

THE 2023 NZAC NATIONALS

We wrapped up a very successful Nationals due to excellent weather and a full team of organisers and volunteers that allowed us to really share the workload and progress efficiently through all the flights. Grant Benns as Event Organiser with Morris Tull and Andy Love as Contest Directors.

Cloudy weather for many to get to and from the event meant the best weather was in the middle of our week for a change. Most arrived a day early, we had plenty of people, a rented van and Noel's 4-wheel drive car to get the box markers out and we managed to get everyone some practice time in the box before starting on schedule Wednesday afternoon.

A huge thanks to our outside volunteers; Noel Kinvig, Marina, Gillian Phillips, Murray Callister and Richard Wallace plus our own Simone Barry and Kym Tull helping with great food. Lawrence Robinson and Mike Fowler were awesome with their efforts on the judge line, media content, IT expertise and live scoring system.

We secured the large Aeroworks hangar close to our activity and got all the other fragile aircraft in a hanger somewhere. We made contact with the local authorities which generated a visit by the Masterton Fire department and Richard gave us an excellent, hands-on firefighting training session using dry powder extinguishers on fuel fires, fortunately we did not need to use this training at the event.

Midweek we had the Club AGM, which was short enough to be interesting and covered some good stuff. The entire committee was voted back in as a testament to a job well done over the year and as President, it was a pleasure working with this team.

Our Supplementary Information, airfield NOTAM and local operator warning notice did the job with excellent coordination of the arrivals of a citation jet, Life flight medical plane and low-level survey work by a helicopter with a huge deep water survey sensor slung below the helicopter. Unbelievably, nobody told us they were going to dismantle the Avgas pump for half a day in the middle of our flying!

Excellent lunches were prepared by Kiri from Mumma Darla's Pantry and she also catered our prizegiving dinner. Pizzas fed us one night and Kym and Simone and Des catered and cooked Thursday night.

Andy Love and Grant Benns managed the judging line brilliantly with Andy scheduling the flights. Unfortunately, Brent Griffin's G202 had a hard-to-find electrical issue that ultimately stopped it flying in the competition and Brent and Morris missed out on their comp in NUT.

The competition flights flowed very well with some great flying and close scores and competitors in every category except primary. To help everyone know what sequence is being flown by other pilots, we

published the sequences being flown each day by everyone on the WhatsApp group and this added to the enjoyment of being a spectator.

It is always inspiring to watch Russell Bell fly Unlimited in his G200 if you can keep up with his sequence, well done Russell. Andy Love showed his extra practice and a well refined Free Known sequence to beat Morris Tull in Advanced in Andy's first season in this category. Steve Geard did well this year, first by getting there, with trousers, and had clearly done plenty of practice. Close scoring between Steve and David Cranna in his beautiful Extra 330LX, both aircraft are a pleasure to watch and listen to.

Sports category was the most popular with 9 competitors, many first timers and some new aircraft, well done everyone. Dave Wilkinson Buzzed his way around the box, Pierre Pechon handled the Decathlon increasingly well through the week, Des Barry smiled his way through the comp in Mo's Pitts, Grant Benns and Dave Cranna flew the RV7 gracefully well, Ross Brodie put in solid scores in Andy's Pitts. Lincoln Jones and his shiny new Pitts S2C impressed the judges with great scores, then there is Murray Rogers who tactfully took a few breaks and consistently positioned his CT4B to score very well. Chris Schadler has clearly been listening to all the good advice, putting the practice in and he guided his RV3 to a high score of 86.15% and dominance over the category, very nice work Chris. We expect many of you to move up a category next year based on these results.

In Recreational, Pierre Pechon flew the Decathlon well to score 75% in his first proper comp and he gain much valuable experience, welcome Poots!

The Unlimited, Advanced and Intermediate pilots plus other interested pilots had a fun session designing their Free Unknowns on Thursday.

Among the Unknown flights, Ross Brodie flew well to score 84.8% and take out the Sports Unknown trophy and Alan Hogan Unknown trophy. The Champion of Champion Trophy goes to the highest percentage score and was deservedly won by Chris Schadler which is quite appropriate as he has won every trophy in the season in this class.

The 4-minute Freestyle had 5 competitors signed up for it but no-fly weather on Saturday squashed that and only Morris Tull and Andy Love managed to get a flight in under the cloud on Sunday with Morris edging ahead by 0.5% to take the Freestyle Trophy home again.

