



AERIAL CONCEPTS SOUTH AFRICAN F3A AEROBATIC TEAM – 2013 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Report by Dr Clinton Carter-Brown - Team Manager

The South African F3A Aerobatic Team competed at the FAI F3A World Championship held in Meyerton South Africa 15-25 August 2013. The team consisted of Clinton Carter-Brown (manager), Andre Stockwell, Christopher Harris, Pierre Marais and Roston Dugmore (Jnr). The RSA team finished 8th out of the 30 competing nations, and the team junior (Roston Dugmore Jnr) beat all of the other juniors to become the FAI Junior World Champion!



Roston Dugmore Jnr crowned the FAI F3A Junior World Champion for 2013

The team finished 8th in the world, only being beaten by the “big” international competitor countries such as the USA, Japan, Germany etc. Team RSA beat the likes of the Canadians, United Kingdom, Australia, Russia, Brazil, Argentina and many others. This is a massive improvement from the previous placing of 16th at the 2011 World Champs. We can be very proud of their performance, and it is very clear that the level of flying locally has improved greatly over the last two years. I don't think any SA team has put in the sort of preparation that this team did. Just making the team was a major competition in itself, with many pilots aspiring to represent RSA locally at the World Champs hosted by South Africa. We had many team training sessions, clinics, etc and even brain profiling and guidance from a sports psychologist who attended one of our training sessions to see what it is all about. Even months before

the competition, team members were flying in excess of 5 times a week. They collectively put in thousands of flights over the last two years.

Roston Dugmore Jnr stunned us with some superb model flying in testing conditions, and we congratulate and salute him on being a well-deserved Jnr World Champion. Roston has the rare ability to put in his very best flight when under extreme pressure. He was a dignified, composed world champion, and did us all very proud.

You only have one chance to make a first impression, and young Roston capitalized on that opportunity. He put in a solid first round, and in doing so quickly made a name for himself which only helped when he put in further good flights in front of the other judging panels. He thrived under pressure, and took advice seriously, adjusting his flying style depending on the conditions. He was very fortunate to have such a seasoned campaigner as Andre Stockwell as his caller, and I know that Andre was working hard to keep Roston on the flight line and the sequence under firm control. They made a great team, and Andre has put in many hours guiding and coaching Roston.

Obviously Roston's final placing as Jnr World Champ was the highlight of the RSA team achievement, but should not overshadow the seriously good results of the rest of the team.



Team South Africa (Left to Right): Andre Stockwell, Roston Dugmore (jnr), Christopher Harris, Clinton Carter-Brown (manager), Vanessa Nel and Pierre Marais.



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The final placing's were as follows; 24th - Roston Dugmore, 33rd - Andre' Stockwell, 37th - Christopher Harris, 41st - Pierre Marais.

All in all we can be extremely proud of the RSA team. Their performance has elevated our international ranking. Great things are expected of the next team to compete in Switzerland in 2015. Roston will still be a Jnr in 2015, and will naturally aim to retain his title. The two top juniors from the 2011 World Champs both made the top 10 finals at the 2013 World Champs. I am very sure that Roston will want to continue in their footsteps by making the finals in 2015, and in so doing also get to fly the unknown sequences. The dedication and exposure required to do that should not be underestimated.

Finally a word of thanks to everyone that has helped and supported the team – SASCOC, the Aero Club of South Africa, SAMAA, MAASA, pilots, judges, supporters, wives and girlfriends... **THANK YOU!!!!** It has been a huge combined effort. We really appreciate your support.

A special word of thanks to our team sponsors Aerial Concepts, Futaba Redipak, Everest Projects Development and Neurolink. Without your support this would not have been possible.



South African Team



2013 F3A World Champion -
Christophe Paysant-le-Roux

