

Report on Team Racing and Combat weekend at NCB
Sat 25th Jan 2003 - Team Racing

This was a very useful day, improving skills of jury members and teams while everyone was having fun. Two open Goodyear heats were flown and then focus shifted to the new F2F class. F2F has improved markedly since the 2002 nats where F2F had its debut and times were significantly better than the existing SA records. Pity these times are not official and cannot be recorded as SA records. Stick & Stump team of Dirk Meyer and Conrad Cloete did a best heat of 5.48.64 and the Henry Kurowski / Corne Smit team did 5.55.92. The existing record set at Nats 2002 is 6.45.69.

Open Goodyear team of Lionel and Charmaine Smith kindly agreed to join the F2F teams for a 200 lap three up final. Both F2F teams were again better than the existing SA record Stick & Stump did 11.21.64 (existing SA record is 13.51 17) and Kurowski / Smit would have been around 12min 10sec had they not lost the up line 10meters before the finish and smashed their very nice model. Luckily the motor was not damaged.

The weather was perfect for the Sat evening social and a couple of stunt pilots couldn't resist flying in the perfect conditions as the light faded.

Sunday combat day

Rain before the weekend ensured nice soft ground (to crash on). Sunday was perfect, blue skies, warm, not dry and not hot and no wind. With about 10 pilots participating everyone had great fun. Charlie briefed the pilots on various flying techniques and how to improve as a combat flyer. At first a general lack of preparedness was apparent but with assistance from Charlie things got sorted out and then it was non stop flying. The format was that as soon as one model landed another with a new streamer would take off. At one stage for about an hour there was not one moment of silence. Everyone was having such fun that lunch and the raffle draw was forgotten. Only at 14.00 did Dirk finally call a halt. The only real casualties were Callum Orbelle and Conrad Reynecke. Their youthful enthusiasm got them so carried away that they had a spectacular midair collision causing balsa wood shavings to rain from the sky. They say the damage is repairable and they will soon be back in action. Lionel Smith showed once again that he is a classy combat flyer with lightning fast reflexes and a few tricks up his sleeve. Watch him at the nats.

It certainly seems combat is going to be the highlight of this year's nats and many who have never flown combat before have now been inspired to get started. A new contest format will be used. This new system as proposed by Charlie, does away with the knockout system and it will certainly reduce risk taking and reward consistency. Hopefully reducing damage and upping the "Fun Factor"

Our special thanks to Charlie Johnson, this was a very successful weekend and it only happened because of his efforts. He has also very kindly donated prizes for combat at this year's nats. A combat motor in a beautiful hand made presentation box for samaa combat and also a combat motor for novice combat. We look forward to seeing him at the nats where he promises to fly combat, this will be a real test for the local pilots and motivation for them to get their equipment well sorted out.

The raffle of the Brodak kit went well, we sold 66 tickets to those present this weekend and the winning number was 116. The winner Nic van der Westhuizen happily claimed his prize.

NCB has accepted an invitation to visit Paul and Corne Smit in Villiers on 15/16 March. Keep this weekend open and join us there. The local farmer will mow a circle for us and provide water and a toilet. All c/l flyers are welcome, we will all camp there and this flying site is in the middle of 100 hectares with no trees, sounds great and we look forward to the social on the Sat night. More information later.

Regards to you all