

Jury Report

2018 FAI F3K European Championships for Model Gliders

Martin, Slovakia

8th to 14th July 2018

These FAI European Championships for Hand Launched Gliders were organised by the RC Model Club Martin, the member of the LeRMAS (Aero and Space Model Association of Slovakia), under the NAC Slovak National Aero Club.

Venue

The competition took place on the Airfield of Aero Club Martin, which was closed for air traffic during the competition flights. The dimensions of the airfield allowed arrangement of the Launch and Landing Area 120 wide and 150 m long. The surface of the whole field was a shortcut grass. On the airfield, there was also plenty of room for tents and caravans for the competitors.

Participation

The Championships were entered by 52 senior competitors from 18 countries and 15 junior competitors from 7 countries.

Organisation

Generally, the European Championships were well controlled by the Contest Director Mr. Miro Majerčík.

The total number of timekeepers allowed smooth running of the competition flying. Their work was well organized by the Timekeepers Manager Mr. Luboš Nemček. The timekeepers did a good job serving sometimes from 8.30 am to 7.30 pm.

The computing of results was also made by Miro Majerčík.

For practicing of timekeepers and pilots a two-day international open competition “Martin Cup” was held before the championships.

The organisers used an automatic timing program for controlling the preparation, flight testing and working time and landing window.

The organiser prepared the group draw for 18 qualification rounds. Good organisation and the weather conditions, with only one-half day of light rain and a few predicted rain showers, allowed completion of 15 qualifying rounds for both, seniors and juniors. Six fly-off rounds for seniors and the same number of fly-off rounds for juniors were completed within the expected number of days.

Accommodation and catering

Some competitors and helpers used the nearby assigned camping area. Others stayed at hotels and pensions at Martin and neighbouring villages.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the staff and interested people were served in a catering tent. The meal was good and in sufficient amount. In the same tent, it was possible to buy refreshments.

The organiser also provided a refrigerator and sold ice-cream in the office. The ice-cream was free for timekeepers and the staff.

Weather

The weather was very favourable throughout the championships. The wind often changed its direction and some days approached the limit set for this class. At fly-off day the wind speed was above 6 m/s, which caused that the results to have a wider distribution.

Flying Performance

The performance of most pilots was excellent. The organiser included all tasks from the list into the flight schedule. Analysis after the event shows that some of the tasks didn't contribute to the distribution of results. For instance, at task D (Increasing time by 15 s) 94% of all pilots reached the maximum. At task B (Last two flights) the number of pilots reaching full result represented 65% of all pilots reached full results. At this task, the high number of successful pilots was also influenced by the short target time (3 min) chosen by the organiser. But at other tasks, the effectivity of distribution was seriously influenced by the prevailing weather. As an example may serve the task C (All up) which was flown twice. At round 7 the full time reached by 9% of all pilots whereas at round 12 the full time was flown by 80% of pilots.

Safety

The organiser declared the area with shelters on the western side of the start and landing area as a safety zone. There was no serious safety problem during the European Championships. One competitor was hit in his back by a model which shed its wings at launch. The pilot struck fell to the ground but continued flying and won the group. The after-effect was a bruise the next day.

Processing

For all model gliders entering the championships the nose radius, the wingspan and the correct markings 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 took place on the airfield. Opening ceremonies in previous years were often in the town, but this time the Martin municipality wanted a fee. All teams stood behind plates with their country name. After a short speech of the Contest Director, the FAI Jury President declared the Championships open. The Slovak and FAI Anthems were played and the FAI flag was raised.

The Prize Giving Ceremony was organised on Friday afternoon on the airfield. All FAI medals and diplomas were presented. The organiser donated 24 cups for the winners. In the end, the FAI Anthem was played.

The closing banquet took place in the hall of the restaurant Tomčiansky Dvor.

Protests

Few informal complaints were quickly solved by the Contest Director. No formal protest was submitted

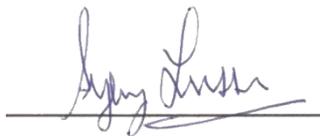
Conclusion

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

Martin, 15th July 2018



Tomas Bartovský
Jury president



Sydney Lenssen
Jury Member



Peter Feigl
Jury Member