

2016

MAASA NATIONALS

APRIL 22-24 - KLERKSDORP

THIS WAS THE SECOND TIME THE PATTERN NATIONALS HAD BEEN PART OF THE SAMAA POWER NATIONALS AND PROVED TO BE EVEN BETTER THAN LAST YEAR

This year the MAASA Precision Aerobatics (Pattern) competition was held over two of the four days of the SAMAA Combined Power Nationals, sponsored by Aerial Concepts and hosted at Klerksdorp PC Pelser airfield.

The MAASA event - was held on Saturday and Sunday, with each class flying two rounds per day. This format proved to be a huge success and surely sets the tone for future Nats.

A huge word of thanks to the officials that supported us and made it all possible. Competition Director was Danie Potgieter Snr. Judges were Bruce Clark (MAASA Chief Judge), Sebastiano Sacca, Martin Knoetzen, and Craig Bell. Cheryl Clark did a great job with the scoring. Our thanks to Bob Skinner and the rest of the SAMAA team that planned and coordinated the event.

The entries from the Cape had made the long 12 hour drive on the Thursday and were first at the field Friday morning.

(Cobus showed his full size RC skills!)

They were soon joined by local entries, all looking for the opportunity to check out the conditions.

The forecasted weather for the weekend was warm, sunny, and with a slight breeze. How right they were. The conditions were just perfect for some good flying, although the Cape Town guys did find the thin air rather challenging.

After a long day in the sun, Friday practice was over and a welcome beer and a bite to eat at the club house were a welcome end of the day

relaxing with friends, some of which only get together once a year at the Nationals.

Saturday morning was the start of the competition. All pilots arrived at the field. The weather once again was hot and sunny, and everyone was enthusiastic to get started. Danie Senior was once again CD and got everyone in order and kept the flight line on schedule, which was challenging at times when we had to give way for full size aircraft landing and taking-off during the event.



At that moment the ground shook from an underground explosion or tremor, wow! we all thought it was Cobus knocking his knees together.





Round 1

Sportsman class was the first to go, with a great entry of five pilots, including Michael Borchers from the Cape in only his first season. Watch out boys, Michael was second after round one winner Hugo, followed by Len, Joshua and Kobus.

As per the sporting code rules, Sportsman pilots are not allowed to compete with a 2x2 plane, and Hugo had to compete with his stick, which was set up just the night before, great flying.

Six **Advanced** entries were next. There was a close battle between Chris O'Connell and Pieter Botha. Chris being the victor. Local pilot Nico was not too far behind for third. Cape entries Cobus and Jacques were 4th and 5th, both finding the thin air quite difficult and finding it all a bit too much. Ian Beche rounded off round one.

At this moment the ground shook from an underground explosion or tremor, wow! We all thought it was Cobus knocking his knees together. The **Masters** class had seven pilots. There was a film called the

"Magnificent Severn", but I don't think it was applicable in this case. The three Cape entries found the going very tough. Ozzie had crashed his Sensation the week before but still took part flying his Galactik 90. A great show of "nowhere to go" left his caller losing his place on the call card. Danie, last years winner, was a close second behind the winner of round 1, "home build" Craig Bell. Freddie Kotze was a close third and Burt Botha with his Angel, placed fourth. It was clear that the Masters class was going to be a close battle between the top three. And to complete round one was the **F3A** "big boys", all flying for SA team selection. The F3A pilots took on the 'P-17' schedule. Andre, Roston (no longer the junior) and Calvin hit the 70's right from the start. Clinton not far behind and determined to show the rest a clean pair of heals to Grant and Michael. Michael is the new junior in the class and it is his first year in F3A. André showed that he is still the master, winning round one but only just ahead of Roston and Calvin.

Lunch, a burger and cool drink, and there was the opportunity to look at the many other SIG disciplines taking part, from control line to a very well supported Multi-rotor FPV racing. Wow now that was hectic to watch. (see separate report in SAMAA magazine).

Round 2

With everyone well refreshed we took to the skies with round 2. There was very little change in the excellent weather. The scores were anticipated to get better. Well some did and some didn't...

Sportsman pilots Len and Joshua found their form and with only 8 tenths separating them it was a great battle. But it was Len just creeping ahead to win the round. First round winner Hugo was relegated to third, ahead of Michael who dropped to fourth and Kobus still at fifth place but with a much improved percentage. Could Chris do it again and win round two in the **Advanced** class? Well Pieter said, "not a chance" with not quite the same high scores as round one, but good enough to win the round ahead of Nico, with Chris relegated to third.

