

AeSSA Annual Aerospace Challenge 2024

The 2024 Aeronautical Society of South Africa Aerospace Challenge hosted by Irene Radio Flyers on Sunday the 20th of October 2024 just outside of Pretoria. This year saw a total of 8 teams lining up for the competition with 3 teams from the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS), 3 teams from the university of Pretoria (TUKS), and 2 teams from the University of Pretoria Aeronautical Society (UPAS).



The objective of the competition was to transport as many tennis balls as possible across a 150m course in a 5 minute period. The aircraft were limited to 890 kV / 3-cell LiPo powerplants.



Conservatism was the order of the day with designs mostly conventional layout. The conditions were such that it severely tested the construction skills of the students, but there were some excellent performers. The winning team benefited from the fact that their team captain is a seasoned RC Pylon Racer, and this was evident in the construction of the model. Team Pelican Aviators manages a very impressive 36 tennis balls during one of their 5 minute sorties.



Conditions remained constant throughout the day, but despite the wind all the teams managed to complete three rounds – some more successful than others! There was a surprise result with UPAS running away with this years' event in handsome fashion. The students of the Society claimed both first and third place overall. WITS came in second leaving the defending champions TUKS in third.



A great deal of gratitude is extended to Martin Venter and the members of Irene Radio Flyers for once again making their facilities available for the event. The Aeronautical Society of South Africa would finally like thank all the students for making the time in their busy curriculum to partake in the event. Their commitment is a testament that the passion that fuels aviation enthusiasts the world over is alive and well.

The adventure shall continue in 2025.

