

## **2025 MAASA Masters Invitational – Barnstormers Model Flying Club**



On Sunday, 26 October, Barnstormers Model Flying Club proudly hosted the 2025 MAASA Masters Invitational. It was a weekend of prestigious events — both the MAASA Masters and the 94.7 Cycle Race — yet, despite the clash, everyone arrived in good time. The morning began with the setup of the field and first flight line, carefully positioned so that the rising sun would sit behind the pilots. The forecast promised clear skies and light gusts, with winds expected to peak at around 25 km/h.

The first order of the day was the scrutiny of the aircraft competing in the F3A class. After pilot's briefing, the day's schedule was posted. The F3A competitors would fly four preliminary P25 schedules followed by two final F25 schedules. The remaining classes — Masters, Advanced, and Sportsman — were each set for four rounds, with the best three to count toward their final standings. Unfortunately, the sole Intermediate class entrant had to withdraw due to family commitments.

---

### **Morning Rounds**

Round 1 kicked off with the F3A class. Josh Twomey piloted his Proteus to an early lead, with Rui Martins flying his Extra 140 and André Stockwell with his Quasar close behind — a pace that would remain tight throughout the day. In Masters, Neil Twomey and Gerhard Venter battled it out, with Neil taking advantage of the calm morning air to secure the round. Over in Advanced, Burt Botha and junior competitor Ray Grobbelaar traded points in a nail-biting round, Burt edging ahead by the narrowest of margins, with Jan van der Spuy following close in third.

Between rounds, pilots and spectators made full use of Barnstormers' excellent facilities — neat, shaded, and welcoming. The pits buzzed with conversation and good humour as pilots checked their planes and batteries before their next round. Ray was equally busy off the flightline, darting around on his mountain bike — perhaps training for the 94.7 one day himself?



By the time Round 2 began, the sun had started to bake down onto the parched orange soil surrounding the runway apron, stirring up thermal activity across the flight box and ushering in the first proper gusts of the day. The F3A competitors, however, were unfazed — Josh once again took the round, though Rui trailed by just 0.1%, with André a mere two percent behind. In Masters, Gerhard began closing the gap, flying an excellent round and finishing just 0.4% off Neil's pace.

Despite the increasing wind, Burt held his composure in Advanced, securing a solid 66.8%, while Ray and Jan struggled slightly against the crosswind — much like Dan Levy in Sportsman, who faced similar

challenges. The third F3A P25 round concluded the morning's session, with Josh posting an impressive 80%, André following with 77.1%, and Rui hot on his heels at 77%.

When the midday sun was approaching its height, the flight line was repositioned parallel to Barnstormers' main runway — but first, it was time for lunch. A catered meal, kindly arranged and delivered by Walter Linn (despite the chaos of race-day traffic), provided a well-earned break. Pilots and judges enjoyed a spread of savoury and sweet treats, along with some fascinating conversation about Barnstormers' proud 52-year history — a club whose legacy includes many of Gauteng's notable pattern pilots and scratch builders.



---

### Afternoon Rounds

Refuelled and refreshed, attention turned back to the skies. The final P25 round saw Josh and André competing head-to-head, with Rui sitting out. Josh maintained his edge, winning the round with 79.3% — just two points ahead of André. By now, the wind had settled into a steady crossflow, demanding extra concentration from all pilots.

There was still plenty of flying to come though: two F-schedule rounds for F3A, and two more rounds each for the other classes. Neil looked entirely at home on the afternoon flightline, cruising through Round 3 in Masters with a strong 72.2%. In Advanced, Ray found his rhythm and took the round with 65.7%, edging Burt by a mere 0.4%, with Jan posting his best score of the day for third.

Before the next F3A round, a quick “stick” demonstration of the F25 schedule was held for pilots, judges, and interested spectators — and then the titans took to the air. Rui delivered a superb first F25 flight, claiming 80.3%, with Josh (79.7%) and André (78.2%) in close pursuit.

By this point, the afternoon sun glared harshly across the runway, the heat on the tarmac being noticeably unpleasant. The judges, thankfully, stayed cool and hydrated as the final rounds began.

In Masters, Neil completed a clean sweep with his fourth win of the day, though Gerhard's consistent performance left him with an overall average just 7% shy of first. In Advanced, Burt regained composure to win the fourth round with 66%, followed by Ray and Jan in second and third. Dan also closed out strongly in Sportsman, achieving 68.9% for Round 4.

In the final F25 round, Josh and André again flew alone, with Rui — perhaps satisfied with his earlier performance — opting to sit it out. André's consistency shone as he matched his previous 78.2%, but Josh's steady precision earned him a clear victory at 79.4%.

