

2014 MAASA NATIONALS 25-28 APRIL

THE BALD EAGLE RISES



**“CALM COOL CONDITIONS,
AND SNOW ON THE DISTANT
ESCARPMENT.”**



HOSTED BY UNDERBERG POLO CLUB, HIMEVILLE

BY: CLINTON CARTER-BROWN

2014 SOUTH AFRICAN AEROBATIC NATIONALS

25-28 APRIL

The 2014 MAASA nationals took place between 25 and 27 April at the Underberg Polo Club near Himeville in the Kwa-Zulu Natal Southern Drakensburg.

The fantastic venue and arrangements were coordinated by the MAASA Chairman, Arthur Eggar, who is a local resident in Himeville. It proved to be a wonderful location, with an inspiring backdrop of the Drakensburg. Several competitors camped on site, and had the use of the excellent local facilities.

The event was a success due to the considerable support from the local community. In particular the following need to be thanked; Underberg Polo Club, Underberg Farmers Association, Mike Clark (the overseer at the polo grounds), Ray Eggar (supplier of the lamb on the

spit), the Underberg MOTHS, the Coffee Coach and Berg Protection Services. It would not have been possible to host such a great event without their assistance and support. Thank you.

This years competition was attended by 20 pilots, with 1 in Sportsman, 2 in intermediate, 4 in advanced, 8 in Masters (one of which was forced to retire) and 5 in F3A. The contest director was Danie Potgieter Snr, who as always ran an efficient event. No competition is possible without judges, and the judging panel consisted of Chris Theron (MAASA Chief Judge), Bob Skinner, Bruce Clark, Sebastiano Sacca and Mike Cox.

Official practice started the day before the event, and saw most competitors arriving early to fine tune their equipment and flying

skills. They were welcomed with calm cool conditions, and snow on the distant escarpment. The only incident of the weekend occurred during practice when a local bird of prey decided to take on Matthys Botha's (AKA the Bald Eagle) CompARF Pegasus. The Pegasus won the dual, but sustained major damage. Matthys managed to land, but a damaged wing and ripped out landing gear saw an end to his competition. The bird was not so lucky and was no match for 5kg of carbon composite "bird ammunition". Even though his pattern competition was at an end, Matthys stayed for the duration of the event, enjoying some of the other fun flying activities mentioned later in this report. Well done Matthys, you showed true spirit. Birds beware...





After the official practice day there was a welcome finger supper at the club house, and the event was officially opened at the pilots briefing.

The first day of competition started on Friday, with cool calm conditions ideal for precision aerobatics. These wonderful conditions continued onto Saturday.

With only 20 pilots and 3 competition days, the event was held on a single all-day flight line, and there was ample time to include other flying activities. To allow a measure of fun, the aerobatics was interspersed with pylon quickie racing. Danie Potgieter Jnr had put the word out, and there were 7 pylon planes doing circuits. The polo field provided an excellent venue, and the pylon racing was great fun, with many circuits being flown without incident. For several of the

