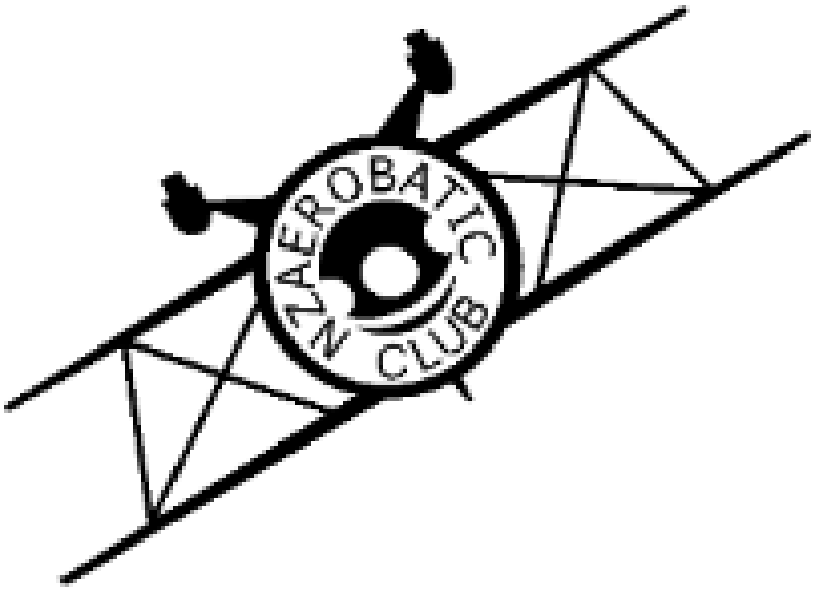


The New Zealand Aerobatic Club

National Aerobatic Championships

Reports, Results & Trophies

2006 to 2025

2006 New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships; Waipukurau, The Full Results.

Unlimited

	Pilot			Known	Free	Unknown	Total	%pp
1	Steve Taylor	Edge 540	ZAI	1947.50	2889.21		4836.71	65.27%
2	Richard Hood	Pitts S1S	EES	1564.67	2539.17		4103.84	55.38%

Advanced

	Pilot			Known	Free	Unknown	Total	%pp
1	Claus Petrie	Pitts S1S	JFD	1597.63	1543.00		3140.33	63.31%
2	Dion Webb	Pitts S2S	WIZ	1261.17	1486.17		2767.34	55.79%
3	Paul Marshall	Pitts S2S	WIZ	1373.83	1323.17		2697.00	54.38%

Intermediate

	Pilot			Known	Free	Unknown	Total	%pp
1	Dave Phillips	Pitts S2B	MAD	1499.67	1350.70		2850.37	70.30%
2	Tim Tibo	Pitts S1		1525.17	1324.83		2850.0	70.02%
3	Grant Benns	Pitts S2B	MAD	1483.33	1357.20		2640.53	69.79%
4	David Cranna	Pitts S2B	MAD	1469.17	1360.80		2829.97	69.53%
5	Colin Greatrex	Pitts S2B	MAD	1411.00	1383.00		2794.00	68.65%
6	Murray Rogers	CT4B	JMV	912.83	1271.00		2183.83	53.66%
7	Simon Marshall	Pitts S2S	WIZ	997.00			997.00	24.50%

Sports

	Pilot			Known	Free	Unknown	Total	%pp
1	Mike Slack	Pitts S2B	MAD	1004.17	970.00		1974.17	66.07%
2	D Davenport	Pitts S2B	MAD	1018.17	887.5		1905.67	65.71%
3	Brent Griffin	Pitts S2B	MAD	1001.50	868.00		1889.50	65.16%
4	Ian Young	Pitts S2S	WIZ	936.67	839.67		1776.34	61.25%
5	Kwang	C152A		853.83	353.67		1207.50	41.64%

The Trophies for 2006.

Unlimited Champion — Steve Taylor
Advanced Champion — Claus Petrie
Intermediate Champion — Dave Phillips
Sports Champion — Mike Slack
Champion of Champions — Dave Phillips
Four Minute Free Champion — Not flown
Brian Langley Trophy for Best Newcomer — Brent Griffin
Alan Hogan Trophy for Best Unknown
Most Improved Pilot — David Cranna
Dipstick Award
Presidents Cup (Most helpful non-competitor)
Greatest Greybeard Walking Stick

2007 New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships; Waipukurau, The Full Results.

Unlimited

	Pilot			Known	Free	Unknown	Total	%pp
1	Steve Taylor	Edge 540	ZAI	2341.00	3336.00	2759.50	8436.50	69.90
2	Doug Brooker	G202	NUT	2413.33	3312.33	2688.67	8414.33	69.71

Advanced

	Pilot			Known	Free	Unknown	Total	%pp
1	Paul Marshall	Pitts S2S	WIZ	1698.33	2204.67	1923.50	5826.50	70.11
2	Grant Benns	Pitts S2B	MAD	1699.17	2117.33	1761.00	5577.50	67.12
3	Tim Tibo	Pitts S1S		1729.83	2027.17	1819.17	5576.17	67.10
4	David Cranna	Pitts S2B	MAD	1484.50	2195.67	1270.33	4950.50	59.57
5	David Philips	Pitts S2B	MAD	1307.00	1608.33	1194.00	4109.33	49.45

Intermediate

	Pilot			Known	Free	Unknown	Total	%pp
1	Colin Greatrex	Pitts S2B	MAD	1339.33	1466.17	1159.33	3964.83	71.70
2	Paul Algar	Pitts S2B	MAD	1284.83	1343.17	1088.33	3716.33	67.20
3	Brent Griffin	Pitts S2B	MAD	1258.83	1406.00	1010.33	3675.17	66.46
4	Mike Slack	Pitts S2B	MAD	1309.67	1316.33	1034.00	3660.00	66.18
5	Simon Marshall	Pitts S2S	WIZ	1145.17	1182.67	944.00	3271.83	59.17
6	Murray Rogers	CT4B	JMV	1023.17	1284.67	855.67	3163.50	57.21

Sports

	Pilot			Known	Free	Unknown	Total	%pp
1	Ian Young	Pitts S2S	WIZ	932.33	986.67		1919.00	72.14
2	Bradley Marsh			953.50	958.67		1912.17	71.89
3	Darrel Brown	Pitts S1S	EES	912.00	931.67		1843.67	69.31
4	Richard Button			935.83	884.00		1819.83	68.41

Primary

	Pilot			Known	Free	Unknown	Total	%pp
1	Luke Cook			712.83	758.00		1470.83	68.73
2	Danny Nelson			710.00	725.83		1435.83	67.10

The Trophies for 2007.

Unlimited Champion	Steve Taylor
Advanced Champion	Paul Marshall
Intermediate Champion	Colin Greatrex
Sports Champion	Ian Young
Champion of Champions	Ian Young
Four Minute Free Champion	Steve Taylor
Brian Langley Trophy for Best Newcomer	Brad Marsh
Alan Hogan Trophy for Best Unknown Seq.	Colin Greatrex
Most Improved Pilot	Ian Young
Presidents Cup (Most helpful non-competitor)	Brad Marsh
Greatest Greybeard Walking Stick	

2008 New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships

<<<<<<<The Results>>>>>>>

Paul Marshall made a good call on the Tuesday night in refusing to believe the weather experts and declaring the 2008 Nationals a starter. Just as well as the Christchurch Aero Club contenders were already there and may have been a little dark had we cancelled! Most participants made it to YP by the Wednesday in time for a bit of unofficial practice and familiarization with the box. Some members were more familiar with the box location than others; a point already made by Paul! We were blessed with great weather right through to the Sunday and this, combined with excellent organization by Paul, Marinka, Keith and Simon, led to a successful event.

Due to a variety of issues with our usual Unlimited competitors, we were unable to fly this category this year. The upside of this was that we avoided any meetings of the Contest Jury. Unfortunately, we did not have any entries in the Primary category and this is not good for the future of the Club so please continue to encourage your friends and budding aerobats to enter next year. Following technical inspection of all aircraft by Grant Benns and Brent Griffen, we were ready to get underway. So, to the results……

As it seems with all years, this was a very closely fought contest with fractions dividing winners from placers. There was none closer than the Sports category where we had six evenly matched competitors with four flying the Canterbury Aero Club Robin. Tom Seldon from CAC came in first just edging out Darrell Brown in the Pitts S1 by 0.47% with Joe Raukara a further 2.6% back in third. Tom's high-scoring second flight was the difference and he went on to take out the Brian Langley Trophy for Best Newcomer.

The Intermediate category was equally popular with six pilots competing. Although the scoring was close, Brent Griffen (flying MAD) took a leaf out of the Paul Marshall (Mr. Consistency) book by scoring in the 70s in all three flights. Brent not only took out the Intermediate title but, with a total score of 71.84%, beat Paul Marshall into the Champion of Champions title (best score across all categories) by 0.4%! Runner-up in the Intermediate category was Ian Young flying WIZ and third was Paul Algar doing amazing things in an aircraft better suited to the less difficult categories.

The Advanced category drew five contenders and the margin between first and second was again very close. With 71.8%, Paul Marshall flying WIZ took the Advanced Champion title for the umpteenth year edging out Grant Benns in the Zlin by 1.2%. Grant was closely followed into third by Terry Johnson who went on to take the Most Improved Pilot award. Paul won the Alan Hogan Trophy for the best Unknown score across all categories.

The Four Minute Freestyle is a more laid-back, airshow-style competition open to Unlimited and Advanced pilots and judged mainly on artistic merit by non-involved competitors. Normally the domain of the Unlimited pilots flying their carbon-fiber rocket ships, three Advanced pilots, Dave Cranna, Grant Benns and Terry Johnson, took advantage of the "great-ones" absence this year. Dave went off first in the smoke-free Zlin and self-indulged (according to Terry) in its gyroscopic tumbling qualities. Grant Benns rejected the Zlin that had taken him to second place in Advanced and decided to fly the Falco. Unfortunately, he was kyboshed by an uncooperative landing gear retraction before getting his flight underway. Terry Johnson flew a very graceful and smoke-filled routine in MAD. In the end the wise judges declared Dave Cranna (your unbiased author) the winner.

