

# 2024 F2 World Championships for Control Line Models

## Wrap Up by Paul Gibeault - Media Director

Wow, what a champs! The 2024 CLWC's is now in the record books & we have new world records and new champions. It can be said the weather was generally very good except for a bit of rain and wind & rain on the last two days, but nothing serious. The flying circles were excellent, and there didn't appear to be any shortage of practise areas.

All contest results can be found on the website, <https://2024CLWC.org> so I'll just wrap up with some of the notable event highlights.

Of the many volunteers it takes to run an event of this magnitude, I would like to thank Chief Organizer Bill Lee in particular for his leadership skills throughout the event. In addition, thanks to the AMA special interest groups NASS, PAMPA, NCLRA & MACA who supplied the vast number of volunteers without whom such an event could not be held. My reporting staff worked hard to keep the world up to date with reports, photos & videos. I'm sorry we had technical trouble posting on the official blog site, which temporarily crashed due to bandwidth issues. Thank you to: Fred Cronenwett (Speed & General photos), Dave Triple (Aerobatics), Paul Gibeault (Team Race), and Charlie Johnson (Combat, Team Race & general photos). Thanks also to all our volunteers too numerous to mention for donating your time to make this the memorable event it was.

Attendance was down about 30% from those who entered on the Preliminary entry form. Sadly, with trouble obtaining visa's, aging pilots, the ever-increasing costs of living, increased post pandemic costs of airline travel, and the war in Ukraine, many regulars couldn't attend. We ended up hosting just over 200 participants.

We missed many of our talented friends from Ukraine who initially were going to field the champs second largest team, just one member short of the USA. We also missed seeing our regular fliers from Belgium, Sweden, Czech Republic, Slovakia and others. We were, however, able to welcome new teams from Cuba, Armenia, Mongolia and Kazakhstan and hope to see their continued presence in the future.

A few of the highlights were:

In F2A, reigning junior and senior world champions father and son team Alex and Ivan Valishev (USA) continued their dominance placing first and second, posting the only flight scores over 300 KPH. Matthieu Perret (France) just eclipsing Niels Lyhne Hansen (Denmark) during the last round to win a well-deserved bronze at 297.6 kph. In the team standings, the USA took a commanding lead over France and Germany, reminiscent of the glory days of America's Bill Wisniewski, designer of the first tuned pipe for use in speed.

In F2B, young Marko Valiera (Italy) displayed a commanding lead in the early rounds. In the end, former world champ Orestes Hernandez (USA) fell infinitesimally short by just half a point over a 2172-point score to end up with the silver medal. The windy weather

in the last two days gave some pilots trouble, but everybody managed to finish. Although all the Chinese pilots flew exceptionally well, junior pilot Xu Letong was one of the most stunningly smooth fliers and garnered himself the bronze medal. Young female pilot Liu Zheng flying her Caudron Type E model also made it into the top ten, ending up in 8th place overall. China won the team gold showing great breadth followed by very strong teams fielded by the USA and Japan.

The Americans also held a "Concours d'Elegance Award" for the best home built and finished non commercial airplane. In a bevy of simply gorgeous show models, the winner was voted to be Chris Cox's semi scale Hellcat. This earned Chris (from British Columbia, Canada) a rousing round of applause at the banquet. Chris flew his Hellcat to place a personal best of 15th overall.

In F2C, always hotly contested, the French, Polish & Ukrainian teams were dominating the racing circle. Due to a recent rule change, brothers Pascal and Georges Suruge (France) set a new world record in their first heat with a blistering 3:10:90 to set the pace. The final 200 lap race was spectacular. The French (Suruge/Suruge) brothers and Polish team (Fedan/Lesiuk) were within a lap of each other throughout the race all with excellent pit stops. On the last tank, the French team ran out of fuel on lap 199 and had to whip the model on to the finish. With but a quarter lap to go they were passed by the Polish team who won by a mere 7 tenths of a second over the 200-lap race setting a new world record. A brilliantly flown final, with Gauthier/Villebeouf (France) a scant 4 seconds behind in third demonstrating racing at it's very best! It was very good to see the talented junior team from Poland of Jacob Golisz and Julia Lesiuk who made the semifinal cut ending up with a very respectable 9th place overall. In an emotional speech, long time team race proponent /mechanic and mentor Roland Suruge (France) announced his retirement from active team racing. His sons Pascal and Georges' world record is an excellent legacy.

In F2D combat, the winning pilot Jussi Forss (with Father Timo pitting) from Finland had to overcome over 50 opponents over 9 rounds with but a single loss. It was good to see one of our outstanding female pilots, Natalia Dementieva (assisted by her pit mechanic Andre Bertelsen) from Denmark make it all the way to the final for the silver medal. Talented American junior pilot Austin Minor won the bronze. Unfortunately, F2D combat continues to have the greatest number of protests (3), all of which were disallowed. There was a single protest in Team Race involving a landing incident which was upheld. There were no formal protests in Speed or Aerobatics. There were some procedural discrepancies yes, but all were handled properly thus avoiding the distasteful protest route.

From the jury's perspective, this championship event was well attended, with a high level of performance shown by competitors in all categories. They were pleased to see the high number of volunteers and considered the judging and scoring staff very competent and working very well together.

What's next? Sadly, the dates for the next Eurochamps and World Champs have yet to be decided. This does not bode well for the future of our sport. I must quote a French team supporter who said to me: "The World Championships is a great way for me to renew old friendships and make new ones, the actual competition is but a sideline." I rather like this sentiment & do not regret for a moment attending aeromodelling world championships which have afforded me the opportunity to broaden my horizons while experiencing other cultures. Neither better nor worse, just uniquely different. Modelers worldwide have welcomed me, and I feel blessed to be afforded this opportunity. It has been overheard by many that if our politicians were aeromodellers, things like war would be a thing of the past, as they would be far too busy building and designing models. We can only wish!

I hope I have given our readership a glimpse into this world championships. It was a very busy four ring circus of constant activity. I am fortunate to have witnessed it all, but now look forward to catching up on some much-needed sleep!



Yury Shvedenkov from Canada flew a personal best at his very first world championship flying in F2A speed. Gibeault photo





Smiling Yari Valo from Finland flew this beautiful speed model u his own KMV motor but was unable to exploit its potential this time out. Gibeault Photo



Jari Valo's superbly crafted KMV (Kostin/Metkemeijer/Valo) F2A speed engine.





Liu Zheng from China with her coach is a very talented flier placing 8th overall and best female performance in F2B at the championships. Gibeault photo



Former world champ Orestes Hernandes (USA) just missed winning it all by a mere half point! Gibeault photo.





2024 FAI F2B WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS  
CONCOURS WINNER  
HELLCAT BY CHRIS COX





Natalia Dementieva (Denmark) battling it out in combat for the silver medal against winner Jussi Forss (Finland). Charlie Johnson photo.



Igor Dementiev (Moldova) vs. Cary Minor (USA) I like the expressions. Cary won. Charlie Johnson photo.





Wojciech Lesiuk (Poland) concentrating hard throughout the final race to set a new 200 lap world record in Team Race. Charlie Johnson photo.



Mariusz Fedan (blue), Pascal Surugue (red) and Alexandre Gauthier (white) battling it out in the gruelling 200 lap team race final. Charlie Johnson photo.





There was extreme jubilation amongst all the teams and officials at the end of the hotly contested and very closely fought F2C team race final. Gibeault photo.