---

As the day drew to a close, the flightline was packed away, trophies were presented, and pilots and callers began their journeys home — some no doubt already reflecting on the season ahead and what it may have in store for them. Here's to another great year of precision aerobatics in 2026!

*A heartfelt thank you goes to the Barnstormers Model Flying Club Committee and members for hosting the 2025 MAASA Masters, and to the judges for their commitment — their focus, patience, and time make it all possible for us to compete.*

### F3A - P25 Results:

| Pos | Competitors          |                                                                                         | Flight no 1                 | Flight no 2                  | Flight no 3                 | Flight no 4                  | Total             |
|-----|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1   | TWOMEY Joshua (341)  |  (RSA) | 1000.00<br>79.1 %           | 1000.00<br><del>78.4 %</del> | 1000.00<br>80 %             | <del>1000.00</del><br>79.3 % | 3000.00<br>79.5 % |
| 2   | MARTINS Rui (96)     |  (RSA) | 978.24<br>77.4 %            | 998.44<br>78.3 %             | 962.61<br>77 %              | <del>0.00</del><br>0 %       | 2939.29<br>77.6 % |
| 3   | STOCKWELL Andre (28) |  (RSA) | 969.95<br><del>76.7 %</del> | 980.14<br>76.8 %             | <del>963.63</del><br>77.1 % | 975.70<br>77.3 %             | 2925.79<br>77.1 % |

### F3A - F25 Results:

| Pos | Competitors          |                                                                                         | Flight no 1                            | Flight no 2                  | Total             |
|-----|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1   | TWOMEY Joshua (341)  |  (RSA) | 992.11<br>79.7 %                       | 1000.00<br><del>79.4 %</del> | 1000.00<br>79.7 % |
| 2   | MARTINS Rui (96)     |  (RSA) | 1000.00<br>80.3 %                      | <del>0.00</del><br>0 %       | 1000.00<br>80.3 % |
| 3   | STOCKWELL Andre (28) |  (RSA) | <del>973.26</del><br><del>78.2 %</del> | 984.93<br><del>78.2 %</del>  | 984.93<br>NAN %   |

### F3A – Final Results:

| Pos | Competitors          | Normalised | Percentage |
|-----|----------------------|------------|------------|
| 1   | TWOMEY Joshua (341)  | 4000       | 79.53%     |
| 2   | MARTINS Rui (96)     | 3939.29    | 78.25%     |
| 3   | STOCKWELL Andre (28) | 3910.72    | 77.35%     |

### Masters – Final Results:

| Pos | Competitors         |                                                                                         | Flight no 1       | Flight no 2                | Flight no 3                            | Flight no 4                  | Total             |
|-----|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1   | TWOMEY Neil (350)   |  (RSA) | 1000.00<br>67.7 % | 1000.00<br><del>64 %</del> | 1000.00<br>72.2 %                      | <del>1000.00</del><br>66.9 % | 3000.00<br>68.9 % |
| 2   | VENTER Gerhard (95) |  (RSA) | 871.07<br>59 %    | 994.24<br>63.6 %           | <del>804.66</del><br><del>58.3 %</del> | 925.91<br>62 %               | 2791.22<br>61.5 % |

### Advanced – Final Results:

| Pos | Competitors             |                                                                                                | Flight no 1       | Flight no 2                            | Flight no 3                            | Flight no 4      | Total             |
|-----|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1   | BOTHA Burt (14)         |  (RSA)        | 1000.00<br>65.9 % | 1000.00<br>66.8 %                      | <del>993.78</del><br><del>65.3 %</del> | 1000.00<br>66 %  | 3000.00<br>66.3 % |
| 2   | GROBBELAAR Ray (376)    | Junior  (RSA) | 999.32<br>65.9 %  | <del>873.79</del><br><del>62.3 %</del> | 1000.00<br>65.7 %                      | 920.17<br>60.8 % | 2919.49<br>64.1 % |
| 3   | VAN DER SPUIJ Jan (368) |  (RSA)        | 798.63<br>52.6 %  | <del>670.75</del><br><del>44.8 %</del> | 838.87<br>55.1 %                       | 829.32<br>54.8 % | 2466.82<br>54.2 % |

### Sportsman – Final Results:

| Pos | Competitors       |                                                                                         | Flight no 1       | Flight no 2                  | Flight no 3       | Flight no 4                  | Total             |
|-----|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1   | LEVY Daniel (900) |  (RSA) | 1000.00<br>58.6 % | 1000.00<br><del>58.5 %</del> | 1000.00<br>63.3 % | <del>1000.00</del><br>68.9 % | 3000.00<br>63.6 % |

