

Balsa Beavers Model Flying Club



Consolidated Contest Report - 2008

This report contains a consolidation of contest reports from 2008.

Table of Contents

2008 Control-Line World Championships – Team Manager’s Report	2
2008 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	6

2008 Control-Line World Championships – Team Manager’s Report

The Team

Our team for 2008 Control-Line World Championships was the smallest in some time:

- F2B Precision Aerobatics
 - Konstantin Bajaikine
- F2D Combat
 - Dave Lovgren
 - Pat MacKenzie
 - Ivan MacKenzie
 - Brad LaPointe (Pit man)

The increased cost of competing in Europe (due to poor the Euro-to-Dollar exchange rate) was a significant factor in the decreased team size. For example, the F2B trials were well attended, but Konstantin was the only F2B pilot able to make the trip.

Our small team did not, however, diminish the size of the contest. It was the best attended World Championships to date: 400 competitors from 45 different countries. This included competitors from Armenia and Mongolia, making their first ever appearance.

The Site

This year’s competition took place in Landres, France. Landres is located in the Northeast of France, in close proximity to Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany. The same site hosted the Worlds in 2000.

The site has everything needed to host a competition of this level: concrete circles for F2A (Speed), F2B, F2C (Team Race), and grass circles for F2B (practice and competition) and F2D. Additional grass practice areas were also organized nearby for F2B and F2D.

The weather this time around was much better than in 2000. In 2000, it rained basically every day of the competition. This year, we only saw heavy rain during our training days, and light rain for very brief periods during the competition. It was quite windy on some days, but other than that the weather was ideal.

The Competition

The combat team arrived four days before the competition started, so that we could get our models trimmed, motors set, props tested, etc. As they were having a World Cup competition prior to the World Champs, we had the practice field pretty much to ourselves for three straight days. Konstantin arrived one day before the official start of the competition, and was able to get in practice flights on both official circles before the start of the competition.

The first day of the contest had us flying Round 1 of combat and the first flight for Konstantin.

Konstantin was happy with his flight, but he was fairly early in the draw so his score was not "inflated" like they often get at the end of a round. After his first flight, he sat in 30th place. His flight time in the next 3 days was much more favourable, so we had hope he'd benefit from this.

At the end of Day 1/Round 1, the F2D team sat 2-1. The day started off well with Pat beating one of the Swedes in convincing fashion. Then Dave took a loss against a woman pilot from Kazakhstan. She alternated between taking a cut and taking out Dave's models, so by the end of the match there was a lot of debris. My match was moved to the end of round against Prokofiev from Latvia. The last time I flew him (Muncie 2004), within a minute both of my airplanes were missing their tails, so I was expecting a messy match. He took the gamble and whacked my first airplane early on. Fortunately for me, the gamble did not pay off. He went down and my plane stayed in the air, very wobbly for a couple of laps before spinning in right by my pit crew. Then we both exchanged quit kills, and I won on air time.

Day 2 saw Round 2 combat and the second flight for Konstantin.

Konstantin was not very happy with his flight on this day. It was getting pretty windy by the time he flew. His score was just a little bit lower than the previous days, and at the end of Round 2 he sat in 34th place.

At the end of Day 2/Round 2, the F2D team sat at 5-1. Pat started the day off again with a good win against a pilot from Italy. They scored it 2 cuts to 1 for Pat, but we and many others saw 3-1. I was up next, and managed to beat a pilot from Mexico, but the match was a little messy as both my planes were damaged in mid-air. Dave finished off with a good win against a pilot from Germany.

Day 3 saw Round 3 and most of Round 4 of combat, and the third flight for Konstantin.

Konstantin was happy with his flight on this day, and the result bore this out as his score was improved over his first flight on the concrete circle. At the end of day he sat in 33rd place.

