



“ WINTER RACING 2017
16 JULY 2017 AT RMAC ”

A HEAD TO HEAD BATTLE

by Stefan Coetzer



IT WAS SUNDAY AND TIME TO SEE WHO WILL BE THE FASTEST AGAIN.

With the mist lifting on a lovely morning pilots started to arrive at RMAC for the winter racing. With the wind predictions going up to about 50km/h we had a few pilots not there but at the end of the day we had 10 pilots (5 doing standard Quickies and 5 doing sportsman). We

welcomed Marius Randall back to the circuit after being absent for nearly 16 years.

Shortly after the morning briefing the wind started to blow. The day started with standard Quickies with aircraft ranging from the legendary Quickie 500 to the fast Viper 500. the first heat was between Arrie Schoeman and Rassie Venter, the race had a few close calls but the race started to attract a small crowd.



Next up was the race of Russel Vd. Westhuizen and Eben Muller and the crowd was treated to the best racing with a race that stayed close with them only swapping positions at the pylons. But just after the first take off by Eben he broke off a piece off his tail but, at least he fixed it with duct tape and epoxy. Marius unfortunately broke his firewall while landing his Quickie 500. The next round also saw Arrie lose his aircraft after a false start by Rassie almost had a mid-air collision but they missed and Arrie's plane hit the ground breaking the fuzz in 2. the next plane to crash was Rassie's he just lost it behind pylon one when he over corrected the turn. This meant that the last 2 standing was Eben and Russel which meant a tight race and it delivered to what was promised. The standings at the end of the race was as follows, Arrie Schoeman got a 5th place with a combined time of 939. In 4th place we had Marius Randall with a combined time of 932. IN 3rd place we had Rassie Venter with his time adding up to 930. In 2nd place we had Eben Muller with a time of 573 and in 1st position we had Russel Vd. Westhuizen with his combined time being 562.

Due to wind speeds starting to pick up we had decided to make

sportsman the last class of the day. This class is aimed at the guys that want to start racing but don't want to spend the money yet on this hobby. In this class, we had from a trainer to a LA racer. The first heat saw Marius Randall, Martin Venter and Matthys Botha going head to head in a race that saw another battle upfront. The next two pilots to go head to head was Stuart Kirby and Jan Coetzer and again it was seen a Scanner can never be any challenge for the slick and fast LA racer. But due to landing issues Stuart had to Withdraw from the race after breaking off his undercarriage on landing due to wind shear.

This meant that only 4 pilots are left and it was split so that the LA racers go head to head and the scanner and the trainer goes head to head. With the 2 LA racers race finished we had the slower race which was surprisingly close until there were a few laps left when Jan and Marius collide just after Pylon 2 with Marius's plane going down and Jan only losing a prop. Jan commented on the crash and said he was just lucky to go home with his plane. But this being a gentlemen's sport Jan and Marius both laughed at it after the race. With Matthys also Withdrawing due to engine problems the last 2 heats of the day would be between Jan and Martin.



The first race between these 2 saw Jan's aircraft over running and falling over before he could get airborne.

The last race was the same pilots again and saw a race in which the LA racer dominated the sky. The final positions are, IN 5th place we had Marius Randall with a total time of 1228. in 4th place with a total time of 1005 we had Jan Coetzer. In 3rd place we had Stuart Kirby with a total time of 979. in second place, we had Matthys Botha with a total time of 940. In 1st place we had Martin Venter with his combined time being 815.

After the racing was done the pilots lit a fire and swap their funniest flying stories while enjoying a 'boerie'. We would like to thank everyone that took part in the racing, we would also like to thank RMAC and their members for letting us use the field, all the helpers and all the spectators that took the time to come watch the racing. We would like to congratulate all the winners and anyone who took part in it. We hope to see you all again on rrr the 2nd of September 2017 at RMAC for the spring racing.

