

FAI World Championships 2013 for Hand Launched Gliders

Herning, Denmark

21st to 28th July 2013

This FAI World Championship for Hand Launched Gliders was organised under the leadership of the Royal Danish Aeroclub (KDA) by the Danish Model Flying Association, Modelflyvning Denmark (MDK).

Venue

The competition took place on the airfield near Herning (about 7 km apart). The airfield, normally used for ultra light aircraft and full size gliders was reserved during the competition flights for flying model aircraft. Short cut grass area was about 180 x 80 meters. Neighbouring there was additional large short cut grass area for model depots and camping. The hangars normally used for full size gliders were 250 meters from the start and launching area and were used for catering during the championships.

The surrounding surface was flat. The first (and only one) tree was 80 meters from the border of the start and landing field. The hangars on the other side were in the distance of more than 400 meters. An ideal flying field for competition of the F3K class.

Participation

The Championships were entered by 83 senior competitors from 29 countries and 16 junior competitors from 9 countries.

Organisation

The World Championships were well organised. Contest Director was Mr. Erick Dahl Christensen, The Event Director was Mr Regnar Petersen. For timekeeping the organisers invited also experienced people from other countries. The number of timekeepers allowed smooth running of the competition flying.

For practicing of timekeepers and pilots a two day international open competition Swinging Denmark was held before the championships.

The organisers used an automatic timer program for controlling the preparation and working time and landing window.

The good organisation and the good weather allowed completing 17 qualifying rounds and 6 fly-off rounds in the expected number of days.

International Jury

Tomáš Bartovský, CZE – president

Ralf Decker, GER – member

Lars Buch Jensen, DEN - member

Accommodation and catering

Many competitors and helpers used the camping possibility on the airfield. Some participants stayed in the hotel Herning at Trade Fair Centre Herning (9 km driving).

Breakfast, lunch and diner were served in the hangar on the airfield. It was also possible to buy refreshment in a kiosk near the hangar. The meal was good and in sufficient amount. Breakfast for hotel guests was served in the hotel.

Weather

The weather was very convenient throughout the championships. During all the competition days there was blue sky. The temperature reached 28 to 29 degrees centigrade in the afternoon every day. The prevailing wind was from NE, up to 7.5 m/s. On Wednesday 17th the wind got stronger. The gusts reached 19 m/s but the conditions stated in paragraph B.15.1 for interruption of the contest were not reached. Still the CD decided to let fly seniors and postponed the junior rounds to a later time. Flying was stopped at 14.30 for wind stronger than 12 m/s. The flying continued at 17.20. Next days the wind was again within the limits.

Flying Performance

The performance of most pilots was excellent. There were lot of thermals during the flights. At the end of the qualifying rounds. The Jury evaluated the influence of each task on the ranking of competitors. At one task 93% of competitors got 100 points. Such task can't seriously influence the final results and have to be deleted from the list in the future and replaced by more difficult tasks..

After the fly-off rounds of seniors the two top competitors had equal sum of points. The Jury thoroughly checked the results and then decided to fly one more task for two pilots.

Safety

There was not serious safety problem during the World Championships. The organiser didn't declare a safety area, but the light models don't represent a serious danger and during the whole competition only one model landed on a tent, without causing any damage.

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 marking the processed parts of model gliders.

Opening and closing ceremony

The opening ceremony was run on the airfield. Short speeches were held by the Mayor of Herning, the Contest director and Jury president.

The closing ceremony with awarding of medals and diplomas took place on Saturday afternoon on the airfield.

Protests

There were three protests submitted at these championships. Two of them have been denied, one was upheld.

Technical Meeting

On Thursday 25th July 2013 was held a technical meeting with free entrance for all participants. 20 people took part. There were presented some data from the analysis of task quality and there were also discussed rule changes which will apply from 1st January 2014.

Conclusion

In the opinion of the FAI Jury, these were a very successful World Championships carried out in a friendly atmosphere. The organisers are to be commended for an excellent event.

Herning 28th July 2013

Tomas Bartovský
Jury president