

## Porterville 2025: A Masterclass in Western Cape XC

The **2025 South Africa Pre-PWC**, a FAI sanctioned CAT2 event hosted by the **Kaapse Buitepos Klub**, concluded in Porterville after a week of world-class racing from **December 13th to 20th, 2025**.<sup>1</sup> This competition cemented its reputation as one of the most technical and rewarding stops on the international paragliding calendar. Over seven days, a world-class field of 90 pilots representing **18 different countries** battled powerful African thermals, blue-hole transitions, and the tactical complexity of the Swartland flats.

Despite two days lost to weather mid-week, the competition delivered five high-quality tasks, ranging from high-speed sprints to a grueling **84.2km marathon** that pushed pilots to their limits.

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### The Champions' Podium

International pilots showcased clinical consistency to take the top spots on the overall leaderboard.

Rank	Pilot	Nation	Points	Glider
1st	Mathias Ioualalen	REU	3702.5	Ozone Enzo 3
2nd	Andreas Malecki	GER	3687.1	Ozone Enzo 3
3rd	Jonas Prüssing	GER	3635.4	Ozone Enzo 3

- **Mathias Ioualalen (REU):** Mathias set the tone for the week early on. His victory was a masterclass in tactical patience; he navigated the difficult "blue holes" with precision, ensuring he remained in the lead gaggle throughout the massive Task 3.
- **Andreas "Pepe" Malecki (GER):** A legendary veteran, Malecki proved why experience is invaluable in Porterville. He shadowed the leaders throughout the event, finishing with a razor-thin margin of fewer than 20 points behind Ioualalen.
- **Jonas Prüssing (GER):** Representing a strong German contingent, Prüssing was the definition of consistency. Rarely finishing outside the top ten in individual tasks, his efficiency made him one of the most formidable pilots to track.

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### South African Standouts: Defending the Home Turf

The South African contingent delivered a powerhouse performance, with veterans and rising stars alike proving they can go toe-to-toe with the world's best.

- **The De Villiers Duo: Fielies "Pappa" de Villiers** showed that experience is king, finishing as the top-ranked South African in **6th place overall**. **Francois de Villiers** finished **9th overall**, proving his speed early in the week with a hair-breadth 2nd place in Task 2.
  - **The Veterans: Jon Pio** (18th overall) and **Nevil Hulett** (19th overall) maintained heavy pressure on the international leaders, demonstrating exceptional tactical depth.
  - **Technical Mastery: Francis Dudley de Klerk** was a model of precision, earning **2nd place in the Performance (EN-D) Class**. **Theunis de Bruin** clocked a massive 2nd place in Task 4, and **Pierre Ackermann** remained a pillar of the team, finishing **8th in the Performance Class**.
  - **Sport Class & Rising Stars: WJ De Vries** secured **3rd place overall in the Sport (EN-C) Class**, and **Tyla-jane Christodoulou** secured **2nd place** in both the Ladies' and Intermediate (EN-B) categories.
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### **The Social Hub: "We're in this Together"**

Lead organizer **Mias de Klerk** noted that the atmosphere on the ground was defined by a unique cooperative spirit that contributed to the event's overall success.

"Even with pilots from 18 different countries, the community spirit was something special. Everyone backed the organised socials, and the way pilots responded to requests and instructions from the team was always cooperative — it created a great atmosphere of 'we're in this together' that contributed to everything running well."

The **Flyers Lodge**, hosted by **Rob and Brad**, served as the heartbeat of the event. The pool became the central gathering point and served as a vital rehydration station for pilots returning from the intense heat of the Swartland. The Lodge also hosted communal dinners where pilots swapped stories of the day's racing. To keep the global community connected, a live view of the takeoff was streamed on **YouTube**, thanks to the support of **TCS WiFi**.

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### **Pilot feedback**

#### **Ulrich Ortner**

"For me, participating in the Pre-PWC in Porterville was a complete success. The organization was excellent, and the competition ran smoothly at all times. We consistently received high-quality weather briefings, and it was impressive how accurate the forecasts were and how well the task committee adapted the daily tasks to the conditions.

