

28th FAI F3A WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

15th – 24th August 2013

Photos & report by DAVE HARRIS

The South African Model Aircraft Association warmly welcomes all 80 pilots from 30 nations worldwide to compete at this prestigious competition. We salute all of you for your incredible talent to fly these highly sophisticated aircraft. To all your supporters, helpers, family and friends we say a big “Thank You” for all the “behind the scenes” work, which you have done to ensure your country’s chosen representatives will fly with pride and dignity.

We understand how much time and effort you have all put in to be here and we know all the details, which you have to get correct to ensure you are competitive. F3A is the pinnacle of precision aerobatics and all of you strive for the perfect score of 10 from the 20 judges every time you stand in front of them to demonstrate your skills.

You all have to cope with so many variables, from no wind at all to strong wind, from blowing in one direction to the other, blowing in or out and your model being the right side up or inverted. Add a few of those scary snap rolls into the equation and all your fans and supporters stand in awe for a flight lasting seven minutes.

The judges are the best in the world. They have to observe every detail of every manoeuvre, flight after flight. Their responsibility is huge, because like all the pilots they have honed their skills to ensure that a fair reflection of all the pilots is shown on the scoreboard.

The jury are here with the CIAM President to make sure the Championship is run and managed in a controlled way, adhering to all the rules of the Sporting Code.

To everyone attending this World Championship we wish you a memorable stay in our country. We hope you achieve the goals, which you set for yourself, from the overall personal and team positions to the desire by some of you to see lions in Kruger Park.

It may sound a bit of a cliché to the pilots, but just by being here you have proved yourselves to be “role models” and even “heroes” to many fans and supporters.

Being successful in F3A requires many ingredients...talent, dedication, sponsors and experience. Attention to small details can mean the difference between being satisfied with a flight or absolutely delighted with it!

After 2 rounds the scores are already starting to show a pattern. Will CPLR make it number 7, or will Tetsuo Onda or Andrew Jesky “pull the rabbit out of the hat”? Marco Mazzucchelli looks very good as does Sebastiano Silvestri. Gerhard Mayr is right up there and Wolfgang Matt is currently well inside the top 10. There could be a surprise in the juniors because all of them are close at the moment.

The scores per pilot per flight are being posted daily on Facebook. This report and photos will reach you from the Model Aerobatic Association of South Africa website from a link on the original, official World Champs site.

The next report will include photos from the two flight lines with images of planes in flight and also photos of the judges and flight line staff.