At the end of Day 3, the F2D team was down to two men and two lives. Round 4 started off well, with Dave winning against a Danish pilot. My match against a pilot from Sweden was a re-fly, when both of us took a kill (first him, then me). In the re-fly, the kills went the other way. It was finally decided in the second re-fly, when I took the kill (for the third time!), we collided, and he got up first and took one cut to win. Pat's match against an Estonian was also a re-fly, after they disqualified the other pilot in error. Pat was winning the match at the time, so it was only right that he won the re-fly as well. 6 matches in one round...

In Round 4, Dave was up against Seryogin of the Ukraine, and lost a messy match. He was not happy, as he lost both airplanes, a motor, and was out of the competition, all due to the Seryogin's "wrap and punch" tactics. Next up was Pat versus the Ukrainian junior. Pat took the kill, and then hit the ground twice while running inverted. The junior finally took a cut towards the end of the match to seal the deal. Our final match of the day was me versus another Estonian. He took my whole streamer, and then I thought I had taken his (again...) but he still had a knot. While running from me he hit the ground and handed me the win.

Day 4 saw the completion of Rounds 4 and 5 of combat, and the fourth (and final) flight for Konstantin.

The conditions were not good for precision aerobatics; winds were high and gusting badly. Some models were lost to the tough conditions. Unfortunately, Konstantin was unable to improve his score from the first day of competition, so his total (sum of the best flight on each surface) did not change. His final placing for the competition was 34th.

In Round 5 of combat it was Canada vs. Lithuania, as both Pat and I drew Lithuanian pilots. My match (against the one-time European champion) was 2-2, but I was on the ground for a short time so lost on air time. Pat won his match, and now sat 4-1. We expected Round 6 to start on this day, and so did the organizers. We waited and waited and waited, but due to numerous re-flies and some very touchy protests Round 5 dragged on for the whole rest of day, with the final Round 5 re-flies only taking place the next morning.

The last day of competition saw Pat still in the running at 4-1, with a bye in Round 6. Due to the problems that occurred in Round 5, the organizer's gathered all the remaining pilots for a short discussion before Round 6 got underway, to remind them that the rules would be enforced and to ask them to fly clean.

In Round 7 Pat flew an Armenian and won on both cuts and air time. In Round 8, there were 7 pilots remaining, and Pat had to catch up on his Round 6 bye by flying twice. First up was a Belarusian pilot. Early in the match, he took Pat's whole streamer. As Pat leveled out, he came over the top and took Pat's model out. Pat was pretty sure he was just trying to fly in front and give Pat his whole streamer, but he screwed up. The match continued, but after it was over the officials had a discussion (that seemed to take forever) and disqualified the Belarusian for attacking Pat when he had no streamer and was flying level.

Next up for Pat was Olga Shoshnina of the Ukraine. There was a line tangle/collision very early in the match, and during the launch of the second model there was miscommunication between pilot (Pat) and pit crew (Dave and myself) that resulted in both of Pat's models on the ground for an extended period of time. Pat was not able to recover from the downtime deficit, and ended up in a 3-way tie for 5th place at 6 wins and 2 losses.

In the team standings, the F2D team placed 4th. This puts us ahead of many strong combat nations including the United States and Great Britain, and is a repeat of our strong showing at the last World Championships in 2002 in Valladolid, Spain.

Thank you to our pilots for their efforts and first class attitudes, and to Brad for all his help getting our combat gear ready in some very time-critical situations. I'd also like to give a special thank you to Stuart Henderson, our uniform designer. Our shirts with the prominent "Canada" logo were a big hit, both with other competitors and the locals who attended the competition.

2008 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Landres, France

Canadian F2D Combat Team:

Pat MacKenzie,
Ivan MacKenzie,
Dave Lovgren
Brad LaPointe

Pat MacKenzie 5th in F2D Combat







More photos of the action in F2D combat at the worlds:
<http://www.f2d.eu/wc-2008/index.html>

Konstantin Bajaikine 34th in F2B Stunt

More info:
www.f2cdbl.org