

MODEL AEROBATIC ACCOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA - 2023

2023

CRF - BLOEMFONTEIN
20 - 22 OCTOBER 2023

SA MASTERS



Story by: Stuart Nix
Editor: Kas Hamman



The decision was made to hold the SA Masters in Bloemfontein and to find a suitable venue. With the help of Craig Bell, BeHuman looked perfect, the accommodation, bar, and restaurants, everything needed except a runway.

After lots of communication, BeHuman management promised to prepare a suitable landing strip that would be ready on time for the event.

With meetings between Craig, the MAASA committee, and BeHuman all parties involved were very excited and looking forward to holding the Masters at a new venue, and at that stage, it all looked very promising.

However, on the Monday before the weekend of the event, Craig once again visited the site only to find that nothing had been done which left the committee with the dilemma of where to host the event.

On behalf of MAASA, Craig approached CRF Model Flying

Club in Bloemfontein to see if we could hold the event at their flying field. After many sleepless nights, CRF came to the rescue and was more than happy that the event could take place at their club. A big thank you to the CRF members for giving up their weekend flying.

FRIDAY

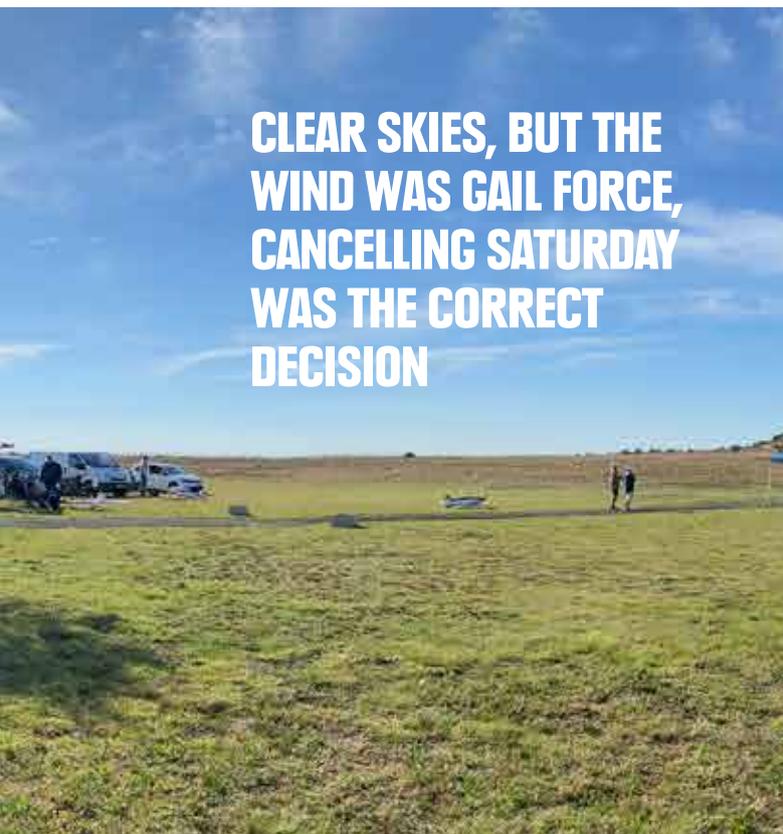
Most competitors had made the long trip on Thursday prior to the competition weekend and thankfully could have a good night's sleep ready to arrive early Friday morning for Practice and to set up the flight line.

The Cape guys were first, followed by the competitors from Gauteng and East London.

Unfortunately, the weather forecast for strong winds was spot on. Although the skies were clear the wind was hectic and on top of it blew out which caught several pilots out with some almost losing sight of their model.



CLEAR SKIES, BUT THE WIND WAS GAIL FORCE, CANCELLING SATURDAY WAS THE CORRECT DECISION



MODEL AEROBATIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA - 2023

Most guys flew several practice flights to get a good idea of the prevailing conditions, as the forecast for the rest of the weekend was for even stronger winds on Saturday. Sunday thankfully looked better with considerably calmer conditions.

SATURDAY

As forecasted the gusting out blowing wind was strong, getting worse by the minute and very difficult to fly in.

Mark Hubbard from East London entered the Sportsman Class but had several challenges and unfortunately had to abandon the event. André Vogel from the Cape intended to take part but damaged his plane a few weeks before the event. However, he still travelled all the way to Bloemfontein to support and to be part of the weekend - now that's real dedication!

Unfortunately, the only entrant in the Advanced class was Robin Martins, but he promptly proved that he was not going

to be in that class much longer after scoring a commendable 71% on the first flight!

There was a healthy entry of six pilots in the Master class. Stuart (6th) was the first to fly but found the windy conditions just too much and abandoned his flight, saving his plane to fly another day.

Not finding the conditions difficult at all was Rui Martins (1st) who took an early lead, and Cadin Kieck (2nd) was some way behind and only just ahead of Neil Twomey who came in 3rd. Charlie Blakemore (4th) and Pieter Kapp (5th) completed flight 1 finding the conditions quite challenging.

The big boys (well so they think...) in the F3A class were next. High scores posted by Joshua Twomey (1st) just placed him ahead of André Stockwell who came in 2nd. Grant Brook (3rd) was in good form and displayed a solid flight but found the landing tough, with a couple of flybys and almost taking out the judges' gazebo! Luckily the

third attempt ended in a successful landing.

Flying one of the two biplanes at the event Ernie Smith (4th) had no issues with the wind but still did not display his usual standard of flying. Bringing up the rear was Rodney Potter (5th) and like Stuart, he found the conditions too challenging and abandoned his flight, again saving the plane to fly another day.