Saturday was low cloud but we were treated to a 2 hour visit and guided tour through The Vintage Aviator hangar of World War One aircraft, it is such an awesome collection. Following that, we had Simone's brother; David Hawkins; who works on development of space probes to the Moon Europa, gave a fascinating presentation on the technology and information on space flight. Later that evening we had a great presentation dinner with awesome food from Kiri.

Sunday was rain and low cloud over the country so many headed home late morning and all arrived home safely to conclude an awesome event, many thanks to all.

2024 NZAC Aerobatic Nationals is - 28 Feb-3 Mar 2024; plan your vacation time now!

Morris Tull; Contest Director and President NZAC.

Full Results

2023 National Aerobatic Championships – Hood Aerodrome

Organizing Club: NZ Aerobatic Club
Contest date: 1st – 5th March 2023

Event Organizer Grant Benns
Contest Director Morris Tull & Andy Love
Data Entry Mike Fowler
Chief Judges Grant Benns & Andy Love

Unlimited – Power

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Known.*	*Free/F Known*	*UnKnown.*	*F/Unknown*	*Total*	*%*
Russell Bell	Giles G-200	ZK-LGT	3165.8	3549.8	2690.3	3196.0	71.40%	

Advanced – Power

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Known*	*Free/F Known*	*U/Known*	*F/Unknown*	*Total*	*%*
Andy Love	Pitts S-1S	ZK-PUG	2400.7	2796.2	2019.8	2090.0	73.12%	
Morris Tull	Pitts S-1S	ZK-FRJ	2178.1	2238.7	1821.7	2027.0	64.90%	

Intermediate – Power

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Known*	*Free/F Known*	*U/Known*	*F/Unknown*	*Total*	*%*
Steve Geard	Yak 55M	ZK-YKV	1278.0	1675.5	1416.50	1670.0	68.62%	
David Cranna	Extra 300LX	ZK-XLX	1169.0	1643.2	1417.0	1574.0	65.72%	

Sportsman – Power

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Known*	*Free Known*	*Total*
Chris Schadler	RV3	ZK-WCO	1168.8	1191.3	86.15%
Murray Rogers	CT4B	ZK-JMW	1151.7	1191.3	85.55%
Lincoln Jones	Pitts S-1S	ZK-LDJ	1185.3	1113.0	83.90%
Ross Brodie	Pitts S-1S	ZK-PUG	1123.8	1155.2	83.15%
David Cranna	RV7	ZK-RVQ	1056.3	1114.3	79.20%
Grant Benns	RV7	ZK-RVQ	1104.8	1038.0	78.20%
Des Barry	Pitts S-1S	ZK-FRJ	1104.3	939.5	74.60%
David Wilkinson	One Design	ZK-EZG	1080.5	960.7	74.50%
Pierre Pechon	Decathlon	ZK-REF	932.8	981.0	69.85%

Sportsman Unknown

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Unknown*	*Total*	*%*
Ross Brodie	Pitts S-1S	ZK-PUG	1153.8	84.8%	
Lincoln Jones	Pitts S-2C	ZK-LDJ	1132.3	83.3%	
Chris Schadler	RV3	ZK-WCO	1131.7	83.2%	
Grant Benns	RV7	ZK-RVQ	1125.2	82.7%	
David Cranna	RV7	ZK-RVQ	1095.8	80.6%	
David Wilkinson	One Design	ZK-EZG	1065.8	78.4%	
Pierre Pechon	Super Decathlon	ZK-REF	1022.7	75.2%	
Murray Rogers	CT4B	ZK-JMV	1010.5	74.3%	
Des Barry	Pitts S-1S	ZK-FRJ	868.7	63.9%	

Recreational – Power

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Known.*	*Free/F Known*	*Total*	*%*
Pierre Pechon	Decathlon	ZK-REF	753.8	734.7	75.15%	

4-minute Free Style

Morris Tull with 87%.
Andy Love with 86.5%

Trophies;

Best Newcomer – Lincoln Jones

Most Improved – Lincoln Jones

Grey Wings – Grant Benns

Dip Stick – Des Barry, static line / flat battery / wrong coordinates for box marker, Chris losing his unknown sequence, Grant making Marina sick in RV, Airport Authority for closing pumps during event.

Most helpful – Mike Fowler, amazing IT expertise.

Champion of Champions – Chris Schadler

North Vs South – South

Alan Hogan Trophy – Ross Brodie

4minute Free Style – Morris Tull

Photos;


ZK-PUG


YKV








RVQ




NUT




FRJ

























Thanks Everyone, it was a great week; let's do it again next year! Cheers Mo.