

Highveld Thermal League No. 1

Midrand Model Soarer's - 17th April 2005



The Highveld Thermal League got off to a late start at MMS on the 17th April 2005. The late start was due to the previous event being rained out. This event seemed to be touch and go as it rained almost the entire day on Saturday the 16th and Weather SA were predicting a 30% chance of showers.

Everyone seemed rather eager to fly as people were arriving from 08h00, although those attempting to get in some early morning practice there thwarted by the southerly wind. In view of the wind direction, the competitors must have been particularly concerned when the MMS team declared that all will run winches out to the north!!! At the time this seemed to be a crazy decision and some must have thought this was another dastardly deed hatched by the evil MMS team, much like "Sunday, Bloody Sunday" (a.k.a. MMS Open - http://www.f3x.za.org/mms_open.htm) and it's dreaded "Wedgie". Dutifully by the time the first round was flown, the wind had swung round to the north and stayed more or less from that direction for the entire day.

The format of the event was a slight modification on the format used before in that all competitors had to record a precision 10 minute duration flight and spot landing (FAI landing circle) with in a 45 minute working time window. Any relaunches had to be called before the chute from the launch hit the ground. This all resulted in a rather relaxed atmosphere with constant action during the working time period.

The weather conditions were constantly changing with the day starting out with light lift that proved to be quite elusive. By mid morning some monster thermals were blowing through and most competitors were maxing their slots. Round 4 was flown in a storm front with high winds and generally challenging conditions.

Before round 5 could be flown, the storm front blew through causing light rain. After the drizzle cleared rounds 5 and 6 were flown. At this stage the thermals were being most elusive. At this time two of the most memorable flights were recorded. The first being Anton scratching out a max in what must have been a rabbits fart behind the tree's. For 80 percent of this flight Anton was not much higher than the highest tree. Not at all bad considering Anton arrived in the morning to help as his Eish! was not finished yet, however little did he realise he would have his rubber arm twisted into flying a loan plane and radio. The first launch (with extremely aft CG) was something to watch.

The other would probably be considered an act of complete stupidity when the author found a small bubble amongst the trees and proceeded to spend at least two minutes circling and zig-zagging through the tree line.

Peter Joffe's Ellipse II lost an altercation with the trees. I'm

not sure of the circumstances, however I do know that an axe was required to recover the model. The condition of both tree and model are unknown. In general the attrition rate seemed fairly high with at least 3 competitors losing models during the event.

When all the dust (and trees) had settled, Craig Goodrum came from behind to snatch victory from Craig Baker by a mere 8 points. 3rd in Open was the super consistent Michelle Goodrum. Top dog in the hotly contested 2 meter event was Volney Klintworth and top Low Tech was Calvin Quintao. Top junior at the end of the day was Conrad Klintworth.

A special mention and thanks to Mike Spaletta (contest dictator) and his daughter (official scorer) as well as Ilma, Jessie and Cian for providing tasty refreshments.

	Name	Surname	Club	Class	Nett Total	Normalised
1	Craig	Goodrum	MMS	Open	3,460	1000
2	Craig	Baker	SGC	Open	3,452	998
3	Michelle	Goodrum	MMS	Open	3,446	998
4	Coetzee	Anton	MMS	Open	3,366	973
5	Chris	Adriaan	SGC	Open	3,362	972
6	Mark	Stockton	Berg	Open	3,299	953
7	Dion	Liebenberg	ETB	Open	3,248	939
8	Wolfgang	Steffny	MMS	Open	3,220	934
9	Paul	Carnall	ETB	Open	3,207	927
10	Herman	Weber	ETB	Open	3,142	908
11	Volney	Klintworth	SGC	2m	3,085	892
12	Conrad	Klintworth	SGC	Open	3,014	871
13	John	Nevin	KMS	Open	2,584	747
14	Evan	Shaw	Berg	Open	2,520	728
15	Rodney	Goodrum	MMS	Open	2,308	667
16	Lionel	Brink	WHRF	2m	2,159	624
17	Hugh	Edmunds	TMMGC	Open	2,059	797
18	Alan	Drew	KMS	Open	1,951	621
19	Stephane	Duponsel	Berg	Open	1,906	566
20	Andre	Spammer	SGC	2m	1,879	543
21	Calvin	Quintao	RMAC	Lt	1,865	539
22	Peter	Joffe	0	Open	1,860	580
23	Gordon	Prahm	Berg	2m	1,805	522
24	Ray	Nevin	KMS	Open	1,766	510

Team	
1 MMS	2,971.09
2 SGC	2,860.98
3 ETB	2,814.76
4 Berg	2,148.84
5 KMS	1,878.17
6 TMMGC	623.99
7 WHRF	796.83