

Tom Linwood's trip to the CL World Champs

Dear Contributor.

Before Tom left for France he had some training sessions with Mike Comisky. Mike traveled up to the Central Coast on the last Saturday before Tom flew out and they had some very fierce combat; seven models were destroyed (not models for the world champs). Mike taught Tom as much as he could and we left the field knowing that we had done all that was possible. Thank you Mike, for your dedication and encouragement. I have asked Tom for a report on his time at the world championships. Tom has written.

From Tom.

It was a warm clear beautiful day, as we drove into Landres in our rental Opal Astra wagon.

We scouted the town and eventually found the flying site.

There was a familiar face, Dave Simons who after a brief chat suggested we go for lunch.

After our plate du jour and a cold beer (no I didn't have beer) we had settled into the French atmosphere beautifully.

The following day more Aussies turn up and we get registration done.

We are ready for the world cup pre comp; which sported 102 entries.

The next day there was a light breeze; some competitors are still registering; the comp doesn't start till 1:00 pm.

The draw is done and I am up against a kiwi guy named Glenn Lewis.

The bout comes and the combat is intense with Glenn up 2 cuts to 1 and because I had no streamer left he is in defence mode running around the 2m-diameter circle like his bum's on fire. In the end I didn't get the cut I needed as he decks his model into the ground with 20 seconds left.

Ouch. First bout out of the way and a loss (not to good for the nerves).

The next day I was up against a Dane. It was 1 cut each and I was up as he had ground time.

During the combat we got into a line tangle, the tension was so fierce that he let go of the handle, instant disqualification, I had won.

For my third bout I am competing with Bert Gijbertenson from Holland.

The combat was hard. I had 2 cuts to 1 and he had no streamer left so I had to defend.

I was running around the circle like mad. There were a few close calls and I hit the ground twice, but Murray Wilson and Dad got me back into the air quick smart.

It was a very close bout and I didn't know if I had won, so we had to wait until the judges posted the results.

It was close but I had pulled it off.

Unfortunately the competition had to be closed because they ran out of time!

The World Champs must begin.

The World Championship's opening ceremony was that night and the fireworks were spectacular. The only drawback was that the whole thing was conducted in French so nobody had a clue what was going on!

The following day there were 85 competitors at the combat field with one common goal; and that was to win.

The draw was done and I had drawn a Singaporean, Chris Wong.

The bout finally came around and everybody said I would wipe the floor with this guy so I went into it a bit too cocky.

I tried to feed him my whole streamer but he wasn't going to fall for that and took 2 cuts straight away. I was in deep.

I had to get three cuts to win and I still had streamer left. This was going to be interesting. I only managed 2 cuts and Chris got 1 more so the total was Chris 3, me 2.

I hoped he would continue combat so I could force him into the ground as his other model was damaged, but he told the centre marshal he wanted to end combat so we flew straight and level until the 4 minutes was up.

I had lost

Later I thought how stupid I had been to believe he was a pushover. Lesson learned!

I always told Dad I would like to verse someone really good like an ex world champion.

Now I had drawn Stanislav Culacichin (Staz) from Moldova. I had seen this guy get five cuts on an Armenian fellow who was also a great pilot.

It was going to be an eye opener!

1 minute warm up and we were in the air.

Half a circle apart we commenced combat, 10 seconds later, whack, a midair collision and Staz is down. My model is stuffed but still flying. 15 seconds later his second model is in the air, my model couldn't do aerobatics so as soon as 'commence combat' was yelled I crashed it vertically; nearly on top of Murray.

Dad and Murray picked it up took the streamer off and put it on my second model. The whole process took about 5 seconds.

Then it was on, Staz and I both had one model so I could not hit the ground. It might sound easy but its not. I got one cut and he had two. I was up on airtime and all I needed was one more cut!

It wasn't going to be easy, his models were a lot faster than mine and he was a better pilot.

After a lot of inverted chasing he decked his model with 20 seconds to go.

He had won.

I was out of the competition but I hadn't made it easy for him.

Later on Stanislav Culacichin approached Dad and asked if I was his son.

He complemented my flying and apologised for his tactics.

He said "If I had not crashed my model Tom would have taken cut and won, I cannot lose".

Staz then went on through 10 rounds to become the new world champion.

Dad says I posed a distinct threat to him and I think it was good of him to talk to Dad and apologise for his tactics.

Although it's perfectly legal to ditch your model some people frown upon it.

I know I would ditch a model if I had to!

Dad and I thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Both flying combat at the highest level and also enjoying it with friends new and old. To experience a wealth of cultures and ideas that will stay with us forever.

Thank you, again everybody that made this possible. It was a wonderful adventure.

Tom Linwood.

Talking to Tom on his return he seems to know everyone in the world associated with combat. He even has ideas on how the next generation of F2D models will be constructed. More important he is talking to his parents about the next world championships in Hungary 2010. I hope that I can be there with him if he goes. For me the highlight of the trip would have been taking a cut from the current world champion, this would have been no small feat.

Once again I would like to thank all those that supported Tom in getting him to France. I know that he has learnt a huge amount and is truly grateful.

Roy Summersby.



**Mike Comisky & Tom Linwood practising for the
C/L Combat World Championships.**