



The Joystick

NEWSLETTER of the SOUTH AFRICAN POWER FLYING ASSOCIATION

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LETTER FROM THE VICE-CHAIRMAN

The first year of the "NEW ALUMINIUM" is almost behind us and it was indeed a full year flying wise. The Air Race was back at Tempe and will be there next year as well. Planning for this event is well under way.

The Precision flying season closed with the World Championships in Sweden. Our guys did not feature in the top ten, but I am sure that they have done their best under very trying conditions. The big news is that Ron Stirk of Brits Flying Club was crowned WORLD CHAMPION, LANDINGS and Adrian Pilling runner up. This was indeed a huge result for South Africa – congratulations you guys.

We are now looking forward to the Rally Flying season which has indeed started, as well as the National Championships (ACSA Cup 2000) to be held in Port Elizabeth from 14 to 18 December. We sincerely hope that it will be well supported by the "pros" as well as the Sportsman class competitors. At this stage there are indications that one French team and two Russian teams might participate to give it a nice international flavour.

By the time you read this, our delegate on the GAC (General Aviation Commission), Hans Schwebel will be presenting SAPFA's final bid to host the 2003 World Rally Flying Championships in South Africa, to the Commission. Let's all hold thumbs that we get this prestigious event.

I would like to wish every member and their families a very prosperous and happy Christmas break and if you do fly away somewhere, watch out for those Charlie Bravo's.

Jan Hanekom
VICE-CHAIRMAN



SAPFA

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EVENTS 2000

15 – 18 June 2000	Bloemfontein	Presidents Trophy Air Race
29 June – 1 July 2000	Brits	S. A. Precision Flying Championships
8 July 2000	Vaaldam	Training for 14 th WPFC, Sweden
21 July – 6 August 2000	Vasteras, Sweden	14th World Precision Flying Championships
26 August 2000	Cato Ridge	Inter Provincial Rally Flying Championships
2 September 2000	Port Elizabeth	Inter Provincial Rally Flying Championships
23 September 2000	Vanderbijlpark	Inter Provincial Rally Flying Championships
7 October 2000	Gaberone	Kalahari Air Rally
21 October 2000	Bloemfontein	Inter Provincial Rally Flying Championships
4 November 2000	Stellenbosch	Inter Provincial Rally Flying Championships
18 November 2000	Brits	Inter Provincial Rally Flying Championships
15-18 December 2000	Port Elizabeth	S.A. Rally Flying Championships
June 2001	Andalucia, Spain	2 nd World Air Games
2002	Croatia	World Precision Flying Championships

Going to Spain and the World Air Games next year and need to brush up your Spanish?

Yes / No - Si / No
 Good morning - Buenos dias
 Good afternoon - Buenas tardes
 Good evening - Buenas noches
 Hello - Hola (silent H)
 Goodbye - Adios

Please - Porfavor
 Thank you - Gracias
 I'm sorry - Perdon
 You're welcome - De nada
 Do you speak English - Habla usted ingles?



14th World Precision Flying Championships Vasteras, Sweden 21 July to 6 August 2000.

Story By Adrian Pilling

The South African Team to the World Precision Flying Championship in Sweden this year comprised of the following people:- Adrian Pilling (Captain) Nigel Hopkins Hans Schwebel Ron Stirk Barry de Groot Deon van den Berg (Team manager) Dicky Swanepoel (Judge) Frikkie Lubbe (Judge Observer). This is one of the strongest teams we have ever sent and to put it mildly, the competition was one of extremes.

The team notched up:- one blow out, one world champion, one landing double and two trophies. This is how it happened.

The team were seen off at Johannesburg International with a great farewell party. After transiting through Zurich, the team rented a mini bus and made their way to Vasteras airport about 100kms north of Stockholm. The airfield is huge and is at sea level. Our accommodation is in a military compound, reserved for apprentice military mechanics – very professional indeed, and our home for two weeks.

We got to work practising as much as we could. The area is very difficult to navigate in, with lots of lakes and forests, it takes a lot of time to get your mind tuned into the maps, which are very accurate. Sweden was also experiencing a wet spell with floods and daily rain, and this really messed up our training schedule. We did manage to practice our landings at a nearby airfield called Johannisberg (can you believe it).

The official opening ceremony was a formal affair with a great fly past from a Viggen fighter and a perfect replica of "The Spirit Of St Louis". There was even a flight by the only remaining Swedish WWII bomber a B24, all very impressive stuff.

The Official Practice Navigation Day and the Official Landing Day went off without a hitch, just proving how fantastic the organisers were. Then it was an early evening in order to prepare for the competition.

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Day one (Navigation task 1).

