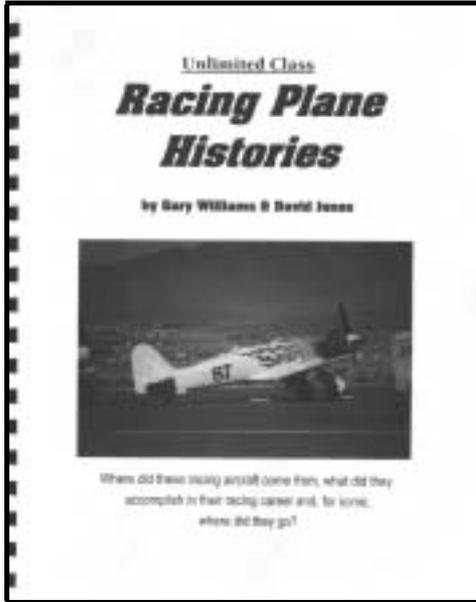


## **"Unlimited Class Racing Plane Histories" – Book review**

### **Anders Bruun**

**Gary Williams and Dave Jones: "Unlimited Class Racing Plane Histories" (Gary Williams, 2002).** 184 pages, loose-leaf bound with colour cover. Price: US \$ 25 (plus postage), available from **Gary Williams, 4730 E Summerhaven Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85044, USA (E-mail: [airace@primenet.com](mailto:airace@primenet.com)).**



The subtitle of this book is "Where did these racing aircraft come from, what did they achieve and, for some, where did they go?". This is a good summary of the contents – it contains the histories of 82 planes, with details such as construction data, registrations, owners,

modifications, race results and some anecdotes. As can be seen from the number of pages of the book, the average coverage is two pages per plane, but some get more (up to six pages) and some get less, depending on the available information and the lengths of the different planes' careers. There are no photos, but around 140 little profiles (most around 10 cm/4 inches long), mainly made by Dave Jones, illustrating the planes, sometimes at several stages of their careers. The different histories are ordered after the year that a particular plane first raced – this might not be the easiest order to follow, but it is difficult to find a better alternative and there is good register to help you find your favourites.

This book gives a lot of interesting information, not least because it enables the reader to follow the different planes through the years. In several cases I was surprised to find out that planes that were raced in different shapes, with different names and race numbers and by different owners were in fact the same. A lot of the information was new to me. There are no Kingcobras or Lightnings in the book, and there are a couple of other emissions, but most of the top runners are there, together with several not-so-well known planes.

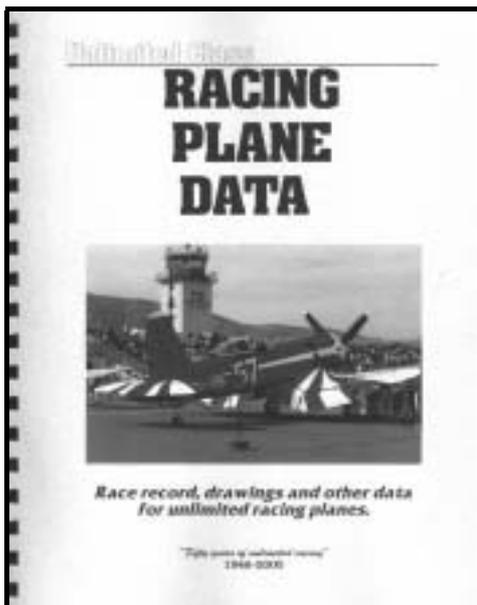
This is a great little book – Gary Williams and Dave Jones are really to be praised for their long-running efforts to record Unlimited air racing history.

It is essential reading for all air racing fans – buy it!

**A big thanks to Gary Williams for the review example!**

## ***"Unlimited Class Racing Plane Data" – Book review*** ***Anders Bruun***

**Gary Williams and Dave Jones: "Unlimited Class Racing Plane Data (2nd edition)" (Gary Williams, 2001).** 200 pages, loose-leaf bound with colour cover. Price: US \$ 25 (plus postage), available from **Gary Williams, 4730 E Summerhaven Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85044, USA (E-mail: airace@primenet.com).**



This is an update of the first edition, that was released in 1999, and reviewed in BT#12. It contains chronologically arranged drawings and short biographic data about 100 Unlimited racers from the years 1946 – 2000. The featured planes include all national champions from

Cleveland and Reno, and many others. Twenty planes have been added since the first edition, three from the latest two years and seventeen from earlier years. Each plane is given one spread, with a five-view drawing on the left page and a brief history and a collection of race results on the right page. The book does not contain any photos, except for the front cover.

The historical notes are brief, giving between half a dozen and twenty lines of text for each plane plus a list of events, pilots and results. Dave Jones' drawings are familiar to all SIG members – they give detailed and accurate information about the markings and modifications of the planes, but do not give any "scratch-building data" in the form of cross sections or measurements. A modeller will anyway in most cases start from a kit or a generic drawing of a plane, and the drawings give sufficient additional information for modifying a kit of a standard plane.

The book is a handy reference source for the different champions, but it also gives coverage to some less known planes, and some interesting little facts and stories. Compared to "Unlimited Class Racing Plane Histories" it focuses on drawings rather than text – it definitely gives you drawings enough for a lifetime of happy modelling. In many ways the two books can be seen as partners.

Highly recommended!

***A big thanks to Gary Williams for the review example!***