



Model Aerial Association
of South Africa

MINUTES OF THE MAASA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

Venue: Beach Hotel, Port Elizabeth

Date: 2009-04-22

Time: 19:00

I. Welcome

Kas Hamman, the current chair person of MAASA, bid all MAASA members and visitors welcome at the meeting. He congratulated and thanked the PERF Nats organising committee for their hard work and a well organised event.

II. Present

Kas Hamman (Chairman)	Danie Potgieter (Jnr.)	Louw Smit
Pierre Marais	Marc Wolffe	Gerrie Maritz
Danie Potgieter (Snr.) (CD)	Quintin Schroll	Chris Halgreen
Ivan Olivier	Neil Collins	Timothy Hamman
Rodney Potter (Treasurer)	Chris Zurinkas	FC Hamman
Bernus v/d Westhuizen (Secr.)	Mark Hubbard	Karin Smith (Visitor)
Christo Rust (Chief Judge)	Dean Grobbelaar	Anne-Rita vd Westhuizen (V)
John Brink (Int. PRO)	Ludwig Steyn	Dave Lockhart(USA)
Burt Botha	Juan-Pierre Kruger	Derek Grobbelaar(V)
Walter van Huyssteen	Shaun Ruth	Annie Hamman (V)
Chris Theron	Ashley Ruth	
Bertie Viljoen	Wayne Puffet	
Pierre Fouche	Brett Ingpen	
Stuart Nix	Vernon Els	
André Stockwell	Anton Raats	
Nazeem Harris	Cobus Malan	
John Calafato	Craig Bell	

III. Apologies

Rui Martins
Danie Bester

IV. Proxy Votes Received

Rui Martins

V. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes and Acceptance of Previous Minutes

The chairman briefly discussed the minutes of the previous AGM after pointing out that they have been circulated to all members. He asked if the minutes as circulated could be considered as a true reflection of the previous AGM? Bertie Viljoen proposed that the minutes be considered as read and accepted. This was seconded by Stuart Nix.

VI. Chairman's Report

The Chairman delivered his report focussing on major MAASA activities of the past year. He thanked Aerial Concepts again for their commitment to the Aerobatic Nationals and opened the floor for discussion. As there were no comments the report was accepted.

Refer to Appendix B for the Chairman's Report

VII. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer delivered his report on the financial status of the organisation. The balance in the MAASA bank account was R11 603.53 on the 16th April 2009 with the contribution of SAMAA still outstanding. The Budget for 2009/2010 showed a surplus of R22 000.

The Treasurer said that an extra R15 000 would be allocated to assist the team participating in the World Championships and that money has been allocated for the training of current and new judges.

Refer to Appendix C for a detailed Treasurer's Report.

Burt reminded the committee that the Treasurer's report needs to be audited or signed off. This will be attended to as required.

VIII. New Matters for Discussion

8.1 Proposed amendments to the Constitution

The following amendments to the Constitution in terms of membership were proposed by John Brink and circulated via e-mail for discussion:

Membership : Replace the sub-clauses of 6c with the following:

c. Members shall be classified as follows:

c.1 **Pensioner Member.** Any retired person substantially interested in model aircraft of any description shall be eligible for Pensioner Membership. Application shall always be made in writing accompanied by the relevant fee.

c.2 **Ordinary Member.** Any person substantially interested in model aircraft of any description shall be eligible for Ordinary Membership. Application shall always be made in writing accompanied by the relevant fee.

c.3 **Local Member.** Any person, as described in c.2, flying in the sportsman category who will only compete in his province of residence, may apply as in c.2.

c.4 **Dependent Member.** Any person, as described in c.2, who is financially dependent on parents, spouse, a pension, grant etc. may apply as in c.2. The committee may request confidential proof of such dependence for approval.

c.5 **Official Member.** Any person substantially interested in model aircraft of any description shall be eligible for Official Membership. Application shall always be made in writing accompanied by the relevant once off fee.

c.6 **Honorary Member.** In recognition of service or commitment to the association, Honorary membership of one years duration may be awarded.

c.7 **Honorary Life Member.** In recognition of meritorious service or potential influence in achieving the objects of the Association, any person may be recommended to the Management. The recommendation shall be submitted in writing and shall be co-signed by at least 20 members of the Association, who have held membership of the Association for at least two (2) years.

(Note: In effect only sub-clause c.3 has been added and although the remaining sub-clauses were re-numbered, they remained unchanged.)

