

# **2012 SOUTH AFRICAN FUN FLY MASTERS**

**Story & photos by Dave Harris**

Christopher Harris became the National Fun Fly Masters Champion for the eighth time by winning the 22<sup>nd</sup> Fun Fly Masters at the end of November. This incredible result follows on from him becoming Large Scale National Champion in April, Gauteng F3A Aerobatics Champion in September and F3A Aerobatics Masters Champion in October. No one in the history of South African aeromodelling has ever achieved these four titles in one year before.

Welkom Model Aircraft Club staged another truly brilliant competition and are to be sincerely complimented on the professional and enthusiastic approach, which they always apply to running the Fun Fly Masters. This year they even managed to arrange good weather with constant 15km/hour winds throughout the weekend. WMAC have now hosted the Masters for 19 years...another record of which they can feel justly proud.

2012 was a very competitive year for the 78 pilots from all over South Africa who entered the three postal rounds in March, June and September. Many new or upgraded planes were seen during the year, with three new Open Class Shotgun type models being designed and built by Master Models, Hobby Centre and Anton/Riaan van Wyk.

Twenty-seven pilots were invited to fly at this year's Masters with twelve in the Open Class (Shotguns etc) and thirteen in the Sportsman Class (.25 size up to .60 size stiks). Two 9-year-old pilots received a special invitation to fly with the big guns – Jonty Vice and Daniel Finch. This was an experience, which will benefit them enormously in the future.

Fun Fly competitions are open to any club in South Africa. What is very attractive is that the planes are relatively inexpensive and a competitive model costs less than R5000. This year's champion has now used his 90% Shotgun for 5 years, with only a couple of upgrades being needed this year to keep it competitive.

The Sportsman Class was introduced ten years ago to attract pilots into the discipline. However Sportsman has now become very competitive and from what I saw the weekend the readily available .25 size Ultra Stik, which if fitted with an Axi 2820/12 Gold Line electric motor, using a Jeti Spin 66 Speed Control and a Giant Power 1300mah 5 cell battery would again stand a good chance of being the winning plane in 2013. I have always believed in using what the winner's use and the really nice thing about Fun Fly is that the winners are always very happy to share their experience.

So on to the two days of stiff competition, which started on Saturday morning at 07:00! 2012 was always going to be competitive in both classes, especially so because of the Challenge to all pilots and a total of over R30,000 worth of cash, other prizes and trophies. WMAC even arranged an I-Pad worth R3500 for the raffle prize!

In the Open Class Christopher Harris's main competition came from Stefan van Zyl from the Silverton Model Aircraft Club and Riaan van Wyk from Welkom. Both these pilots had really upped their game and with Matthew Hirst regularly posting information on Silverton's Facebook page during the competition this introduced a new form of tension for the top pilots, and also made them try even harder.

Stefan won event 1, which was as many touch and go's before a line in one minute but the aircraft had to fly over the line after touch! Stefan managed 14 touches and Christopher Johnson achieved 13 touches, Christopher Harris 12 touches and Matt Hirst and Arney Sieling 11.

On event 2 Christopher Harris's answer to event 1 was to roll his Shotgun **60** times in 20 seconds, with the next best being Arney with 31 rolls. No one had ever seen a Shotgun roll so fast and this gave Christopher the lead, which he continued to extend during the next 8 events. These consisted of for example, sequences of flying manoeuvres either under full power or with the motor cut. In addition one event required the pilot to sprint 15 metres to his aircraft, refit the prop, prop washer and nut and then fly two Immelman Turns, two outside loops, two spins and land on the runway. To see Roston Dugmore do this in less than 30 seconds including the sprint and fitting the prop was quite awesome!

Positions 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> were always very close and swapped around many times during the weekend. As can be seen from the results only 29 points separated these four pilots at the close of play. Riaan ended third on 710 points

and has raised his flying skills to a new high level, as has Stefan who finished second with 802 points. Christopher Harris won with 919 points out of 1000 and Anton van Wyk mentioned at the prize giving that he is now the “King of Fun Fly”.

The Sportsman Class flew similar events to the Open Class but generally more time was allowed for each event, with similar variations of some of the manoeuvres. The pilots were very competitive with the lead swapping many times between Thinus Malan and Fanie Badenhorst. Not far behind were Jared Hilton, Elroy Vice and David Potgeiter, with again the positions swapping several times. David eventually finished 5<sup>th</sup> on 606 points with Jared 4<sup>th</sup> on 624 points. Elroy took 3<sup>rd</sup> with 723 points and Thinus finished on 834 points only 18 behind the winner, Fanie Badenhorst who scored 852 points out of 1000.