A very unofficial and unannounced competition for best dressed team was taken out by Team Zlin in their fetching caps and polo shirts inscribed on the back with the performance data of the marvelous Z50LS. This shirt confers the added benefit of allowing you to leave that pesky flight manual at home. Previous best-dressed team winners, Team WIZ, have taken great umbrage at losing their title and have threatened to turn up next year in gold lame flight suits complete with chest toupees. The challenge is out to all other teams for 2009!
The results in detail;

Pilot	Aircraft	Known	Free	Unknown	Final Placing

Advanced

Paul Marshall	Pitts S2S	WIZ	71.49	72.46	**71.30**	71.80	**1**
Grant Benns	Pitts S2B	MAD	71.95	70.64	69.56	70.62	2
Terry Johnson	Pitts S2B	MAD	69.45	65.25	67.81	67.27	3
Colin Greatrex	Pitts S2B	MAD	55.65	67.95	67.08	64.32	4
David Cranna	Pitts S2B	MAD	63.95	67.95	42.59	58.10	5

Intermediate

Brent Griffin	Pitts S2B	MAD	72.28	72.16	70.89	**71.84**	**1**
Ian Young	Pitts S2S	WIZ	70.53	67.10	68.19	68.64	2
Paul Algar			69.95	66.18	68.18	68.10	3
Simon Marshall	Pitts S2S	WIZ	66.50	68.32	65.38	66.83	4
Mike Slack	Pitts S2B	MAD	74.15	61.04	64.35	66.69	5
Murray Rogers	CT4B	JMV	66.32	62.51	61.80	63.67	6

Sports

Tom Seldon	Robin	RBN	67.36	72.04		69.70	**1**
Darrell Brown	Pitts S1S	EES	71.15	67.32		69.23	2
Joe Raukawa	Robin	RBN	67.63	65.48		66.56	3
Luke Cook	Robin	RBN	60.14	64.86		62.50	4
Keith Tetzlaff	Robin	RBN	63.89	57.25		60.57	5
Lance Whittle	Robin	RBN	53.15	64.12		58.64	6

The Trophies for 2008.

Champion of Champions	Brent Griffen
Advanced Champion	Paul Marshall
Intermediate Champion	Brent Griffen
Sports Champion	Tom Seldon
Four Minute Free Champion	Dave Cranna
Brian Langley Trophy for Best Newcomer	Tom Seldon
Alan Hogan Trophy for Best Unknown	Paul Marshall
Most Improved Pilot	Terry Johnson
Dipstick Award	Colin Greatrex
Presidents Cup (Most helpful non-competitor)	Berneice & Selwyn Holmes
Greatest Greybeard Walking Stick	Keith Trillo

2009 New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships; Waipukurau, 19-21 March 2009 – The Full Results

Monday 15th March, I saddled up WIZ and launched from NE on a cool grey Auckland morning, lunched with Ray at Rotorua and then over the hill and down into a very pleasant 26-degree afternoon at YP. Kevin Langford and his smart red Yak 55 were already there, cunningly foiling my attempt to be the first arrival.

Tuesday dawned with the promise of another warm day and with the invaluable help of Neil Faulkner, the three of us set forth to lay out the box markers. The western side centre marker is first; we had a very curious audience of heifers as we struggled over the barbed wire fence known as Gosling's lament and pinned the sheets in place. Having laid the centre and eastern ones we back-tracked the narrow path, noting with interest that the aforementioned heifers were now doing their best to eat our first effort! By lunchtime all was set so Kevin and I enjoyed a couple of practice flights each through the afternoon. A nice three ship arrival from the deep south completed a very pleasant day.

Wednesday...a typical Hawkes Bay southerly had set in overnight with the temperature in freefall down to 9 chilly degrees. No flying but an ideal opportunity to distribute our thanks in the form of some good South Island wine to the ever-generous landowners whose property falls within the box. By mid-afternoon conditions were those of a balmy Southland Day apparently (blowing a gale and freezing), so the hardy southerners strapped on their Yaks and hoed into it. By evening things were a lot friendlier allowing Richard and Marinka to arrive in NUT. Still bloody cold though!

Thursday looked promising and despite the still chilly breeze events unfolded as planned. With the opening briefing at lunchtime Waipuk 2010 was underway and official practice was flown by all except Primary. The boisterous southerly was too much for Ryan's elegant Tiger so the Primary practice was postponed till the hoped for calmer conditions of Friday morning. The AGM on Thursday evening was enhanced by Gay Skerman and Pam Collings sharing some reminiscences of the early years of our club; entirely appropriate for our 25th.

Friday morning produced perfect Tiger Moth weather; the Primary practice flights went smoothly and it was onwards into the serious stuff of actual competition. As the day unfolded, we enjoyed a visit from Waipuk Primary's pupils who Richard proceeded to educate and entertain regarding aeronautical matters. Things were pretty busy, and as we got the Knowns done and started on the Frees, I am sure I saw a runner struggling out to the line with another box of zeros! War stories began to unfold; one of the most tragic I heard was Steve plaintively asking how he could be expected to pull through as required by his sequence card in his trusty Yak when the aircraft was upright and facing the wrong way?

Known scores were posted and across all the categories it was like my front room at home...nothing much in it. An innovative solution to the problem of designing the Unknowns was suggested by Richard with the added bonus of learning more of the mysteries of OLAN. Each category gathered round a computer and designed their own, Richard was busy helping the Intermediate pilots so Grant, Wayne and I took the opportunity of constructing a nice gentlemanly Advanced sequence. However, we shot ourselves in the foot; next day Richard aced it and carried off the Unknown trophy.

Saturday and the brilliant Hawkes Bay Autumn weather continued. Much nervous pacing and visualising preceded the Unknowns and after lunch we were treated to the 4-Minute Frees. Suddenly it was all over for another year and, with the usual rituals of cleaning the clubhouse and retrieving the box markers all completed, it was time to make ourselves as beautiful as possible for the Presentation Dinner. The ladies were much better at this than the men. We dined handsomely at the Misty River Cafe in Waipawa and all was revealed as our trophies were handed out.

Congratulations to all the winners; special mention must be made of the following:

- Ivan Krippner: All the way from Queenstown in his Midget Mustang, winner of Sports and Best Newcomer.
- Ali Langford: Best Supporter; organising lunch, pushing oily Yaks, cleaning the clubhouse, Ali was everywhere, thanks indeed.

- To our judges, Neil, CHBAC and the Gliding Club, the good people of Waipukurau, to everyone that helped make it one of the best ever; we couldn't do it without you.

Following in this Newsletter you will find an article written by Club Secretary and long-time member, Martyn Gosling, titled “10”; I had the pleasure of reading it to the members at the Saturday-night awards dinner. This article gives some brief highlights of the 25-year history of NZAC in Martyn’s usual witty, professional-journalist style. I commend it to you.

I look forward to seeing you all next year. Don't forget, spread the word; tell everyone you know who likes to point their wheels at the sky that we would love to see them at YP next year.
Safe Flying
Paul Marshall.

As Paul has noted, the 2009 Nationals were a great success. The weather smiled on us for the second year in a row and, with the excellent organisational skills of Contest Director Richard Hood and Chief Judge Marinka Hood, the contest finished ahead of schedule.

Sports were an interesting category this year with the addition of two new aircraft and five rookie competitors. Nick, Steve and Jolyon all flew the South Island based Yak 55 and put in very creditable performances; it was great to see a Russian radial join the US Lycoming dominated aircraft. At the last moment Andrew Love had to change aircraft and flew the X-Flight Extra for the first time and from the front seat; had he not flown one of his flights mostly in the wrong direction, the score would have been good in the circumstances. (Andrew’s nomination for the dip-stick award was more for making his girlfriend sleep in a tent rather than his directional sense!). The category was taken out by ex-Actionflite and now MAD pilot, Brett Stubbing; Brett won Best Newcomer trophy as well.

As usual, Intermediate was closely and hotly contested with all the spoils finally going to Ian Young in ZK-WIZ. He took out first place in Intermediate and won the Champion of Champions trophy awarded to the highest percentage scoring pilot across all categories. Wayne Ormrod came second and also took out the Most Improved trophy in his new X-Flight EA300L. Despite lack of practice with MAD out of the air for the preceding 4 months, Mike Slack came third and took out the trophy for the best Unknown flight score across all categories.

With no other Unlimited pilots to compete against, Richard Hood moved down to the Advanced category much to the chagrin of the other pilots. Richard flew consistently across all three flights to take out the top category closely followed by Grant Benns and Paul Marshall.

Our thanks go to the tireless judges lead by Marinka. Gavin Henderson assisted in judging Advanced and Sports whilst Grant Benns judged Intermediate. We would also like to thank CHBAC, particularly Neil Falknor, for their hospitality and the residents of Waipukurau who put up with our noise on an annual basis.
See you next year!
David Cranna.

Advanced		Points	Place
Richard Hood	G202 NUT	5558	1
Grant Benns	Pitts S2B MAD	5169	2
Paul Marshall	Pitts S2S WIZ	5140	3
Terry Johnson	Pitts S2B MAD	4934	4
David Cranna	Pitts S2B MAD	4394	5
Brent Griffin	Pitts S2B MAD	3193	6
Intermediate			
Ian Young	Pitts S2S WIZ	3673	1
Wayne Ormrod	Pitts S2B MAD	3488	2
Mike Slack	Pitts S2B MAD	3463	3
Gavin Henderson	Pitts S2B MAD	3398	4

Darrell Brown	Pitts S1S EES	3300	5
Simon Marshall	Pitts S2S WIZ	2967	6

Sports

Brett Stubbing	Pitts S2B MAD	1982	1
Nick Pilbrow	Yak55 YKV	1805	2
Steve Geard	Yak55 YKV	1783	3
Jolyon Reeves	Yak55 YKV	1395	4
Andrew Love	Extra XRA	862	5

Trophies 2009.

Unlimited	
Advanced Champion	Richard Hood
Intermediate Champion	Ian Young
Sports Champion	Brett Stubbing
4- Minute Freestyle	Richard Hood
Unknown Trophy	Mike Slack
Best Newcomer	Brett Stubbing
Champion of Champions	Ian Young
Best Supporter	Barbara Marshall
Most Improved	Wayne Ormond
Dipstick	Andrew Love
Greatest Grey wings	

2010 New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships; Waipukurau, 18-21 March 2010 – The Full Results

Advanced	Points			Place
Paul Marshall	5492	Pitts S2S	WIZ	1
Richard Hood	5430	G202	NUT	2
Grant Benns	5283	Extra	XRA	3
Wayne Ormrod	4066	Extra	XRA	4
I**ntermediate**				
Nick Pilbrow	3673	Yak55	YKV	1
Darrell Brown	3666	Pitts S1S	EES	2
Steve Geard	3619	Yak55	YKV	3
Kevin Langford	3399	Yak55	JPO	4
Gavin Henderson	3335	G202	NUT	5
Sportsman				
Ivan Krippner	1906	MM1	DDC	1
Andrew Love	1779	Robin	RBN	2
Murray Rogers	1667	A152	TAA	3
Primary				
Simon Fitzgerald	846	G202	NUT	1
Ryan Southam	836	DH82	BMY	2

Awards for 2010.

