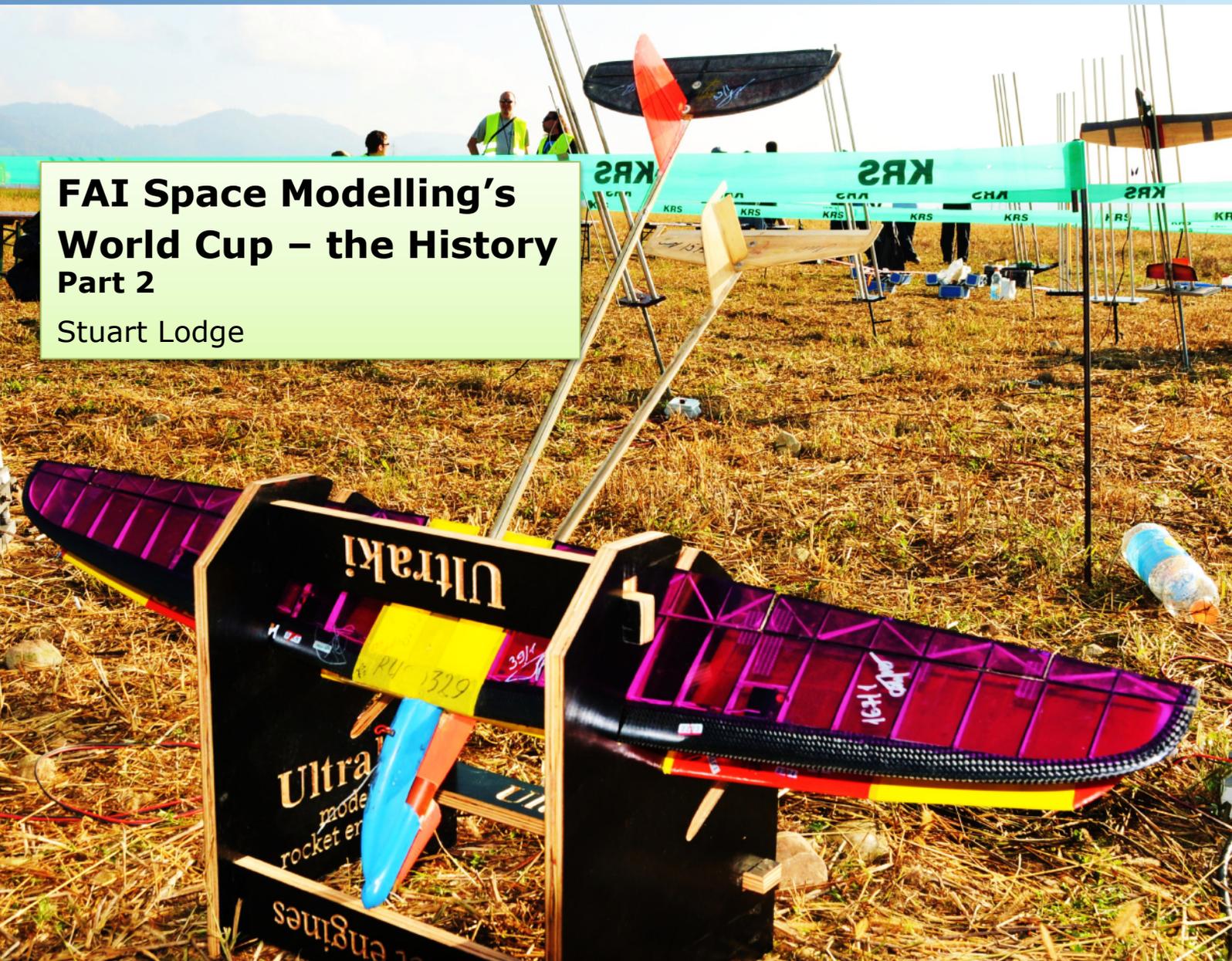


FAI Space Modelling's World Cup – the History Part 2

Stuart Lodge



1991 saw FAI-CIAM decide to trial a Space Models' World Cup during 1992. Threatened by 'Real World' changes, like the schisms of Yugoslavia and the Romanian revolution and more, Model Flying and other sporting activities, were at risk. Was there a future for FAI Space Modelling – with or without the World Cup – in the coming decade?

