



F3A Team Australia: 2025 FAI World Championship Report

By Paul Rolph

Introduction:

I will begin this report with a personal reflection on how much of an honour and privilege it was to share the same journey with such an extraordinary group of talented, dedicated and passionate individuals striving to compete against the best pilots in world.

Back in early January this year I made it a primary objective as the appointed Team Manager to be 100% committed to successfully executing an effective strategy with four individual pilots residing in three different states across Australia.

A fundamental component of each pilot's strategy was to ensure we were all best prepared before departing Australia and to arrive at our first practice venue in the United States as a calm, controlled, consistent, confident and unified team.

One of the main challenges I needed to overcome as the Team Manager over the six months before we all departed for the United States was to ensure the strategy for each pilot was successfully executed throughout the pivotal six days from when the first team arrived in the United States until the first day of competition at the World Championship.

Team preparation in the USA:

Our team's first group practice in the United States was held on August the 4th at the Greater Cincinnati Radio Control Club (GCRCC) in Trenton, Ohio.

We spent two and half days establishing a baseline with each pilot, checking and trimming models and calibrating ourselves to the meteorological and atmospheric conditions. These first two days also provided the opportunity to establish a benchmark and to prioritise and refine our team's game-plan in the leadup to the imminent commencement of the world championship. On the afternoon of August the 6th, our team left Ohio and travelled to Muncie, Indiana and checked into the various accommodation sites which were all approximately a ten-minute drive from the AMA site, the venue of the World Championship.

Our team's first official World Championship activities took place at the AMA site on August the 7th, where each of our Australian team pilots flew their first and only official practice flight. Our team's practice time slot was between 3:00PM and 3:45PM on Flying Site #3, which was then followed by Model Processing taking place at 4:00PM at the McCullough Education Facility. The McCullough Education Facility is an adjacent building with the National Model Aviation Museum.

Our team then had two practice days remaining between the 8th and 9th of August to lock in, refine, optimise and complete their physical and mental preparation for first official World Championship Preliminary Round commencing on the 10th of August.



Based on my own personal experiences, I understood the significance of reaching the minimum performance standard required to be competitive at a world championship event. The next important step was to identify and prioritise areas of improvement and how to achieve them, ensuring each pilot was provided with all the support they needed to enable them to reach their best performance. It was imperative we remain committed to each pilot's individual game plan and to avoid the common problem of plateauing, declining, information overload, hitting pre-competition burnout, panicking or imploding.

The team had six days of preparation time after arriving in the United States to set a performance baseline and then enabling each individual pilot to develop, improve and enter a window of peak performance for the first day of the world championship competition. I was confident that if each pilot could deliver a smooth quality round at their first day of Preliminary competition that this peak in form and performance would continually improve over the next three remaining days of the Preliminary rounds.

Enabling all four of our team pilots to be at their best for the commencement of the world champion competition would not have been achievable without the amazing support provided by our additional team crew members. Their experience, valuable input, passion and encouragement were instrumental in the successful execution of our team's game plan.

Everyone should be immensely proud of the results that were achieved, the positive vibe within the team kept building throughout the entire world championship and this was reflected on how each pilot kept improving their performance and results at each day of competition.

Results:

I am truly delighted to now report on the extraordinary results achieved by all individual pilots, as well as the overall result of the Australian team at the 2025 FAI F3A World Championship. The long list of remarkable results and achievements include:



Australia achieving our greatest ever result at an F3A World Championship.



Three out of our four pilots making it into the Semi-Final round, which is the first this has ever been achieved.



Our team finished 6th overall in the Team Ranking result, which is the highest the Australian team has been placed.



Aaron Garle making it into the Semi-Final round and finishing 14th place in the individual ranking, Aaron's highest and best result at an F3A World Championship.



Aaron Garle was selected and flew an exhibition flight of the Unknown Schedule for the introductory segment of the Final-Round.



The Australian team



Shayne Lysaght making it into the Semi-Final round and finishing 29th place in the individual ranking, Shayne's highest and best result at an F3A World Championship.



Rod O'Neil finished in 53rd place in the individual ranking, though Rod fulfilled his long-long dream of competing at his first F3A World Championship. It is clear Rod is well and truly determined to make it back on the team again, as he placed a deposit on a brand-new Aurora BIP even before returning to Australia from the world championship!



I have intentionally left this last result at the bottom of the list, as it is without doubt the standout achievement for a very dedicated and talented young individual. Seth Huntingford achieved a result that has never been achieved by an Australian pilot before. Not only did Seth make it into the Semi-Final round and finishing in 21st place in the individual rankings at his first World Championship, but Seth also finished 1st place in the Junior category and securing the result of the 2025 F3A Junior World Champion!