Champion of Champions	Paul Marshall
Unknown Trophy	Richard Hood
4-Minute Free	Grant Benns
Best Newcomer	Ivan Krippner
Best Supporter	Elle Langford
Dipstick	Andrew Love
Greatest Grey Wings	

2011 New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships; Waipukurau, 16-19 March 2011. The Full Results.

Advanced				Place
Richard Hood	G202	NUT	5950.33	1
Russell Bell	G200	LGT	5843.33	2
Paul Marshall	Pitts S2S	WIZ	5285.66	3
Grant Benns	Extra 300L	XRA	5216.83	4
Wayne Ormrod	Extra 300L	XRA	5000.33	5
Ian Young	Pitts S2S	WIZ	4571	6
Dion Webb	Pitts S2S	WIZ	4127.83	7
Intermediate				
Ivan Krippner	Pitts S2A	PIT	4134.75	1
Darrell Brown	Pitts S1S	EES	4071.87	2
David Cranna	Zlin 50	ZSO	4052.5	3
Gavin Henderson			3620.25	4
Sports				
John Luff	Pitts S1S	PEG	2134.75	1
Cam Wilson	Extra 330L	XRA	1953	2
Murray Rogers			1872.62	3
Morris Tull	Pitts S1S	FRJ		4
Terry Johnson			1551.87	5
Ryan Chapman			1359.66	6
Primary				
Kylie Wakelin	A152	FLH	703.12	1

Trophies for 2011.

Unlimited Champion	Not flown
Advanced Champion	Richard Hood
Intermediate Champion	Ivan Krippner.
Sports Champion	John Luff
Primary Champion	Kylie Wakelin

Unknown	Ivan Krippner
Champion of Champions	Ivan Krippner
Sportsman Unknown	Morris Tull
Four Minute Free	Grant Benns
President's Trophy	Ian Young
Most Improved	Kylie Wakelin
Dipstick	Terry Johnson
Greatest Grey Wings	

2012 New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships; Waipukurau, 14-17 March 2012 – The Full Results.

Saturday 17th of March, 2012 will probably go down in NZ Aerobatic Club history as our biggest day ever – our first flight was airborne at 8.15 am and the last landed around 5.15pm…42 individual flights that ensured all 15 competitors completed the entire flying program for our 2012 Aerobatic Nationals. Whew! This wouldn't have been required if Friday's weather had been flyable, but also wouldn't have been possible without the slick operation and co-ordination of all involved. Well done to all competitors, judges, officials and 'friends of the club'.

As is usual at the Nationals, everybody had to muck in to keep the event on track – it is hard and would probably be unfair to single out individuals, however I must thank Simon Fitzgerald for the huge effort and long hours he put in on the administrative side as Contest Director. You will read elsewhere that, due to changing work commitments, Simon has stood down from this role for next year and Mike Slack has put up his hand to take over. Thankfully Simon will continue on as a judge (and a future competitor?!). Being a highly organised chap (he organises the traffic at Auckland Airport very well!), I am sure Slackie will do a great job.

This year we had the help on the judging line from many club members (including judge-in-training Sue Mealing…thanks and welcome, Sue) and also from Canadian visitors Larry and Elaine (thanks guys…please come back). The more judges we have on the line, the more 'average' the scores become – in a good way!

It was great to see a couple of new competitors this year – Trish flying Primary in her lovely RV6 and Sam flying Sports in Pitts S-1 RTP. Having RTP at our National's for the first time was great to see, this being our former long-time Contest Director Ray Philpot's beautifully hand-built baby. For various reason, Ray never managed to get RTP to the Nationals, and – sadly - poor health kept him (and his mighty Honda Goldwing!) away from Waipukurau this year to see his plane flying. And being flown so well – congratulations to Sam on being this year's hoarder of silverware! In keeping with last year's big winner Ivan Krippner, a pattern seems to be establishing that you need a Pitts and be accompanied by a lovely partner to put in a winning performance.

This year we had the inaugural presentation of the Colin Greatrex Intermediate Unknown trophy. Appropriately, this was won by Murray Rogers flying his CT4B. Murray and Colin had competed against each other at many aerobatic competitions and had developed a firm friendship - Murray was flying back to Tauranga from an Ohakea training weekend, with Colin just a few miles away on his way back to Ardmore, at the time of the accident, placing Murray unknowingly closest to Colin at the time of his tragic accident.

Our dip-stick award was this year awarded to Ian Young, for seemingly flying most of his aerobatic sequences *above* the box (3300'+!) rather than it, which, upon reflection, seems a bit unfair given new information that has come to hand… One has to check that the cockpit card being used matches the sequence submitted to the judges, or else your typically immaculate aerobatics will be scored multiple zeros and allow you to be beaten (yes!) by lesser mortals. Sorry Paul, had we known this on the night, you wouldn't have come away from the prize-giving empty handed, for the first time in ever!

We now ponder next year –

- Will Richard and Russell fight it out in Unlimited (against Doug…)?
- Has David found his true comfort-zone…Intermediate?
- Can Mo get more time in NZ to practice…in an RV7, even?
- Is Darrell just one flight away from being Mr Consistent?
- Will Sam convince Dave to join him at Waipukurau in RTP to be a winning team?
- What chance will anyone have once Brent and Mike get fully familiar with the Giles?
- Will Ian come off oxygen?
- Can John fit the Venom in the box?
- Will Wayne convert great lines into a winning score?
- Can Trish get all her RV friends along to compete against her?
- Will we see some (even just one please Steve, Kevin) round-engine planes competing?
- And high-wing monoplanes too?
- What if Murray takes up Trish's kind offer to use the RV6?

- Will we be looking south to a new box location?
- Can Martyn find a plane to fly? (I really want to see this happen!) (I've bought a new car, does that count? - Ed)
- Will the event be so popular we have to add another flying day?

Whilst our numbers were slightly down this year, we had yet another great event, which most importantly was incident-free. The trophies are all well and good, but safety is our first priority (and funs our second?) and in this regard everybody can be proud of the professionalism and airmanship demonstrated throughout the week.
In future newsletters I will talk a little more about topics of discussion that came up at this year's event – some of these you will see in the minutes of the AGM. If you have any private thoughts, please feel free to e-mail me. In the meantime, check our website for info, events and updates and don't forget next year – March 14-16th 2013 Aerobatic Club Nationals…be there!
Grant Benns President

THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY….

It's a shame sometimes that we hand out our awards on the Saturday night of the New Zealand Aerobatic Championships. You know, after all the serious flying has been done, and when everyone is kinda relaxed about life and ready for a drink or three. Makes sense generally, but sometimes the best things happen later. This is the story of one of those events that happened later; like on the Sunday, well after most folk had long gone. This is the story of the one that got away, the award that slipped through fingers, the event the judges and most competitors never got to see, a real winner....
The championships were held at Waipukurau from March 15 to 17. Now, remember those dates? Those are the dates absolutely and utterly insisted on at last year's annual general meeting by a bunch of airborne bus drivers from Hong Kong, who needed to know their leave times about a century in advance. And boy did they kick up a lot of noise at the very hint of those dates changing. And then what happened? One. Just one, turned up. Good on ya, Ian Young. The only good thing about this was all the great stories he had to tell about the other two..... But I digress.
After a truly rotten season, with weather so inclement the Brian Langley was postponed repeatedly, it was no surprise that in the qualifying round almost nobody flew a 45-degree line. This is normal, but not generally encouraged. The AGM was held that night and the 16 pilots retired for the night anticipating intense action the following day. There had, however, been a disturbing omen. The breeze was from the south-west. Veteran championship attendees knew full well that should the wind back just 20 degrees we wouldn't be flying the following day. And guess what, it did so we didn't.
Thursday was spent looking at low clag pass by propelled by a gentle south-westerly. Richard Hood and David Cranna brutally bashed innocent golf balls around the sodden airfield. And it has to be said, that I hadn't seen them do this in about 10 years but *nothing* had changed. David was still lecturing Richard on golfing technique and Richard was still demonstrating that a skill in one discipline does not imply a skill in any other. The balls went no further and no more accurately than they did 10 years ago. At least no-one took the cover off the snooker table.
Saturday dawned bright. Contest Director Simon Fitzgerald had called for a 7.30am briefing for an 8am launch. The skies were clear and in that one day every pilot flew every flight except for the 4-minute airshow free. That was quite an achievement for everyone concerned with a big effort from Starter Cam Wilson - despite a cold so bad he couldn't fly.
The judging line was bolstered by former Air Canada pilot Larry Ernewein and his wife Elaine who had just happened to do a Google on aerobatics and New Zealand while passing through Hawkes Bay on holiday. By pure luck, our championships were on. A couple of days either side or we'd have missed them - Larry and Elaine were presented with our President's Cup for the most helpful assistants to the competition. Larry and his son both compete in Buckers.
The competitions were incredibly tight. In Advanced, for example, Richard won the Known with Paul Marshall second and Russell Bell third. In the Free, Russell won with Grant Benns second and Richard third. In the Unknown, Paul took the honours, with Richard second and Grant third. The winner of the category was Richard with 6008 points to Russell's 5821 with Grant third with 5613. Paul took home the Unknown trophy.

This was repeated throughout the grades. In Sportsman, Sam Elimelech won the first round with Morris Second. But in the second round John Luff took the top score. At the end, Sam had won by only 30 points, and he also took the Grand Champion trophy with 74.8 percent. John finished not only second in Sportsman but was also second in the Grand Champion with 73.6 percent. Sam was flying Ray Philpot's trusty steed - RTP. It was wonderful to see that aircraft in the air over the box at YP.

That brings us to Intermediate and perhaps the best event. David took the first round flying in his gorgeous Zlin. In second and third came Mike Slack and Brent Griffen. In the Free, David won again but the scene behind him changed. Darrell Brown came second. In third was Murray Rogers in his CT4B. But Murray won the inaugural Colin Greatrex Trophy for the Intermediate Unknowns - with less than a point between his flight and Mike Slack's. David won Intermediate overall, Murray came second, and came third.

There's a lot happening here. The CT4B Air Trainer is underpowered and only marginally up to flying Intermediate and Murray was flying against some really nice machinery. Only Murray knows just how hard it is to fly that big ol' plane around an Intermediate sequence. If ever there's a fine example of a true gentleman competitor and club member, and who can prove you don't need a hot ship to win, it's Murray. His Unknown was the win of the contest.

And we wouldn't be complete without a mention of Trish Stevens who flew a very lovely RV through a couple of very nice sequences in the Primary. It was a lonely contest for her, but it was well worth watching from the judge's line.

Which brings us to the dipstick award? The dipstick is awarded to the person who in the opinion of their peers has done their best to add flavour and texture to our competitions by doing something they'd rather forget. The dipstick is named after all those pilots who either have, or will, lose their dipstick in the fuel tank of a Pitts. This year we had a bumper crop. Sure, Paul flew a large chunk of sequence around the wrong way, but stand out winner was Ian who when flying his Unknown never came below the top of the box. He never came below about 200,000ft. It gave Ian a great view of the box, Waipukurau, Waipawa and the curvature of the earth. He would have seen Chile but for the haze.

That brings us to a fundamental issue. If the competition doesn't begin until the box markers are out, are they not truly over until the box markers are back in again and packed away? Because if we agree that this last act is the closure of the event, we have someone(s) even more deserved of that prestigious award. This is the one that got away.

Those who have never put the markers out nor brought them in just haven't really experienced the championships. We place them out in farmers' fields in amongst cattle and sheep and stuff, and then you have to go out and bring them back.

