

Once again the Large Scale Aerobatic Association's SA Nationals were held over the weekend 18 to 20 May 2007 at RMAC.

Unfortunately we had at 4 withdrawals shortly prior to the event due to aircraft being damaged or not completed in time. However with 17 pilots we had the makings of a great contest with 11 pilots in the Sportsman and 5 in the Open classes. Unfortunately most of the withdrawals were from the Expert class which left Ian Edwards to fight it out alone.

This year we are pleased to announce that we had entries from Gauteng, KZN, Free State and 3 new entries all the way from the Western Cape for the first time.

The format, as has been customary, was to fly 5 'back to back' rounds giving 10 scoring schedules with the lowest 3 being dropped.

The judges for the event were Johann Liebenberg, Ivan Olivier and Hermann Schreuder who we all thank very much for giving up their time to make the event a success.

The Friday morning started with all the pilots arriving and preparing their aircraft before the 7:30 pilot's briefing.

Sportsman class was up first in near perfect weather conditions - clear blue skies and no wind. These conditions were short lived and by mid morning the wind had picked up considerably and by mid afternoon was unpleasantly strong. Despite the wind 2 rounds were flown for all 3 classes and after the last flight had landed everyone was relieved to vacate their positions on the field. The only incident for the day was Charles Kerr whose Super Tigre 45 failed to start for the first round, however he managed to get the second sequence for the first round in.

Saturday morning got off to a prompt start with the Open class up first in similar weather conditions as the start of the previous day. And again the weather deteriorated however, unlike last year the temperature did not drop as much. Gavin Walton flying a new 40% Composite ARF Extra 260, which was test flown the Thursday afternoon prior to the start of the competition, had a dead stich due to the idle being set too low. After a successful landing the engine was restarted and the second sequence for the round was flow. Pierre Fouche' installed a new throttle servo which let him down causing him to zero the entire fourth round. Neville Wright also had an unexpected surprise during the second sequence of the fourth round when his engine self destructed forcing him to land. Fortunately he had a 'stand-by' aircraft with which he was able to continue the next day.

Sunday presented itself with similar conditions to those of the previous days. Once again Sportsman class lead the way with Bert Strydon missing out on the final round due to an engine that refused to start. Once flying was over the scores were entered by Warren van der Vyfer and Max DeWeijs while the rest of the pilots and judges had lunch.

The prize giving took place after lunch. Rodney Donaldson, the chairman of RMAC, assisted with handing out the prizes and the spent some time campaigning support for the multi-discipline Nationals he and his committee would like to host over the Easter long weekend in 2008.

The spirit of the event was great with lots of coaching and encouragement by the more experienced pilots for those who are less experienced in competition flying which was evident in the steady improvement in the

scores despite the rather windy conditions.

Once again we thank RMAC for the use of the club, the judges of their valuable contribution, to the organising committee, in particular Ian Edwards, and finally the pilots, from near and far, who made the event the success it was.

The final results are as follows :

Unlimited class:

1) Andre' Stockwell	72.05%
2) Lawrence Robinson	71.58%
3) Neville Wright	65.34%
4) Gavin Walton	57.56%
5) Michel Leusch(KZN)	57.36%

Expert class :

1) Ian Edwards	57.52%
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Sportsman class :

1) Aubrey Smith (WP)	57.06%
2) Warren van der Vyfer	56.83%
3) Max De Weijer	56.14%
4) Mike Stark (KZN)	54.34%
5) Pierre Fouche (FS)	53.48%
6) John Calefato (WP)	50.49%
7) Trevor Duane	48.15%
8) Bert Strydom	45.80%
9) Andre' Lourens	45.51%
10) Johan van Leeuwen	43.07%
11) Charles Kerr	40.00%

Neville Wright was the winner of the 2006/7 'Overall Winners' trophy. This is awarded to the pilot who accumulates the most points during the year by attending competitions and doing consistently well.

The next major LSMAA event will be the Tournament of Champions (TOC) to be held at RMAC on 10 & 11 November 2007. Entry forms will be published shortly along with the known schedules.

(See attached file: Unlimited winners.jpg) (See attached file: Expert winner.jpg) (See attached file: judges on line.jpg) (See attached file: Neville's 'stand-by' Yak.jpg) (See attached file: Pierre from the Free State.jpg) (See attached file: Sportsman winners.jpg) (See attached file: Team KZN.jpg)
(See attached file: Team WP.jpg) (See attached file: The group.jpg)

After the prize giving the Annual General Meeting took place, the following committee members were elected :

Chairman	Gavin Walton
Secretary	Bert Strydom,
Treasurer	Ian Edwards,

Members Neville Wright, Warren van der Vyfer & Johann Liebenberg
(judge).

Other matters arising :

For the formalising of the LSMAA in the provinces represented at the meeting the following members were appointed as facilitators for the establishment of their local provincial committees : Aubrey Smith - Western Province, Pierre Fouche' - Free State and Mike Stark - KZN. We all wish them well.

Gavin Walton
LSMAA Chairman 2007/8