This day ended up being a disaster for our team. Adrian Pilling, who had an excellent rally up to turning point 3 (and was lying joint second at that point) had to call for radar vectoring back to Vasteras due to an incredible storm cell on his track. He was flying in solid IF with driving rain and lightening with virtually zero forward visibility and a rapidly lowering cloud base. This was incredible bad luck. He was not allowed to fly again and thus was given maximum penalties for the rest of the course.

The rest of the team also battled through bad weather with Nigel Hopkins doing the best of the South Africans followed by Hans Schwebel, Ron Stirk and Barry De Groot. By the end of the day Swedish pilot Mats Warstedt was in the lead. The bad weather affected quite a few people and the organisers had to make some serious adjustments to the results in order to compensate for the weather.

The only good that came out of Adrian's experience is that everyone applauded his professionalism and sportsmanship - the ATC also asked permission to use the actual voice recordings in future for training.

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Day two (Landing Contest)

The weather forecast was not so great so it was decided to run the landings as soon as possible, so the schedule was changed and the landings brought forward a day.

This day was “**revenge day**” for South Africa. The first two landings, the powered and the glide, were followed by lunch. Wow this was turning out to be a battle royal. The conditions were great for landings and as of lunch the South Africans were doing great. Adrian had scored two perfect bulls and Ron had scored a bull and a +1. This put them at first and joint second respectively. Something was happening here and everybody was wishing us good luck. Next in the SA team were Nigel, Barry and Hans. At last we were in with a chance!!!!

After lunch we strolled out to the planes and then the real battle began. The next landing was the glide without flaps. Ron came up with a +1 and so did Adrian. After the landings Ron and Adrian strolled back to the landing line to check out the rest of the field. We discovered that, we were in the front. There it was, either one of us could win this, we could be world champions – but which one?

Ron and Adrian strolled back to the planes and nervously wished each other the best of luck. This last landing was the barrier landing, one that carried the most penalties, and usually sorts the men from the boys. Ron was the first to get airborne and when he landed he did not know his score. The rest of the team was at the line and they knew – he had scored a bull – the trophy was definitely going to South Africa, but who would be world champion. Only one person could beat Ron now and that person had just got airborne.

Adrian turned onto finals and approached the line – he touched down and also did not know what he had scored, but the team did and the entire field of pilots were thrilled at the result. As Ron and Adrian climbed out of their aircraft, they were greeted by Nigel and Hans running at full speed to congratulate them. They were jumping up and down and shouting well done. Adrian had scored +1. This meant that Ron was first with only 4 penalties . fantastic – at last we had **our very own world champion**. Well done and congratulations Ron, a first for South Africa.

Second place went to Adrian with 5 penalties, followed by Jakes from Czech Republic with 6 penalties and followed by Opat also from the Czech Republic. This gave South Africa the honour of being second as a country in the landings behind the Czech Republic, the results being calculated from the performance of the top three pilots in each team. Well-done lads.

Day three (Navigation task 2)

This day dawned beautifully with early fog, delaying the start. The route was very carefully planned with secret checkpoints in all sorts of places that were difficult to judge. We flew over several islands and even these had secrets and targets. It was a tough course. The team did better but this did not improve the overall results by much. When the results came out our team positions for the day were, Adrian, Nigel, Barry, Ron, Hans. It was a tough navigation task and a real anticlimax after the day before.

We had a great celebration that night and after a fantastic tour around ancient Viking settlements and a castle the following day we had probably the best closing ceremony we have ever experienced.

The announcements and awards were made:-

The new World Champion is Jakes Jiri (Chech Rep.) with Mats Warstedt (Sweden) second and Janusz Darocha (Poland) third. The team results are Poland first, Sweden second and Chech Rep. third. Our placing were: Nigel Hopkins - 16th, Barry de Groot - 51st, Ron Stirk - 59th, Hans Schwebel - 61st, Adrian Pilling - 66th.

For South Africa the best was yet to come....

Ron was crowned World Precision Landing Champion 2000 – Fantastic – well done, a marvellous achievement. Adrian was awarded the Masonhall Sportmanship Award for airmanship.

It was a great event and one that we can learn from. Watch out world.... We will be back.

A special thanks to our supporters and families.





Ron Stirk – World Champion Landings



Adrian Pilling – Runner up Landings



The Team departing for Sweden



Gold, Bronze & silver Medallists

Eastern Province Rally Flying Championship 2 September 2000, Port Elizabeth

The Eastern Province Rally Flying Championship took place in Port Elizabeth on Saturday 2nd September. We couldn't have wished for a better day. Clear skies and fairly light winds meant a prompt start for the 10 aircraft that took part. The initial entry of 12 was unfortunately reduced to ten when two of the out of town entries had to cancel because of the rain forecast for Sunday. The day they would have to return home.