Now, I've sworn off putting out or bringing in markers ever since I fell off a fence and broke a leg putting them out one year. But this time, there were insufficient people to bring them in and I wanted to check out what Grant had described as an impossible approach to one of our traditional spots. So out we went; me, Grant, Sam, and Darrell. Sam is of the very long-legged variety and Grant is too cool to allow climbing fences to be much of an issue.

This left Darrell and I to play the comic couple trying to get over barbed wire without looking like Berlin Wall escapees circa 1956. Everything went totally wonderful until the last marker....

The last marker used to be the first marker and it has always been a trial because of brambles and bush and scrub and a whole lot of impenetrable thicket stuff in the way. This was the spot Grant had been so concerned about. But now we really did need a new route. One was observed and we duly opted for it, approaching the spot from its opposite side.

It's testimony to the regard with which the club is held, that two landowners, who are bombarded throughout competition week, greeted us like long lost friends when we went to get the markers in. In anyone ever queries why we always come back to Waipuk, it's their attitude and friendship. One of the landowners, the one where the last marker resided, said: "I'll turn my electric fence off, but I can't say that for my neighbour." You got that bit. Just checking!

Off we toddled. Long-legs and super-cool hopped over a stile - the stile being partly blocked by some inconvenient large branches recently chopped from a tree that formed part of the stile. Darrell and I gingerly negotiated our way around the branches, over the fence, and around the tree. By then the other pair had long disappeared into bush. "Yo!" we yelled. "We're here," they called back.

Okay, so we pushed our way through the bush. And then we came to a single strand of wire.
Okay...so this is an electric fence. Is it on? I flicked at it with a blade of grass. Nothing. Must be okay. Okay? Put my hand on it. KAPOW! Not okay. Still have most of the hand, which is a positive. Long-legs and super-cool are tall enough and cool enough to pass over in a single bounding step. Darrell and I are not built like that.
I said: "I'll step on the wire, you step over." I placed a foot protected by a heavy-soled thick-leather tramping boot on the wire and forced it down. Darrell stepped over. "Now you do that for me."
You can see where it went wrong.
Darrell was not wearing thick-soled heavy boots. He forced down the wire okay, I was in the process of stepping over the wire, and KAPOW! Darrell was blasted off his feet; the wire shot up and connected firmly with the inside of my left thigh, kinda high in the left thigh. Okay, *very* high in the left thigh. Multiple KAPOWS!! There were two options. One was to stay there and end up sounding like Michael Jackson. The other was to hurl myself forward and off the wire. I took the latter option, figuring one Michael Jackson was probably enough. Actually, that wasn't the real reason.
The two of us were then spread out across the grass in various stages of discomfort. The only thankful thing was no-one had a mobile to record this event or it would have gone viral on You-Tube. But wait...there's more. Super-cool and long-legs have now unpegged and folded the last marker and stroll over to a gate in the electric fence, which was now opened and we safely stepped through. Bastard! I have never wanted to see a gate less. We followed the fence line until we got back to the stile. Remember the stile? We are about to have it burned into our memory. Over the stile go long-legs and super-cool. Over the stile goes your humble narrator, clasping all manner of uselessly brittle twigs and stuff to effect circumnavigation of the tree and then wind a way through and over the tangle of lopped branches. There was a loud thump and the accompanying vocals suggested nothing good was happening.

Darrell had slipped. He was now on one side of the fence tangled in the felled branches while his right leg straddled the wire with his foot jammed under part of the stile on the other side. He was stuck - not good. This is how you lose vital components such as knee caps and ligaments, tendons and stuff. Ow is too small a word to be using right now.
There are only two options. Sound familiar? The first option is to physically lift Darrell out of the branches and reduce the pressure on his knee, enabling him to free his foot and wriggle free. The other is to run around or lie around screaming. Although this was the desirable option, having the benefits of immediate and effortless implementation, we decided to reconsider the position and found a third option which involved freeing Darrell's foot by kicking it and shoving it free while Darrell held his leg and his sanity in both hands. He later claimed he was okay but he had gone that funny colour normally reserved for bat guano.
Martyn
Full results after the pictures....



GREATREX Award winners: Murray Rodgers and his beloved Air Trainer



VETERANS - John Luff and Paul Marshall. Sunshine and clouds, must have been Thursday



YOU'RE UPSIDE DOWN...I THINK...: Vice president David Cranna discusses the finer points with Murray Rogers.





READY TO GO: Cam Wilson, Wayne Ormrod and Russell Bell.
I Picked it up in Singapore...lovely bit of kit...sure the film fits in somewhere....
Richard Hood explains the finer digital photographic techniques to Paul Marshall.

READY FOR ACTION: Competing aircraft lined up prior to the championships.







DON'T YOU HAVE A REVERSE ON THIS THING? Dave and Murray help push Ray Philpot's old steed, RTP to the pumps for one of the new drivers Sam Elimelech (front)

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF GRAEME CLARIDGE graeme@aerohub.co.nz or www.aerohub.co.nz

Advanced

	Pilot	Aircraft	Known	Free	Unknown	Total	%pp
1	Richard Hood	G202 NUT	2065.50	1991.50	1951.00	6008.0 0	70.27%
2	Russell Bell	G200 LGT	1856.75	2093.25	1871.75	5821.75	68.09%
3	Grant Benns	Extra XRA	1691.50	2026.75	1895.00	5613.2 5	65.65%
4	Paul Marshall	S2S WIZ	1860.00	1310.75	1954.75	51 25.50	59.95%
5	Ian Young	S2S WIZ	1230.25	1891.00	1838.00	4959. 25	58.00%
6	Wayne Ormrod	Extra XRA	1647.50	1742.25	1560.75	4950 .50	57.90%

Intermediate

	Pilot	Aircraft	Known	Free	Unknown	Total	
1	David Cranna	Zlin ZSO	1495.75	1393.00	1058.75	3947. 50	67.94%
2	Murray Rogers	CT4B JMV	1384.62	1282.62	1178.38	3845. 62	66.19%
3	Darrell Brown	S1S EES	1337.00	1352.62	1084.88	3774.5 0	64.97%
4	Mike Slack		1427.50	1259.38	1077.75	3764. 62	64.80%
5	Brent Griffen		1424.25	1107.62	1114.38	3646 .25	62.76%

Sportsman

	Pilot	Aircraft	Known	Free	Total	%pp
1	Sam Elimelech	S1S RTP	1012.50	977.33	1989. 83	74.81%
2	John Luff	S1S PEG	966.83	991.00	1957.83	73.60%
3	Morris Tull	S1S FRJ	992.67	861.33	1854.00	69.70%
4	Cam Wilson	Extra XRA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%

Primary

	Pilot	Aircraft	Known	Known2	Total	%pp
1	Trish Stephens	RV6 RVF	420.50	452.33	872.83	69.27%

Trophies for 2012

Unlimited Champion
Advanced Champion Richard Hood
Intermediate Champion David Cranna
Sports Champion Sam Elimelech
Champion of Champions (Highest percentage across all categories): Sam Elimelech.
Four Minute Free Champion
Alan Hogan Trophy (Advanced Unknown): Paul Marshall
Morris Tull Trophy – (Sports Unknown) Morris Tull
Colin Greatrex Cup (Intermediate Unknown): Murray Rogers
Most Improved Pilot: Brian Souter Trophy Mike Slack
Best Newcomer – Brian Langley Memorial Trophy (Best newcomer): Sam Elimelech
President's Cup (Most helpful non-competitor): Larry and Elaine Ernewein
Dip-stick Award: Ian Young for flying above the box.
Greatest Grey Wings:

2013 New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships; Waipukurau, 14-16 March 2013 – The Full Results.

Advanced

	Pilot		Known	Free	Unknown	Total	%pp
1	Russell Bell	G200 LGT	1815.83	2277.00	1976.33	6069.16	70.40%
2	Richard Hood	G202 NUT	1819.83	2038.16	1593.66	5451.66	63.24%
3	Wayne Ormond	Extra XRA	1657.50	2053.66	1564.83	5276.00	61.20%

Intermediate

	Pilot		Known	Free	Unknown	Total	%pp
1	Sam Elimelech	S1S RTP	1398.87	1468.75	1177.00	4044.62	73.00%
2	David Cranna	Zlin ZSO	1406.62	1420.12	1080.62	3907.37	70.53%
3	Brent Griffin		1289.75	1453.25	110.50	3850.50	69.50%
4	Mike Slack		1368.87	1324.25	1077.00	3770.12	68.50%
5	Darrell Brown	S1S EES	1380.75	1261.00	1121.00	3762.75	67.91%
6	Morris Tull	S1S FRJ	1332.25	1420.87	955.62	3708.75	66.94%
7	Fred Zayas	Lazer LZR	1460.50	735.37	1283.00	3478.87	62.79%
8	Steve Geard	Yak55 YKV	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Sports

	Pilot		Known	Free	Unknown	Total	%pp
1	Ian Young	Zlin ZSO	973.66	932.33		1906.00	73.30%
2	Andrew Love	S2A PIT	969.83	931.66		1901.50	73.13%
3	Desmond Barry	RV7 DES	925.50	881.00		1806.50	69.48%
4	Grant Benns		843.33	933.16		1776.50	68.32%
5	Murray Rogers	CT4B JMV	898.33	828.00		1726.33	66.39%
6	Trish Stevens	RV6	673.33	694.00		1367.33	52.58%

Sports Unknown. (New category not included in overall sports category winners) (Future trophy to be donated by Morris Tull)

	Pilot	Aircraft	Free	Unknown	Total	%pp
1	Andrew Love	S2A PIT		1035.20	1035.20	75.0%
2	Ian Young	Zlin ZSO		1024.30	1034.20	74.2%
3	Desmond Barry	RV7 DES		1016.20	1016.20	73.6%
4	Murray Rogers	CT4 JMV		1011.80	1011.80	73.3%
5	Grant Benns			879.00	879.00	63.7%
6	Trish Stevens	RV6		583.17	583.17	42.3%

Trophies for 2013.

Advanced Winner – Pam Collins Trophy Russell BELL

Intermediate Winner – RT Philpot Trophy Sam ELIMELECH

Intermediate Unknown Winner – Colin Greatrex Trophy Fred ZAYAS

Sports Winner – Meredith Trophy Ian YOUNG

Best Unknown Winner – Allen Hogan Trophy Fred ZAYAS

Sports Unknown – Morris Tull Pitts Trophy. Andrew LOVE

4 Minute Freestyle Winner Wayne ORMROD

Champion of Champions - Merv Meredith Cup Sam ELIMELECH

Most Improved Pilot – Brian Souter Trophy Des BARRY

Best Newcomer – Brian Langley Memorial Trophy Fred ZAYAS

Greatest Grey Wings Richard HOOD

2014 New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships; Waipukurau, 13-15 March 2014 – The Full Results.

Advanced – Pam Collins Trophy

1st Russel Bell – Giles G200 LGT

2nd Sam Elimelech – Pitts S1S RTP

Intermediate – Ray Philpot Trophy

1st Steve Geard – YAK 55 YKV

2nd David Cranna – Zlin 50LS ZSO

3rd Fred Zayas – Lazer 230 LZR

Sports – Meredith Plate

1st Murray Rogers – PAC CT4B JMV

2nd Grant Benns – Falcomposite Furio LLG

3rd Des Barry – RV7 DES

Morris Tull, Darrel Brown???

