



Sunday, 28 September 2025, saw the Gauteng Aerobatics Association Provincial Championships take flight at North East Radio Flyers (NERF). Pilots gathered early for the morning briefing—keen, competitive, and eager to see who would walk away with the title.

NERF chairperson Walter Linn welcomed entrants and judges with tea, coffee, and fresh muffins. Walter had spent the week working tirelessly to prepare the facility, ensuring the club was in top shape for the event. Unfortunately, that dedication came at a personal cost—he couldn't finish repairing his own aircraft after a midweek practice mishap, forcing him to sit out of the Intermediate class.

As the crisp morning air settled over the field, competitors were greeted by Neil Twomey, who ran through the rules, procedures, and judging standards. The sky, however, had its own agenda—thick grey cloud cover made visibility difficult during the first two rounds. Slowly, though, the humidity lifted and the sun began to break through.

Five classes were contested on the day: Sportsman, Intermediate, Advanced, Masters, and F3A. Each class flew four rounds, with each pilot's best three scores counting toward the final result.



Morning Rounds

The first two rounds were flown on NERF's sloped flightline—a tricky challenge for most pilots, though the seasoned Masters and F3A competitors barely blinked at the uneven terrain.

In Sportsman, Ayrton Schultz took an early lead, while the rest of the field bunched tightly within just 5% of each other, with Taeke van den Bosch in second place. In Advanced, young talent Ray Grobelaar set the pace. Masters class saw Pieter Botha hold onto first, but rivals Neil Twomey and Gerhard Venter were close behind by round two. Over in F3A, things couldn't have been tighter: Josh Twomey edged out round two with 84.2%, while Andre Stockwell (84.1%) and Rui Martins (83.9%) chased hard.

By midday, the gusts began to stir but the weather was improving. Competitors broke for a light lunch—fresh croissants courtesy of Walter's wife, Cher. The break gave everyone a chance to swap stories, compare setups, and talk technique, with the warm hospitality of the NERF committee setting the perfect atmosphere.



Afternoon Rounds

For the final two rounds, the line was moved parallel to the main runway at NERF – which meant that pilots did not have to contend with the sloped terrain.

Round 3 in Sportsman class saw Dan Levy and Taeke trading places, with Dan moving up into second place and Ayrton maintaining his lead. In Intermediate class, Charl Jooste was flying alone, but that didn't stop him from keeping the pressure up on himself – rising to the challenge by bettering his score each round, ending his day with an average score of 72.6%. In Masters, Pieter kept the pace consistent, winning the round, and in F3A, Rui seemed unfazed by the wind, expertly piloting his plane to a conclusive win for round 3.

By round four, the wind was giving everyone a hard time. Dan won the last Sportsman round, with Ayrton second. Advanced saw Jan van der Spuy winning the round, with Ray sitting out, while Masters produced another strong round from Pieter, despite Neil snapping at his heels. In F3A, Josh sealed his dominance with an 89.7%—but Andre and Rui kept the pressure on, both finishing within just 1% of his score.



Sadly, round four also brought the day's only casualty. Dylan and his son Callum—newcomers in Sportsman class, flying the same sleek low-wing sports model—saw disaster strike when Callum lost radio signal on their Hi-Tech setup mid-flight. Though he regained control, the aircraft was already heading for a tree. The prop clipped a branch, and the plane hit the ground hard. Fortunately, the nitro engine survived, and Dylan was optimistic they'd be back in the air with a new build soon. Callum, true to spirit, stayed cheerful despite the crash.

Prize Giving & Farewell

As the competition wrapped up, the Highveld weather showed its teeth, with storm clouds rolling in and winds threatening to break into a full-blown thundershower. During prize giving, Neil Twomey thanked everyone for their efforts before announcing he would be stepping down after six years as GAA Regional Coordinator. Dan Levy will be taking on the role going forward.

By the time competitors packed up and left the field, the first raindrops were falling—perfect timing to close out a thrilling day.

A massive thank you goes to NERF, its committee, and especially chairperson Walter Linn for hosting the Championships. Walter arranged sponsored caps to commemorate the event, and

kept everyone fed, hydrated, and comfortable. We're really looking forward to seeing him back in the competition lineup soon.

F3A

Pos	Competitors			Flight no 1	Flight no 2	Flight no 3	Flight no 4	Total
1	TWOMEY Joshua (341)		 (RSA)	1000.00 82.5 %	1000.00 84.2 %	985.44 85.9 %	1000.00 89.7 %	3000.00 86.6 %
2	MARTINS Rui (96)		 (RSA)	986.27 82.4 %	997.08 83.9 %	1000.00 87.2 %	991.78 88.9 %	2988.86 86.7 %
3	STOCKWELL Andre (28)		 (RSA)	992.64 82.9 %	999.03 84.1 %	957.71 83.5 %	993.61 89.1 %	2985.28 85.6 %

Masters

Pos	Competitors			Flight no 1	Flight no 2	Flight no 3	Flight no 4	Total
1	BOTHA Pieter (309)		 (RSA)	1000.00 69.6 %	1000.00 71.4 %	1000.00 75 %	1000.00 75.6 %	3000.00 74 %
2	TWOMEY Neil (350)		 (RSA)	943.50 65.7 %	960.37 68.5 %	883.00 66.2 %	972.90 73.6 %	2876.77 69.4 %
3	VENTER Gerhard (95)		 (RSA)	904.07 63 %	973.01 69.4 %	535.27 40.1 %	0.00 0 %	2412.35 57.5 %

Advanced

Pos	Competitors			Flight no 1	Flight no 2	Flight no 3	Flight no 4	Total
1	GROBBELAAR Ray (376)	Junior	 (RSA)	1000.00 69 %	1000.00 67.2 %	1000.00 70.6 %	0.00 0 %	3000.00 69 %
2	VAN DER SPUY Jan (368)		 (RSA)	676.11 46.7 %	850.58 57.2 %	822.93 58.1 %	1000.00 67.4 %	2673.51 60.9 %

Intermediate

Pos	Competitors			Flight no 1	Flight no 2	Flight no 3	Flight no 4	Total
1	JOOSTE Charl (905)		 (RSA)	1000.00 66.7 %	1000.00 70.6 %	1000.00 72.8 %	1000.00 74.3 %	3000.00 72.6 %

Sportsman

Pos	Competitors			Flight no 1	Flight no 2	Flight no 3	Flight no 4	Total
1	SCHULTZ Ayrton Senna (903)		 (RSA)	1000.00 68 %	1000.00 63.8 %	1000.00 67.8 %	984.54 65.1 %	3000.00 67 %
2	LEVY Daniel (900)		 (RSA)	854.52 58.1 %	896.80 57.3 %	988.28 67 %	1000.00 66.1 %	2885.08 63.8 %
3	VAN DEN BOSCH Taeke (904)		 (RSA)	879.60 59.8 %	985.77 63 %	917.93 62.3 %	816.16 54 %	2783.30 61.7 %
4	PRENTICE Dylan (901)		 (RSA)	882.95 60 %	919.93 58.8 %	929.65 63.1 %	910.66 60.2 %	2760.24 61.1 %
5	PRENTICE Callum (902)		 (RSA)	812.71 55.2 %	928.83 59.3 %	847.58 57.5 %	737.12 48.8 %	2589.12 57.3 %

