

2006 LSMAA Tournament of Champions (TOC) :

Over the weekend of the 11 & 12th. November 2006 the Large Scale Aerobatic Association (LSMAA) held our annual Tournament of Champions (TOC) once again at RMAC south of Johannesburg, Gauteng.

Following on from the previous year we again decided to field a Sportsman's class and had 6 entries along with 6 entries in the Unlimited class. At the last moment Danie Potgieter jnr. withdrew his entry in order to be with his wife for the birth of their first child Daniel. We all wish them well. Unfortunately the KZN guys once again got their timing right and all broke their aircraft and were not able to compete. This left us with a field of 11 pilots, including Pierre Fouche' from the Freestate, to fight it out for the honours.

The format for Sportsman's class was to fly 3 rounds of the known schedule on Saturday. Each round consisted of 2 back-to-back schedules giving a total of 6 scoring sequences of which the lowest 2 were dropped. This contributed 60% towards their total. Sunday they flew 2 rounds of the unknown schedule back-to-back. The best 3 of 4 counted towards their final 40%. Free-style was not compulsory for the Sportsman class.

The Unlimited class format for Saturday was the same as the Sportsman's however the best 4 of 6 counted 50%. Sunday was the same for the unknown also contributing 40% to their total. The final 10% was scored from the 'Free-Style' event in which each pilot had 4 minutes to display his routine where 'anything goes'. This was also held as a separate competition in that all Sportsman pilots were invited to participate as there is a separate trophy for the best free-style.

Our Judges for the event were, Rob Hearn, Ivan Olivier, Marcel Bode and Johan Liebenberg.

Saturday morning saw all pilots at RMAC very early with some putting in a quick flight before the pilot's briefing which started at 7:30.

Flying started at 8:00 in reasonable weather conditions which deteriorated throughout the day with ever increasing wind and darkening back ground. Despite the strong winds no flights were lost. We did try and keep the flight line into wind but when the wind continuously swings through 90 degrees this is not always achievable.

To keep things fair the starting order for each round moved 1 down the list, this meant that almost everyone had a turn to start a round and end a round.

After all the known flights had been flown the scores were fairly close with only 6% separating the highest from the lowest in the Unlimited class and 5% for the Sportsman's class.

The unseen schedule, which was handed out at Saturday's pilot's briefing, then came into play with many pilots scratching their heads trying to work out what was required.

No practising was allowed so the first time the schedules were flown was in front of the judges.

Sunday morning got off to a prompt start with an identical weather pattern

as the previous day, The unseen schedules were fairly challenging and generally well flown by all. There was an overall improvement for the Unlimited class - perhaps the schedules need to be upgraded slightly.

Following the unknowns a short lunch break was taken and thereafter the Free-style started. The display is judged on originality, versatility, harmony & rhythm and execution. This promised to be very exciting as most of the Unlimited pilots have been practising their 4 minute sequence but the strong wind made the presentation of manoeuvres like torque rolls and hovers very difficult. However there were still some very interesting and well put together flying displays, enhanced by the use of music and smoke, with many manoeuvres that do not form part of the disciplined category and were most entertaining adding a pleasant end to a great weekend's competitive flying.

The results, as percentages, are as follows :

OPEN PILOTS	KNOWN	UNKNOWN	FREE-STYLE	OVERALL%	
Andre' Stockwell	75.58		73.33	76.88	74.81
Neville Wright		69.02	72.59	66.88	70.23
Lawrence Robinson	68.48		68.13	75.31	69.03
Gavin Walton		64.48	65.99	60.0	64.64
Ian Edwards	61.88		58.24	65.31	60.77
SPORTSMAN PILOTS					
Neil Collins		59.58	62.82	-----	60.87
Warren van der Vyfer		59.29	60.04	-----	59.59
Max DeWeijer		59.85	58.03	-----	59.12
Pierre Fouche'		56.6	56.7	-----	56.64
Johan van Leeuwen	50.1		49.1	-----	49.7
Bert Strydom		50.39	36.17	-----	44.7

The Free-Style was again won by Andre' Stockwell with 76.88%.

In general, despite the windy conditions, there was an increase in scores from last year.

Once again this was a very successful event and with the current growth in interest in large scale aerobatics we look forward to a bigger and better event next year which we will hopefully be able to mimic the Las Vegas TOC more closely.

Thanks to RMAC for the use of their excellent facilities, to the judges who gave up their time so we could have fun, to the LSMAA committee for their input and finally to the competitors, from far and near, for making the event worth having.

During the prize giving Rob Hearn, one of our judges, was heartily thanked for his loyal commitment and input to the LSMAA over the past years and we wish him and his family all the very best in their new venture in Australia.

See you at the 2007 TOC.

Gavin Walton.
LSMAA 2006/7

Attached below are some photos with accompanying comments / captions :

1) The judges and pilots with their aircraft
(See attached file: TOC group photo.jpg)

2) The judges hard at work and no, they are not sleeping !
(See attached file: judges 2006 toc.jpg)

3) Gavin getting started assisted by Neville
(sent in email 'TOC 2006 report 2 of 3')

4) Ian Edwards' Extra 260 during his free-style flight
(See attached file: ian e taking off.JPG)

5) Neville's Katana during his free-style flight
(See attached file: neville free.JPG)

6) The trophy winners from L 2 R : Max, Warren, Lawrence, Andre', Neil and Neville
(sent in email 'TOC 2006 report 3 of 3')

LSMAA Provisional Diary of events 2007 :

11 Feb 2007 - LSMAA Monthly at Barnstormers
25 March 2007 LSMAA Monthly Silverton Radio Flyers
18,19 & 20 May 2007 LSMAA SA Nationals & AGM at RMAC
25 June 2007 LSMAA monthly venue to be advised
12 Aug 2007 LSMAA monthly at RMAC
7 Oct 2007 -LSMAA Monthly Barnstormers
10 & 11 Nov 2007 LSMAA TOC RMAC

Thanks and regards,
Gavin