Primary – Gosling Mug

1st Max Hanna – Alpha 2160 FXY

2nd Ian Young – Tiger Moth BEF

3rd Aiden Campbell – Cessna 152 TAA

Trophies. 2014

Unlimited Champion

Advanced Champion	Russel Bell	G200 LGT
Intermediate Champion	Steve Geard	Yak 55 YKV
Sports Champion	Murray Rogers	CT4B JMV

Four Minute Free Champion

Intermediate Unknown – Colin Greatrex Trophy - Steve Geard - 75.8%

Most Improved Pilot – Brian Souter Trophy - Andrew Love – Pitts S2A

Best Newcomer – Brian Langley Memorial Trophy - Max Hanna – 73.1%

President's Cup – Most Helpful - Lorraine Zayas

Greatest Grey Wings - David Cranna

Dipstick - Steve Geard – for confusing QNH with QFE during unofficial practice

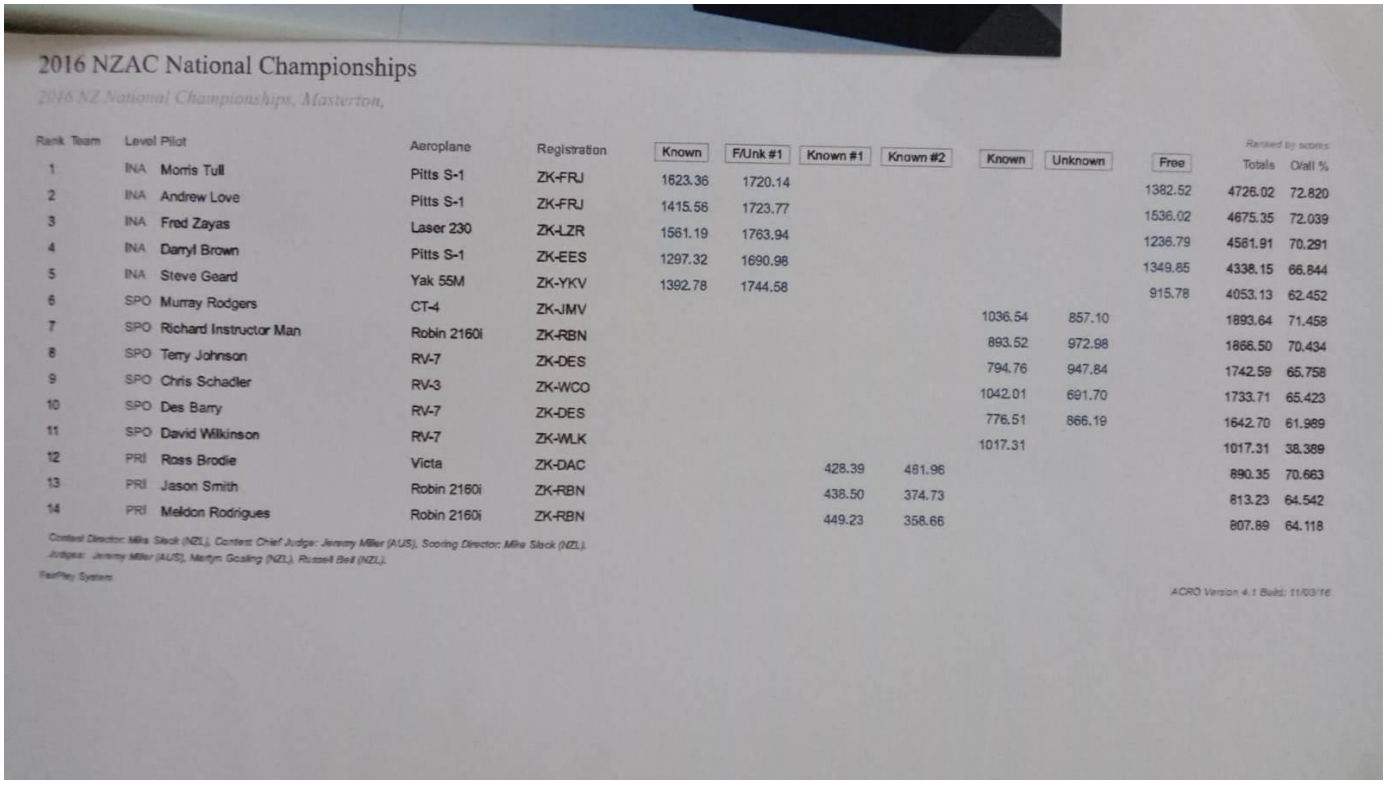
Best Unknown Flight Overall – Allen Hogan Cup -Steve Geard - 75.8%

Champion of Champions – Merv Meredith Cup - Steve Geard - 74.4%

2015 New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships; Masterton, 19-21 March 2015 – The Full Results.

Advanced	*1st Wayne Ormrod*	*74.3%*
Intermediate:	*1st Morris Tull* *2nd Grant Benns* *3rd Fred Zayas*	*77%* *76%* *74%*
Sports:	*1st Andrew Love* *2nd Murray Rodgers* *3rd Des Barry*	*80.9%* *79.8%* *74%*
Recreational:	1st Tom Hall 2nd Ross McAinch 3rd David Wilkinson	74% 73% 72%
Sports Unknown:	*1st Murray Rodgers* *2nd Andrew Love* *3rd Des Barry*	*78%* *77.3%* *77.29%*
Intermediate Unknown:	*1st Grant Benns* *2nd Morris Tull* *3rd Fred Zayas*	*76%* *75%* *70%*
Allan Hogan Trophy *(Top unknown):*	*1st Grant Benns*	*76%*
Champion of Champions:	*Andrew Love*	*80.95%*
4-minute free:	Wayne Ormrod	
Brian Souter Trophy (Most improved):	Morris Tull	
President's Trophy:	Roz	
Greatest Grey Wing:	Murray Rogers	
Dip Stick Award:	Andrew Love & Morris Tull	For their efforts with the local media...
Brian Langley Trophy (Best newcomer):	Tom Hall	

2016 New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships; Masterton, 17-19 March 2016 – The Full Results



2016 NZAC National Championships

2016 NZ National Championships, Masterton,

Rank	Team	Level	Pilot	Aeroplane	Registration	Known	F/Unk #1	Known #1	Known #2	Known	Unknown	Free	Totals	Ranked by scores Orall %
1		INA	Morris Tull	Pitts S-1	ZK-FRJ	1623.36	1720.14					1382.52	4726.02	72.820
2		INA	Andrew Love	Pitts S-1	ZK-FRJ	1415.56	1723.77					1536.02	4675.35	72.039
3		INA	Fred Zayas	Laser 230	ZK-LZR	1561.19	1763.94					1236.79	4561.91	70.291
4		INA	Darryl Brown	Pitts S-1	ZK-EES	1297.32	1690.98					1349.85	4338.15	66.844
5		INA	Steve Geard	Yak 55M	ZK-YKV	1392.78	1744.58					915.78	4053.13	62.452
6		SPO	Murray Rodgers	CT-4	ZK-JMV					1036.54	857.10		1893.64	71.458
7		SPO	Richard Instructor Man	Robin 2160i	ZK-RBN					893.52	972.98		1866.50	70.434
8		SPO	Terry Johnson	RV-7	ZK-DES					794.76	947.84		1742.59	65.758
9		SPO	Chris Schadler	RV-3	ZK-WCO					1042.01	691.70		1733.71	65.423
10		SPO	Des Barry	RV-7	ZK-DES					776.51	866.19		1642.70	61.989
11		SPO	David Wilkinson	RV-7	ZK-WLK					1017.31			1017.31	38.389
12		PRI	Ross Brodie	Victa	ZK-DAC			428.39	461.96				890.35	70.663
13		PRI	Jason Smith	Robin 2160i	ZK-RBN			438.50	374.73				813.23	64.542
14		PRI	Meldon Rodrigues	Robin 2160i	ZK-RBN			449.23	358.66				807.89	64.118

Contest Director: Mike Slack (NZL), Contest Chief Judge: Jeremy Miller (AUS), Scoring Director: Mike Slack (NZL).
Judges: Jeremy Miller (AUS), Martyn Gosling (NZL), Russell Bell (NZL).

FastRay System

ACRO Version 4.1 Build: 11/03/16

Advanced – Pam Collings Trophy; Not Flown**.**

Intermediate – Morris Tull

Sports- Murray Rogers

Recreational – Grant Benns Trophy; - Not Flown.

Primary – Gosling Mug; - Ross Brodie

4 Minute Freestyle Winner; Not Flown

Best Unknown Winner – Allen Hogan Trophy; Richard Collett

Intermediate Unknown – Colin Greatrix Trophy; Fred Zayas

Champion of Champions - Merv Meredith Cup; Morris Tull

Sports Unknown - Morris Tull Pitts Trophy; Richard Collett.

Most Improved Pilot – Brian Souter Trophy; Ross Brodie.

Best Newcomer – Brian Langley Memorial Trophy; Richard Collet.

Greatest Grey Wings. **Most Helpful – Presidents Trophy;**

Dip Stick Award;

2017 New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships; Masterton

1	ADV	**Russell Bell**	Giles G-200	ZK-LGT	2186.26		2818.93	2064.46	2139.17	9208.82	74.385
2	ADV	**Morris Tull**	Pitts S1	ZK-FRJ	1350.14		2360.23	1037.08	2031.83	6779.28	54.760
3	INT	**David Cranna**	Zlin 50LS	ZK-ZSO	1643.03		1738.99	1381.77		4763.79	77.460
4	INT	Grant Benns	Giles G-202	ZK-NUT	1667.92		1592.40	1461.15		4721.47	76.772
5	INT	Andrew Love	Pitts S-1	ZK-FRJ	1578.47		1440.25	1510.54		4529.27	73.647
6	INT	Brent Griffin	Giles G-202	ZK-NUT	1424.90		1536.56	1472.64		4434.11	72.099
7	INT	Darrell Brown	Pitts S-1	ZK-EES	1400.71		1628.51	1307.15		4336.37	70.510
8	ADV	Steve Geard	Yak 55M	ZK-YKV	2091.21		1647.36	301.05		4039.62	32.630
9	INT	Morris Tull	Giles G-202	ZK-NUT	1163.31		1410.62	1365.55		3939.47	64.056
10	INT	Mike Slack	Giles G-202	ZK-NUT	1346.01		1402.70	1189.21		3937.92	64.031
11	SPT	Terry Johnson	Giles G-202	ZK-NUT	1013.83	1027.78				2041.61	71.888
12	SPT	Chris Schadler	RV-3	ZK-WCO	958.12	1018.85				1976.97	69.612
13	SPT	Murray Rogers	CT-4	ZK-JMV	994.25	979.97				1974.22	69.515
14	SPT	Des Barry	Giles G-202	ZK-NUT	978.74	968.84				1947.59	68.577
15	REC	Des Barry	REC	ZK-DES	763.33	762.00				1525.33	77.037
16	REC	Grant Benns	RV-7	ZK-RVQ	766.17	728.67				1494.83	75.497

Contest Director: Mike Slack (NZL), Contest Chief Judge: Russell Bell (NZL), Scoring Director: Mike Slack, Flight Director: Grant Benns (NZL).
Judges: Sequence Chief Judge Martyn Gosling (NZL), Sequence Chief Judge Grant Benns (NZL), Russell Bell (NZL), Mike Slack (NZL), Terry Johnson (NZL).

