

FAI Space Modelling's World Cup – the History Part 1

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1980s...just so much was happening in the 'Real World'. An Iron Curtain corroding and creaking, a Berlin Wall flawed and crumbling: focal changes definitely imminent. Model Flying in Eastern Europe and elsewhere, continued as normal. FAI Space Modelling was struggling to evolve in such a climate, but despite widespread traumas, introduced the *Cup of Socialist Nations*, in 1986

A modest event embracing contest classes which have survived and evolved to the present day. What was for sure, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was strong, holding 27 of the 32 FAI World Records! Let's have a reflection on Space Modelling's existence during the latter half of the '80s, when global changes were going into overdrive.

Zika Josipovic (SRB) setting up his scale Saturn 1B entry, at the 2nd Fenix Cup, in Croatia.



1987

Yugoslavia hosted the 7th World Space Modelling Championships (WSMC), at a location near Belgrade, this was your scribe's first



World Champs, Belgrade, Yugoslavia. George Gassaway (USA) and Viktor Kovalov (USSR) were podium finishers in S8E-RC Rocket Glider. The gliders were much smaller back then.

international foray, with Team GB. Very exciting back then, but modest enough in content, featuring just Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Great

Britain, Switzerland, West Germany, Spain, Poland, Romania, United States and USSR. Eleven nations only, with no discrimination between Seniors and Juniors. Nonetheless, it was a successful Championships.

1988

Discussions between all teams at the Belgrade WSMC indicated that changes were inevitable and likely to be imminent. Dramatically, USA's National Association of Rocketry (NAR) committed to hosting a bilateral event with rivals, USSR. The venue was Wallops Island VA, with GB's Ian Dowsett carded as a scale models' judge. This was a true Cultural Exchange and a glorious success, unparalleled in the Real World.

A collection of Championships' and World Cup posters and memorabilia. 7th World Space Modelling Champs, in former-Yugoslavia, plus one from a recent World Cup, in Kyustendil, Bulgaria. You go to amazing places.

Here in Europe, we saw something similar, with the 1st St Leonhard Modellraketen Festival (MRF), in southeastern Bavaria, attracting nine nations and over fifty entrants. Events flown were a combination of FAI Space and NAR categories, with the flying standard commendably high throughout. Pavel Miladinović and Oliver Missbach of Münchener Modellraketenverein must be credited for setting up an event that changed how we all thought. Two more MRFs took place, but so much more was happening in the world – specifically Eastern Europe - nearby.

1989

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly! Romania had been awarded the 8th WSMC, but the nation was fraught with increasing trouble and strife. This was cancelled early summer and given to Ukraine, the year following. Paradigm shifts went live...the Berlin Wall came down; Romania endured Revolution; Yugoslavia no longer a holiday destination. And not many were thinking about Space Modelling.

1990

Space Modelling was now in serious decline early in this decade. Many national institutions in former-Communist nations disappeared. But despite all this, the novel 8th WSMC in Kiev, Ukraine, attracted twelve countries and a real success, considering nearby stresses and strains. Space Modelling was in limbo, inspiration was needed; something to unite



competitors from all over; something to live for. And so..

1991

The Space Models' sub-Committee of FAI-CIAM took the decision to trial a Space Models' World Cup, during the 1992 season. Almost simultaneously, the breakup of Yugoslavia began, threatening individual nations within and inevitably, the continuation of Model Flying and other activities. Slovenia endured the 'Ten Day War' with Serbia, following its declaration of Independence, but still hosted the 13th Ljubljana Cup in the autumn...as usual! Time for an aside...*Raketno Modelarstvo*, penned by Jože Čuden – current CIAM Space Model's sub-Committee Chair – and Rasto Snoj, became the first book published in the independent Slovenia. It's time to remind ourselves what we were trying to do.

Episode one ends here and will continue in the next issue of CIAM Flyer



Obrana is the journal of the Slovak Army, who contributed brilliantly throughout the 1990s. You scribe is shown preparing a scale model for flight at the 1999 Mikulas Cup, in Slovakia.

Author of this CIAM Flyer Stuart Lodge pushes the button to boost V-5-V Vertikal at Ljubljana Cup.



World Cup - what's that?

Since its inception in 1966, Space Modelling had run small international events, normally based in Eastern Europe. The majority were the national championships of the host nation, plus enthusiasts from surrounding states. The 1st Ljubljana Cup - definitely the most iconic - started in 1978, in former-Yugoslavia. 'World Cup' isn't a competition and nothing to do with Soccer! ...it's a season-long accumulation of results/points across a range of contest classes. Scores are registered in an algorithm with other data - Competitors' scores; Competitor numbers; Placing of a specific competitor; Winner's score. Essentially, the bigger the contest, higher the entry, allied to a higher level of scoring, equates to more points for successful flyers. At season's end, competitors' top-3 events/class are totalled, followed by ranking across the classes.

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Rules: S - Space Models

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