After some discussion, the matter was put to vote. 26 Members voted in favour (none against) of these suggested amendments and the amendments were accepted.

Burt Botha proposed the following additional amendments to the constitution:

Delete section 11 (b). This will enable members voting out committee members after one year without vote of no confidence.

Burt explained the rationale behind this proposal. 28 of the members present voted in favour of this proposal and the amendment was accepted.

Amend section 14 (a) to “a minimum quorum for this meeting is 80% of the entered pilots”

This proposal was triggered by the poor attendance of the 2008 AGM. After some discussion the matter was put to vote. 24 Members then voted in favour of the constitution **not** being amended at this stage and proposal was not accepted.

Amend section 18 (a) with the deletion of (at least six members) and substituting it with (any member) and the deletion of (by certified mail) and by substituting it with (e-mail or any form of written communication).

The amendment of section 18(a) was accepted by 32 of the members present.

8.1 **Proposed amendments to the Sporting Code**

The following changes to the sporting code were proposed by Burt Botha:

Amend the sporting code with effect from 01 January 2010, by the scrapping of the Expert class in its totality. The classes to be competed in will be as follows:

Sportsman

Advanced

F3A (P schedule only)

F3A (WCQ) to consist of (P and F schedules)

Written inputs regarding similar amendments were also received from Pierre Marais, Quintin Scroll and Neil Allen.

After some discussion and inputs from Walter van Huysteen, Ivan Olivier and John Calefato, a clear majority of members felt that all current categories should be retained for the next two-year period.

John Brink proposed the following amendments to the sporting code regarding F3A schedules and team selection:

At Provincial, National and the Masters Competitions, Master pilots will fly 4 rounds of the current P schedule. The top 20% or 6 pilots (excluding foreigners) will then fly 2 rounds of the F schedule. The best one, normalized, score will then determine the placing of these finalists. Organisers of league and local competitions may vary the number of rounds and schedules flown to suit conditions, provided this is stated in advance - prior to entry dates.

Note: With the shortened schedules (8minutes) these 2 extra flights will only take about 1 ½ hours. With 30 pilots at a competition (advanced, expert and masters), there is already a saving of $30 \times 2 \times 4 = 240$ minutes (4 hrs.) over the older 10 minute schedules.

During the past 2 years, time has not been an issue at competitions and these flights can easily be accommodated. This also does away with the need to introduce 2 master classes and it more closely follows international practice and the FAI sporting code. The team is to be selected from the top 3 pilots, determined by the results of the 2010 Nationals, 2010 Masters and 2011 Nationals. The best 2 of 3 results is to count.

It is recommended that the 2011 Nationals be brought forward to earlier in the year e.g. February/March or alternatively a final, separate team selection event is held where only the top 6 pilots compete. This event is to be held at sea level.

After a brief discussion it was decided that matters regarding the team (and team selection process) would be discussed in detail, and decided on at a separate meeting. This meeting would be held later, during the contest on Saturday 25.04.09. (Refer to Appendix A for the minutes of the team selection meeting).

8.2 Promotion of Sportsman & Advanced classes

It was decided that that a pilot in the sportsman or advanced category may be promoted to the next class if he or she ends the years' flying activities on an average of 60% or higher. An invitation to the SA Masters indicates an automatic promotion to the next category for these two classes.

This proposal was accepted by the meeting.

The criteria for promotion from Expert to F3A remain at 65%.

8.2WC F3A Protea Team selection and appointment of team manager.

It was agreed that this matter would be discussed and decided on at the meeting to be held on Saturday, 25 April 2009 at PERF. See Appendix A for the minutes of this meeting.

8.3 SAMAA & MAASA contributions to WC Team 2009.

The treasurer informed the members that SAMAA would contribute R20 000 of the entry fee of R22 135.43. The rest, as well as a further amount that would be finalized at a later stage, depended on the availability of funds.

This matter would be discussed further and decided on at the meeting to be held on Saturday, 25 April 2009 at PERF. See Appendix A for the minutes of this meeting.

8.4 Development of new schedules for 2010/11.

André Stockwell was formally tasked with the development of the new schedules for 2010. Christo Rust as chief judge will take responsibility for the evaluation and testing the new schedules. Ratification and final approval will take place at the 2009 Masters, after appropriate demo flights have been flown.

