

Aerobatics SIG Chair's Report January 2020

Welcome to the 2020 R/C Aerobatics SIG AGM.

The 2019 AGM saw the draw of the Loop, Roll and Win! competition winner – congratulations again Dom Clarke! The meeting left the committee with some tasks to achieve, including consideration of the Nationals format, some small modifications to the Classic Schedule, the running of some aerobatic training days, continuing the education of pilots and judges of the judging criteria and introducing a buddy system for newbies.

After some discussion, the SIG committee decided on a shortened Classic Schedule. Prior to a remit being produced for these proposed changes we realized an international group was also working on proposed Classic rules – a remit and voting will follow to adopt these rules. We still have a Curare kit kindly donated by Hangar One and Avetek – this will be part of a prize draw in 2020.

We are always thinking of ways to attract new people to fly aerobatics – and to this end Frazer and Hamish have run aerobatics introduction days – the last of the year was at Highbrook in Auckland. We want to continue these into 2020.

Encouraging participation is no easy task – again it would be awesome if everyone tries and introduce one current pilot in their home club to an aerobatic competition this year, or even just help them with their first loop and roll.

Prior to the Trans Tasman's and Australian Masters, there was a bit of time spent helping with judge training – all pilots at the Australian Masters need to have passed the APA (Australian Pattern Association) Judge exam – the Australian guys are used to this, but of course the NZ pilots are not. Even once in Australia, there were some guys to get over the line!

An impressive New Zealand contingent headed to Australia to contest the Trans Tasman's – in F3A Frazer Briggs, Hamish Galloway and Andrew Palmer (with Brian Dooley also flying for the New Zealand Team) and in A18 Ewan Galloway, John Knox, Andrew Stiver and Paul Tomlinson. New Zealand again retained the Trans-Tasman trophy – the first time we have done so on Australian soil. Andrew Palmer was the Trans-Tasman Champion and John Knox won A18! A great result all round.

Paul and John headed home, and the rest of the Kiwis stayed on in Australia for the Australian Masters the following Weekend. This was a great competition with F3A won by Tetsu Onda (reigning World Champion), Derk van der Vecht was second, and Andrew Palmer was third. In Sportsman, Sean Galloway was first, and in Expert (A18) Andrew Stiver second. A great result from all the New Zealanders.

The F3A World Championships were held in Italy in August. New Zealand was represented by two pilots – Andrew Palmer and Brian Dooley. Andrew was at the end of

a three-month F3A World Cup campaign (highlighted by a 5th place in Schärding and a couple of 6th places). The 2-3 weeks leading up to the World Champs had been difficult for Andrew – a later diagnosed failing rudder servo had made the model a handful, with it trying to depart the normal flight path in all sorts of strange directions! Despite this, Andrew managed 3rd place at the Grand Prix the weekend before the World Champs. Unfortunately, the World Champs was a different story – Andrew middle of the field and Brian a bit behind. Next time!

Looking ahead, we have the Australian Masters in March in the Barossa Valley – and I encourage all those able to consider attending – it is a great event! Planning will soon be underway for the next Trans Tasman's – to be held in New Zealand in 2021.

Thank you to Frazer, Hamish, Mikey and John for their time on the committee. Unfortunately, Mikey will be unavailable on the committee for 2020.

Wishing you all a successful Nationals, and great flying in 2020!

Andrew Palmer
Chairman, R/C Aerobatics SIG