1992

Space Modelling contests took place all over Europe, with the embryonic World Cup featuring only class S8E-RC Rocket Glider Duration, at several of these. The World Cup attracted 22 competitors throughout the season, with the final podium looking like:

S8E/P-RC Rocket Gliders have moved on since those early days. This one by Anatoly Zemlyanukhin (RUS).

- | | |
|-----------------|------|
| 1 Stefan Mokran | ČSFR |
| 2 Jiří Táborský | ČSFR |
| 3 Hans Stoll | SUI |

...Yet more Real World changes evident, with ČSSR evolving to ČSFR, the semi-separated Czech & Slovak

republics. A tame beginning for Space Modelling's World Cup; much more was needed to bring it alive.



World Cup finale...in a nuclear fallout bunker, in Oberkulm, following the Swiss RAK Cup! S8E-RC Rocket Glider winners: 1st Stefan Mokran, 2nd Jiří Táborský (both ČSFR), with 3rd placer...well nearly, Fraenzi Stoll-Lozza, wife of Hans Stoll (SUI). A modest start..

1995

The World Cup now up and running, featuring classes S8E-RC Rocket Glider, S6-Streamer Duration and S7-Scale events. The reborn Slovakia did brilliantly during the 1990s, hosting increasingly massive events, including the *Bratislava Cup*, *Mikuláš Cup* – held near Liptovský Mikuláš - plus the *Bardejov and Košice Cups*, in the east of the nation. These were fabulous contests, notable for superb organisation, being run by the Slovak Army, led by Col. Vasil Pavliuk. The World Cup was really proving its worth;



season-long entry numbers exceeding the magic 1000 mark.

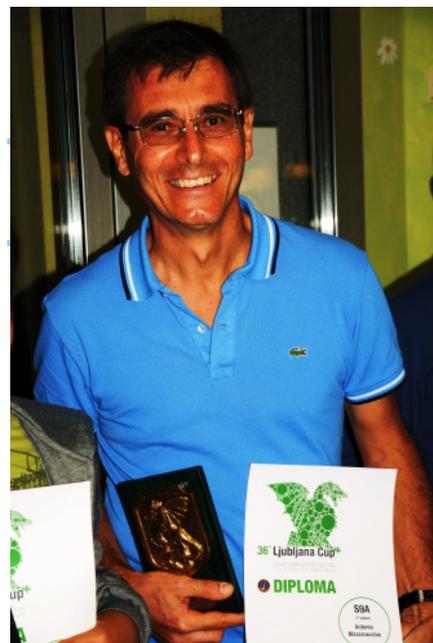
In addition, FAI Sporting Code changes were improving what was flown during this key period eg. S8E-RC Rocket Glider Duration, gave way to S8E/P, which incorporated predicted flight duration and spot landing tasks, growing out of its 'provisional' status and being layered into the other disciplines.

2000

The Millennium saw your scribe set up the 1st *Canterbury Cup*, the first international Space Modelling event ever hosted by the UK. Fairly modest, incorporating FAI Space Modelling and fun flying, it set one precedent...Dave O'Bryan of Team USA, whilst on holiday in England, became the first intercontinental entrant in a World Cup. Subsequent events took place over the next few years.



Kateřina Vaníková (CZE) is a brilliant product of the World Cup. Shown here at 2014's Ljubljana Cupm, winning the Golden Dragon, in front of 2nd Dimitar Vachkov (BUL) and 3rd Mihail Noritsin (RUS). A month earlier she became Junior World Champion, in Bulgaria...magic!