8.5 Judging and training needs

Christo Rust will take the lead here and liaise with all relevant parties, and address all issues, regarding the development and training of judges, in order to set a uniform standard. Available funds will be used to host a few workshops in regions where it is needed most.

8.6 Membership fee for Local Sportsman membership category

As already agreed, the aim of this category would be to allow pilots to gain the experience of pattern flying at competition level. The purpose of this new category is to encourage new pilots to join MAASA in view of eventually becoming full members. The suggested membership fee of 50% of the applicable Sportsman membership fee will apply.

After some discussion the meeting agreed to allow the concept a trail run of one year after which it would be re-evaluated. The "Local Membership" would be applicable to newcomers in the Sportsman category only.

8.7 MAASA membership data base

As the committee is currently updating the membership database, the chairman asked the regional representatives, as well as all other members, to update their membership information. He asked members to forward the information, including updated telephone numbers and e-mail addresses, to the Secretary.

8.8 Process to update national scores and proficiency information.

Christo Rust, gave members some feedback on the current scoring system and planned improvements. He mentioned that there would be regular updates of the scoring register on the website as well as proficiency information.

8.9 Membership categories & fees

The treasurer informed members that with membership fees being paid timeously, contributions received from Aerial Concepts for the Nats and help from SAAMA, the committee decided not to raise membership fees during for current financial year.

8.10 Election of Office Bearers

a. MAASA Committee

The current committee was re-elected for a further term of one year. As the positions of vice chairperson, Contest Director and national PRO were vacant, nominations for these positions were asked.

Burt Botha, Danie Potgieter (Snr) and FC Hamman were nominated, seconded and elected to these positions. Burt as Vice chairperson, Danie as Contest Director and FC as national PRO.

b. Regional Representatives

A proposal to retain the current provincial reps for the next year was made and accepted. A proposal that the re-election of provincial reps would be done at provincial level, and the names to be forwarded to the MAASA committee, was put forward and accepted.

8.11 Closure of AGM

The chairman thanked all members present for their participation in the 2009 National Championships and for their attendance of the AGM meeting. He wished everybody a successful Nats, declared the meeting closed and invite members to join him and the organising committee outside for refreshments.

APPENDIX A: MINUTES OF TEAM SELECTION & F3A MEETING

On Saturday 25 April an extra ordinary meeting was held at the PERF clubhouse as agreed at the 2009 MAASA AGM to discuss issues relating to the next WC team selection process for F3A pilots and the practical arrangements related to the F3A class.

After it was established that all F3A pilots participating in the 2009 Nats were present by a show of hands, the meeting commenced.

The chairman Kas Hamman opened the meeting and pointed out that there are two main issues that needed to be discussed:

- I. that very specific commitment would be needed from F3A pilots in the running to qualify as team members to participate in the 2009 World Championships and;
- II. that the next cycle of team selection procedures for F3A pilots needed to be agreed upon as well as practical arrangements related to the F3A class.

Christo Rust explained the team selection process used during the current competition. From each round the top pilot was normalized, getting 3000 in the event that they finished. If not, it would be rounded off to 3000. This was discussed with Rui Martins who was in the 2nd position prior to the final round. Rui, however, indicated that he was not available for team selection due to personal reasons.

Kas also stressed that a specific commitment would be needed from the finalists namely André, Danie, Mark, Pierre and Walter so that the team could be announced the following day at the banquet. He stressed that if anyone among them felt that they would rather not be included, they should communicate this to the Committee prior the announcement of the team. In reaction to this, all five pilots indicated that they were available to make the commitment as required.

The meeting was informed that John Brink has been asked to act as the WC team manager. John indicated that he would be prepared to fill the position. John, however, stressed that he would only take up the position if the team fully accepted him as team manager and were prepared to comply with the commitments needed from them. He proceeded to explain that firstly, each contestant must have two (preferably three) aircraft ready and available. As it was already close to the WC contest, the securing of flights and accommodation would require a substantial personal financial input from each pilot fairly soon. When asked for the necessary financial contribution, WC team members should be in a position to comply. Prospective WC team members should bear this in mind, as well as the fact that helpers would have to be funded from their own pockets. He also made it clear that full and total commitment from the team was of the utmost importance as the upcoming championship would need a sustained effort from every team member.

Christo Rust stated that an e-mail had been sent out earlier in the year requesting names for the position of team manager. None were received. Kas then pointed out that the Committee also supported John as team manager. As no other proposals were received, it seemed logical that he should fill the position. The meeting indicated full support with this arrangement.

