2024 National Aerobatic Championship Report.

It has been another very successful and safe championship. In normal fashion, it was a challenge for many to get to the event with rainy weather over the top of the North Island. Those that made it early were treated to some good practice weather after we got the box markers out. Weather prevented the competition as planned on the Wednesday so Grant Benns ran a LLDA ground course. Iain McPhail cooked a great BBQ for the welcome night. Thursday morning was cloudy so we did not fly however Mike Fowler got a Judging intro course done. Flying started after lunch, completing all the Known sequences. Thursday evening, the AGM was done with Morris Tull as President and all of the committee being re-elected plus the addition of Steve Geard and Lincoln Jones on the committee and Mike Fowler upgrading to Vice President. Then a long session of learning and designing the FREE UNKNOWN sequences was done. Friday, we flew the FREE KNOWN's and the Free UNKNOWNS then finished off with a BBQ hosted by the Aero club. Saturday dawned with some fog and was a great day and we finished off all the main competition flights except some cloud and rain came through around 2pm when we planned to do the 4-minute FREESTYLE, and despite waiting, we had to cancel that category so we could have an early prize giving so the Auckland mob could head home before the rainstorm coming, most succeeded but Chris Schadler returned due weather. Mumma Darla's again provided catering for us at the clubrooms and the excuses began to roll over the beers.

Notable events over the week were some outsiders blundering through or towards the box, Mo in the new to him MXS struggled to stay in the box and district, Poots was having fuel issues, Mike Fowler leapt off his Yak 52 wing and broke his foot, Russell Bell dazzled us with the awesome flying in Unlimited category, Andy Love quietly just kept stacking solid scores in Advanced and Chris Schadler racked up high score after high score and deservedly took home the Champion of Champions trophy plus the category one too. John Ashman has made great progress since buying his own DR107 and received the Most Improved trophy for his efforts. Iain McPhail flew the Alpha really well and the enthusiastic newbie Gill Phillips flying the Cessna 152A did really well in her first solo competition.

The volunteer spirit and workload sharing were strong, the box markers were put out and collected by a big team, volunteers Kelly Benns, Richard Wallace, Marina, PK and Nick and the important barman were much appreciated.

Thanks everyone, we look forward to see you at our next event.

Cheers Mo,

Morris Tull; Contest Director and 2024 President.

Full Results

National Aerobatic Championships – Hood Aerodrome

Organizing Club: NZ Aerobatic Club. Contest Director Morris Tull & Andy Love.
Event Organiser Grant Benns. Chief Judge Grant Benns and Andy Love.
Contest date: 29th Feb - 3rd March 2024

Unlimited – Power

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Known*	*Free/F Known*	*UnKnown*	*F/Unknown*	*Total*	*%*
Russell Bell	Giles G-200	ZK-LGT	3474.3	3886.5	3215.00	3084.3	75.55%	

Advanced – Power

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Known*	*Free/F Known*	*U/Known*	*F/Unknown*	*Total*	*%*
Andy Love	Pitts S-1S	ZK-PUG	2500.8	2721.7	2737.2	2529.3	78.45%	
Grant Benns	Extra 330LX	ZK-XLX	2118.2	2273.5	2395.2	2255.5	67.63%	
Morris Tull	MXS	ZK-MXS	2127.8	1133.8	2506.7	1480.8	54.22%	

Intermediate – Power

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Known*	*Free/F Known*	*U/Known*	*F/Unknown*	*Total*	*%*
Chris Schadler	RV3	ZK-WCO	1728.0	1831.8	1648.3	1667.3	80.89%	
Lincoln Jones	Pitts S-2C	ZK-LDJ	1425.8	1643.7	1473.7	1603.5	72.31%	
Brent Griffin	Giles G-202	ZK-NUT	1608.7	1681.2	1170.7	1682.7	72.27%	
David Cranna	Extra 330LX	ZK-XLX	1694.3	1800.7	1404.2	1116.0	70.76%	
John Ashman	DR107	ZK-XSG	1350.0	1486.5	1062.2	1407.8	62.43%	

Sportsman – Power

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Known*	*Free Known*	*Total*	*%*
David Cranna	RV7	ZK-RVQ	1082.2	1103.3	84.10%	
Grant Benns	RV7	ZK-RVQ	1058.2	1066.0	81.70%	
Pierre Pechon	Super Decathlon	ZK-REF	1038.2	969.0	77.20%	
Murray Rogers	C-152	ZK-TAY	979.5	988.2	75.68%	
Mike Fowler	Yak 52	ZK-ADM	1016.3	903.5	73.84%	

Sportsman Unknown

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Unknown*	*Total*	*%*
David Cranna	RV7	ZK-RVQ	1219.8	85.3%	
Grant Benns	RV7	ZK-RVQ	1127.2	78.8%	
Murray Rogers	C-152	ZK-TAY	1103.7	77.2%	

Recreational – Power

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Known*	*Free/F Known*	*Total*	*%*
Iain McPhail	2160a	ZK-VCF	628.5	585.8	65.99%	
Alexandra Watson	2160a	ZK-VCF	530.2	613.3	59.56%	

Recreational Unknown

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Unknown*	*Total*	*%*
Iain McPhail	2160a	ZK-VCF	686.2	71.5%	

Primary – Power

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Known*	*Free/F Known*	*Total*	*%*
Gillian Phillips	C-152	ZK-ETJ	597.7	496.5	71.99%	

Best Newcomer – Mike Fowler,

Most Improved – John Ashman, for improving lots since buying a DR107

Grey Wings – Grant Benns for continuous Mentoring and Leadership.

Dip Stick – Pierre Pechon

Most helpful – Gillian Phillips

Champion of Champions – Chris Schadler

North Vs South – North Island

Alan Hogan Trophy (Highest Unknown – Intermediate / Advanced / Unlimited)

1st Place: Andy Love 81.46%

2nd Place: Chris Schadler 79.63%

3rd Place: Russell Bell 79.19%

4th Place: Morris Tull 74.60%

5th Place: Grant Benns 71.28%

6th Place: Lincoln Jones 71.19%

7th Place: David Cranna 67.83%

8th Place: Brent Griffin 56.55%

9th Place: John Ashman 51.31%

4minute Free Style – Not contested due weather and early departures.






VCF


VCF




ZK-REE


TAY


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MXS
RVQ


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AEROBAT


XSG










RVQ
FIRE EXIT
MXS


XLX





And so, after the great flying and judging, it's time to give out the prizes,































Finally, eat up, drink up, pack up, wash up and go home.

Thanks for a great week, see you next year. Morris, Grant and Andy.