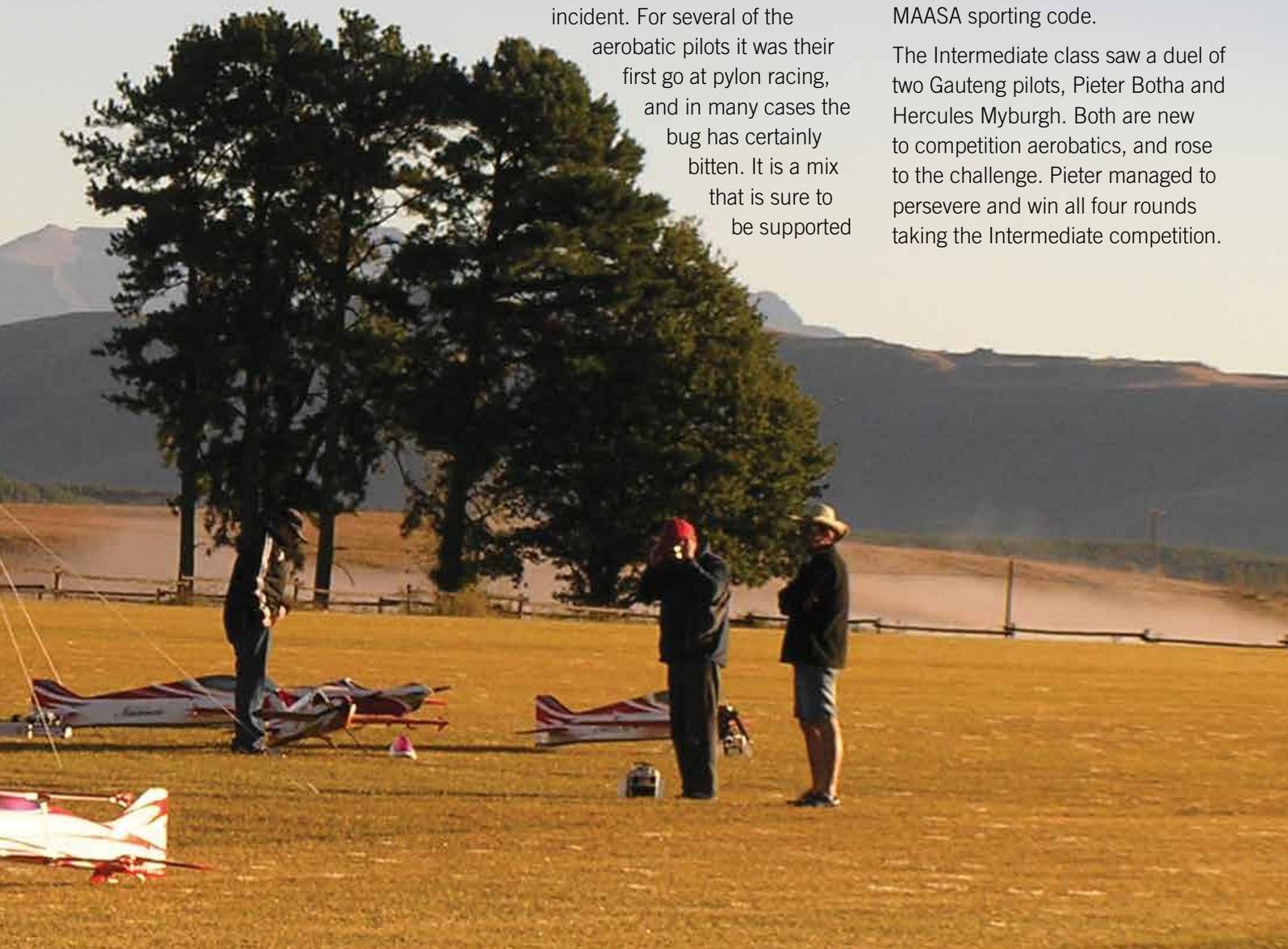
aerobatic pilots it was their first go at pylon racing, and in many cases the bug has certainly bitten. It is a mix that is sure to be supported

again in the future (should time allow), and had many participants discussing proposals for combined nationals with other disciplines such as pylon. Friday evening was concluded with a hot dinner in the club, and some time well spent with great friends.

Saturday proved to be a fantastic flying day, with perfect calm conditions, blue skies, and a full two rounds flown in the various classes. It was concluded with a wonderful dinner comprising of a sheep on the spit, as was donated by Ray Eggar, a local farmer (and Arthur's son).

With only one Sportsman pilot the result of that class was inevitable with Ian Becke taking top honours. It was good to see a non-2 by 2 pattern plane being flown in the introductory class, as per the requirements of the MAASA sporting code.

The Intermediate class saw a duel of two Gauteng pilots, Pieter Botha and Hercules Myburgh. Both are new to competition aerobatics, and rose to the challenge. Pieter managed to persevere and win all four rounds taking the Intermediate competition.



2014 SOUTH AFRICAN AEROBATIC NATIONALS

25-28 APRIL

In the Advanced class Michael Sacca dominated, beating second placed pilot Hadri Lombaard, while Arthur Eggar finished in third place. The standard of flying of the advanced pilots has improved considerably, and it won't be long before several of them are flying the P schedule in the Masters class.

Danie Potgieter Jnr showed poise and skill by comfortably winning all four rounds in the Masters class, well ahead of the rest of the competition. His closest competitor, Burt Botha, was a full 10% behind Danie Jnr. Third place was taken by Mark Savage. Masters had the largest number of competitors and the P15 schedule is proving to be popular schedule.

The 2014 Nationals is the first of the three team selection events to finalise the team to represent South Africa at the 2015 F3A World Championships in Switzerland. The competition was fierce, with all 5 F3A pilots competing for a spot on the team. The standard of flying has improved considerably over the last 2 years, with pilots flying both the P15 and F15 schedules with accuracy and precision. The format for team selection sees each pilot flying two P15 and two F15 schedules. For the first time in many years the competition was so tight that three different pilots won the first three rounds, with Andre Stockwell winning the first P15, Calvin Schroll winning the second P15,

and Roston Dugmore Jnr winning the first F15. It hence came down to the wire as the result was determined by the outcome of the final F15 schedule, which was flown on the Sunday morning. In stark contrast to the rest of the competition, the weather on Sunday was bitterly cold with a strong cross wind pushing in. These proved to be very difficult conditions and pilots had to work extremely hard to keep the line and fly with precision. In the end Calvin showed the skills and poise of a champion, putting in an excellent final flight that saw him take first position, with Andre in second and Roston Jnr third. Calvin is a fitting National Champion and joins a select few that have held this honour. It was gratifying

to see the excellent level at which the relatively new P15 and F15 schedules are already being flown, and this bodes extremely well for the success of the team at next years world champs. The next team selection event will be at the MAASA Masters, and the final of the three team selection events will be the 2015 MAASA Nationals.