John then opened the next point for discussion by raising the matter of division in the Masters class which he felt was artificial. He suggested that it should be one class

and that if the next lower class (Expert) should be upgraded to make it possible that the gap from Expert to F3A is not too wide. He mentioned that he preferred the fly-off method as used by most overseas countries.

Burt Botha questioned the current system of “two” classes within F3A or Masters.

After some lengthy deliberation and valuable inputs from most pilots present, Burt proposed that the two possibilities that had come from these discussions should be put to the vote:

- I. the status quo is kept
- II. one F3A class is created where all pilots fly both P and F schedules at all competitions and in the order of P:F;P;F

Dean Grobbelaar proposed a show of hands before voting commenced. Twenty two hands were counted. The chairman then preceded by putting the two proposals to the vote. 7 Members voted that the status quo be maintained, one member abstained, while a majority of 14 members voted for the new proposal.

The new proposal was accepted with a clear majority.

John Brink reminded the meeting that the next issue to be raised was the finalisation of the 2011 team selection process. The meeting agreed that the current team selection process would be maintained and that all competing F3A pilots would now be part of such a selection process.

As there was no further matter to be discussed, the chairman thanked all for their constructive participation and closed the meeting.

APPENDIX B: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Although MAASA's members are distributed throughout the country, our communication with the committee, regional and members, mostly via email, worked quite well. During this reporting period the Committee had one committee meeting in the Cape Town area in January 2009. The MAASA management committee and its members had some interesting and at times heated inter-actions for the first six months after the previous AGM. A special meeting with John Brink as Chairman was held in the Gauteng area in October last year where most issues of conflict or misunderstanding were dealt with quite effectively. The minutes of these meetings are posted on the MAASA website as open public records for anyone interested to view. As now became custom, many "electronic" debates on various issues and also topics took place throughout the reporting period. In my view this method of debating issues works well and we should certainly continue along these lines as long as the tone of communication is constructive.

Congratulations to John Brink for being elected as the SAMAA CIAM representative. John's election to this position places MAASA in the ideal position in that our international representative is now also the CIAM representative, it saves us the air fare as SAMAA covers this expensive item and it provides him with the ideal opportunity to fulfil his role as international representative.

Bloemfontein is now firmly established as host for the invitational SA Radio Controlled Aerobatic Masters. 29 pilots were invited to the 2008 SA Masters of which 22 or 76% pilots eventually keenly competed for the prestigious awards in each of the classes. Congratulations once again to Vernon Els, Anton Raats, Timothy Hamman, Graig Bell and André Stockwell for respectively taking the honours in Sportsman, Advanced, Expert, F3A and the team selection classes. The early October date for this event now seems acceptable for most pilots. My plea still is that we do our best to arrange our two national competitions during the school holidays to make it possible for more of our junior pilots to participate as well.

This Nationals is also the final team selection event for the 2009 radio controlled aerobatic world championships, so we are going to see some keen competition in the F3A team selection category over the next 4 days. The SA team will be finalised and a capable team manager will be chosen. During this competition we are also going to finalise the team selection criteria for the next 2 years. We have activated the process of developing and finalising the new schedules for the 2010/11 period for the lower classes which will be demonstrated at this year's SA Masters for comment and input by all MAASA pilots. Andre' Stockwell kind offered to assist with this task.

At this year's Nats banquet we plan to continue to award and update SAMAA proficiencies for qualifying MAASA pilots. The MAASA proficiency criteria are on the SAMAA website and outline the qualifying requirements for Bronze, Silver, Gold and Instructor ratings. As a reminder, these proficiency ratings will be awarded to MAASA pilots according to achievements during the previous two years of participation at MAASA recognised national competitions. SAMAA suggested that we also award Instructor proficiency ratings to any F3A pilot that represented South Africa at any previous Aerobatic World Championship, so if you are aware of any qualifying pilot that we might have missed in the process, please provide us with the information. The following criteria currently apply for the awarding of these proficiencies:

- A Bronze proficiency rating will be awarded to any Sportsman or higher category pilot who achieved a minimum average score of 50% in any recognized national MAASA competition.
- A Silver proficiency rating will be awarded to any Advanced or higher category pilot who achieved a minimum average score of 55% in any recognized national MAASA competition.
- A Gold proficiency rating will be awarded to any Expert or F3A pilot who achieved a minimum average score of 60% in any recognized national MAASA competition.
- An Instructor proficiency rating will be awarded to F3A pilots that represented South Africa at previous Aerobatic World Championships.

