



During the first week of December, 14 pilots flew 10 aircraft across 4 classes at South Island Akro Fest, enjoying the new home base, Ashburton Airfield. Hosted by the Mid Canterbury Aeroclub, we had a hugely successful start to the summer competition season. As I write this, North Island Akro Fest at Mercer will run late in January, with our National Championships at Masterton, running 1-5 March 2023.

The weather gods were on both sides of the fence for the event. Read: it was a mixed bag! Wednesday morning arrived with a frustrating low level cloud base (fine for normal ops but not ideal for the aerobatic box). The weather did improve during the day, as pilots and volunteers arrived, registered and completed tech inspections by Ross Brodie. Dinner was enjoyed that evening at the Phat Duck, we reconvened at the Aeroclub for the 8am briefing Thurs morning. With a solid field in the Sportsman class, all eyes were on the pilots as they flew the Known program. We completed all of round 1 and some of round 2 by the evening in very nice conditions.

There were two debutants this year, Alex Ingrosso, flying Adam Butcher's Pitts S-2A and Lincoln Jones, flying his Pitts S-2C. There appears to always be a solid number of biplanes at this event including Tigers. Alex flew extremely well first time in competition, having done considerable prep with Ross and myself at the home base over the Winter months. Alex also flies the Tiger and Yak 52 regularly, and is building an F1 Rocket. One to watch in the future. Lincoln attended our training camp in May and has been at Masterton for a few training sessions over the previous summer and with minimal practice due weather, he flew extremely well.

One of the most rewarding things to see for me, was the progression up the classes. Ross and Mike both going up to Sportsman, myself to Advanced, along with the debutants mentioned. The most impressive progression though, had to be Adam going up to Intermediate, with barely a week to get up to speed as we sort of had his aeroplane at Ashburton all year. John Lamont was again present in Sports and flew extremely consistently as he has done since his first comp here 3 years ago. Chris Schadler returned

from Whakatane in his beautifully presented RV-3 to show us what a 10 for a loop looks like. Mike's progression from 3 years ago where he started in Recreational, winning it the following year and going up to Sportsman was very impressive. With a few early errors in the Known, his 2nd and 3rd flights were very tidy. Ross Brodie flew my Pitts, ZK-PUG in Sportsman and with the training we did, I was very happy with how he flew first time in class, I was nowhere near these guys when I started in Sportsman back in the day! There was literally nothing in it between seasoned Sportsman pilots, Richard Button and Chris Schadler. It was great to see Richard finally competing in a Pitts, with FRJ being made available by our Club President, Morris Tull.

In the Recreational class we had Alex competing with Iain. Iain has come a very long way since he first flew Primary at Akro Fest 2019. Sarah unfortunately had to pull out last min which is a shame as it would have been a great battle between the 3 of them. In Intermediate, with Lachlan planning to move up to Intermediate, he was subsequently unable to be at the comp so we had Adam and Grant. Grant also flew FRJ and thoroughly enjoyed himself back in a Pitts competitively. Unsurprisingly, he flew it beautifully scoring well throughout the three programs.

I finally made the step up to Advanced, after experimenting with all sorts of stuff since taking delivery of my S-1S in 2019 but continuing in the Intermediate class. While I was somewhat lonely, I was totally focused on being as consistent as I could across the classes. While it was extremely challenging to get into the zone at the start of practice, I settled down and a long winter of training did pay off, achieving my personal goals of scoring in the 70s. A lot of work remains though for Nationals. As Morris, Brent, Grant and hopefully others will ensure it is going to be extremely challenging and great fun!

Unusually for this time of year, there was no Nor'Westerlies but a very niggly SE flow brought low cloud and drizzle on the Fri morning. Our Starter, Cathy did simply an amazing job keeping the aircraft moving throughout the classes. Cathy has a CPL and has commuted over from the West Coast for several years now to be at our event. We are eternally grateful to enthusiasts like her who just enjoy being at our event. There were many others, Joe Brown, CFI of MCAC set the tone with giving us full access to the club and hangar facilities. Graham Closey, MCAC President looked after us over the BBQ on Fri evening.

