

Headline:

15-year-old British teen wins World Drone Prix in Dubai

Sub-Headline:

The largest drone-racing event in history culminated in the win of Luke Bannister, a 15-year-old drone pilot from the British Tornado X-Blades, who took home USD250,000 and massive bragging rights.

Cover Photo:

http://i.kinja-img.com/gawker-media/image/upload/s--iDDs8SKy--/c_scale,fl_progressive,q_80,w_800/yztip11e4mcrv33cmpjk.jpg

Body Content:

Alex Morritt once said that owning a drone does not a pilot make, but the contestants of the first ever World Drone Prix held in Dubai were most certainly pilots but on a whole other level – like Luke Skywalker taking down the Death Star in that X-Wing in *A New Hope*.

Combat-ready in white racing overalls that would have been more at home at an F1 racetrack or a sci-fi convention, 150 pilots from all over the world piloted their drones while wearing virtual reality (VR) headsets for first-person flying precision through inventive and insanely challenging tracks, all while trying to juggle factors like battery life, pit stops, traps, and overall tactical strategy.

The event itself was a delight to watch for the audience, as they were treated to a whole host of choices: they could follow the action through huge screens showing feeds from multiple cameras, or through first-person VR goggles, or just sit back and watch the color-coded drones whizz past over spectacularly lit tracks against Dubai's night sky.

In the end, Luke Bannister took the gold after taking down fellow pilots from Dubai, Russia, and the Netherlands – he was having so much fun that he didn't notice when he won and just kept flying over the track.

But if competitive drone racing isn't exciting enough for you, here's more news: Dubai also announced at the event that they will be hosting the 2017 World Future Sports Games, which would feature, among other events, "robots competing in swimming, wrestling, and running". And of course, drone racing.

Video to be inserted:

<https://youtu.be/0wrx86oeBn4>

Photos to be inserted:

http://cdn.arstechnica.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2016/03/IMG_7817-980x653.jpg

http://cdn.arstechnica.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2016/03/IMG_7872-980x653.jpg

Sources:

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