

SPECIAL REPORT

COMBINED POWER NATIONALS HENLEY MODEL AIRFIELD



STORY BY MARTIN, PICTURES BY MICHAEL

AFTER 3 YEARS AT KLERKSDORP, THE COMBINED POWER NATS MOVED TO HENLEY MODEL AIRFIELD, JUST OUTSIDE THE PICTURISE TOWN OF HENLEY ON KLIP.

APRIL 26 - 28



Bernus, Kas and Martin



The venue was stunning, with large open grass fields, all direction runways, a Lapa with braai facilities, a beautiful swimming pool with relaxation areas and of course 'The Hanger' which served as bar, restaurant, storing facility for models, banquet venue and general recreational area.

Henley also made available camping sites, and many contestants made use of their excellent facilities. The pattern mob got together for a very nice braai on the first night, to say hallo to old mates, make new friends and to just enjoy the buzz all around. The smell of fires and barbecue smoke all around put everyone in a very laid-back mood, with the stress of the coming competition all but forgotten.

Early on a beautiful Highveld Autumn morning, everyone was eager to get going. The flight line was set out, the flags were in place, the judges were ready to take their seats but oh, the two newbies from Nelspruit first had to do the traditional 10 push ups (welcome to the sport, guys!). Two guys from Nelspruit who have never flown in a pattern competition before arrived at the Nats with their Stick

and "something else". Their names are Barry and Alec and they represented their club LOMAC near Nelspruit. They competed in a couple of SIG's, including pylon where the "something else" suffered an early demise. That certainly didn't deter them!!! They continued to compete. In round 1 Barry scored 1.6%. Yes, that is correct. In round 3 he scored 57%, with a Stick. Alec finished with an average of 52% and Barry with 55%.

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The moral of this storey...you don't need an expensive pattern ship to get started and have fun, just a Stick and some dedication!

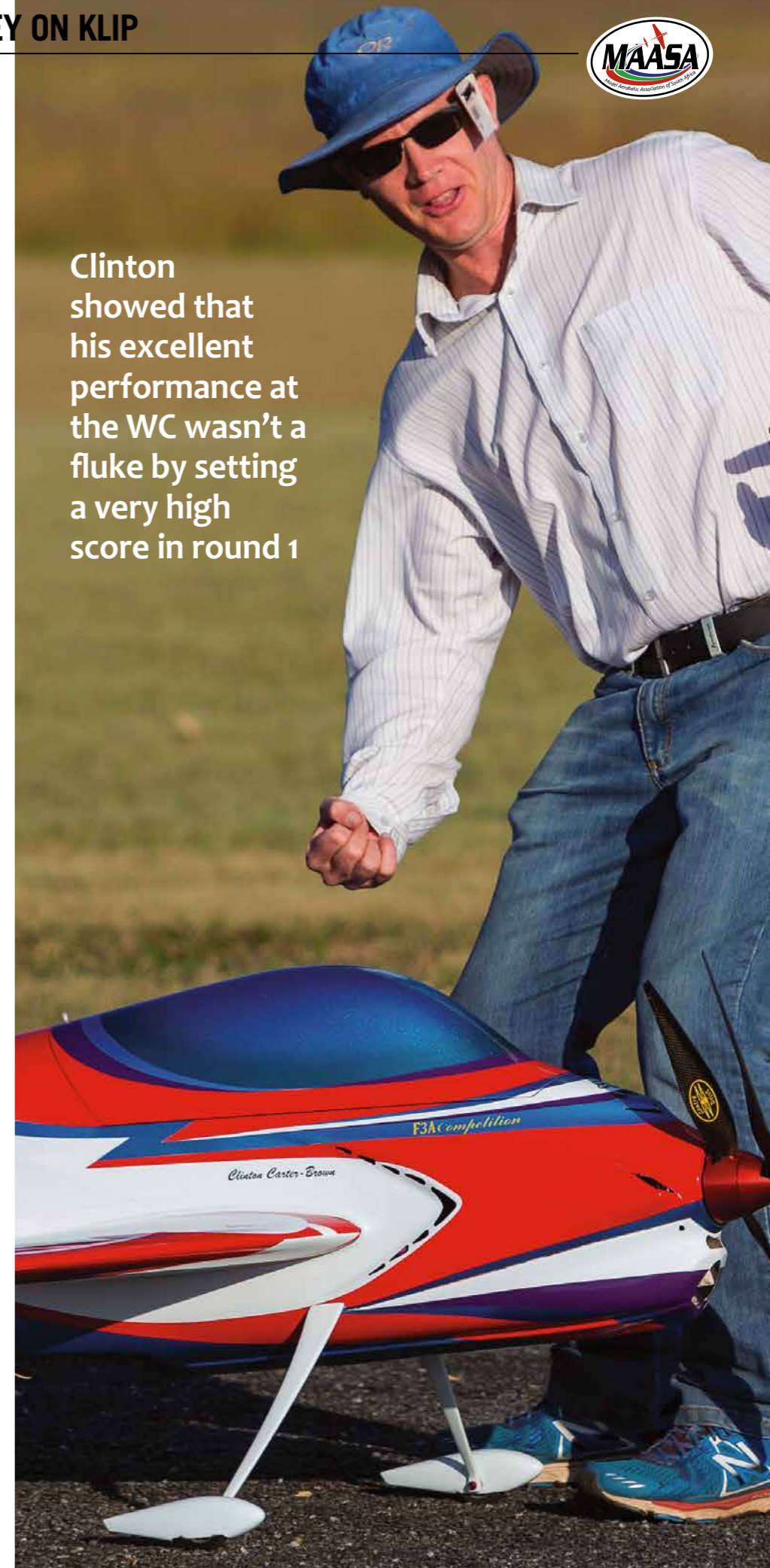
It was the first time they have ever flown in a pattern competition and they have chosen the Nats!. Well, disaster was only a breath away. In round 1 Barry only managed the take off procedure turn before losing the plot while Alec had no idea how to even execute the procedure turn. In the spirit of the sport, the judges asked him to land, explained the required sequence to him and allowed him to redo his flight without any penalties. Well done judges for embracing potential new members rather than chasing them away. Although improving their scores as the competition went on, they never were going to be a threat to Matthew Deutschmann, the junior from Gauteng who won all four rounds comfortably to take first place.

