

# FAI World Championships 2014 for RC Duration Gliders

## Martin, Slovakia

### 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2014

This FAI World Championship for RC Duration Gliders was organised under the leadership of the Slovak Aero Club by the Federation of Modellers of Slovakia, the Model Flying Club Martin.

#### **Venue**

The competition took place on the airfield Martin-Tomčany. The aero club airfield, normally used for full size aircraft and gliders was reserved during the competition flights for flying model aircraft. Short cut grass area was about 500 x 200 meters. Neighbouring there were agricultural fields. The hangar normally used for full size gliders was devoted to a safe model depository. In the aero club building there was the organisers office and jury meeting room. On the grassy area between the building and the runway there were tents and caravans of the competitors with the camping facilities 250 meters from the start and launching area and were used for catering during the championships.

#### **Participation**

The Championships were entered by 80 senior competitors from 28 countries and 28 junior competitors from 9 countries.

#### **Organisation**

Generally the World Championships were well organised. Contest Director was Mr. Jaroslav Košťan, Starters were Mr. Miroslav Majerčík and Mr. Günter Cuypers from Belgium. For timekeepers the organiser invited experienced people from Slovakia, Czech Republic and Germany. Other members of organising staff were qualified and experienced.

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

The organisers used an automatic timer program for controlling the preparation and working time. The Working time, was shown on a big display. The sound signals were brought to pilots through 6 loudspeakers evenly distributed along the launching corridor.

The good organisation and weather conditions allowed completing 11 qualifying rounds and 6 fly-off rounds within the expected number of days. The fly-off rounds were divided between two days, to allow flying at different weather conditions.

The software "F3Jscore" which was used for computing results didn't work to full satisfaction. Some errors appeared during the processing of data. Running on two different computers showed small differences in intermediate results. At the end the results were correct, but with these conditions the checking of results by the Jury was demanding. The Jury does not recommend this software for future first class events.

#### **Accommodation and catering**

Many competitors and helpers used the camping provision on the airfield. Some participants stayed in the Hotel Turiec at Martin (2 km driving) and in other hotels nearby.

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

#### **Weather**

The weather was convenient throughout the championships. At the beginning it was sunny and blue sky. On Tuesday afternoon in came a thunderstorm and the competition flights had to be stopped. From Wednesday the wind was stronger and therefore the flight conditions were more difficult, which caused increasing differences in the results. On Thursday the sky was covered by cloud and the thermals were less intense. This again increased the difference between good and better pilots..

#### **Flying Performance**

The performance of most pilots was excellent. There were lot of thermals during most of the flights. Very often the pilots used almost the full 10 minutes working time for flying. On some occasions they lost only about one second for launching and landing. Unfortunately under these conditions the reaction of the timekeeper may influence the results of pilots seriously. In the last years the wingspan of gliders increased up to 4 meters and with these big planes the number of collisions at launch was rather high.

## **Safety**

There was no serious safety problem during the World Championships.

## **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 to identify the different models of each competitor.

## **Opening and closing ceremony**

The opening ceremony was run in the town Martin on the Theatre Place. There was a parade of teams. After short speeches of the Contest Director and the Spokeswomen of town Martin the FAI anthem was played and the Jury president officially opened the World Championships. A display of folklore singers and dancers and a theatre of medieval fighters concluded the opening ceremony

The closing ceremony with awarding of medals and diplomas took place on Saturday afternoon in a hall at the nearby village Drazkovice.

## **Technical Meeting**

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014 a technical meeting was held with free entrance for all participants. Around 25 people took part. Three proposals were discussed: One concerned the possibility of automatic timekeeping, two were connected with trying to make the flight task more difficult.

## **Protests**

There was one protest submitted during the championships. The protest was rejected.

## **Unsporting Behaviour**

On the second competition day, a few hours after publishing the Jury decision about the protest of Jo Grini, he took a picture of the Contest Director who was drinking beer and posted this picture on Facebook. It should be stressed that the Contest Director arranged to sell only drinks without alcohol in the refreshment tent and the drink he was drinking on the photo was a non-alcoholic beer.

Jury considered, like many people on the field, this photo damaged the reputation of the CD for anybody viewing the photo could not have realised that the beer was non-alcoholic. Since the photo appeared shortly after the posting of the protest result, the Jury decided that the Facebook entry constituted unsporting behaviour. The Jury called Mr. Grini to a session where he received an official warning.

## **Jury**

On the spot it was discovered that the Jury as approved by the CIAM Bureau could not be operative. The third Jury member Mr. Marian Maslo could not come because of his duties for his employer. The reserve Jury member Mr. Czeslav Byrski was present as part of the Polish team. Unfortunately it was found that his knowledge of English language is not sufficient for fluent communication with other members of the Jury. The second reserve Jury member was at home in Bulgaria. By chance there was on the field Mr. Sydney Lenssen, an expert in the F3J class, who in the past has already served as Jury member at first class FAI events. During two days before the Championships his inclusion in the Jury was approved by majority of the CIAM Bureau through e-mail.

## **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.

Martin 20<sup>th</sup> July 2014



Tomas Bartovsky

Jury President



Raymond Pavan

Jury Member



Sydney Lenssen

Jury Member