In addition to this stunning result, Seth is the youngest person to win the F3A Junior World Champion prize.



The pilots and team manager



John and Shane Lysaght



Champion flyer Seth Huntingford

For readers of this report who are unfamiliar with F3A and the format of a World Championship, the structure is as follows:

All competitors fly four rounds (flights) of the Preliminary (P) Schedule, one flight flown each day over four consecutive days. Three of the best scoring Preliminary Rounds for each competitor are aggregated. The worst scoring flight out of the four Preliminary Rounds for each pilot are scratched and not included in the aggregate.

The completion of the fourth day of the P-Schedule rounds is when the results for the top thirty pilots are aggregated and published, and confirming the 30 pilots who have qualified for the Semi-Final Round.

All thirty Semi-Finalists are allowed one day to practice the Final (F) Schedule, with the Semi-Final round commencing the following day.

The aggregated scores of the top 30 competitors are the pilots who qualify for the Semi-Final Round and will fly the Final (F) Schedule. Each pilot will fly two rounds of the F-Schedule on the same day. The worst scoring flight out of the two F-Schedule rounds is scratched, leaving the best scoring flight being the determining factor on which out of the top 10 scoring pilots from the Semi-Final Round qualify for the Final Round.

The ten pilots who qualify for the Final Round will fly one round of the F-Schedule and two rounds of the Unknown Schedules. None of these flights are scratched and the scores for all three flights are aggregated to determine the winner of the F3A World Championship.

The official 2025 FAI F3A World Championship competition schedule:

Date	Round	Schedule
10-Aug-2025	Preliminary Flight – Day 1	P-25
11-Aug-2025	Preliminary Flight – Day 2	P-25
12-Aug-2025	Preliminary Flight – Day 3	P-25
13-Aug-2025	Preliminary Flight – Day 4	P-25
14-Aug-2025	Free practice day for Semi Final round.	
15-Aug-2025	Semi Final Flights 5 and 6 – Day 5	F-25
16-Aug-2025	Final Flights 7, 8 and 9 – Day 6	Flight 7, F-25 Flight 8, Unknown 1 (B) Flight 9, Unknown 2 (E)



Chris Huntingford

The 2025 Australian F3A Team:

Our Australian F3A Team entered the maximum number of pilots admissible for each country at an F3A World Championship, including three Senior pilots and one Junior pilot (four in total).

Our team also included one official Team Manager and a large group of team crew members including Callers, Helpers and Supporters. Australia had seventeen team members in total attend the F3A World Championship in Muncie, making Australia the largest of all the teams at the event.

F3A Team Australia delivered a united and impressive presence at the F3A World Championship, and we received many positive comments from other teams and spectators on how well we both presented and represented our country at the high level on the world stage.

Official Australian team members:

Name	Role	Location
Aaron Garle	Team Pilot	Queensland
Shayne Lysaght	Team Pilot	New South Wales
Rod O'Neil	Team Pilot	New South Wales
Seth Huntingford	Team Pilot - Junior	Victoria
Paul Rolph	Team Manager	Victoria
Mark Hu	Team Pilot – Reserve	Queensland

Team crew members:

Name	Role	Location
John Lysaght	Caller for Shayne Lysaght	New South Wales
Ryan Lysaght	Helper	New South Wales
Janette Lysaght	Supporter	New South Wales
Lori O'Neil	Caller for Rod O'Neil	New South Wales
Chris Huntingford	Caller for Seth Huntingford	Victoria
Phil Spence	Helper	Australian Capital Territory
Norm Morrish	Helper	Victoria
Russell Edwards	Supporter	Victoria
Charlie Sweeney	Supporter	Victoria
Fernando Monge	Supporter	Victoria
Stephen Green	Supporter	Victoria
Rosalie Green	Supporter	Victoria



Local insights:

The 2025 FAI F3A World Championship was held in the heart of America's Midwest, at the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) National Flying Site in Muncie, Indiana, United States of America. The outstanding facility spanning over 1,100 acres of immaculately maintained grounds and flying fields, is without doubt the premier destination for aeromodelling events in the United States, and the world.

For those who have fascination and passion for the historical aspect of aeromodelling, the National Model Aviation Museum is located on the AMA National Flying Site, which also includes an extensive library. All our F3A Australian Team members spent hours, slowly walking and being mesmerised by the meticulously curated presentation of the historic, technical, artistic and evolutionary legacy of model aviation. It was a truly unique and rewarding opportunity and experience!

The Journey:

This section of the report provides a reflection on the team's journey that includes highlights and insights on how much cost and effort goes into preparing and competing at a World Championship.

