



F2D Combat at World Air Games in Dubai 2015

It started well over a year ago with a CIAM realisation that F2 classes in general and Combat in particular are the categories for Spectators. That is why Combat was chosen as one of the four Aeromodelling classes to be run at WAG. As every class can't be run at every WAG there have to be a selection. This time, apart from F2D CL Combat, F3T RC Pylon Racing, F3N RC Helicopter Freestyle and F3P RC Indoor Aerobatic was chosen. The planning included meetings in Dubai where the most intense part for all Event Directors was to make a proper Time Schedule as many classes were going to be run at the same time, especially at the SkyDive Palm Area. F2D and F3T were to be run at the same days but as we shared the Grass field it couldn't be run at the same time. In addition all Combat Officials plus a couple of F2D Mechanics served as F3T Officials as they lacked qualified people.

For F2D a selection process was decided by CIAM where the National Champ of 2014 from 16 countries was to be invited. These rules also included that if a pilot turned the offer down the invitation would go to the next country on the reserve list. The countries invited were USA, CAN, MEX, AUS, NZL, ESP, MDA, LTU, SWE, DEN, FIN, EST, RUS, UKR, GBR and AUT. With two pilots saying no (AUS and GBR) LAT and BLR was invited. All countries apart from Russia accepted the selection rules as they wanted to replace the invited pilot with their own choice. This was turned down by FAI and then Russia chose to withdraw even the invited pilot. So ITA was invited as the third reserve. Each pilot could bring one mechanic and all of these 16+16 invited persons had to agree to help pitting for the others (giving everyone two mechanics in each heat. Looking back this worked very well as all of them have known each other for years....)

F2D combat was going to be run over four days with the first day set aside for training. When in Dubai all crews had both food and lodging for free (mostly 4 and 5 star Hotels). The Crown Prince of Dubai had in addition invited every participant to stay in Dubai the complete 14 day WAG period free of charge. Both the food and the lodging were excellent with huge Buffés served for Lunch/Dinner.



Before all training there was a meeting with all pilots, mechanics and officials. The main issue were safety! With many classes having activity at the same time safety had to be put first.

Although it was a contest it was also a way of promoting Combat and shows it to many people that haven't seen it.



In the evening of our training day there was an Opening Ceremony at SkyDive Palm. A huge stage with seats for a lot of spectators was built and it turned out to be one of the most awesome openings I ever been to.

Apart from people acting on the stage and hanging in lines in the air they also had a big TV screen. What a show!. And it ended with a Firework that must have costed a fortune. The Royal Family was also there and I hope they enjoyed it too. As they paid for most of it.....

Round 1 started on Sunday 6th of December with sunny weather (over 30 degrees Celsius) and hardly any wind. It saw Andrey Nadein USA get a 1-1 in cuts to Vitali Snitko BLR but Andrey won due to more air time. Another 1-1 was when Alexander Prokofievs LAT won over Johan Larsson SWE but being only 10 seconds ahead. It was clearer for Pat MacKenzie who had 2-1 against James Palmer NZL. The match of the round was supposed to be that between Stanislav Chornyy UKR and Igor Dementiev MDA. But it turned out to be nothing to write home about. With 1-1 and air times around 1.30 Chornyy won.

After lunch it was time for Round 2. Pat MacKenzie got his first loss when he lost to Alexander Prokofievs. 2-1 to Alex. Chornyy also collected his first loss when Jussi Forss FIN won on more air time. 1-1 in cuts. Andrey Nadein also got his first loss when Arnulfo Delgado MEX won by 1-0. Last but not least we had a heat between two former Champs, both with one loss from R1. Now Audrius Rastenis LTU scored 2-1 against Igor Dementiev. So it was goodbye for Igor as well as for three others.



During the contest days we had company by the Fire Brigade and the Police. Apart from their "normal" vehicles they also came with some other cars..... Where else than in Dubai could this be seen?

On Monday the temperature had gone down to around 20 degrees and the wind increased to somewhere between 6 and 8 m/s. This meant that Pylon Racing and Combat were the only classes flown. Round 3 started with a 2-1 win for Alex Prokofievs against Raul Mateo ESP. After the next heat Chornyy could pack his models as he lost to Andrey Nadein. 2-1 in cuts to Andrey and also more air time. Pat MacKenzie joined Chornyy as he lost to Rudi Königshofer AUT. Rudi got 2-1 and more air time. This was the only round flown on Monday.

