

### **AeSSA Annual Aerospace Challenge 2023**

The 2023 Aeronautical Society of South Africa Aerospace Challenge was once again hosted by Irene Radio Flyers on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 just outside of Pretoria. It was a cold and miserable morning; partly due to the weather but also due to the early start after the Springboks' spectacular performance of the night before.



This year saw a total of 10 teams lining up on the threshold for what was to be very challenging flying conditions. With winds gusting up to 20 knots cross, the student's prowess as budding aircraft designers were certainly going to be put to the test. And they did not disappoint.



The objective of the competition was once again to transport as many tennis balls as possible across a 200m course in a 5 minute period. The aircraft were limited to 890 kV / 3-cell LiPo powerplants.



The University of Pretoria fielded six teams against the four teams of the University of Witwatersrand. Designs ranged from the traditional to the exotic; mostly conventional, but we did see a flying wing and a bi-plane configuration which was encouraging to see.





Conditions deteriorated steadily throughout the day, and the decision was made to end the competition after two rounds. Team Flight Club from the University of Pretoria went on to claim the individual honours. The overall honours once again went to the University of Pretoria; edging out the University of the Witwatersrand.



A great deal of gratitude is extended to Martin Venter and the members of Irene Radio Flyers for 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 saga shall continue in 2024.