The competition program also catered for some fun unknown schedules, as prepared by the Chief Judge, Chris Theron. Unfortunately the extremely unpleasant conditions on Sunday resulted in a very small and brief Unknown competition, which resulted in many howls of laughter given the extremely difficult task of flying a tough unknown schedule in terrible

F3A PILOTS



AND THE WINNERS ARE



INTERMEDIATE CHAMPION PIETER BOTHA



ADVANCED CHAMPION MICHAEL SACCA



MASTERS CHAMPION DANIE POTGIETER JNR



F3A CHAMPION CALVIN SCHROLL

wind. None the less it was great fun, and is another addition that is sure to be well received at future events should time in the event program allow.

As is customary the MAASA AGM was held at the Nationals. The outgoing committee were thanked for their work over the last year. Several of the previous committee elected to serve another term, and their continued involvement was supported by the membership. The committee for 2014 are as follows:

CHAIRMAN
Arthur Eggar
VICE CHAIRMAN
Andre Stockwell
CHIEF JUDGE
Chris Theron
SECRETARY
Clinton Carter Brown
TREASURER
Grant Brook
INTERNATIONAL PRO
Andre Stockwell
CONTEST DIRECTOR
Danie Potgieter Snr



JNR CHAMPION ROSTON DUGMORE

2014 SOUTH AFRICAN
AEROBATIC NATIONALS
 25-28 APRIL

AND THE RESULTS ARE...

The competition was closed at the awards dinner, with a fantastic meal. Arthur Eggar arranged for great trophies for the winners. Included in this article are pictures of the winners with their trophies and MAASA floating trophies. Congratulations to those that persevered and emerged victorious.

Thanks again to Arthur Eggar for arranging a fantastic event, which would not have been possible without the support of the numerous people and organisations mentioned earlier in this article.

We hope to see many pilots qualify for the MAASA Masters later this year. Check out the MAASA website for updates and the latest information.

Sportsman	Result Rnd 1		Result Rnd 2		Result Rnd 3		Result Rnd 4		Average Best		Pilot Position
	Percent	Norm									
Ian Becke	58.17%	1000	52.83%	1000	56.83%	1000	53.17%	1000	56.06%	3000	1
Intermediate	Result Rnd 1		Result Rnd 2		Result Rnd 3		Result Rnd 4		Average Best		Pilot Position
	Percent	Norm									
Pieter Botha	63.43%	1000	61.62%	1000	62.93%	1000	55.66%	1000	62.66%	3000	1
Hercules Myburgh	53.64%	846	55.15%	895	53.23%	846	52.53%	944	54.01%	2685	2
Advanced	Result Rnd 1		Result Rnd 2		Result Rnd 3		Result Rnd 4		Average Best		Pilot Position
	Percent	Norm									
Michael Sacca	68.30%	1000	66.81%	1000	65.19%	1000	65.48%	998	66.86%	3000	1
Hadri Lombaard	63.56%	931	63.19%	946	63.93%	981	65.63%	1000	64.37%	2926	2
Arthur Eggar	56.30%	824	62.74%	939	61.26%	940	52.81%	805	60.10%	2703	3
Craig Christianson	52.96%	775	53.04%	794	57.41%	881	0.00%	0	54.47%	2450	4
Masters	Result Rnd 1		Result Rnd 2		Result Rnd 3		Result Rnd 4		Average Best		Pilot Position
	Percent	Norm									
Danie Potgieter	71.67%	1000	71.28%	1000	71.44%	1000	69.67%	1000	71.46%	3000	1
Burt Botha	60.83%	849	59.06%	829	61.78%	865	52.00%	746	60.56%	2542	2
Mark Savage	52.72%	736	62.89%	882	62.06%	869	52.50%	754	59.22%	2504	3
Clive McInnes	58.39%	815	52.28%	733	62.56%	876	52.44%	753	57.80%	2443	4
Neil Allen	51.67%	721	43.78%	614	63.67%	891	54.11%	777	56.48%	2389	5
John Brink	54.06%	754	49.61%	696	55.00%	770	43.39%	623	52.89%	2220	6
Frik De Beer	0.00%	0	51.00%	716	57.56%	806	48.22%	692	52.26%	2213	7
F3A	Result Rnd 1		Result Rnd 2		Result Rnd 3		Result Rnd 4		Average Best		Pilot Position
	Percent	Norm									
Calvin Schroll	71.44%	998	73.06%	1000	68.43%	949	65.48%	1000	70.98%	2998	1
Andre Stockwell	71.56%	1000	69.00%	944	70.38%	976	64.19%	980	70.31%	2956	2
Roston Dugmore	67.67%	946	70.83%	970	72.14%	1000	61.81%	944	70.21%	2915	3
Clinton Carter-Brown	64.83%	906	67.06%	918	67.52%	936	58.71%	897	66.47%	2760	4
Grant Brook	61.22%	856	64.50%	883	61.19%	848	54.14%	827	62.30%	2587	5



THE OFFICIALS