Trophies for 2017.

Unlimited Champion
Advanced Champion Russel Bell
Intermediate Champion David Cranna
Sports Champion Terry Johnson
Four Minute Free Champion
Alan Hogan Trophy Desmond Barry
Colin Greatrex Cup (Intermediate Unknown): Andrew Love
Sports Unknown - Morris Tull Pitts Trophy; Terry Johnson.
Champion of Champions (Highest percentage across all categories): David Cranna
Most Improved Pilot: Brian Souter Trophy Morris Tull
Best Newcomer – Brian Langley Memorial Trophy (Best newcomer):
President's Cup (Most helpful non-competitor):
Dip-stick Award:
Greatest Grey Wings.

2018 New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships; Masterton,

NZAC National Championships, Hood Aerodrome, Masterton, 21 -24 Feb 2018

Ranked by scores

Rank	Level	Pilot	Aeroplane	Registration						Totals	O/all %
1	UNL	**Russell Bell**	Giles G-200	ZK-LGT		3160.50		3570.50	3163.00	3020.50	12914.50	69.921
2	ADV	**Morris Tull**	Pitts S1	ZK-FRJ		2213.67		2316.33	1589.00	2341.33	8460.33	65.482
3	INT	**Andrew Love**	Pitts S-1	ZK-FRJ		1430.83		1635.17	1496.50	1587.67	6150.17	70.936
4	INT	Grant Benns	Laser 230	ZK-LZR		1231.17		1441.17	1578.83	1780.33	6031.50	69.567
5	SPT	Murray Rogers	CT-4	ZK-JMV		1172.97	1016.63				2189.60	75.765
6	SPT	David Cranna	RV-7	ZK-RVQ		996.91	1169.52				2166.43	74.963
7	SPT	Chris Schadler	RV3	ZK-WCO		1030.93	1130.13				2161.06	74.777
8	SPT	Darrell Brown	Pitts S-1	ZK-EES		1013.70	1093.96				2107.66	72.930
9	SPT	Richard Collett	Robin 2160	ZK-RBN		1024.44	1018.67				2043.11	70.696
10	SPT	Ian Young	Robin 2160	ZK-RBN		1050.20	991.79				2041.99	70.657
11	SPT	Fred Zaya	Laser 230	ZK-LZR		389.76	1188.42				1578.18	54.608
12	REC	Alex Philpott	Robin 2160	ZK-RBN		693.93	679.18				1373.12	69.349
13	REC	Ross Brodie	AirTourer	ZK-DAC		604.78	750.59				1355.38	68.453
14	REC	Ross McAinch	RV7	ZK-RVF		679.19	672.14				1351.33	68.249
15	REC	Trish Stephens	RV	ZK-RVF		597.24	713.60				1310.84	66.204
16	PRI	Murray Callister	A152	ZK-DPS	299.67	284.83					584.50	46.389

Contest Chief Judge: Grant Benns (NZL), Scoring Director: Mike Slack.
Judges: Sequence Chief Judge Martyn Gosling (NZL), Des Barry, Sequence Chief Judge Russell Bell (NZL), Grant Benns (NZL), Andrew Love.

Trophies for 2018.
Unlimited Champion Russel Bell
Advanced Champion Morris Tull
Intermediate Champion Andrew Love
Sports Champion Murray Rogers
Recreational Champion Alex Philpot
Primary Champion Murray Callister
Four Minute Free Champion Andrew Love
Alan Hogan Trophy Fred Zayas
Colin Greatrex Cup (Intermediate Unknown): Grant Benns
Sports Unknown - Morris Tull Pitts Trophy; Fred Zayas
Champion of Champions (Highest percentage across all categories): Murray Rogers
Most Improved Pilot: Brian Souter Trophy Russel Bell
Best Newcomer – Brian Langley Memorial Trophy (Best newcomer):
Greatest Grey Wings. Chris Schadler.
Dip-stick Award:
Nu Look Trophy North vs South; North Island.

2019 New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships; Masterton, 27 Feb-2 March 2019 – The Full Results.

The 2019 National's event at Hood Aerodrome was successfully completed with the usual antics, zeros and even a few 10s recorded. Fifteen pilots battled in the box but when all scores were recorded and tallied, the results saw Trish Stephens take the Recreational crown, David Cranna snapped up the win in Sports and Intermediate, Whilst Morris Tull took the Advanced honours. David Cranna also scored the overall Champion of Champions with a score of 78.351%. Well done to all competitors and I'm hoping the 2020 event is shaping up well – at least it looks like the weather is being kind!
Mike Slack. NZAC President 2019.

2019 National Aerobatic Championships

Ranked by percent

Rank	Level	Pilot	Aeroplane	Registration					Totals	O/all %
1	SPT	**David Cranna**	RV-7	ZK-RVQ	1034.70			1018.10	2052.79	78.351
2	SPT	**Chris Schadler**	RV3	ZK-WCO	1001.68			1019.09	2020.77	77.129
3	SPT	**Grant Benns**	RV-7	ZK-RVQ	996.69			970.56	1967.25	75.086
4	SPT	Des Barry	RV-7	ZK-DES	967.86			982.47	1950.32	74.440
5	INT	David Cranna	Zlin 50LS	ZK-ZSO	1506.66	1676.04	1592.61	1475.26	6250.57	74.147
6	INT	Andrew Love	Pitts S-1	ZK-FRJ	1505.33	1724.29	1526.13	1475.66	6231.40	73.919
7	REC	Trish Stephens	RV-6A	ZK-RVF	673.73			728.60	1402.33	70.825
8	INT	Mike Slack	Zlin 50LS	ZK-ZSO	1427.88	1349.09	1490.04	1632.53	5899.54	69.983
9	REC	Paul Carran	RV-8	ZK-EYT	627.75			661.12	1288.88	65.095
10	SPT	Murray Rogers	CT-4	ZK-JMV	803.80			890.76	1694.56	64.678
11	ADV	Morris Tull	Pitts S-1	ZK-FRJ	2173.81	2421.98	1572.81	1961.19	8129.79	62.924
12	SPT	Ian Young	RV-7	ZK-RVQ	866.47			732.37	1598.84	61.025
13	ADV	Grant Benns	Laser 230	ZK-LZR	2096.65	1220.60	1663.00	2642.36	7622.61	58.999
14	ADV	Steve Geard	Yak 55	ZK-YKV	1854.88	2419.01	1106.61	1981.85	7362.35	56.984
15	INT	Fred Zayas	Laser 230	ZK-LZR	1340.64	1567.35			2907.99	34.496

Contest Director: Mike Slack, Contest Chief Judge: Ray Philpot, Scoring Director: Mike Slack.
Judges: Ray Philpot, Martyn Gosling, Russell Bell, Terry Johnson, Pam Collins.

Trophies for 2019.

Unlimited Champion	Not Flown
Advanced Champion	Morris Tull
Intermediate Champion	David Cranna
Sports Champion	David Cranna
Recreational Champion	Trish Stevens
Primary Champion	Not flown

Four Minute Free Champion Morris Tull
Alan Hogan Trophy David Cranna
Colin Greatrex Cup (Intermediate Unknown): David Cranna
Sports Unknown - Morris Tull Pitts Trophy; David Cranna
Champion of Champions (Highest percentage across all categories): David Cranna
Most Improved Pilot: Brian Souter Trophy Chris Schadler
Best Newcomer – Brian Langley Memorial Trophy (Best newcomer): Paul Carran
President's Cup (Most helpful non-competitor):
Greatest Grey Wings. Chris Schadler.
Dip-stick Award:
Nu Look Trophy North vs South; North Island.

2020 New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships; Masterton. 26 Feb -1 March 2020 – The Full Results.

Advanced – Power *Pilot A/c type Reg Known Free Known UnKnown F/Unknown Total %*

Morris Tull G-202 ZK-NUT	57.7	61.5	37.7	57.8	53.68%

Intermediate – Power

Pilot A/c type Reg	*Known Free/F*	*Known Unknown*	*F/Unknown*	*Total %*
Grant Benns G-202 ZK-NUT	79.1	72.7	74.4	70.3	74.13%
Andy Love Pitts S-1S ZK-PUG	76.5	54.0	68.3	79.8	69.65%
Ian Young Pitts S-1S ZK-FRJ	67.7	71.6	59.7	75.4	68.60%
David Cranna Zlin Z50 ZK-ZSO	74.0	67.2	66.2	62.3	67.43%
Brent Griffin G-202 ZK-NUT	68.4	69.3	9.9	75.7	55.83%
Steve Geard Yak 55M ZK-YKV	65.7	71.9	0	79.7	54.33%

Sportsman – Power

Pilot A/c type Reg	*Known Free/*	*Unknown*	*Total %*
David Cranna RV7 ZK-RVQ	79.17	81.5	80.34%
Murray Rogers CT4B ZK-JMV	78.88	80.5	79.69%
Mark Oostingh Zlin Z50 ZK-ZSO	86.13	72.8	79.46%
Ian Young RV7 ZK-RVQ	75.05	79.7	77.37%
Grant Benns RV7 ZK-RVQ	77.43	75.4	76.42%
John Ashman G-202 ZK-NUT	69.88	63.5	66.69%
Paul Carran RV8 ZK-EYT	45.2	57.3	51.25%
Andy Love 2160a ZK-VCC	29.1	71.3	50.20%

Sportsman – Power (Unknown)

Pilot A/c type Reg	*Unknown Total %*
Murray Rogers CT4B ZK-JMV	81.50%
Mark Oostingh Zlin Z50 ZK-ZSO	80.90%
Andy Love 2160a ZK-VCC	77.90%
Grant Benns RV7 ZK-RVQ	72.20%
David Cranna RV7 ZK-RVQ	71.10%
John Ashman G-202 ZK-NUT	70.50%
Ian Young RV7 ZK-RVQ	20.60%
Paul Carran RV8 ZK-EYT	15.70%

Recreational – Power

Pilot A/c type Reg	*Known /Unknown*	*Total %*
Terry Johnson RV7 ZK-RVQ	68.7	73.6	71.15%
Austin Jones 2160a ZK-VCC	77.0	56.8	66.90%

Primary – Power *Pilot A/c type Reg Known /Known/ Total %*

Alexandra Watson 2160a ZK-VCC	64.0	59.0	61.50%
Iain McPhail 2160a ZK-VCC	52.2	63.3	57.75%

Best Newcomer – Alexandra Watson
Most Improved – Brent Griffin
Dip Stick – not directly awarded
Most helpful – Trish Stephens
Champion of Champions – David Cranna 80.33% (Sportsman)
North Vs South – North 70.26% South 64.52%
Alan Hogan Trophy – Murray Rogers 81.5% (Sportsman)

2021 New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships; Masterton, 3-6 March 2021 – The Full Results.

2021 NZ Aerobatic Club Nationals Cancellation 1 March 2021.

At 9pm on Saturday the 27th of February, in the middle of the Wings over Wairarapa Airshow, the NZ Government announced Auckland would go into Covid 19 Lockdown. This meant that 60% of our competitors, aircraft and required event personnel would be unable to leave Auckland and attend the Nationals. This made it impossible to crew and run the event and we were forced to cancel the 2021 NZAC Nationals. A few of the planned competitors, Morris Tull, Russell Bell and Lincoln Jones stayed on at Hood Airfield and carried out critiqued practice at the airfield in awesome weather for the week.

