

Nostalgia -

FAI F2A World Champs podiums



1951 Knokke Belgium

2,5 cc Speed (km/h)

1 Alan Hewitt	GBR	151
2 Peter Wright	GBR	142
3 John Claydon	GBR	141

5 cc Speed (km/h)

1 Peter Wright	GBR	201
2 Evert Kreulen	NED	186
3 Robert Cordier	BEL	182

10 cc Speed (km/h)

1 Robert Labarde	FRA	204
2 Gerard Lanriot	FRA	194
3 Bernard Dezobry	FRA	190

1952 Brussels Belgium

2,5 cc Speed (km/h)

1 Peter Wright	GBR	158
2 Albert Sorensen	DEN	155
3 Robert Labarde	FRA	138

5 cc Speed (km/h)

1 Dr Auguste Millet	FRA	198
2 Peter Wright	GBR	193
3 Robert Labarde	FRA	191

10 cc Speed (km/h)

1 Guido Battistella	ITA	233
2 Ron Davenport	GBR	225
3 Dr Auguste Millet	FRA	216

1953 Milan Italy

10 cc Speed (km/h)

1 Guido Battistella	ITA	250
2 Ron Davenport	GBR	244
3 Enrico Fanoli	ITA	233

1954 Hague Netherlands

5 cc Speed (km/h)

1 Bob Lutker	USA	222
2 Olle Ericsson	SWE	222
3 Robert Labarde	FRA	214

1955 Paris France

2,5 cc Speed (km/h)

1 Joseph Sladky	CSR	179
2 Amato Prati	ITA	176
3 Franco Monti	ITA	175

1956 Florence Italy

2,5 cc Speed (km/h)

1 Ray Gibbs	GBR	211
2 Miklos Vitkovics	HUN	205
3 Giovanni Cellini	ITA	200

1957 Mlada Boleslav Czechoslovakia

2,5 cc Speed (km/h)

1 Joseph Sladky	CSR	216
2 Miroslav Zatocil	CSR	214
3 Frantisek Pastyrik	CSR	208

1958 Brussels Belgium

2,5 cc Speed (km/h)

1 Imre Toth	HUN	216
2 Rezso Bech	HUN	214
3 Jaroslav Koci	CSR	209

The early years ...

In 1951 the first World Championship in Speed was flown on the town square of Knokke in Belgium (see Lina 2-2020). Only five countries took part but it was a start. The first two Championships were flown in three classes but after the CIAM meeting in 1953 it was decided to fly one class only. So for 1953 it was 10 cc and for 1954 5 cc and thereafter 2,5 cc only.

Reading about these contests you find that the rules had yet a long way to go. This also goes for the Judges/Jury that, at many Champs, got a lot of criticism for being incompetent, biased or ignorant. Most organisers, especially the ones in Belgium, received positive criticism while others, like Paris in 1955, had a flying circle covered in dust and sand that was more suitable for horse racing (according to the competitors)....

In 1957 new rules came as CIAM decided for a wing area of 2 dm² per cm³. The last half of the decade had a steady entrance of around 30 pilots from around ten countries, mostly European.

Pilots from USA taking part were servicemen stationed in Europe and North Africa.



Imre Toth HUN won in 1958.



Enrico Fanoli ITA came 3rd in 1953.

Swede Olle Ericsson took part in several Champs in the 50's. In 1954 he and Bob Lutker USA had the same speed but the American won due to a better second time. At a Swedish Speed contest in 2017 Olle, then age 82, came and brought the McCoy 60 equipped model (still flyable) he used at the Champs in 1953 (5th place). On the old photo you can see Olle (right) holding the very same model. To the left is Olle's team mate P-A Eliasson. At the Champs in 1955 Olle was the fastest pilot using a diesel, a Webra Mach I (8 pilots used this engine) which gave him a 7th place among the 33 pilots.

