

## Kumba Paragliding Open 2009

### Day 1 - Friday

43 pilots competed in the first day at the Thabazimbi Paragliding Nationals. Conditions seemed good and favourable for a task to Kransberg and back to Thabazimbi airstrip. 10 pilots took off and attempted the long cross wind leg to Kransberg. Jon Pio had an awesome flight leading the field and was rewarded with flying with hundreds of vultures. Unfortunately not enough pilots were able to achieve validation distance for the task.

### Day 2 – Saturday

51 pilots had a super day competing in this task. They were sent to a turn point at the end of the ridge before pushing out into the valley to make a turn point at the crossroads. Goal was close to the main road not too far from Marekele Nature Reserve Gate. Fourie Grobler won the day. The ladies really competed hard and Khobi-Jane Bowden took the lead coming into goal first of the ladies.

### Day 3 – Sunday

Conditions seemed favourable and a task was set. Two pilots took off to test conditions where after it was judged that it was unsafe to fly the task. Pilots could free fly if they wanted.

### Day 4 – Monday

Due to adverse weather conditions on take off only one pilot flew and again the window was closed. The day was open for free flying.

### Day 5 – Tuesday

A low cloud base and high cloud cover seemed unfavourable. A modest task was set and during the day conditions slowly improved. This rewarded the pilots taking off later with better flying conditions to complete the task. Nevil Hulett, who took off last, won the task with the best elapsed time. Pilots that had the most patience, such as Johan Wallis on his Sky, who also made goal.

### Day 6 - Wednesday

For the second day in a row the wind was northerly, wind speed and cloud cover was less, with a better forecast. A long task was set of just short of a 100km. All pilots launched and task validity was achieved. The leading gaggle battled into wind on the final leg towards Brits. Due to an unexpected head wind, goal was not reached. Duncan Kotze managed to land the closest to goal, a mere 16km short.