Antonio Mazzaracchio (ITA) is Western Europe's best Space Modeller, with 4 end of year Gold medals to show for it.

2001

S4-Boost Glider Duration and S9-Gyrocopter Duration were added to the World Cup array – long overdue many would claim - meaning that Five classes were routinely flown. More rules' changes saw 'small' 30mm diameter performance rockets, being replaced by 500cm long, 40mm diameter birds, boosted on 5Ns, to astonishing altitudes...soon changed to 2.5Ns to improve recovery prospects!

Nations like Romania, Russia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Spain, Ukraine, Kazakhstan...even Turkey, Macedonia, Croatia & Montenegro, had begun to host international events. With so many nations now released from the ties of former-USSR and Yugoslavia, this illustrated stupendous progress from that modest kickstart in 1992. But *World Cup*...this was only Eastern Europe!?!

We needed another continent to enter the fray, the Americas and Asia...USA, Japan and China were hiding 'in the wings', despite participation in World Champs. Many more years passed before our dream became reality...

...so it's time to pass the baton to NAR's Ed Pearson.. "Excluding the 1980 & 1992 World Champs and not including the 1988 USA-USSR Cultural Exchange, there's a mega gap between the first European FAI contest in 1966 to the first World Cup event hosted by USA, in..."

2007

Capitol Cup inaugural World Cup event, located at The Plains, VA, USA. Tony Reynolds was Contest Director, with Trip Barber and his NOVAAR club, the organisers. FAI Jury comprised Taras Tataryn, John Langford and myself. We must recognise the huge contribution Canada – especially Taras Tataryn, Fritz Gnass and fellow countrymen, made to this and subsequent events. You must have at least two nations to qualify as a World Cup, sometimes even three materialised!"

Recent years have seen Bulgarians migrate 'Stateside and make US events truly international. Global recession began to leave its mark a year later, would the World Cup, even Space Modelling, survive? A battle it was to prove, with several notable events disappearing from the World Cup calendar, allied to some late cancellations. However, we've seen a renaissance, boosted by more progressive rules' changes, focusing mainly on Scale classes S5-Scale Altitude & S7-Scale. Scale classes had been in decline, but

introducing an 'Originality' clause, offering bonus points to prototypes unique (or only 2..) in an entry, has really boosted World Cup S7-Scale entries. Other classes have been streamlined too, with the focus being put on making contests 'spectator-friendly'. So what sort of World Cup participation do we see now?

2014

Another successful World Cup year, across the spectrum of classes. The total number of entries was 1862, Seniors and Juniors – both sexes – combined.

2015

Check this out...total numbers 2357...that's 27% higher than the previous year! Most notable was S7-Scale, with the highest entry levels ever recorded...that 'Originality' rule bringing home the bacon.



S8E/P-RC Rocket Glider finalists at 2016's 38th Ljubljana Cup. 1st Hans Stoll (SUI), 2nd Krzysztof Przybytek (POL) and 3rd Anatoly Zemlyanukhin (RUS). Hans Stoll was the Gold medalist for the whole season, following a consistent series of results all over Europe..

Present and Correct

The best thing FAI Space Modelling ever did! Five World Cup classes...one or

two should be updated, but the numbers don't lie. The World Cup has delivered real superstars, like Antonio Mazzaracchio (ITA), Leszek Malmyga & Krzysztof Przybytek (POL), Anatoly Zemlyanukhin (RUS), probably the best Space Modeller on the planet...and so many more. Your scribe got S7-Scale World Cup Bronze in 2006, to add to an FAI World Record and Frank Ehling Diploma. The World Cup encourages Juniors to rub shoulders with superstars and ensures the next generation. Slovenia's *Ljubljana Cup* is the World Cup Finale, with 2017's the 39th; basically Space Modelling's European Champs. More work is needed to introduce World Cups to Asia...China, Japan and India. But for sure, we have a *Tomorrow*, because we got it right *Today*.

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