

2005 Large Scale Aerobatic Association's Nationals

This year's Large Scale Aerobatic Association's Nationals were held at RMAC south of Johannesburg from the 6th. to 8th. May. The format was different to the last few years in that the Pylon Racing SIG chose to have their own Nationals because of their increased entries. This was just as well as we also had several more entries than last year, despite the late withdrawal of a few entrants due to 'mishaps', and needed the time to get the number of rounds in.



The format was to fly 6 back-to-back rounds for the three classes, namely Sportsmen, Expert and Open. This gave 12 scoring opportunities with the best 9 to count.

After the pilot's briefing on Friday morning the Sportsmen's class got off to an uneventful, on time, start in very good, calm conditions. Unfortunately the calmness was short lived and by mid day the wind sock was stressed to the limits. Strong winds were the order of the day for the rest of the weekend.

Unfortunately, or should I say fortunately, we only had 2 incidents. The first casualty was Mike Hearn who was caught out by the strong wind on landing which resulted in several big pieces. The other was Dewald Baker who's QS 150 self destructed leaving him with an interesting 'dead stick' landing down wind of the field which took place unsighted at the far eastern end of the field. Luckily the aircraft missed all the obstructions and only sustained a small scratch on the wing tip.

Thereafter all went very well with improving flight scores by all. The highest flight score of the event was Andre' Stockwell with 75.32%.

The judges for the event were Rob and Paul Hearn, Ivan and Elize Olivier and PJ Simonsen who we thank heartily for their time afforded to us for the 3 days.

Thanks must also go to RMAC for the use of their magnificent facilities, all those that helped plan the event, those who helped coordinate during the event, to the pilots for the great spirit in which they competed and finally to Neil DeLange from the Aero Club of South Africa who addressed us on the function of the Aero Club and then assisted in handing out the prizes.

The results are as follows :

Sportsman's Class:

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Lawrence Robinson | 68.45% |
| Michel Leusch (KZN) | 67.5% |
| Max DeWeijer | 61.64% |
| Trevor Budd | 58.85% |

Bert Strydon
Warren van der Fyfer
Vaughan Vorster
Dewald Baker

Expert Class :

Ian Edwards 66.27%
Mike Hearn

Open Class :

Andre' Stockwell 72.86%
Neville Wright 68.73%
Morne' Brooks 63.86%
Gavin Walton 63.79%
Ruan Lourens 59.7%



Gavin Walton
LSMAA.