

FAI World Championship for Model Gliders (class F3F)

Hanstholm, Denmark

2nd to 9th October 2016

This 216 FAI F3F World Championship for Model Gliders was organised under the leadership of the Royal Danish Aeroclub by the Danish Modelflying Association.

Venue

The competition took place in the northern part of the Denmark in the vicinity of Hanstholm. The organizer has prepared ten sites, the farthest being about 55 km from Hanstholm, to cover almost every wind direction. Three slopes were used during the competition for flying: Vigso, Hamborg and Kridtvej. Most of the slopes are in the nature reserve. Flying at these places during the World Cup was allowed by local authorities.

Participation

The Championship was entered by 59 competitors from 20 countries. Two competitors were juniors. The reigning Junior World Champion participated as a senior competitor beside the French National Team.

Organisation

The World Championship was well organised. Head of the organising team was Regnar Petersen, Sporting Contest Director was Jan Hansen. All people in the organising staff were qualified and experienced. Some of them were from other countries. The number of judges allowed smooth running of the competition flying.

For practicing of judges and pilots a two day international open competition F3F 2016 was held before the championships. The weather during these two days was unsuitable. At the first day the wind was oscillating around the limit; at the second day heavy rain prevented the flights totally. Therefore only one round was completed.

Weather and Running of the Main Competition

During all World Championship flying days the weather was suitable for slope soaring competition flights. Local people affirmed such conditions as exceptionally favourable.

The average wind speed and running of the rounds are summarised in the following table.

Date	Slope	Rounds	Wind avg.	Start at	Finished	Flying Time
3.10.2016	Hamborg	1,2(x),3,4	14,3	9:20	17:07	7:47
4.10.2016	Vigso	5,6,2,7	5,8	10:15	18:04	7:49
5.10.2016	Kridtvej	8,9,10,11,12,	12,1	9:25	18:02	8:37
6.10.2016	Kridtvej	13,14,15,16,17/1	15,6	9:12	17:15	8:03
7.10.2016	Kridtvej	17/2,18,19,20,21	13,4	9:20	17:32	8:12
8.10.2016	Vigso	22,23,24	9,1	9:13	14:20	5:07

Note: 2(x) means the cancelled round (see Protest)

The sighting device for checking the horizontal plane (see rule 5.8.6.h) was not used because the shape and height of all slopes ensured that model gliders, which correctly finished their flight, were always above the horizon within required 5 seconds.

Accommodation and catering

The official Headquarter of the competition direction was in the Holiday camp at Vigso. Other hotels and camps were available nearby. Many teams selected for their lodging the town Klitmoller, 20 km from the Vigso headquarter.

Food was mostly provided by competitors themselves. The organiser offered the possibility to order lunch packets, but this offer was used almost only by the staff members. During competition days the organiser arranged a van which was brought to the slope and offered refreshment, fruit and beverages for sale.

Opening Team Managers Meeting

At the first Team Managers Meeting the organiser presented an explanation how some doubtful rules from the F3F Code will be interpreted. At the Meeting certain interpretations were modified and approved by the Team Managers. Great emphasis was placed on safety.

In the past, before the F3F class got the World Championship status, every two years a big F3F competition was organised. These competitions were called Viking Race and their tradition was started by Rolf Girsberger (SUI) and Preben Norholm (DEN) in 1989. Now, when the Viking Race was replaced by World Championship, the Perpetual Trophies of Viking Race are free. Therefore it was proposed to offer the Individual Viking Race Trophy to FAI for F3F World Cup as perpetual trophy. The Viking Race Team Trophy, after repair, could be offered as perpetual trophy for the F3F World Championship Team.

Publicity

The World Championship was widely presented in local newspapers and TV. Results and photographs of the day were put on Internet every evening.

Safety

The organiser marked very clearly all parts of the field for ensuring safety and smooth running of the competition flights. Safety line was marked about 5 meters from the slope edge. The overflying of the safety plane was guarded by a judge with sighting device. During the competition there were no safety problems observed.

Processing

For all model gliders entering the championships the nose radius and the correct marking were checked. No problems appeared during the processing.

The weight of models was checked after flight of some model gliders at the contest site. Mostly there were selected models after making an excellent flight result. The wing loading was computed from the measured weight and the area declared in the Model Glider Specification.

Opening and closing ceremony

The opening ceremony was held in a big hall at the Vigso Holiday centre. All teams were presented on the podium one after another and Major of Thistadt presented her opening speech. In the evening the organiser prepared an Opening Dinner-Banquet.

Prize giving ceremony was held again in the big hall at the Vigso Holiday centre. At the beginning there was a lottery with some presents from sponsors for the helpers of the organization staff. Then the FAI medals, diplomas and the trophy were handed over to juniors, individuals and teams. At the end of the Prize Giving Ceremony the FAI Anthem was played and the FAI flag dismounted from the wall.

International Jury

Members of the International Jury were: Tomas Bartovsky (CZE) - president, Franz Demmler (GER) - member and Espen Torp (NOR) - member.

Protest

At the second round a protest was submitted by the USA Team against a mistake made by the judge at base B.

The judge at base B, Mr. Henrik Zylber stated that the model glider of Mr. Kyle Paulson didn't cross the base B at his first attempt. Then it turned back and approached the base B for the second time. On the second turn the model hit the ground some few meters from the flag marking the base B. At the same moment the signal for crossing the base was given.

Mr. Franz Demmler, one of the Jury Members, observed the incident and from his point of view the signal was given when the model pointed to base A, which means that the signal was wrong.

Because of these contradictory witnesses the jury needed rather long time for collecting all the facts. The Jury then came to a conclusion that the signalling at base B was wrong and hurt the competitor. Because in the meantime the competition was moved to another slope, the request for re-fly of Mr. Kyle Paulsen could not be realised. After considering all aspects the Jury decided to cancel the second round and repeat it after round 6. The protest was withheld. Decision of the Jury was taken unanimously.

Another protest concerning the division of round 17 into groups was submitted by Austrian Team. This protest was not admitted by the Jury because the division into two groups was already announced before the start of the round and the protest arrived after almost half of all pilots, including two Austrian pilots, had flown their task.

Technical Meeting

There was a technical meeting with interested team managers and pilots held on Thursday. Most of the discussion was devoted to finding an organiser for the next World Championship. A working group for preparation of necessary rule amendments was established. The head of this working group was appointed Mr. Andreas Fricke (FRA).

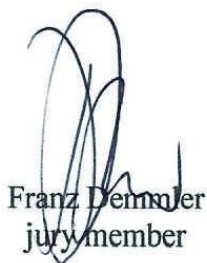
Conclusion

In the opinion of the FAI Jury, this was an excellent World Championship and the organisers are to be commended for its preparation and running.

Vigso 13th October 2016



Tomas Bartovský
jury president



Franz Demmler
jury member



Espen Torp
jury member