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## **70 YEARS CELEBRATION - FLORENNES BELGIUM**

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### **SANICOLE 36th EDITION, BUT STILL GOING STRONG !**

The weather could not be better during the 36th Sanicole air show. A beautiful sunny late-summer Sunday meant that the sunglasses had to be in reach at any time. For those who didn't fancy that, there was a special Friday-evening show, a true spectacular happening during twilight and incoming darkness of the evening.

This way it is attempted to enlarge the attractiveness even more to the public because the Sanicole 'airshow' is still one of the most widespread flight events in Belgium.

### **ANTICS TO THE PUBLIC**

There was a varied program and this offers a good platform for the small aviation, which plays a major role. As some examples, the SWIP team with the two Silence Twisters, the Redhawks, two Fournier RF-4 aircraft and the TRIG Aerobatic team with two Pitts Special S-1D from the United Kingdom and from Belgium itself the "Victors". It was obvious that the latter played a home-game, according to the loud applause and the many waving spectators. Highlight of formation flying were the Aero Stars with their different painted Yakovlev Yak-50's. Normally equipped with six Yakovlevs, but given the fact that one of them malfunctioned, the team was led by a Sukhoi-26 and honestly this was not bad! Hannes arch really impressed with his Zivko Edge 540V3 which was literally thrown to all sides in the air. Flying strafe through the air like a knife was no problem to plane and pilot. Due to the high power of the engine and the light weight of this aircraft all these antics are possible. The commentator shouted surprised: 'He's hanging on his engine!' After the straining job Hannes didn't mind to pose a moment in front of his aircraft which carries the motto: 'No balls, no game' which speaks for itself. Rarities were also present this 36th Sanicole airshow, such as the 'Verhees Delta' of Bart Verhees. A sort of flying cockpit with a wing under it. If you have never seen such an object outside an air show, you sincerely could think it concerns an alien flying saucer. The delta moves remarkably smooth through the air and in spite of its small engine but little weight it can still make a speed of 270 km/hr. The helicopters at Sanicole traditionally operate from the field itself, they take care of beautiful hover demonstrations in front of the audience. The booming real power however has to start its operation from Kleine Brogel airbase.

### **PLENTY SURPRISES**

An important moment should have been the appearance of the Breitling team with their L-39's. Very unfortunate was the fact that their action on Sunday had to be cancelled due to the loss of an L-39 on Saturday, the plane crashed on its route from Den Haag to Kleine Brogel. Fortunately after all there were no casualties, but the team was obviously in a minor. Missing this appearance for the public was somewhat offset by the unique performance of a threesome Swedish jets as part of the 'historic flight' of the Swedish Airforce. This was a scoop because a Saab Tunnan, a Saab

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105 and a Saab Viggen were presented, these planes are hardly ever seen outside of Sweden. Another big buster was an USAF B-52. The 'Buff' performed a repeated flypast. Also very special were the skydive teams Hayabusa and Skyhawks.

The latter comes from Canada, they make really nice figures and hold each other close to the ground, firmly beautiful colouring with the Canadian flag on their parachutes. They thanked the Belgian air component for the provision of the Hercules transport plane and thereby stated: 'We jump out of everything'.... The commentator gave some laughing respond in his characteristic Belgian accent : 'This I do not understand,I never not jump not out of a plane which is technically perfect in order :-)' The many people enjoyed the shows under the sun, what now remains is to wait another full year.

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**Kees Otten & Wim Das**

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