Aurora BIP (F3A BI-Plane):

Australia made a significant step at this year's F3A World Champion with the new Aurora BIP F3A model, which has been designed and manufactured by an Australian business owner Mark Hu operating as VLV International.

The Aurora BIP has been developed in collaboration with the world's most accomplished F3A pilots and was also flown by Aaron Australia's Garle at this year's F3A World Championship. The Aurora BIP was also flown by other leading F3A pilots who finished in the top 10 individual world rankings for 2025.

Flight Coach:

The Flight Coach product is a family of software tools that precisely logs data of a flight and then allows the pilot to load the flight data into web-browser application called The Plotter, which displays a 3D interactive visualisation of the recorded flight data. This can then be loaded into another web-browser application called FCScore, which then calculates and produces scores for each manoeuvre and the overall flight. FCScore is designed to automate the judging process, allowing pilots, in our case F3A pilots, to access their flights and measure and improve their scores in preparation for any competition, including the World Championship.

Artur Uzieblo, who lives in Melbourne Australia, was the inventor/creator of the Flight Coach technology and is now part of team who continue to develop the product and tools.

The Flight Coach software performed a key role in our team's preparation for the 2025 F3A World Championship and was no doubt a contributing factor with our team's best result ever.

The Flight Coach website: <https://flightcoach.org/>



Team Uniform:

A significant amount of time and effort was invested in the design and production of our team's official uniform for the 2025 F3A World Championship. The primary objective was to ensure that our team presented a professional unified presence while representing ourselves and Australia on the world stage.

Marketing, Merchandise and Promotion:

I made it a priority in my role as Team Manager to ensure our team's World Championship campaign was well marketed and widely prompted. I took the lead role in designing the team uniforms, merchandise and building our new team website well before the team departed for the USA in July. My efforts were greatly appreciated by the team, and I am immensely pleased with all the positive feedback that has been and continues to be received. The team uniform was a clear standout at the World Championship, and it certainly delivered on our team's objective in having a confident and professional presence.

The marketing and promotion of our team was predominately delivered using web and social media services, plus having our team's story shared in RC flying publications such as the MAAA Wingspan magazine. It is essential for the niche world of F3A to break-out and expand beyond our own special interest group and connect with the general RC flying community more broadly, and even the general public. Our fresh new professional image was aimed at creating curiosity and interest, and to encourage existing RC pilots to take a serious look at flying in F3A competition and precision aerobatics plus attracting new pilots into the world of RC flying.

The wrap:

As I wrap up this report and close this chapter for the 2025 F3A World Championship, we celebrate not just the remarkable results achieved, but the spirit F3A Team Australia carried to reach new heights. These achievements are a testament to relentless dedication, commitment and a passion for precision aerobatics. They remind us that when we aim higher and drive ourselves to push beyond limits that extraordinary results follow. Let this success inspire us all to keep striving, keep motivated and keep believing, because the sky is never the limit for those who continue to soar to greater heights.



F3A Team Australia would like to thank our sponsors:



F3A Team Australia would like to thank our those who made a personal donation through our [gofundme](#) campaign:

Paul Bserani	Nigel Machin	Prasanna Sawant
Tim Voigt	Stephen Green	Purple Mechanical
Liz Ventevogel	John van de Waterbeemd	
David McFarlane	Peter Robbins	

Twenty-four countries/teams competed at the 2025 FAI F3A World Championship:

Argentina	Columbia	Germany	New Zealand
Australia	Ecuador	Israel	Norway
Austria	Spain	Italy	Poland
Brazil	Finland	Japan	Spain
Canada	France	Republic of Korea	Switzerland
China	Great Britan	Netherlands	United States of America

Individual Ranking, top 10 out of 62 competitors:

Position	Competitor	Country
1	Andrew Jesky	United States of America
2	Lassi Nurila	Finland
3	Tetsuo Onda	Japan
4	Jason Shulman	United States of America
5	Yuhei Suzuki	Japan
6	Stephane Carrier	France
7	Gernot Bruckmann	Austria
8	Andrea Cervi	Italy
9	Peter Collinson	United States of America
10	Antonin Paysant-Le Roux	France

Team Ranking, top 10 out of 24 countries:

Position	Country	Team Result	Best Result
1	United States of America	14	1
2	Japan	19	3
3	Austria	38	7
4	France	39	6
5	Germany	57	12
6	Australia	64	14
7	Argentina	76	24
8	New Zealand	95	20
9	Israel	103	31
10	Norway	105	22

Junior Ranking, top 3:

Position	Competitor	Country
1	Seth Huntingford	Australia
2	Yufei Liu	China
3	Sean Galloway	New Zealand

Visit the official website to view the full list of results:

<https://2025wch.usaf3a.org/results/>

<https://2025wch.usaf3a.org/2025-world-champions/>