On Tuesday the wind increased a bit and once again Pylon Racing and Combat were the only classes flown apart from some flights with Rotorcraft. That is small Helicopters with a pilot and a helper. The helper holds a 10 metre long rope with a sack attached to it the goal being to put the sack into water barrels along the flying course. Very exciting.....



The SkyDive Palm arena seen from the 52nd floor Sky Bar at Marriot Hotel. The pond in the middle of the Grass Field is used for one of the Parachuting Classes. As you can see the tarmac runway goes out into the sea. When they started to build this site it was only water so they used a lot of stones.

In round 4 Andrey Nadein lost to Alex Prokofievs as he got a Yellow Card for attacking Alex model taking it out of the air. But Andrey wasn't alone in leaving the scene. Audrius Rastenis lost to Rudi Königshofer. 2-1 to Rudi. Dmitri Varfolomejev lost to Raul Mateo. 2-1 to Raul. Arnulfo Delgado lost to Jussi Forss. 1-0 to Jussi. Vitali Snitko was the bye and saved his flight until the next round where he lost to Rudi Königshofer. Vitali had 2-0 in cuts but lost with 16 points because of his poor air time.



With only 4 pilots left the temperature raised. Well, not in the air as it kept steady at around 20. Alex was the only one without losses and thereby had an advantage on the others. It started with Raul Mateo losing to Jussi Forss. 3-0 to Jussi. As Alex was the bye and without losses we now had the podium pilots and just had to determine the order. As Alex won over Rudi (1-2 in cuts but better air time) he now had to fly Jussi one or two times. Just to keep the excitement Jussi took a clear victory over Alex in the first match. Equal time but 3-1 to Jussi.

The next heat was the real final with both pilots having one loss. The winner would become the World Air Games Champion and the loser would be the runner-up. Rudi had already secured the third place. As it so often happens the final was not the best flight of the day. Both pilots scored one cut but Alex won because of one more minute in the air.

Apart from cheering for our three podium pilots thoughts should go to all 16 pilots including their mechanics. Actually any one of them could have won. That is how close it was and how good they were. It was a great combat show and many people were very impressed with what they had seen.



Team Latvia, Vasilijs Prokofievs, Mark Rudner and Alexander Prokofievs.



Team Finland. Johan Larsson, Jussi Forss and Jari Valo.



All the Officials; FAI Jury, F2D Judges and Scorers.



All three podium pilots with their mechanics.

For those of you that want to read more about WAG, see photos, videos and articles there are two good sources at www.wagdubai.ae and www.fai.org. You also find links to Facebook, Twitter and Flickr. Attending WAG with F2D was probably a once in a lifetime experience for all of us that went there and we must be grateful that we got the opportunity now when it was held in Dubai. Not many organisers can put up such a budget. And as Aeromodelling Classes are rotating at WAG it will probably take many years before it is flown again.

/Ingemar Larsson, Event Director/Judge

Place	No	Competitor/mechanic	Country	Points	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	9	Prokofiev, Alexandrs	LAT	W	W	W	W	W	W	L	W
		Prokofiev, Vasilijš									
2	7	Forss, Jussi	FIN	W	W	W	L	W	W	W	L
		Valo, Jari									
3	1	Königshofer, Rudi	AUT	L	W	W	W	W	W	L	-
		Topunov, Alex									
4	5	Mateo, Raul	ESP	W	W	L	L	L	-	-	-
		Mateo, Manuel									
5	12	Delgado, Arnulfo	MEX	W	W	L	L	-	-	-	-
		Silva, Leonardo									
	16	Nadein, Andrey	USA	W	L	W	L	-	-	-	-
		Rudner, Mark									
	10	Rastenis, Audrius	LTU	L	W	W	L	-	-	-	-
		Cyzas, Vaclovas									
	2	Snitko, Vitali	BLR	L	W	W	L	-	-	-	-
		Mazurin, Igor									
6	Varfolomejev, Dmitri	EST	W	L	W	L	-	-	-	-	
	Loginov, Vladimir										
10	15	Chornyj, Stanislav	UKR	W	L	L	-	-	-	-	-
		Umryhin, Andriy									
	8	Giandrini, Antonio	ITA	L	W	L	-	-	-	-	-
		Molteni, Adriano									
	3	MacKenzie, Pat	CAN	W	L	L	-	-	-	-	-
		MacKenzie, Ivan									
13	4	Bertelsen, André	DEN	L	L	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Price, Gordon									
	11	Dementiev, Igor	MDA	L	L	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Erisov, Alexandr									
	14	Larsson, Johan	SWE	L	L	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Bertelsen, André									
	13	Palmer, James	NZL	L	L	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Palmer, Doug									