Competition director was Roy Waldek who also set the challenging route. Yours truly (Dave Perelson) took the photos and with the visitors in mind decided to give the Open Class a real challenge ending up with a total of 35 targets. This was made up of 7 TP ground markers. 16 enroute photos and 12 Turning point photos. Sportsman Class got the route plotted on the map and 8 fewer enroute photos but with 27 targets left still had a lot to cope with.

The competition started at Uitenhage airfield where the Microlight and Glider Clubs kindly made their facilities available as well as providing the refreshments. Take offs at 3minute intervals saw all aircraft off in quick succession and then the wait for each aircraft to return and carry out the compulsory spot landing. Not easy when you have to come in cold at a strange airfield.

The event ended with a sponsored braai at the Algoa Flying Club. Thanks to NAC and Air Cape and Mr. and Mrs. Bowden. Trophies were presented to the top three places in both the Sportsman and Open Class thanks to the generous sponsorship of Mr. and Mrs. Bowden.

First place in Open class went to Russell Phillips and Rob van der Merwe who received the Goodyear Floating Trophy and the Bowden individual trophies. Second place was Anton and Marius van Vuuren who received miniatures. Third place went to Claude Gerard and Kenneth Symons who also received miniatures.

In Sportsman Class first place went to Ola Akerlund and Ian Hoppe who received the Bowden Floating Trophy as well as the Bowden individual trophies. Second team was Chris Lodge and Olinga Martel who received miniatures. In third place was the team of Mike Spearpoint and Tom Crisp who also received miniatures.

Overall results:

Open Class			
Pos	Pilot	Navigator	Total
1	R Philips	R v d Merwe	836
2	A van Vuuren	M van Vuuren	2006
3	C Gerard	K Symons	3214
Sportsman Class			
1	O Akerlund	Ian Hoppe	664
2	C Lodge	O Martel	850
3	M Spearpoint	T Crisp	1224
4	J Ferreira	A Hitge	1472
5	T Simms	R Thomas	1734
6	P van der Poel	F Du Toit	1984
7	J Lidderd	L Lidderd	2836

Those that couldn't make it this time, well you will be able to fly this route as a practice in December when you come to the Nationals. See you there.

Story by: Dave Perelson

Kalahari Air Rally Gaberone – 7 October 2000

Come and join in the fun – last year's event was a huge success.
Contact Deon Joubert at: Fly.Skye@info.bw

2001 President's Trophy Air Race

Next year's Air Race will be held at Tempe, 14-17 June. Although we have had a lot of positive feedback this year, there are still many complaints about the Handicap System.

We invite you to come up with ideas of how to introduce something that will REALLY work for everyone. So if you think you know how or have any ideas, please e-mail it to sapfa@worldonline.co.za or fax it to 012-666 7343.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE **SAPFA AGM** (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING) WILL BE HELD AT PORT ELIZABETH DURING THE NATIONAL RALLY FLYING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Date: 16 December 2000

Time: 16h30

Venue: Algoa Flying Club

PROXY FORM

Please complete and fax or e-mail to any SAPFA member if you cannot attend the AGM.
We need this to make up a quorum.

PROXY

South African Power Flying Association – Annual General Meeting Port Elizabeth

I, hereby grant my proxy

**To or failing him to the Chairman of the meeting,
For the sole purpose of to obtain a quorum for the AGM.**

Date: Signature:

NOMINATION FORM

The 2000 committee members are:		New Nominations	
Dicky Swanepoel (Chairman)			
Jan Hanekom (Vice-chairman)			
Chris Booysen (Treasurer)			
Hans Schwebel			
Ron Stirk			
Walter Walle			
Barry de Groot			
Mary de Klerk			
James Craven			
Don Macintyre (Secretary)			
Dave Perelson			

PLEASE fax back to 012-6667343 or e-mail to SAPFA **before 30 October 2000**

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SAPFA ON LINE

The web site is running well with over 1600 visits recorded to date. You will find information on the Air Race, Calendar of events, Competition results, contact persons, links to other sites, etc. on the site.

PLEASE VISIT:

<http://home.worldonline.co.za/~sapfa/index.htm>

JOYSTICK BY INTERNET

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You will then get a message (when the newsletter gets published) showing a "link" or "URL" on which you can "right click" with your mouse in order to download the latest newsletter when convenient. This will also help us to reduce printing and mailing costs. At this stage we have had a response from about 60 people – please guys, I am sure we can do better and support this.

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