Cobus was improving and keeping his knees together ahead of Jacques and Ian. Chris told me afterwards that he had made a stupid mistake and thinks that he would otherwise have won that round as well. Right Chris you can believe that. The **Masters** trio of Craig, Freddie and Danie were in a class of their own. .the WC pilots could certainly learn much from them, after all they are ex F3A pilots who at some time or other have represented our country Anyway Craig improved on his first round scores to win round two, but this time ahead of Freddie, with Danie

relegated to third. Burt again took fourth but only just ahead of an improving Rodney who beat Stuart (now that was a first). Ozzie was still battling with his Galactik and decided enough was enough. He decided to spend the rest of the day and one night and return to the Cape on the Sunday, Shame Ozzie, you kept us all entertained even if we had to wear hard hats! Round 2 for the **F3a** class, and once again Andre won the round. Roston was relegated to third behind an improved Calvin. Grant had a big smile his face and beat Clinton and Michael

“Could Chris do it again and win round two in the Advanced class”?



to fourth place. Clinton had a couple of silly mistakes, and had given fourth place to Grant (well that's what he said). Michael's fantastic score pushed Clinton down to sixth, not a place he likes to be.

So round two was done, and Saturday was over. We were left to reflect on our flying, relax, have a beer or two, even more if you had a bad day, and visit one of the local restaurants. (Mikes!!) Sunday. The day started with perfect weather. Even hotter in fact as compared to Saturday, and we struggled to find shade. No rain was expected, but there was the chance of the wind picking up later in the day.

Round 3

Joshua was the clear winner in **Sportsman**. Finding the line, he impressed the judges with some great flying. Second and third places was closely contested between Michael and Len. Phew that was close. Hugo who started off really well was relegated to fifth ahead of Kobus. Three rounds were completed and there was a different winner in each round. Round four was going to be interesting. It looked like it was going to be between Joshua and Len. What a great scrap.

In **Advanced**, Pieter once again won the round, but had to keep a close eye on Chris who was just behind him. Cobus started to find his breath, with a great score putting him third ahead of Nico, Jacques and Ian. Like

in the sportsman class, the final round was going to be close, with bets on between Chris and Pieter for the win.

Masters was once again dominated by the top three pilots. This time though Freddie showed Craig that he could't have it all his own way, but only just. Danie with some CG modification found it much better but still not good enough to threaten the top two. Burt was once again fourth, and the battle between Rodney and Stuart continued, with Stuart taking fifth place. By this time Ozzie was on a plane back to the Cape reminiscing on what could have been had he still had the Sensation.

In **F3A** the youth finally came through on this round, flying the 'F-17' schedule. Roston pulled off a fantastic flight to win the 1st round of the

'F' ahead of André. Calvin was third. Like the Masters, it's the top three who are in a class of their own. Leaving Clinton (who improved from his second round) beating Grant and Michael. Clinton was so happy to shut up Grant.

Let's see if he can do it in the final round.

Lunch was short and most of us were melting in the heat. Danie Senior gathered the judges and opened round four.

Round 4

Joshua was just amazing in **Sportsman**, and landed to loud cheer. What a flight. He hit the seventies. That just sealed the class win ahead of Len, Kobus, Hugo and Michael. What a fantastic Sportsman class to

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be in, with some great flying and enthusiasm. Advanced pilots should beware of such talent. Well done Joshua with a very respectable sixty six percent.

In the **Advanced** class the battle for first place was between Pieter and Chris. Chris produced a great final flight to beat Pieter and win the class. Nico was third ahead of Jacques, Ian and Cobus. It was great to see Jacques (like Michael and a few others competing in his first Nats. I am sure they will all be back next year.

As there was a small break before the Masters, someone switched on the fan and the wind blew to the extent that some of the Masters pilots hung up their radios and were scratched from the final round. Rather go home to fly again next week than damage their plane.

So that left just the top three in **Masters**. Craig showed us why he was a F3A pilot, being the clear winner ahead of Danie and Freddie, both of whom made some mistakes due to the conditions. Craig was the overall winner ahead of Freddie, with Danie close behind. A great class with a clear divide.

