



**PRESS RELEASE**  
For immediate release

## **Aeromodelling Legend Joe Wurts “gobsmacked” by fourth FAI World Champion title**

Córdoba, Argentina, 11 March 2025 – **New Zealand Aeromodelling Legend Joe Wurts has claimed a fourth world champion title for his collection at the 2025 FAI F5J World Championships for Electric Powered Thermal Duration Gliders in Argentina.**

**The new Junior World Champion is John Bradley of USA. Czechia claimed overall Team Champion in the Senior class, and hosts Argentina – who celebrated podium rankings in all classes – also claimed the Junior Team Champion title.**

From 2-8 March 2025, **60 senior and 12 junior pilots** launched their gliders in Córdoba, Argentina in a hotly contested event with varying weather conditions putting pilots’ skills to the test. Maximum flight times during preliminary rounds were 10 minutes, with longer 15-minute flights for the finals.

### Senior winners

**After an outstanding performance, Wurts claimed top spot** ahead of Argentina’s Gabriel Bartoli Leon and Olaf Starmanns of Germany.

Wurts thanked his team, and commented, ***“I am still a bit gobsmacked that I have once again become a World Champion. Especially at the age of 64! I still feel like I am in a dream world. Despite my more youthful successes, I was not expecting this result at all. I am proud of my air reading for the full week of flying.”***

Wurts’ other World Champion titles have been spread through a long career and were won in different FAI aeromodelling classes within Radio Control Soaring: In 1991 his first title was for Multi-Task Thermal Soaring Gliders (F3B). In 1998 he gained a title in the first FAI Thermal Duration Gliders World Championships (F3J) then in 2011 he won a third title for Hand Launch Radio Control Gliders (F3K). With his three World Champion titles he qualified to be awarded the newly-created **CIAM Legend medal in 2023.**

**Overall senior team champions were Czechia** who beat hosts Argentina and Croatia.

### Junior winners

In the junior class, **USA’s John Bradley took the champion title**, with Agustín and Pedro Goldenzweig of Argentina coming second and third.

The pair’s performance led **Argentina to become Junior team champions**, with USA and Germany in second and third places respectively.

FAI Aeromodelling Commission (CIAM) President and Jury Member Antonis Papadopoulos commented:

***“The 2025 FAI F5J World Championships for Electric Powered Thermal Duration Gliders were concluded successfully. On behalf of CIAM I would like to thank the Argentine Aeromodelling Federation for their effort in preparing and running the event and of course for their warm hospitality, with special thanks also to the volunteers for sharing their time in ensuring the event went***

*smoothly. Congratulations to all the winners and all those who participated. We are looking forward to the **next world championships in 2027 in the USA!***

#### Final results

##### Senior individual

1. Joseph Wurts (NZL)
2. Gabriel Bartoli Leon (ARG)
3. Olaf Starmanns (GER)

##### Senior teams

1. Czechia
2. Argentina
3. Croatia

##### Junior individual

1. John Bradley (USA)
2. Agustín Goldenzweig (ARG)
3. Pedro Goldenzweig (ARG)

##### Junior teams

1. Argentina
2. USA
3. Germany

#### **Notes for editors**

- [Full results](#)
- [Pictures](#)
- [Event website](#)
- [CIAM Legend award](#)
- [FAI interview with Joe Wurts on his victory](#)
- [FAI interview with Joe Wurts on his career \(2023\)](#)
  
- [FAI logo](#)
- [FAI media corner](#)

#### **About FAI**

FAI, the World Air Sports Federation, is the world governing body for air sports and for certifying world aviation and space records. The FAI was founded in 1905 and is a non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

FAI activities include Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, Airships, Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft, Balloons, Drones, Gliding, Hang Gliding, Helicopters, Manpowered Flying, Microlights, Parachuting, Paragliding, Paramotors, Power Flying and all other Aeronautic activities and Space records.

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