**The overall atmosphere of the competition was very positive, and in summary, I can say that it was a highly successful and well-organized event. I would be very happy to participate again next year.”**

**Aurelijus Andreliūnas**

**“Hi, my name is Aurelius, i am from Lithuania.**

**Competition was absolutely amazing, organization was on highest level. Task settings, weather information and briefing superb. Retrieve was organized with no delays. I would recommend Porterville to every pilot who wants experience a correct organization and care from organizers as it should be. Thank you, I will definitely come back.”**

### **Safety & Teamwork: Precision in the Field**

Safety remained the top priority throughout the event. Mias de Klerk highlighted how the organization's technical systems and teamwork proved invaluable:

“Safety is always our first priority at every event, and the day we had two accidents really showed the value of good systems and a strong team. The tracker setup, together with the technical coordination from Daniel and Jethro Bakker, allowed us to manage live positions of pilots, EMS crews and recovery vehicles with real efficiency. It became a full team effort — led by the organisation and supported by fellow pilots on the ground. Both pilots were taken to hospital, and thankfully no serious injuries were reported other than a dislocated shoulder. What was remarkable is that the forecast looked like the best day of the week, yet the incidents happened in completely different areas and under very different circumstances. A special thanks to Anele, Warren and Ash from SA Paramedics for their calm care and cooperation.”

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### **Race Statistics: Proper XC Racing**

The competition featured five solid tasks that showcased a high standard of flying and disciplined decision-making. As Mias de Klerk summarized:

“The standard of flying at this Pre-PWC was seriously high. We ran five solid tasks ranging from 42.6 km to 84.2 km, and still saw strong numbers making goal each day and very fast winning times: 75.3 km (33 in goal), 42.6 km (54), 84.2 km (27), 73.2 km (31), and 47.3 km (49). It was proper racing, with great decision-making and disciplined flying throughout the week.”

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### **Organizing Party & Acknowledgments**

The success of this FAI sanctioned CAT2 event was the result of a massive team effort.

- **Hosting Club:** Kaapse Buitepos Klub

- **Lead Organizer:** Mias de Klerk
- **Event Director:** Allan Livingstone
- **Technical & Tracker Coordination:** Daniel and Jethro Bakker
- **Safety & Task Committees:** Jon Pio, Francois de Villier Snr., Andy De Klerk
- **Medical Team (SA Paramedics):** Anele, Warren, and Ash
- **Ground Support:** Wes McQuillan and the All Mountain crew
- **Task Committee:** Theunis de Bruin, Andreas Malecki, Richard Barber.
- **Connectivity & Technology:** TCS WiFi (providing the launch streaming camera)
- **Social Hub Hosts:** Rob and Brad at The Flyers Lodge
- **Field Support:** Local Porterville volunteers assisting with launch and recovery

### The SA Cup Awards

The final prize-giving ceremony was a celebration of the season's top achievers. The **SA Cup Awards** recognized the consistent excellence of pilots across all wings and categories. The SA cup is awarded as a combination of Barberton and Porterville competitions.

Category	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Overall - All	Francis Dudley de Klerk	Francois De Villiers Jnr	Pierre Ackermann
CCC	Francois De Villiers Jnr	Jon Pio	Nevil Hulett
Performance - EN D	Francis Dudley de Klerk	Pierre Ackermann	Ria Moothilal
Sport - EN C	Gerhardus Combrinck	Gideon de Villiers	Manu Wegmershaus
Intermediate - EN B	Tyla-jane Christodoulou	Gavin Andrews	Khobi-Jane Bowden

Category	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Novice - EN A	Edward Bowora	Reece Juan Wohlitz	Philip Benson
Ladies	Tyla-jane Christodoulou	Khobi-Jane Bowden	Andrea Greyling

**Most Improved Pilots:**

- **Male:** Gavin Andrews
- **Female:** Tyla-jane Christodoulou

**Xcontest 2025**

- **1. Heinrich Marloth**
- **2. WJ De Vries**
- **3. Francois de Villiers**

**Looking Ahead: Barberton Paragliding Open 2026**

The attention of the South African paragliding community now shifts from the Swartland to the rolling hills of Mpumalanga. The **Barberton Paragliding Open** is set to take place in **June 2026**.

Known for its spectacular views over the Makhonjwa Mountains and technical ridge-running, Barberton offers a unique challenge. With reliable winter thermals and a mix of technical thermal and ridge soaring over a geological World Heritage site, this event is a cornerstone for pilots looking to gain crucial points for the 2026 SA Cup.

**Registration is now open!** Ensure your spot in the gaggle by registering at the link below:

[Register for the Barberton Paragliding Open 2026](#)

# PRIZE GIVING





1

2

3

INTERMEDIATE



3

1

2

LADIES



ROCK ULTRA  
PAARL

ALLO  
MOUNTAIN

ROCK ULTRA  
PAARL

GO FASTER  
GET CONNECT

ALLO  
MOUNTAIN

ALLO  
MOUNTAIN

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ALLO  
MOUNTAIN

1

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NOVICE



SERIAL



1

2

3

SPORT



ALLO MOUNTAIN CO.

ROCK ULTRA PARK

GET FAST

3

1

2

AFRICAN HANG GLIDING  
PARAGLIDING ASSOCIATION

ULTRA

GO FASTER  
GET CONNECTED



OVERALL