The conclusion of the MAASA Nationals was the final **F-17** schedule. Calvin was at home in the conditions, and it must be the Klerksdorp wind that he is used too. André was a close behind, with Roston third closely followed by Clinton in fourth, and in the last two places were Grant and Michael.

Once the dust had settled André was the clear winner ahead of Roston and Calvin. Clinton managed fourth in front of Grant and Michael.





If you haven't watched the F schedule, wow, how they remember the sequence and do the manoeuvres is wonderful to see.

So that's that. Another Nationals over. A great event, and it worked really well having the MAASA portion of the Combined Power Nationals over two days. Thanks to Bob and his staff at SAMAA, all the staff in the back rooms, all the judges and officials who sat out in the hot sun. We really appreciate your support.

From the guys from the Cape.... can Klerksdorp please inform us of more places to eat at, 3 nights of Mikes kitchen was a bit much, but at least Cobus was happy.



ONCE THE DUST HAD SETTLED ANDRÉ WAS THE CLEAR WINNER AHEAD OF ROSTON AND CALVIN

Thanks to Michael Borchers for the fantastic pictures.



	round 1	round 2	round 3	round 4	FINAL	
	% / Normalized					
SPORTSMAN						
Joshua Twomey	57.27 / 922	66.06 / 989	63.79 / 1000	70.45 / 1000	66.77 / 2989	1
Len De Villiers	58.64 / 944	66.82 / 1000	57.27 / 898	63.48 / 901	62.98 / 2845	2
Hugo Erasmus	62.12 / 1000	61.36 / 918	55.15 / 865	60.61 / 860	61.36 / 2783	3
Michael Borchers	61.06 / 983	60.00 / 898	57.42 / 900	57.27 / 813	59.49 / 2781	4
Kobus Steinmann	34.09 / 549	52.58 / 787	42.58 / 667	46.21 / 656	47.12 / 2110	5
ADVANCED						
Chris O'Connell	69.28 / 1000	62.32 / 962	65.00 / 998	67.68 / 1000	67.32 / 2998	1
Pieter Botha	68.99 / 996	64.78 / 1000	65.14 / 1000	66.30 / 980	66.81 / 2996	2
Nico Erasmus	61.16 / 883	63.19 / 975	53.26 / 818	64.86 / 958	63.07 / 2816	3
Cobus Malan	56.01 / 809	61.16 / 944	56.59 / 869	50.36 / 744	57.92 / 2621	4
Jacques Botha	52.61 / 759	46.16 / 713	45.95 / 701	63.26 / 935	54.01 / 2407	5
Ian Beche	45.65 / 659	54.86 / 847	44.35 / 681	56.16 / 830	52.22 / 2357	6
MASTERS						
Craig Bell	66.61 / 1000	68.33 / 1000	65.17 / 991	62.11 / 1000	67.47 / 2000	1
Freddie Kotze	64.28 / 965	66.11 / 967	65.78 / 1000	42.67 / 687	65.94 / 1967	2
Danie Potgieter	65.44 / 982	64.89 / 950	64.67 / 983	61.89 / 996	64.71 / 1966	3
Burt Botha	58.83 / 883	54.28 / 794	58.94 / 896	0	58.89 / 1779	4
Stuart Nix	56.22 / 844	51.61 / 755	45.56 / 693	0	53.92 / 1599	5
Rodney Potter	53.39 / 802	52.00 / 761	43.61 / 663	0	52.69 / 1562	6
Ozzie Parenzee	35.44 / 532	24.67 / 361	0	0	30.06 / 893	7
F3A						
Andre Stockwell	73.94 / 1000	73.56 / 1000	68.38 / 993	65.95 / 994	71.96 / 2994	1
Roston Dugmore	72.44 / 980	71.89 / 977	68.86 / 1000	63.71 / 961	71.06 / 2957	2
Calvin Schroll	71.83 / 971	72.22 / 982	66.43 / 965	66.33 / 1000	70.76 / 2953	3
Clinton Carter-Brown	68.78 / 930	63.22 / 860	63.95 / 929	63.00 / 950	65.32 / 2809	4
Grant Brook	64.72 / 875	70.39 / 957	61.62 / 895	59.33 / 894	65.58 / 2746	5
Michael Sacca	63.56 / 860	68.94 / 937	54.05 / 785	56.90 / 858	63.13 / 2655	6