Mike's partner Kylie kept data entry ticking over throughout the event, thanks a lot Kylie! John Lamont ran a seminar on Formation Flying, which we ran while experiencing a weather delay Friday morning. By the time we completed day 2 (Friday) we had flown all the 2nd flights excluding Intermediate. Graham (President, MCAC) cooked up a storm in the hangar as we reflected on a brilliant couple of days, albeit with weather holdups at times. In the evening we were joined by Ivan Krippner, flying his Pitts S-1 ZK-RTP, having registered for Unlimited earlier on he was unable to be at the event early enough.

Saturday morning arrived with beautiful conditions, the final day of the contest. The aeroclub carpark filled up quickly and before we knew it, a very decent crowd had gathered to watch the Intermediate Free-Knowns and Unknowns, followed by Sportsman Unknowns. Grant completed a very consistent run flying the 2nd and 3rd programs; meanwhile Adam did an amazing job first time in class to fly the 2nd and 3rd flights back to back respectively.

I finally flew the Advanced Unknown straight after lunch. Given all the distractions of running the event, I was very happy with the flight. Again, a lot to work on over the Summer for Nationals.

We concluded the event with the 4min Free Style with Ivan, John and myself all flying. It was great fun, more progression and learning from my side. I will be displaying my Pitts at Yealands Classic Fighters over Easter so it was great to practice much of that sequence in this competitive environment but there is no doubt Ivan is the benchmark in this category in NZ, well flown Ivan! John Lamont provides a very nice graceful warbird style routine in his RV7. It is always great to get some variety in the 4min free style and we certainly had that this year.

All in all, it was a very successful fun event, lots of small steps forward were taken in the organization and the experience we are striving to provide our members. A special thanks to Lachlan and Mike for the work done behind the scenes in the lead-up to the event. Having RD Petroleum on board this year, our online registration, fantastic host facilities at Mid Canterbury Aeroclub, immaculate airfield and airspace to operate from, all contribute to our special event. We lost a few competitors last minute so the interest is certainly there moving forward. A huge thanks to the support for our event by South Canterbury Aeroclub, making their venerable Alpha 2160a available for our competitors. We had a significant drop in new pilots flying the Alpha this year, hopefully we can encourage a few more to come back in. On a positive note, many have progressed to other types like the Pitts.

On the subject of progression, NZAC member and Recreational regular, Austin Jones ran CJ duties for the Sportsman class. We are well through Austin's Pitts Rating but had several weather cancellations through November meaning there was no time for him to be ready to compete in Sportsman for the first time. We are putting steps in place to make this happen for him at Nationals. Thanks a lot Austin for your continued enthusiasm for the event. It certainly took pressure off my shoulders!

Finally, thanks to former President, Mercer Comp founder, Safety pilot, MX/Extra/Pitts aviator extraordinaire, Grant Benns, for helping us over the week with the event. It was great to have you down our way Grant and your accompanying radio sets. Several committee members including Grant spent many months in 2020 researching the combination of aerals and comms to create powerful base radio sets for our comps. A big step forward operationally for us as an organization but also from a safety perspective. Full results available at our website.

These events are not possible without you, our members. If you have any feedback, ideas thoughts or critique to offer, please do not hesitate. If you are a pilot wanting to judge, please express this interest to the Committee, and if you are new to the organization but are interested in judging from the outset, please feel free to do the same. Our goal is to run our club events kiwi style, with our unique flavour around the various events. These events and the organization is yours, so please give us your thoughts on improvements we can consider for the future.

That's all from me, have a safe and prosperous new year everyone. All the best to those contesting the NI Akro Fest at Mercer in January and I will see you at Nationals.

Cheers for now,

Andy Love

Treasurer/Secretary

NZ Aerobatic Club Inc

Torque_Roll@hotmail.com



Registration Report

South Island Akro Fest, Ashburton Airfield

Organising Club: NZ Aerobatic Club
Contest date: 1-4 December 2022

Vintage - Power

Pilot	M/F	A/c type	A/c Reg'n	Multi	Active?	Status
Andy Love	M	DH-82a	ZK-BRL	A2	Active	Full
Ross Brodie	M	DH-82a	ZK-BRL	A1	Active	Full

Recreational - Power

Sarah Ross	M	2160a	ZK-VCF	D2	Active	Full
Alex Ingresso	M	Pitts S-2A	ZK-PIT	B1	Active	Full
Iain Mcphail	M	2160a	ZK-VCF	D1	Active	Full

