

LIMPOPO AEROBATIC CHAMPIONSHIPS 2005

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1 & 2 October was upon us much too quick. With some returning from the world championships at the end of August (or maybe a long winter rest) and new schedules approved and distributed only on 19 September, some pilots scrambled until the last moment to be ready for the first Gauteng league competition of the 2005/06 season.

Several late cancellations (and non entries of past participants) of competitors saddened the organising team, but as they say – the show must go on. And what a show it proved to be for those who attended! After weeks of howling winds in the area, we could not believe the good weather we were blessed with during the weekend. Not more than a light to moderate breeze (90 degrees to the runway of course, but fairly on the flight lines – cant have your cake, and eat it as well??) with temperatures in the high twenties.

To contain the cost we decided to use only two “real” judges. Ivan Olivier, whom we cannot go without, and our own local judge Noel Booyesen, were on permanent duty. To add to the line up and to allow the local guys to gain some judging experience, Martin and Chris joined in the judging process for the Sportsman, Advanced and Masters classes while André Stockwell was the third judge for the Expert class. This proved to work well (and I believe Noel has been invited to judge at the Gauteng championships – congratulations. Sure this means that I deserved those 0’s received from you!). Marcel Acted as CD – thanks for that!

We had 13 entries (one more than last year) consisting of two local pilots, two pilots (well.....maybe 1 ¼??) from Piet Retief, One from Klerksdorp (yes, it is just as far from Polokwane to Klerksdorp as from Klerksdorp to Polokwane – thanks Nico!) and the rest from Gauteng. Three rounds were completed on Saturday and the last round was flown on Sunday morning.

We had four “Sportsman” pilots competing, two being there for the first time – welcome & congratulations! Unfortunately Johan van Vuuren ended up with a bad prop cut just before the event and had to visit the doctor. He returned with a bandaged hand and completed his first flight but after this he had to retire from the competition as he had to return to the hospital for surgery – hope you get well soon! From the results it is clear that young James Hill and Mark Hubbard gave each other a good go – James wining rounds 1 and 3 with Mark winning rounds 2 and 4. It seemed that Marius was distracted by his son’s injury – better luck to the two of you next time! In the end James won the competition with a deserving 55.09% - very good indeed for a rookie!



Unfortunately we only had two pilots competing in the “Advanced” class. This definitely did not mean that there wouldn’t be fierce competition! Nico brought his beautiful ex-Savas Fashion and immediately showed that he meant business by comfortably winning the first two rounds. It took some time for Henry to get into the groove (or maybe to forget about the power lines!) but when he did....he took the last two flights. Unfortunately this was too little, too late, and Nico took the honours by a margin of 3.4%, making all the travelling worthwhile.



A happy Nico & Henry after the competition

We had five pilots competing for the crown in the “Expert” class. From the first round Keith showed us all that he was there to win, soon however to be out done by Marcel. As a group we sure had some fun with the new loop with integrated full roll – had to give the judges some reason to lose those serious expressions! In the end Keith won round one, Marcel rounds 2 and 3 and Chris round four. In the end Marcel took home the trophy - the five pilots were split with a mere 5.9% separating the first place from the fifth place. After practising their loops, this group should be responsible for good competition amongst themselves during the Gauteng Championships!

Three happy expert pilots, Martin, Marcel & Keith.



In F3A we had André competing with Coenraad de Beer who was participating in F3A for the first time. Needless to say, it looked as if André has been practising the new P07 schedule for the past two years. Coenraad struggled a bit but we are sure he will settle very quickly – and put a bigger fuel tank in your aircraft please!!

Last but not least we must mention and thank the score keeper, Paul du Plessis (who promised (for the second year now) to be flying in the next competition) for the hard work he put in. A competition will not be possible without you!

The final scores were as follows:

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PILOTS								Position
NAME	SURNAME	Class	FLIGHT				Best	
			1	2	3	4	3	
James	Hill	Sportsman	56.98	51.46	54.79	53.49	55.09	1
Mark	Hubbard	Sportsman	51.15	52.08	49.58	55.73	52.99	2
Marius	Van Vuuren	Sportsman	43.96	13.23	39.58	-	32.26	3
Johan	Van Vuuren	Sportsman	35.11	-	-	-	11.70	4
Nico	Erasmus	Advanced	58.68	58.96	50.71	52.22	56.62	1
Henry	Kurowski	Advanced	49.93	42.92	53.75	55.86	53.18	2
Marcel	Bode	Expert	59.63	66.67	63.60	59.52	63.30	1
Keith	Williams	Expert	63.17	60.74	61.69	58.41	61.87	2
Martin	Erasmus	Expert	56.93	60.42	61.53	57.67	59.87	3
Chris	Theron	Expert	52.06	55.03	58.89	59.95	57.96	4
Frik	de Beer	Expert	55.71	53.49	61.22	55.29	57.41	5
Andre	Stockwell	F3A	77.02	76.49	80.28	77.40	78.23	1
Coenraad	de Beer	F3A	59.69	55.73	62.15	33.93	59.19	2

A final and special word of thanks to the Capricorn Model Flying Club ladies for the splendid function of Saturday evening – I am very sure that everyone had a great although late evening.

See you all (and hopefully more) next year!

