

## **Aerobatics SIG Chairman's Report 2023**

Welcome to the 2023 Aerobatics SIG AGM. After a challenging few years it has been great to be back to regular competitions catching up with old friends and new.

The committee has worked behind the scenes bringing new Clubman, Expert and Classic schedules to life. Thank you to all those who took the time to vote on these remits and allow them to pass.

Classic continues to grow in popularity – with the event at this Nationals a great testament to that. It has been great to see previous pilots interested, and new guys giving this class a go. John Knox has provided a great schedule for the next few years.

New Zealand contested the Trans Tasman trophy in Australia in September, and the team of Frazer, myself, Hamish, Stephen Johnson and Andrew Stiver managed to retain the Trans Tasman trophy.

This year's Nationals F3A event has provided us with a team for the next F3A World Championships scheduled to be held in Australia later this year. Congratulations to the World Champs team - Frazer, myself, Stephen Johnson and Sean Galloway who will be competing as a junior – perhaps the first time New Zealand has had junior representation at this competition. Noeline Craighead has been selected to be on the judging panel for this event – and thank you to her for being chief judge at this Nationals. Ross Craighead has been selected as a reserve jury member which is great to see.

There continues to be good interest in IMAC – with this afternoon a great testament to that! Hopefully tomorrow will see plenty more flying!

Earlier in the year I was invited to become a member of the F3A technical advisory committee, and this has given an interesting insight into the inner workings of F3A. Changes to F3A continue to be discussed internationally, but nothing new to report here currently.

As you may know I ran a series of judging zoom seminars in the latter half of the year. If there is interest, I am more than happy to do the same again this year. In addition to these sessions there are a series of videos describing how the clubman schedule should be flown, and for those of us getting older a series on flying scale as well! These are worth a look if you plan on flying in these events.

As part of my interest in judging (and flying!) I was very fortunate to gather a team of talented programmers and we have introduced autonomous aerobatics to Ardupilot. I think this has the potential to revolutionise both judge and pilot training. Imagine being able to watch the perfect flight and then attempt to emulate this yourself. I did a couple of demos in quite strong breeze during this Nationals, and believe the potential is there to see. All the software is free, open source, and will be included in Arduplane base code within a few months.

Thank you to all those who have taken the time to organise and compete at competitions throughout the year, and at this Nationals. And to those who have judged and run those competitions. Special mention to Frazer for organising heaps of events, and together with Derek have Nautomatic humming along!

Thank you to the committee for your work during the year, and all the pilots and supporters who have flown Pattern or IMAC during the year. All the best for 2023.

Andrew Palmer  
Chairman, Aerobatics SIG