2022 New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships; Masterton, 2-5 March 2022 – The Full Results.

2022 NZ Aerobatic Club Nationals Cancellation 6 February 2022.

Regrettably, the organisers and key event personnel have concluded the running of the 2022 NZ Aerobatic Nationals, planned for March 1st-6th at Masterton Airport, to be unfeasible at this time.

Most likely because of the current situation we are in due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a distinct lack of actual and expected entries, which also results in a lack of personnel required to occupy the critical ground roles (judges, spotters, starters, scribes) to safely and efficiently run the event.

For various reasons, we have also had confirmation from many of our regular non-flying attendees who ordinarily bring with them the skills and experience to carry these ground rolls that they will be unable to attend as well.

Hopefully, we can look forward to the environment for recreational flying and competition aerobatics improving as the year moves on. We will be planning other competition and/or training events as the situation improves and have hope that the 2023 Nationals will be a return to normal.

Thank you to those who did show enthusiasm to commit to this now-cancelled event. A full refund will be made for entry fees paid.
Please remember to cancel any bookings you have made, and perhaps re-book for next year - the dates have been posted for those who need to think about getting leave or time away: 2023 NZAC Aerobatic Nationals - March 1st -5th 2023
The NZAC Annual General Meeting will take place via Zoom at 1900 on March the 3rd, 2022.

2023 New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships; Masterton, 1-6 March 2023 – The Full Results.

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.

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	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	PUG	2400.7	2796.2	2019.8	2090.0	73.12%	
Morris Tull	Pitts S-1S	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	YKV	1278.0	1675.5	1416.50	1670.0	68.62%	
David Cranna	Extra 300LX	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	WCO	1168.8	1191.3	86.15%
Murray Rogers	CT4B	JMW	1151.7	1191.3	85.55%
Lincoln Jones	Pitts S-1S	LDJ	1185.3	1113.0	83.90%
Ross Brodie	Pitts S-1S	PUG	1123.8	1155.2	83.15%
David Cranna	RV7	RVQ	1056.3	1114.3	79.20%
Grant Benns	RV7	RVQ	1104.8	1038.0	78.20%
Des Barry	Pitts S-1S	FRJ	1104.3	939.5	74.60%
David Wilkinson	One Design	EZG	1080.5	960.7	74.50%
Pierre Pechon	Decathlon	REF	932.8	981.0	69.85%

Sportsman Unknown

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Unknown*	*Total*
Ross Brodie	Pitts S-1S	PUG	1153.8	84.8%
Lincoln Jones	Pitts S-2C	LDJ	1132.3	83.3%
Chris Schadler	RV3	WCO	1131.7	83.2%
Grant Benns	RV7	RVQ	1125.2	82.7%
David Cranna	RV7	RVQ	1095.8	80.6%

David Wilkinson	One Design	EZG	1065.8	78.4%
Pierre Pechon	Super D	REF	1022.7	75.2%
Murray Rogers	CT4B	JMV	1010.5	74.3%
Des Barry	Pitts S-1S	FRJ	868.7	63.9%

Recreational – Power

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

4-minute Free Style

Morris Tull with 87%.
Andy Love with 86.5%

Trophies for 2023.

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, for amazing IT.

Champion of Champions – Chris Schadler

North Vs South – South

Alan Hogan Trophy – Ross Brodie

4-minute Free Style – Morris Tull












RVQ


XLX






NUT




FRJ














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

2024 National Aerobatic Championship of the NZAC event 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. We started the competition as planned on the Wednesday afternoon and cracked into efficient flow doing the Known sequences. Iain McPhail cooked a great BBQ for the welcome night. Thursday was cloudy so we did not fly however got a Low Level and Display ground course done plus a Judging intro course then some flying and the AGM was done with 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 Darlas 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 newby, Gill Phillips flying the Cessna 152A did really well in her first solo competition.

The volunteer spirit and workload sharing was 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 others.
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	39.70%	

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

2025 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 some rainy weather around Kaikoura. It was a shame to lose a few competitors due aircraft, rosters or illness at the last minute, but great to see Darrell Brown turn up anyway and Brad Pearpoint come along for a few days and Morris was unable to fly aerobatics due recent surgery. Morris and Grant Benns were then able to be dedicated to running a great event. Those that made it early were treated to some good practice weather on Tuesday after we got the box markers out. Masterton airport decided to do some work alongside the runway during our event! We got some good Judged practice in on Wednesday morning before weather prevented the planned competition commencing on the Wednesday, so Grant Benns ran a LLDA ground course. Grant then cooked a great BBQ for the welcome night.

Thursday morning was a little cloudy and we did not fly until about 11am, but we got through the Knowns and Free Knowns on Thursday. Thursday evening, the AGM was held with Morris Tull re-elected as President and all of the committee being re-elected plus the addition of Gill Phillips added to the committee. Mike Fowler as Vice President, offering to do more duties to unload Morris.

As it was late after the AGM, we decided to delete the Free Unknown designing and Grant worked late to deliver some more Unknowns to be flown on Friday, so Friday we flew the UNKNOWN's and then the second UNKNOWNS and finished off with a BBQ superbly cooked by the Grant Benns and David Cranna. Saturday dawned with clear skies and was a great day so we finished off the 4-minute FREESTYLE flown by the 4 competitors.

Mumma Darla's again provided catering for our Awards dinner at the clubrooms and the excuses began to roll over the beers.

Notable events over the week were scarce as the procedures were working well and of course Steve and his antics were missing. It was great to have Martyn Gosling back, we have missed you Martyn. Richard Wallace upgraded to a judge. We put out an extra box marker to indicate the centre point at the Judges position and it worked well as the flights were better centred than ever before. Poots was showing his practice and flying well, Mike Fowler dropped in in his new Senneca, Russell Bell dazzled us with the awesome flying in Unlimited category, Chris Schadler racked up high score after high score and flew well in the freestyle as well. David Cranna showed the lines of the Extra to good advantage and deservedly took home the Champion of Champions trophy plus the Intermediate 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 second

Nationals competition, competing in Recreational this time. Will Siakifilio was a burst of new energy and was always ready to start the show on time in the Alpha or Yak.

The volunteer spirit and workload sharing were strong, the box markers were put out and collected by a big team, volunteers Richard Wallace, Darrell Brown, Nick Howard, Nol Kinvig, Brian, Frank Van Der Hulst and Murray Callister and the important barman were much appreciated. Thanks everyone, we look forward to see you at our next event.

Morris Tull; Contest Director and 2025 President.

Full Results

National Aerobatic Championships – Hood Aerodrome

Organizing Club: NZ Aerobatic Club. Contest Director Morris Tull.
Event Organiser Grant Benns. Chief Judge Grant Benns

Volunteers; Martyn gosling, Darrell Brown, Nick Howard, Frank Van Der Hulst, Nol Kinvig, Richard Wallace. Murray Callister.

Contest date: 26th Feb – 1st March 2025

Unlimited – Power

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Known*	*Free/F Known*	*Unknown*	*Unknown II*	*Total*	*%*
Russell Bell	Giles G-200	ZK-LGT	3152.57	3928.5	3246.8	3397.3	77.15%	

Advanced – Power

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Known*	*Free/F Known*	*U/Known*	*Unknown II*	*Total*	*%*
Not flown this year								

Intermediate – Power

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Known*	*Free Known*	*U/Known*	*Unknown II*	*Total*	*%*
David Cranna	Extra 330LX	ZK-XLX	1613.7	1731.3	1521.0	1530.8	81.38%	
Chris Schadler	RV3	ZK-WCO	1557.7	1704.3	1422.0	1469.5	78.29%	
John Ashman	DR107	ZK-XSG	1484.8	1646.2	1418.7	1312.5	74.58%	
Brent Griffin	Giles G-202	ZK-NUT	1310.7	1659.5	1401.3	1432.8	73.85%	

Sportsman – Power

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Known*	*known II*	*Unknown*	*Total*	*%*
Pierre Pechon	Super Decathlon	ZK-REF	1110.0	1138.8	940.5	79.90%	
Murray Rogers	CT4	ZK-JMV	1117.5	1117.5	893.0	78.40%	
Iain McPhail	2160a	ZK-VCF	1006.8	1092.2	825.5	73.30%	

Sportsman Unknown

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Unknown*	*Total*	*%*
Pierre Pechon	Super D	ZK-REF	940.5	77.7%	
Murray Rogers	CT4	ZK-JMV	893.0	78.40%	
Iain McPhail	2160a	ZK-VCF	825.5	73.30%	

Recreational – Power

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Known*	*Known II*	*Known III*	*Total*	*%*
Will Siakifilio	2160a	ZK-VCF	764.0	717.2	804.2	76.94%	
Gill Phillips	C152A	ZK-ETJ	770.5	743.5	763.7	76.69%	

Recreational Unknown

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Unknown*	*Total*	*%*
Will Siakifilio	2160a	ZK-VCF	804.2	81.2%	
Gill Phillips	C152A	ZK-ETJ	763.7	77.1%	

Primary – Power

Pilot	*A/c type*	*Reg*	*Known*	*Known II*	*Known III*	*Total*	*%*
William Siakifilio	2160A	ZK-VCC	0	561.8	572.7		

Best Newcomer – Will Siakifilio

Most Improved – John Ashman for confident improvement in Intermediate category. Noteworthy is Gill Phillips for progressing from primary to Recreational in the C152a

Grey Wings – Grant Benns for continuous Mentoring and Leadership.

Dip Stick – David Cranna for coming unprepared without spare underpants. Will Siakifilio for direction confusion and Brent Griffen for Fuel donation.

Most helpful – Gillian Phillips for helping out with local tasks and media updates, Nick Howard for being there every day, Nol Kinvig for 4-wheel driving to box markers. Brent Griffin for donating fuel by leaving his fuel card at the pumps.