The Advanced Class was next with Neill Twomey, Michael Borchers, Glen Robert, Len de Villiers and David Austin lining up. Glen and Len both flew well but with Glen steadily edging further away with every round. Michael and Neill improved on their scores in round 2 with Michael breaking through the sixties in round 3. He then decided to forfeit round 4 and take the long road back to Cape Town. Neill had a



Barry and Alec

Clinton showed that his excellent performance at the WC wasn't a fluke by setting a very high score in round 1



SAMAA NATIONALS - HENLEY ON KLIP



disappointing third round and David had dropped out after 2 rounds leaving Glen and Len to do battle in round 4 for the honours. Len still had an outside chance but needed an excellent last round to challenge Glen. Well, Len failed to produce the magic round while Glen showed his experience with another solid round, thus winning all 4 rounds and claimed a much deserved win.

Masters found the likes of previous WC contestant,

Danie Potgieter, Hadri Lombaard, Cobus Malan, Pieter Botha and Chris O'Connell on the line. Danie, having just recovered from a kidney operation and with hardly any practise to speak of, showed his natural talent by finishing just a fraction behind Hadri in round 1. Pieter, Cobus and Chris made solid starts but it was clear that they would have to up their game if they were going to be contenders. And indeed they rose to the

occasion with Pieter and Chris both flying very well in round 2, but still not enough to catch the front runners with Hadri extending his lead ever so slightly. Round 3 saw Danie returning to his former glory days with an excellent score of 77%, inching just ahead of Hadri. Pieter and Chris again flew very good rounds but it was now clear that they would have to battle it out for third place. Hadri was first up in round 4 and laid down the gauntlet with

an excellent 74%. Pieter flew a disappointing fourth round but has done enough in the previous rounds to take third place by the narrowest of margins. It was now up to Danie to rise to the challenge. He started off well but disaster struck when he zeroed the stall turn. He couldn't recover from that which left Hadri as the new Masters Champion.

Finally it was up to the big guns in F3A to show us what they've got....

The Officials



Joshua and Neil





As this was a Team Selection event, the pilots were under extra pressure. Clinton, Andre, Grant and young Joshua was keen to take to the skies and impress the judges. Clinton showed that his excellent performance at the WC wasn't a fluke by setting a very high score in round 1, followed closely by Andre and Grant with Joshua doing well to keep within touching distance. Round 2 saw Clinton keeping up the pressure with another excellent round, but with Andre and Grant narrowing the gap with excellent rounds themselves. Joshua flew a very good round but found himself losing touch with the big boys. The last two rounds were not for the

faint of hearted as the pilots now had to deal with the formidable F schedule. Round 3 saw the F schedule taking its toll with both Grant and Joshua falling behind whilst Clinton and Andre maintained their high standard. Going into round 4, the position for top honours was still wide open with Clinton up first, setting a formidable target of 76.14%. Grant was flying an excellent discipline until manoeuvre 11 when disaster struck. He crashed his model unexpectedly, sending a shock wave through the audience. It was now up to Andre to produce the magic round. After the drama of Grant's crash, he

kept his composure and produced a brilliant round of 76.43%. In the end it wasn't good enough and Clinton narrowly won a very tightly contested dual to become the 2018 F3A National Champion. Thanks again to the

officials, Oom Danie, Martin, Kas and Bernus and to the event organisers. A big thank you also to Henley Radio Flyers for making their facilities available. I'm sure we'll all be back next year for more fun and drama.

	round 1	round 2	round 3	round 4	FINAL	
	%	%	%	%		
SPORTSMAN						
Matthew Deutschmann	59.47	57.07	68.93	62.53	3,272 / 63.64	1
Barry VD Vyver	1.60	53.20	57.20	55.47	2,812 / 55.29	2
Alec Groenewail	46.80	48.93	55.60	50.60	2,651 / 51.71	3
ADVANCED						
Glen Roberts	65.14	64.83	67.92	63.99	3,594 / 65.96	1
Len de Villiers	61.11	63.06	64.31	56.81	3,314 / 62.82	2
Michael Borcherds	53.54	58.75	60.42	0	2,773 / 57.57	3
Neil Twomey	47.71	59.90	49.86	11.67	2,529 / 52.49	4
David Austin	20.83	32.08	0	0	861 / 17.64	5
MASTERS						
Hardi Lombaard	69.17	72.22	72.94	74.17	3,184 / 73.11	1
Damie Potgieter	68.50	70.19	77.06	62.89	3,092 / 71.92	2
Pieter Botha	60.44	68.64	68.61	57.53	2,833 / 65.90	3
Chris O'Connell	58.61	65.58	66.11	63.47	2,789 / 65.06	4
Cobus Malan	56.06	55.92	57.67	0	2,435 / 56.55	5
F3A						
Clinton Carter-Brown	80.00	80.19	76.05	76.14	3,021 / 78.78	1
André Stockwell	77.73	79.75	75.41	76.43	2,995 / 77.97	2
Grant Brook	74.13	78.25	66.04	38.25	2,791 / 72.80	3
Joshua Twomey	67.06	72.10	64.41	62.46	2,603 / 67.86	4

