

KZN Pattern Coaching Session

BY NEIL ALLEN

Ivan Olivier has developed a brilliant coaching plan for 2012, and KZN was fortunate enough to get the first crack at it. We had great weather for a Saturday and Sunday at the Howick club field.

This was particularly chosen as it is essential to have clearly visible flag markers at the centre and ends of the box, at the 150m metre distance, as specified for pattern. In Gauteng it may be easy to plonk flags on these markers, but in KZN there is nearly always a hill in the way at most sites.

The participants rotated between judging, flying, scribing, and manning a walkie talkie at the 150m centre post. It was amazing standing out there watching a plane supposedly flying

directly overhead come veering in and out all through the flight. But by the end of the session we were all able to quickly spot from the pilots position whether a plane was at 140 or 160m out, which is invaluable knowledge.

Each pilot did a 7 minute flight, then had a detailed debriefing afterwards. Many of us were astonished to see things spotted that we had been doing wrong for many years. Mark Savage remarked (swearwords deleted!) "First we spend ten years flying without using the rudder, and are told we have to learn to use it in flight. Then we spend years using this skill, and then along comes Ivan and tells us to use the flipping

John Dorse manning the walkie talkie at the flag.



Neil Allen flying, Leon Coetzee calling, and Ivan with the walkie talkie.



aileron instead!" Actually you have to know how to use the rudder if you are climbing vertically for a stall turn, but are offline. But if you use the ailerons in say looping manoeuvres it can be smoother, depending on how much correction is needed.

Ivan was pleased with the judging standard of our three KZN judges, Des Cooper, Bruce Clark, and Fred Wilkinson, and spent a lot of time teaching the finer points. We had one flight flown by Jason where everyone was required to score. Then Ivan asked each person in turn what

score they gave, and why, and gave us his personal interpretations. Often he was gracious enough to agree that something we picked up on was perhaps a better interpretation of what should be flown.

We had two midday braais from our gracious Howick club hosts – thank you, and also for the beautifully prepared field. Thank you Ivan for giving us your weekend. And well done to the excellent turnout of 16 flyers and judges who attended. A couple more were away, and we will try to pass on our knowledge to them.

List of people participating:-

Mark Savage
Mike Wyatt
John Dorse
Colin Addis
Arthur Eggar
Ian Morris
Leon Coetzee
Gijs Wijgers
Neil Allen
Jason Barker
Arthur Coleby
Clive McInnes
Bruce Clark
Des Cooper
Craig Lipsett
Fred Wilkinson

Ivan explaining a point to Jason Barker.



line up of 8 judge

