

GAA LEAGUE - SNOOPY'S CLEAR SKIES SQUADRON LEADER

23 FEBRUARY

“FEBRUARY 23, AND IT IS LEAGUE TIME! THE GAA HELD ITS 1ST LEAGUE OF THE YEAR AT SNOOPY'S SQUADRON THIS PAST WEEKEND.”



06:00am - Clear skies over the southern parts of JHB as the pilots made their way to Snoopy's, but on the horizon clouds were looming, and lots of it.

At the field, and the picture changed with low cloud coverage coming in from every direction. Some of the warm-up flights saw planes magically disappearing and re-appearing...

It would seem that the weather daemon that lurk near Snoopy's is out in full force.

07:30am Pilots briefing: The turnout was great, and once again we were fortunate enough to welcome 3 new Pilots to this great sport.

Welcome, Brett & Gavin Spiers, the Father & Son Duo who is going to fly up a storm in the sportsman class this year! We also see a returning pilot who came out of retirement to challenge the pilots in the Masters Class, Coenraad De Beer. Customary to our traditions, newcomers were informed that push-ups are the only way to calm the nerves and sooth the shakes. And with 10 of them completed they were ready for whatever action the day had in store.



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08:00 am, and still no flying, the clouds were low, and it was decided by our official of the day Oom Danie Potgieter that we should wait before taking to the skies.

09:00am, and the cloud cover lifted, the wind died down, and we were looking at having a great day's weather at Snoopy's!

The flying kicked off with Sportsman class, and the new pilots took to the sky, some impressive flying by these pilots, handling the small planes to the best of their ability. Hercules flying in his 2nd competition of the year, lead the pack from the start, and Finished in 1st place with and average Score of 54,33%. In 2nd place was Gareth with 48%, and in 3rd place Brett with 40%. The skills of these pilots increased exponentially over the course of the 3 flights, and I bet we will see an even bigger increase in scores at the next meeting. Well done guys!

Advanced: In the advanced class we saw some familiar faces with Nico Erasmus and family traveling all the way from North-west to come and attend the GAA's league. Thank you for the support and we will return the favour by joining you at the North-West league. Results in the class were as follows:

1st place Hadri Lombaard, flying up a storm and dominating the class with an average of 67,41%. I'm pretty sure we heard someone murmur "Masters" during the prize giving. In 2nd Place we had Nico Erasmus with a score of 52,52%, and in 3rd place Dereck Butow with 44,30%.



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Masters: The Biggest field for the day, saw 5 Pilots flying the P Schedule in Masters Class. Newcomer Coenraad de beer, put in some impressive flying, impressing the Judges and other pilots. We also saw Chris Halgreen flying, and sharing a plane with Danie Potgieter, now that is some serious skills flying the same plane, and not being familiar with the radio and settings. Results Saw Danie Potgieter in 1st place with the highest scoring P schedules of the day at 71.36%, Well Done Daniel! 2nd place was Chris Halgreen with an average of 60,67%, 3rd place Coenraad De beer with 58,47%, 4th was Matthys Botha with 57,08%, 5th place went to Max Buizer with 53,47%.

F3A: And the boys are back! Grant and Clinton Flew like there was no tomorrow, and as a result saw them ending up in medals! Congratulations guys!

With undesirable weather early in the day, and the pilots having to wait out the cloud cover, we finally got the ball rolling, and boy did it roll, with reports of afternoon showers. Oom Danie had his work cut out for him, but the experience of Oom Danie came though and the F3A Pilots managed to fly the 3 flights for the day. In 1st Place we see the familiar veteran, Andre Stockwell blowing away the the P & F Schedule, and scoring an impressive 70,47%, it's always a pleasure to Andre fly, and in most cases unbelievable. 2nd Place was Clinton Carter-brown with 66,97% a definite masters qualifier, and in 3rd place and still in the medals was Grant Brook with 64,61%.

THE COMPETITION IN THIS CLASS IS FIERCE, AND ALL PILOTS ASPIRE TO FLY LIKE THESE GUYS.

Good food, good weather, a great venue, and awesome company was the order of the day, and we look forward to come through to Snoopy's again. All in all, the pilots could not have asked for a better day at Snoopy's. The weather played out perfectly, with just a little drizzle during break, and Boerie time! We thank our Judges and organizers, without you we cannot do this amazing sport.

We are looking forward to see all of you at the next meeting, and don't forget to support NW in their 1st league. And as always, Fly Safe.

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>Round 1</i>	<i>Round 2</i>	<i>Round 3</i>
SPORTSMAN			
Hercules	48.17	54.33	56.00
Brett Spiers	35.67	40.00	0
Gareth Spiers	48.00	17.33	49.50
ADVANCED			
Hadri	66.44	67.41	52.37
Nico	47.04	52.52	0
Dereck	44.30	33.85	0
MASTERS			
Danie	70.61	70.22	72.11
Chris	54.28	57.22	64.11
Coenraad	51.94	60.94	56.00
Matthys	57.72	57.72	55.94
Max	52.56	54.39	50.33
F3A			
Andre	69.67	64.86	68.50
Clinton	65.44	53.52	71.28
Grant	63.00	54.38	66.22

