

“ 9 ENTRIES FOR
THE SEASON OPENER,
A GREAT START TO THE
NEW SEASON ”

JOMAC

HIGHLY UNUSUAL

24 JANUARY

THE FIRST LEAGUE OF THE YEAR FOR THE GAUTENG PILOTS HAS COME AND GONE. WE WERE TREATED WITH ALMOST IDEAL WEATHER - HIGHLY UNUSUAL FOR COMPETITION TIME! NORMALLY SUCH CONDITIONS ARE STRICTLY RESERVED FOR PRACTICE, WITH SOMETHING MORE LIKE GALE WINDS ON COMPETITION DAYS!



Our thanks to JOMAC for hosting the event, and making their facilities available. The field was immaculate, with the runway especially swept for the day to remove any possible chance of damage to the new fleet this year. And with braai facilities and charcoal laid on, we were truly spoilt! This is likely to be the last competition at the current JOMAC facilities, with the move to new premises some time later this year. We wish the JOMAC committee and members all the best with the move, and hope you manage to get even better facilities in the deal!

We were lucky in securing Ian Edwards to judge for us on the day. It was great to have an old hand on the line, giving some valuable feedback to the pilots and newer judges alike. Thanks Ian, and I hope that we can once again call on you at some stage in the year! We promise not to overdo it...

To the competition. There was a somewhat depleted field, with people on holiday, and other commitments impacting on attendance.

The Sportsmans class was contested by three pilots. Kobus Steinmann and Joshua Twomey made their first League appearances, with Len de Villiers by now being an old hand! The first two rounds were neck and neck, with Len taking the first after Joshua had some transmitter issues, and Joshua taking the second. Kobus followed in third with his Stick. The third round was the decider, and Joshua brought home the bacon with a pretty decent flight! That placed Joshua in first, Len in second, and Kobus in a decent third.

Well done to completing the first of hopefully many competitive flights! And both Joshua and Len flew Masters qualifiers – well done.

In the Advanced class, the competition was tight, and promises to be the most challenged class in the months ahead. Four pilots participated, with Pieter Botha and Dereck Butow returning after the break, Lee Bonney again picking up the competitions, and Chris O'Connell moving up from the now defunct Intermediate class.

MAASA GAUTENG - LEAGUE 1



SPORTSMAN

Joshua Twomey	28.41 / 460	61.14 / 1000	62.73 / 1000	61.93 / 2000	1
Len de Villiers	61.82 / 1000	58.41 / 955	58.41 / 931	60.11 / 1955	2
Kobus Steinmann	40.23 / 651	37.05 / 606	43.41 / 692	41.82 / 1343	3

ADVANCED

Chris O'Connell	66.09 / 1000	64.57 / 993	64.24 / 982	65.33 / 1993	1
Pieter Botha	60.76 / 919	64.24 / 988	65.43 / 1000	64.84 / 1988	2
Lee Bonney	62.83 / 951	65.00 / 1000	63.59 / 972	64.29 / 1972	3
Dereck Butow	59.02 / 893	63.37 / 975	59.57 / 910	61.47 / 1885	4

F3A

Clinton Carter-Brown	74.58 / 1000	76.83 / 1000	71.29 / 1000	75.71 / 2000	1
Grant Brook	71.42 / 958	73.17 / 952	69.50 / 975	72.29 / 1932	2

Dereck was at a slight disadvantage having started with a new plane – Superman – and he did not have quite the response from rudder inputs he expected. The competition was extremely close, with just more than 1% separating the top three in the final results. The final outcome was that Chris finished in first, with Pieter a very close second and Lee not much further behind in third. All four pilots flew Masters qualifying rounds, this is definitely a class to watch!

There were no entries in the Masters class, and only two entries in F3A. Clinton Carter-Brown and Grant Brook were pitting both their skills and their new Oxai Galactikas against each other in high scoring close combat. In the end, Clinton pipped Grant by a few points in each of the rounds, walking away with top honours. Both pilots achieved average scores above 70% - quite a feat with the hairy F-Schedule! Well done.

And so the first League came to an end. Thanks again to all pilots, JOMAC, Ian Edwards, and everyone that helped with both the organization and braai on the day!

Next up will be the Nationals in Klerksdorp on the 23rd April, followed by League 2 to be held at Snoopy's on the 29th May.

