

FAI European Championship for Soaring Model Aircraft

Bovec, Slovenia
21st to 27th August 2011

This FAI World Championship for Soaring Model Aircraft was organised under the leadership of the Aeronautical Association of Slovenia by the Aero Club Kranj.

Venue

The competition took place on the sport airfield Bovec. The airfield was closed for full-size air traffic during the competition days. This area was sufficient for even the biggest group. The neighbouring ground was flat, and the possibility of slope lift was negligible. The flying was not limited at any side of the flying field.

Participation

The Championships were entered by 54 senior competitors from 19 countries and 26 junior competitors from 11 countries.

Organisation

Generally the European Championships were well organised. Contest Director was Mr. Bostjan Žipič, Sporting Contest Director was Mr. Pavel Prhac, Starter was Mr. Marin Kordic from Croatia and the Chief Timekeeper was Borut Perpar. They invited, besides of their countrymen also timekeepers from Slovakia. All people in the organising staff were qualified and experienced. The number of timekeepers allowed smooth running of the competition flying.

For practicing of timekeepers and pilots a two day international open competition Alpine cup F3J was held before the championships.

The organisers used an automatic timer program for controlling the preparation and working time. They installed along the launching corridor a set of loudspeakers, one for every two starting points. This arrangement reduced the sound travel delay for all pilots to an acceptable value.

The good organisation and the good weather allowed completing all competition flights within five days. The organisers were flexible and were able to move the closing ceremony and banquet to Saturday evening. The participants then had the choice of spending Sunday for relaxing and sightseeing or travelling home.

Accommodation and catering

Some participants stayed in hotels or camps in Bovec, about 1 km from the airfield. Other stayed in hotels in the village Cezsoca 2 km apart. Camping on the airfield was forbidden

Lunch was served in a shade on the airfield. It was also possible to buy refreshment in this canteen on the field. All food was good and ample.

Weather

The weather was very convenient throughout the championships. During all the competition days there was blue sky. The temperature reached 32 to 34 degrees centigrade in the afternoon every day. Mostly there was no wind during the week.

Flying Performance

The performance of most pilots was excellent. There were lot of thermals during the flights. Very often the pilots used almost the full 10 minutes working time for flying. At some occasions they lost only about one second for launching and landing. Unfortunately at these situations the reaction of the timekeeper may influence the result of the pilot seriously.

Safety

There was not serious safety problem during the World Championships. Removing the 3m limit over the safety area didn't influence the safety at all. The penalty for contact of one glider with the tent in the safety area happened by uncontrolled vertical dive from the height of about 100 meters. A 3m limit can't help at such situations.

Processing

For all model gliders entering the championships the nose radius and the correct marking were checked. No problems appeared during the processing. The organisers supplied stickers for resolution of different model of each competitor. Unfortunately the quality of the glue on these stickers was not good and the stickers didn't hold strong enough on parts of the model glider. Fortunately during the whole competition it didn't happen any situation where the identification of models could bring a problem.

Opening and closing ceremony

The opening ceremony was run in a dignified manner. In the centre of the town Bovec the European championship F3J was officially opened with parade of national teams, speeches of mayor of Bovec Danijel Krivec, president of the Aeroklub Kranj Borut Perpar, and vice-president of the Slovenian National Assembly Vasja Klavora. The anthem of FAI was also played.

Next day in the morning the FAI flag was ceremonially raised on the airfield.

The closing ceremony with medal and diploma awarding took place on Saturday afternoon on the airfield.

Protests

There was no protest submitted at these championships.

Conclusion

In the opinion of the FAI Jury, this was a very successful European Championship carried out in a friendly atmosphere. The organisers are to be commended for an excellent event.

Bovec 29th August 2011

Tomas Bartovský
Jury president