Champion of Champions – David Cranna for highest percentage across all categories.

North Vs South – NORTH, North pilot's average 77.5% / South pilot's average 75.1%

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

1st Place: David Cranna

2nd Place: Chris Schadler

3rd Place: John Ashman

4th Place: Russell Bell

5th Place: Brent Griffin

4minute Free Style –

1st Chris Schadler

2nd Murray Rogers

3rd David Cranna

4th Brent Griffin

Morris Tull; Contest Director and President NZAC.





The early arrivals of the very keen Primary and Recreational competitors.







Dave Cranna arriving.

New member Brad Pearpoint came for half the event.

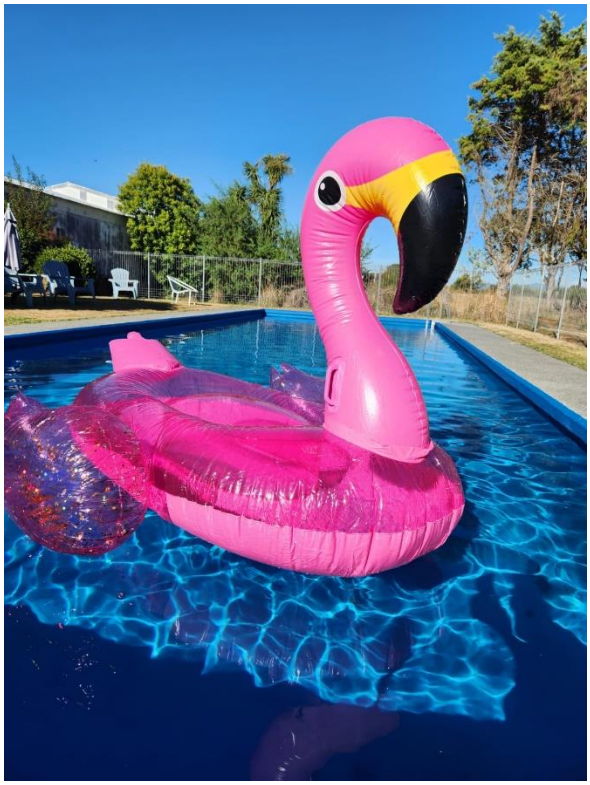




Chris Schadler and the RV3

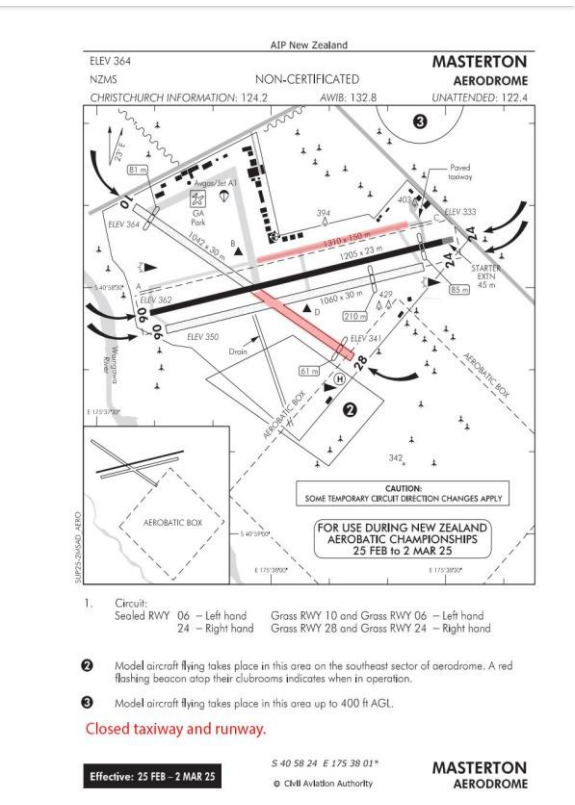


Box marker team training.









Another great BBQ from Grant.

Hood aerodrome closed half the airfield for works!

















The one cloudy day

Iain McPhail, Gill Phillips, Will Siakifilio, Mike Fowler

Grant Benns running a Low Level and Display course.





Air Training Corp visit.



Local arsonist at work.



Gill, Russell, Murray, John, Will and Iain.





Iain McPhail and Will Siakifilio taking the loot home to Canterbury.









Hood Aerodrome Open day. **The Corsair brought some raw power to the open day.**

Sadly, missing this time……













Lincoln was almost there. Rostering sucks. FRJ is neglected since been replaced by the MXS





This Zlin is for sale. **EES almost ready to compete again.**



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

Martyn Gosling's opinion piece on the Nationals.

National Championships 2025: the view from the front line

We have to begin with couple of disclaimers. Firstly, as an aged academic I have trouble remembering what I did this morning and have no hope of remembering what I am supposed to be doing this afternoon. Next, some of the names have been, should have

been, or might have inadvertently been, changed. This is not to protect the innocent, merely because I can't remember who I was talking to. On the other hand, as an aged academic, I am an adherent of peer review (look it up, but essentially it means sharing the blame). All that this suggests, is that what follows is a hundred percent accurate when it is, and less so when it isn't.

The second disclaimer is that I spent the entire week out on the judging line, and therefore was absent from the most important events of the week which take place in, or near, the club house kitchen. The steady stream of dip-stick nominations supports this claim. What follows then, is a very narrow and extremely constructionist interpretation of what occurred at the National Aerobatic Championships that took place at Masterton from 25 February to 2 March 2025.

Speaking of constructionism, which I know is constantly in your thoughts and a subject of intense debate around the barbecue, perhaps not enough research has been devoted to the complex social practices of aerobatic championships. Seldom do the most important aerobatic constructionists get the recognition they deserve. I'm talking, of course, about scribes.

Scribes enjoy the same heat and cold as the judges out on the line but seem excluded from all the glamour and media attention. It's generally thought that scribes provide the same ardour as the most fervid disciples and acolytes and with pained accuracy scribble down commentary and scores uttered by the guru-like judges. This is not so. Indeed, for those who haven't witnessed it first hand, it is a master class of constructionism that allows complete communication and interpretation between observer and observed. For example, a judge will scream "what the f#$@! was that!?? Four!!" The scribe will never write that down, but instead will craft something erudite like "leaning forward on the way up. On back at the turn around. Positive on the way down. Short line after the roll. 4.0." When the competitor gets their score sheets, what do they say: "Four!?? What the f#$@! was that!!" Perfect.

There has always been debate about the objectivity versus subjectivity of judging aerobatics. I will say here that there are strenuous efforts to obtain and maintain objectivity. For example, a discussion is held after every flight where judges may explain their scores and reasoning behind each manoeuvre, with the intention of gaining a unified and objective view. The scores are *never* changed, but there is genuine effort to understand each other's perspective on our route to unanimity. For example, a judge like myself might suggest that a particular manoeuvre was worth a 9.0, but another, such as Grant, will then come out with ~~utter rubbish and total tosh~~ an equally erudite view that it was really a 6.5. Similarly, Grant might suggest a rolling circle was worth a 7 at least, while someone like myself, with such arm waving and gesticulation worthy of an Italian taxi driver arguing over price, will proclaim in pained and astonished tones that such a score was impossible due to the aircraft turning and then rolling and being yawed around the last quarter, and it was more like a 0.0 but, in unbecoming generosity, would warrant perhaps a 2. Unanimity will take a while.

So…what did we see? What did we objectively observe? In brief, there was some solid flying, as the high averages suggest, but we could all benefit from some serious practice and critique. I say that every time. In more detail…

Let's start off with the less complex. Will and Gill (you couldn't make it up) turned in remarkably competent performances in aircraft famed for their lack of… They showed you don't need to spend a fortune on an aircraft to compete, only that it helps. The smiles were wide as Gill Phillips won the first and second sequences, but Will Siakifilio saved his best till last and flew a sublime third round to win overall. Will had 76.94% total and Gill 76.69. A hair's breadth.

Sportsman provided another fine contest between Murray Rogers, who always gives a master class in grace and tactics, and Pierre who seems destined for the more complex categories. We like having Pierre around, partly because he's such a cool dude, but more realistically so many of us have so many ailments that having a surgeon available as first responder has its benefits. Murray won the first round by a margin of only seven points, but Pierre nudged him out on the next two flights and took the trophy with 79.9% against Murray's 78.4. Iain gave it heaps in the Robin getting 73.3.

On to Intermediate…. And what a contrast…and no, you couldn't make it up… but this contest put the long mean machine of Dave Cranna and his Extra 330 XL against Chris Schadler in his dinky RV3. The Extra screams performance and the RV just begs to go and have some fun. The proverbial Dobermann against the Fox Terrier. The lead bounced back and forth with each taking two rounds, but Dave flew a magnificent Unknown and won the contest with 79.9%. Chris was second with 78.29. John Ashman in his DR107 One Design came third with 74.58% and Brent Griffin was fourth with 73.85. There wasn't a lot in it.

There was NO advanced!!!! I need to rob a bank.

Russell Bell flew the yellow beastie with customary flair to beat himself in an Unlimited contest to be forever famed and framed by his radio outburst to some distant aircraft operating on our box frequency. On the one hand, the frequency is available to everyone, but on the other we have a box frequency to enable the competitor to fly undisturbed by chatter, to be able to focus entirely on the flight, and yet knowing that when silence is broken there's an urgent and immediate need to respond, possibly to a life-threatening intrusion. To be interrupted in those circumstances would unsettle anyone and may be the difference between winning, losing, and ~~braining the twit~~ discussing the matter in friendship with the other pilot.

The scores can be seen elsewhere, but it's worth noting that to get an average of around 8 per manoeuvre means there were a lot of 9s and 10s awarded. Each one was the result of serious hard work and application of no small amount of skill. And all over the country there are pilots thinking about the next contest and what they need to practice and have critiqued. Those of us from the lower North Island are already plotting….

We can't end without something on the four-minute free. This was something everyone judged to provide some form of objectivity to a pretty subjective subject. There were only four competitors who did their best to entertain us. What did we see…we saw Chris fly his heart out. That little black and white fox terrier gave it everything. It was a good win. The smoke system alone was worth a medal. Murray flew the most elegant and educated sequence – there's not much power but what grace! There's no way he could win with the criteria we were given (auto-rotations and flying backwards in a CT4 anyone?) but he showed how to create beauty with an aeroplane, and that's a rare and sublime thing.

What else did we see? We actually saw a lot of really happy people both in the air and, perhaps more importantly, on the ground. I was reunited with some old and dear friends like Mo and Grant and Chris and John and Murray and Brent and Russell and Dave and on and on, while making new ones like Will and Gill and Pierre and Iain and on and on. Such a glorious experience. Indeed, on the very first practice day I was out on the line with John as my scribe and just as he didn't write down "John!!! Stop looking and keep writing!!!!", he also didn't pen "Y'know…I'm really enjoying this." Which is a shame in some ways, because I really meant it. And you don't need to be a constructionist to feel as I did. See y'all next year.

Martyn