And so ended another wonderful Fun Fly Masters. Anton van Wyk and Welkom Model Aircraft Club once again demonstrated that they are the true kings of organising this annual part of South African aeromodelling history and long may WMAC host the Masters.

The judges Norman Kemsley, Dawie van Wyk and Louwrens Erasmus did a great and accurate job with the judging as did Malcolm Mason and Chris Venter with the scoring. Anton was a very strict but fair CD. All the pilots, friends and helpers behaved in a very sportsman like manner.

All the sponsors especially MAD Models who gave cheques to the value of R6000 for the overall winner and R2500 to the winner of the Sportsman Class are thanked most sincerely for their generosity.

#### **Sponsors:**

MAD Models, SAMAA Fun Fly SIG, Allen Hudson Motors (Lemmy Dolezal), JR Computers (Chris Venter), SA Breweries (Jaco Botha), Master RC Models, Hobby Centre (Gary McDonogh), All About Toys and Hobbies, Pontact (Llewellyn Green), Aluminium Welding, Melisa Engineering (Mark Hoare), Action Sign (Gerhard Muller), Bolt and Engineering (Andre Smith), Redipak, Carl Harlen Trophies, Cash Crusaders (Fanie du Toit), Masters RC Models (Matt Hirst), Norman Kemsley, Malcolm Mason, Frans van Niekerk, Andrew Elder, Matt van Niekerk and Anton and Nelia van Wyk.

#### **Helpers:**

Dienie, Adriana, Lidia, Tokkie, Ann, Lelani, Antoinette, Nelia, Wouter, Andrew, Matt, Mark, Dirk, Andre, Llewellyn, Norman, Dunbar, Nico, Hennie, Pieter and Dawie. Maria, Selina and Joseph.

#### **Results:**

##### **OPEN CLASS:**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Christopher Harris	919 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Stefan van Zyl	802 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Riaan van Wyk	710 points
4 <sup>th</sup>	Christopher Johnson	659 points
5 <sup>th</sup>	Roston Dugmore	642 points
6 <sup>th</sup>	Matthew Hirst	631 points
7 <sup>th</sup>	Arney Sieling	630 points
8 <sup>th</sup>	Tiaan van Rooyen	411 points
9 <sup>th</sup>	Gary McDonogh	363 points
10 <sup>th</sup>	Gerhard Muller	359 points
11 <sup>th</sup>	Jaco Botha	316 points
12 <sup>th</sup>	Johan Sieling	194 points

##### **SPORSTMAN CLASS:**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Fanie Badenhorst	852 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thinus Malan	834 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Elroy Vice	723 points

4 <sup>th</sup>	Jared Hilton	624 points
5 <sup>th</sup>	David Potgeiter	606 points
6 <sup>th</sup>	Ernst van der Toorn	554 points
7 <sup>th</sup>	Cyril Spence	546 points
8 <sup>th</sup>	Hannes Loock	530 points
9 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Castigiani	468 points
10 <sup>th</sup>	Alwyn van Schalkwyk	455 points
11 <sup>th</sup>	Lemmy Dolezel	338 points
12 <sup>th</sup>	David McLeary	310 points
13 <sup>th</sup>	Daniel Finch	256 points
14 <sup>th</sup>	Matt van Niekerk	254 points
15 <sup>th</sup>	Jonty Vice	165 points

#### **CLUB TROPHY:**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Barnstormers	6678 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Silverton	3304 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Welkom	1639 points
4 <sup>th</sup>	Rosslyn	867 points

If you would like to become involved in Fun Fly here are the contact details: Anton van Wyk, Chairman.

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**Some of the clubs where you can fly the qualifying rounds:** - Welkom Model Aircraft Club (Anton van Wyk), Barnstormers, Rosslyn, Silverton etc (Dave Harris), Nelspruit and various Durban and Port Elizabeth clubs.

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Any club can hold a qualifying postal round. All you have to do is to contact Anton van Wyk who will send you the Rules and Events before each round. The qualifying rounds in 2013 will be in March, June and September. Check out the Fun Fly SIG link on the SAMAA webpage site for more photos of the 2013 Fun Fly Masters.