During the 2008 National Championship MAASA, with the able assistance of some of our members managed to secure Aerial Concepts as the main sponsor and partner for that and future events. In the difficult financial times we currently find ourselves in, this substantial sponsorship makes it possible for MAASA and its members to host the kind of high quality and professional 2009 Nats all of us are expecting to experience here in the proverbial windy city. A special thank you to the PERF team namely Burt Botha, Brett Ingpen and their organising committee for all the hard work and effort that went into making this event a success.

Although this Committee had the unpleasant task of implementing the new fee structure, our finances are in a healthy state and we are now in a position to start giving attention to priority issues such as:

- when comparing the league and even some provincial scores with the national competition scores, we clearly need a more uniform standard of judging throughout the country. Christo Rust as chief judge undertook to, with the help of fellow experienced judges, attend to this during the next year;
- we should now also be in a position to provide more support for judging at regional and provincial level (see budget);
- in future we should be able to provide more support for the SA aerobatic team (see budget);
- any other suggestions would be welcome.

In my view we can thus say with confidence that MAASA is certainly making progress in fulfilling its mandate as a SAAMA, SIG namely to actively promote radio controlled model aircraft aerobatic competition in the interest of the sport and all its members.

A huge thank you to the current MAASA committee, Rodney Potter, Bernus van der Westhuizen, John Brink, Christo Rust and to Burt Botha as co-opted legal advisor, you all did a great job in a relatively unappreciative environment. Thank you also to our regional representatives for your support and hard work during the reporting period. Unfortunately our vice chairman, Pierre Marais resigned late last year. Pierre has been involved with MAASA since its inception in 2003 and made a substantial contribution to build the interest group up to what we have today. Thank you Pierre on behalf of all of us. Lastly I would like to thank all MAASA members for your interest, challenging debates and enthusiasm that contributed to making us without a doubt the most successful special interest group within the SAMAA structure.

I thank you.

Kas Hamman (Chair: MAASA)

APPENDIX C: TREASURER'S REPORT

Rodney Potter presented and explained the following 2009/2010 budget as his report:

EXPENDITURE for 2009/2010

1. Nationals 2009.....	R15 000.00
2. SA Masters 2009.....	R10 000.00
3. Air tickets for SIG meetings.....	R 3 000.00
4. Travelling for judges and officials for clinics etc.....	R 12 000.00
5. Stationary.....	R 1 000.00
6. Marcel bode Scoring program.....	R 500.00
7. Refund of fees V Els.....	R 500.00
	<u>R42 000.00 + Bank charges</u>

Extra expenditure for 2009

1. World Champs.....	R22 135.43 For entrance fees (see attachment)
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Total projected expenditure R42 000.00 + R22 135.43 =R64 135.43

Projected INCOME for 2008/ 2009

1. SAMAA.....	R 6 000.00(2008) + R6000.00(2009) (to be received)
2. Fees,donations and balance carried over from 2008.....	R56 829.55 (as at 16/04/2009)
3. Grant from SAMAA for World Champs	R20 000.00 (to be received)
Total.....	<u>R88 829.55 (plus income for entrees to SA Masters)</u>

Expenditure to date:

Bank charges	R1 143.55
SA Masters 2008.....	R 5 839.60
Nationals 2009.....	R15 000.00
World Champs entrance fees.....	R22 135.43
M Bode Scoring program.....	R 500.00
Refund V Els.....	R 500.00
	<u>R45 118.58</u>

BALANCE as at 16/04/2009 =R11 603.53

<u>Projected Balance after SAMAA Grants etc</u>	R20 000.00
	R12 000.00
Balance as at 20/03//2009	<u>R11 603.53</u>
	<u>R43 603.53 (Plus income from Entrance fees for SA Masters)</u>

Expenditure to be realised :

SA Masters 2009	R10 000.00
Air tickets and travelling for Judges	R 12 000.00
Stationary	R 1 000.00
Bank charges	R (unknown)
Contribution to World Champs	<u>R12 000.00</u>
	<u>R35 000.00</u>

MAASA BANK DETAILS :

Acc Name :MAASA
ABSA Bank, Constantia, Cape Town
Acc No 9191 274 755