

# Nostalgia -

## FAI F2D World Champs podiums



While F2A, F2B and F2C received their World Champs status already in 1960, F2D had to wait until 1978. The reasons for this were certainly several; partly you started flying combat later and partly it took a while before you found the format for the class. If you read competition reports from the late 50's or 60's, you note that there were many discussions regarding rule interpretations and biased/ignorant judges, maybe due to unclear or incomplete rules. The fact that you often flew over tarmac was perhaps not conducive to the class either.

Gradually, the rules were improved and it can be said that in the early 70's they had begun to take their current form. So in 1975 FAI/CIAM gave official Championship status to F2D and the European Championships held in Verviers Belgium 1975 became the first championship for the class, even it was a Continental Championship. In this period it was also decided that the 1978 World Champs would be the first Championship where F2D would have the same status as the other three classes.

Holland had run the Dutch Combat International for a couple of years and when the status decision came from FAI/CIAM, the Dutch were not slow to call their competition in 1976 "Preliminary F2D World Championships" (See Lina 2-2015). The competition was run in Rotterdam the week before the "regular" World Champs was to be held in Utrecht and a total of 98 pilots from 12 countries came to start and the whole event was a great success. The competition also showed that it was indeed time for F2D to achieve Championship status.

### 1976 - 1980



*The 1978 final between Mick Tiernan and Dave Wood. Note the absence of helmets and safety nets with all spectators standing close to the circle. John Hammersley acted CM.*



*Dave Wood and Mick Tiernan.*



*Oleg Doroschenko USSR and Bert Gijsbertsen NED.*



*J-M Fraise FRA*

*Phil Granderson USA.*

#### Preliminary World Champs: 1976 Rotterdam Netherlands (98)

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|-------------------|-----|
| 1 John Berry      | GBR |
| 2 Richard Wilkens | GBR |
| 3 Jacco de Ridder | NED |

#### 1978 Woodvale Great Britain (44)

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|----------------------|-----|
| 1 Mick Tiernan       | GBR |
| 2 Dave Wood          | GBR |
| 3 Jean-Michel Fraise | FRA |

#### 1980 Czestochowa Poland (51)

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|--------------------|------|
| 1 Oleg Doroschenko | USSR |
| 2 Bert Gijsbertsen | NED  |
| 3 Phil Granderson  | USA  |