By late morning the wind did build up to gale force at times, gusting to 60km/h! The event CD and organizers wisely decided to abandon the event for Saturday and continue with the remaining three flights on Sunday.

With no further flying scheduled for the rest of the day, we then looked forward to a get-together at BeHuman for drinks and a braai. It turned out to be a very enjoyable evening with many flying stories, lots of laughter, and a noisy highveld thunderstorm roaring in the background, while we all watched the

Springboks celebrate a narrow semi-final win with the rest of South Africa on their way to the final of the rugby world cup

SUNDAY

After the previous day's hectic wind, we all arrived at the field with smiles as the wind was a little gusty but quite flyable.

With the judges and Bernice Kieck as the scorekeeper in position, and the CD Terence Kieck shielding the pilots from the morning sun with his hat, the stage was set for the final 3 rounds of the prestigious Masters event.

Robin in Advanced was up first and improved his scores with a fourth-round score of just under 80%! Without a doubt a strong candidate for the Masters class next year.

The Masters Class pilots were next and Rui continued his dominance in this class with the remaining three flights in the high 70s and an excellent fourth flight in the 80s. Not even Cadin could prevent Rui





MODEL AEROBATIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA - 2023

from comfortably winning this class. Cadin slipped up a bit on his third flight but bounced back on his fourth flight with a score in the 70s ending second in the class.

Neil had to leave early and missed 4th flight, but he still held on to third place with good scores ahead of consistent and ever-improving flights by Stuart which is a great come-back after Saturday. The final scores were very close, a reflection of a great competition.

Charlie also showed a competitive spirit and finished in 5th position ahead of Pieter. As always, these two staged a comedy show of blaming one another - "it was the caller's fault", no "it was your bad flying" - but they still seem to love each other.

It is good for the sport to have such a competitive Masters class. Next year Rui will

most probably move to F3A and Robin to the Masters class, resulting in father and son competing against each other, so 2024 is certainly an interesting and exciting year to look forward to.

In the final flights of the F3A class the "Master" showed once again that he still has got it! André Stockwell logged an excellent second flight scoring in the 80s and ended just ahead of some amazing flying by Joshua. Although André did have some lower scores for his third and fourth flights, he still managed to hold on to the class win. André has been flying F3A since 1991 and as the most decorated F3A pilot in South Africa, he holds 16 National Championship titles.

Although Joshua had to leave early and forfeited his fourth flight, his high 70s score secured him a comfortable

second place ahead of Grant's laudable 3rd place. As new entrants into the F3A class, Ernie and Rodney finished in 4th and 5th place respectively. Unusually bad Cape weather during the past winter and the consequent cancellation of most competitions made it difficult for these two pilots to practice the challenging F schedule. Nevertheless, congratulations to both guys for participating in the F3A class.

With new schedules next season, I am sure that by the time the Masters is held, practice will make perfect and the scores will reflect the intended hard work and many hours of practice.

Lots of group pictures were taken before Rui and Elaine awarded the winners with their trophies, certificates, and medals. Come to think of it, we are all winners with no

damaged planes, many new friendships made, and it was great to see old acquaintances again.

Finally, a huge 'thank you' to our officials, Judges - Martin, Kas, and Abre, CD - Terence, Scorer - Bernice, and helpers Craig, Vicky, and Craig's brother. We also need to thank the members of CRF once again for stepping in at the last minute to make the event possible.

Despite some challenges with the weather, I am sure we all would agree that it was a superb event and holds great prospects for the future of Pattern. Let us all work together to help grow the sport we all love so much to make the 2024 season a success.

Till 2024, stay safe and happy landings.





MODEL AEROBATIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA - 2023





	Flight 1	Flight 2	Flight 3	Flight 4	TOTAL
	Norm / %	Norm / %	Norm / %	Norm / %	Norm / %
ADVANCED					
1 Robin Martins	1000.00 / 71.0	1000.00 / 71.7	1000.00 / 74.3	1000.00 / 79.9	3000.00 / 75.3
MASTERS					
1 Rui Martins	1000.00 / 73.6	1000.00 / 77.9	1000.00 / 79.6	1000.00 / 80.6	3000.00 / 79.4
2 Cadin Kieck	854.56 / 62.9	933.16 / 72.7	806.91 / 64.3	911.12 / 73.5	2698.84 / 70.1
3 Neil Twomey	837.58 / 61.7	947.60 / 73.8	857.15 / 68.3	0.00 / 0	2642.33 / 67.9
4 Stuart Nix	47.54 / 3.5	860.43 / 67.0	846.16 / 67.4	842.90 / 68.0	2549.49 / 67.5
5 Charlie Blakemore	671.77 / 49.5	807.49 / 62.9	748.3 / 59.6	792.25 / 63.9	2348.04 / 62.1
6 Pieter Kapp	423.89 / 31.2	749.20 / 58.4	749.35 / 59.7	757.11 / 61.0	2255.66 / 59.7
F3A					
1 André Stockwell	974.45 / 73.1	1000.00 / 82.5	1000.00 / 76.3	1000.00 / 75.6	3000.00 / 77.9
2 Joshua Twomey	1000.00 / 75.0	959.58 / 79.1	983.62 / 75.0	0.00 / 0	2943.20 / 76.3
3 Grant Brook	938.34 / 70.4	926.74 / 76.4	913.07 / 69.7	898.95 / 68.0	2778.15 / 72.0
4 Ernie Smith	863.34 / 64.8	701.37 / 57.8	609.02 / 46.5	674.79 / 51.0	2239.50 / 57.4
5 Rodney Potter	96.67 / 7.3	731.69 / 60.3	392.81 / 30.0	610.02 / 46.1	1734.52 / 44.6