

VALLEY, MFC, DURBAN AEROBATIC CHAMPIONSHIP

19 JANUARY

BY NEIL ALLEN

“WHAT WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASING WAS THAT EVERYONE SEEMS TO HAVE UPPED THEIR GAME, AND WERE EARNING GOOD SCORES.”

At our events the number of entrants fluctuates, but everything seemed to come together this time, to give us a new record of an incredible fifteen flyers. Maybe the lovely setting of the Valley club did it. It is also in Durban which helps many people travel, except for our mustard keen MAASA chairman, Arthur, who probably left Himeville before dawn!



MAASA CHAIRMAN ARTHUR EGGAR



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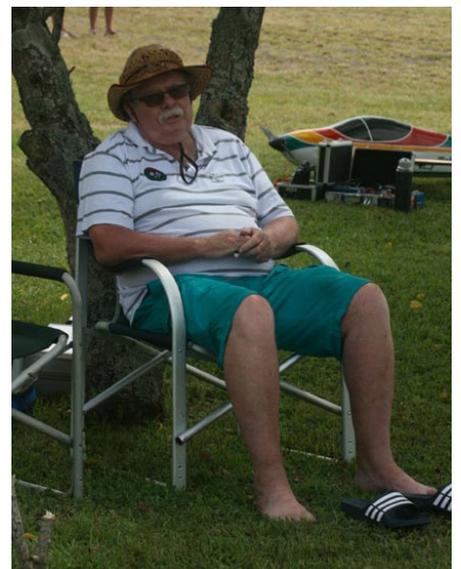
JUDGES AND FRIENDS KEEP AN EYE ON THE FLIGHTS

The aircraft parking area looked like an end-of-season closing sale for the Sebart factory. Eight of the fifteen planes were one of the Wind variants, or the newer Mythos.

In Sportsman we welcomed new guy Ian Becke, who has only been flying a few years since his retirement. He went on to achieve a very respectable 49%, flying his glo powered Drastik. On Dave Charl's second round the judges got confused as to what was a pattern and what was flying in between. He was offered a reflight, but did not get around to it. Angus gave us more than enough excitement.

Flying over the weed covered lake, he had a deadstick on the first round, but glided home safely. Then on the second round, he did it again. But this time he did not reach shore, and landed in the long weeds close by. Arthur Coleby very gallantly crawled over the surface of the muddy lake, and retrieved the plane, for which he deserves a special Medal of Honour.

In Intermediate we had another new flyer, Malcolm Carlyle. He had had a bit of coaching from Dave Greer, and showed great competence. The Cobra Roll I saw was one of the best I have seen in a long



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time. Dave got the top score. Gijs flew his new very pretty Miss Wind biplane.

In Advanced we had very close results, with three flyers getting over the 60% target. Arthur Eggar came out on top, closely followed by Craig and Ian. Arthur Coleby got a bit distracted with the mud wallowing.

In Masters Mark and I traded top scores a few times, with Mark ending on top. Clive did very well, but succumbed to a touch of illness and did not complete the rounds. John is a case of having improved his flying nicely, but so had everyone else in the class.

In F3A we saw our first display of the new F15 pattern from Michel. A bit difficult for the judges to follow at times, and amazing to watch, with many integrated rolling loops and eights. You certainly need good knife edge flight to do this one. We are very pleased to have a KZN guy going all out in the F3A class, and have high hopes for him.

A highlight of the event was that we welcomed back after recovering from a stroke our Chief Judge Bruce Clark. He looked even fitter and more bouncy than ever. Thank you to him and our stalwart Des Cooper for a long days effort.

We are very grateful to Dave Charls and his fellow Valley club members, who let us take up a flying Sunday for our aerobatics. We were also pleased to welcome so many guys from the Valley club and others who came to watch for a while.

SPORTSMAN

Ian Becke	52,0	47,0	43,0	49,5
Angus McInnes	57,0	0.00	0.00	28,5
Dave Charls	53,25	0.00	0.00	26,63

INTERMEDIATE

Dave Greer	58,35	60,6	61,0	60,8
Malcolm Carlyle	49,1	58,63	62,42	60,53
Gijs Wijgers	52,0	42,7	0.00	47,35

ADVANCED

Arthur Eggar	63,2	64,0	62,1	63,6
Craig Christianson	62,75	61,65	63,48	63,12
Ian Morris	61,09	60,10	61,27	61,18
Arthur Coleby	44,7	58,6	0.00	51,65

MASTERS

Mark Savage	67,17	56,91	62,09	64,63
Neil Allen	62,33	62,9	66,33	64,62
Clive McInnes	61,9	54,0	0.00	57,95
John Dorse	57,11	50,0	53,5	55,3

F3A

	P	P	F	P&F
Michel Leusch	71,58	71,0	68,28	69,93