Sportsman - Power

Ross Brodie	M	Pitts S-1S	ZK-PUG	C2	Active	Full
Mike Fowler	M	Yak 52	ZK-ADM	-	Active	Full
John Lamont	M	RV7	ZK-SDJ	-	Active	Full
Richard Button	M	Pitts S-1S	ZK-FRJ	-	Active	Full
Lincoln Jones	M	Pitts S-2C	ZK-LDJ	-	Active	Full
Chris Schadler	M	RV-3	ZK-WCO	-	Active	Full

Intermediate - Power

Adam Butcher	M	Pitts S-2A	ZK-PIT	B2	Active	Full
Fred Zayas	M	Laser 200	ZK-LZR	-	Active	Full
Grant Benns	M	TBC	ZK-TBC	-	Active	Full

Advanced - Power

Andy Love	M	Pitts S-1S	ZK-PUG	C1	Active	Full
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Unlimited - Power

Ivan Krippner	M	Pitts S-1	ZK-RTP	-	Active	Full
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Aerobatic Contest Results Organiser, ACRO Version 5.0 Build: 02/10/21
This report created at 07:05 on Friday 11 November 2022



Full Results South Island Akro Fest, Ashburton Aerodrome

Organizing Club: NZ Aerobatic Club. Event Organizer; Lachlan Falconer. Contest Director; Andy Love
Contest date: 1 – 3 December 2022

Primary – Power; Not Contested

Vintage – Power (Wayne Edwards Memorial Trophy); Not Contested

Recreational – Power

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>A/c type</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Known</i>	<i>Free/F Known</i>	<i>U/Known</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
Alex Ingrosso	Pitts S-2A	ZK-PIT	717.3	806.5	-	1523.8	73.30%
Iain McPhail	Alpha 2160a	ZK-VCF	705.7	644.5	-	1350.2	71.90%

Sportsman – Power

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>A/c type</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Known</i>	<i>Free/F Known</i>	<i>U/Known</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
Chris Schadler	RV-3	ZK-WCO	1185.5	1152.4	1604.8	3942.7	86.30%
Ross Brodie	Pitts S-1S	ZK-PUG	1176.5	1169.3	1544.7	3890.5	85.43%
Richard Button	Pitts S-1S	ZK-FRJ	1150.3	1170.8	1523.8	3844.9	84.46%
John Lamont	RV7	ZK-SBJ	1001.5	1118.5	1511.3	3631.3	79.30%
Lincoln Jones	Pitts S-2C	ZK-LDJ	846.0	1127.2	1418.2	3391.4	72.40%
Mike Fowler	Yak 52	ZK-ADM	833.3	837.5	1432.9	3103.7	66.90%

Intermediate – Power

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>A/c type</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Known</i>	<i>Free/F Known</i>	<i>U/Known</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
Grant Benns	Pitts S-1S	ZK-FRJ	1316.8	1720.2	1814.2	4851.2	72.80%
Adam Butcher	Pitts S-2A	ZK-PIT	1225.3	1448.2	1020.7	3694.2	56.46%

Advanced – Power

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>A/c type</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Known</i>	<i>Free/F Known</i>	<i>U/Known</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
Andy Love	Pitts S-1S	ZK-PUG	2363.8	2701.5	2431.2	7496.5	74.10%

Unlimited – Power; Not Contested

4 Minute Freestyle

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>A/c type</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>%</i>
Ivan Krippner	Pitts S-1	ZK-RTP	90.00%
Andy Love	Pitts S-1S	ZK-PUG	85.00%
John Lamont	Vans RV-7	ZK-SDJ	74.00%

Most Improved Pilot

Adam Butcher – Pitts S-2A ZK-PIT

Best newcomer

Alex Ingrosso – Pitts S-2A ZK-PIT

Highest Scoring Biplane (Rangitata Island Trophy)

<i>Pilot</i>	<i>A/c type</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Total %</i>
Ross Brodie	Pitts S-1S	ZK-PUG	85.43%
Richard Button	Pitts S-1S	ZK-FRJ	84.46%
Andy Love	Pitts S-1S	ZK-PUG	74.10%

Dipstick Adam Butcher – for a lack of a pair of BFRs for the comp!













South Island Akro Fest
 Ashburton Airfield
 30th Nov - 2nd Dec 2023

Aerobatic Competition & Fly-In | All welcome
 Andrew Love | 021 217 9170 | Torque_Roll@hotmail.com
 Please contact Andrew for further information & Registration forms

 

 

Thanks Everyone. A great event. Andy.