

# Valladolid World Cup



*Combat and aerobatics pits*

After the great time Helen and I had going to Lugo last year it was a disappointment that after five years the Italian's could no longer accommodate a British world cup round.

However, Vernon Hunt mention that Valladolid were showing an interest and after getting over the hurdle of registering late with CIAM Valladolid confirmed a British world cup round at the beginning of October.

We decided to go and after looking at the alternatives concluded going on the ferry was the best way to go with a mini cruise thrown in. Having been before many years ago I had a reasonable idea of what Valladolid had to offer and booked a hotel right next to the main square. What a revelation, I remembered having a good time around the town on my previous visits but, now the city far more vibrant with the restaurants and bars full and hardly a tourist in sight.

After getting lost trying to find the flying site after almost twenty years we finally made the site on Wednesday morning. Again not much had changed, still a first class purpose built control stadium. After a quick flight to set the engine we headed back to the hotel await the arrival of the rest the Brits who were flying into Madrid. Our decision to take the ferry was confirmed when listening to the tales of flight delays.

Thursday morning, registration and Yolanda Garcia the Spanish CD had everything under control and

good entry for British round with a few more coming for the Spanish round on Saturday.

Lunch time and the first round of F2b started with two rounds on Friday. I had a couple of reasonable rounds before getting a sick engine on the last round, fuel getting to hot. Ended up eighth which I thought was about right. Alexander Gauthier came top with 2125 followed by David Liber forty points adrift.

Saturday and the numbers increased to twenty flyers, Kevin Barnes from New Zealand took the long distance prize from Roberto Machado of Brazil. Once again Alexander came top but Carles Mas pipped David Liber and only half a point behind Alex.

After the competition Helen and I stayed for another week of Autumn sun which came out after the remnants of a hurricane had blown through on Monday.

Would I go again? Yes the competition is well organised, the banquet on Saturday night was one of the best I have been to in a long time, beer and wine handed to you on arrival, tapas to keep everyone fed, short speeches and prize giving, perfect.

We are already looking at hotels and ferries, probably spend more time in Valladolid to.

**Mervyn**