

# FAI European Championships 2013 for Duration Gliders

## Müsellim Köyü - Saray, Turkey

### 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2013

This FAI European Championships 2013 for Duration Gliders were organised under the leadership of the Aeronautical Association of Turkey by the Soarist Club Istanbul.

#### **Venue**

The competition took place on grass field near the village Kadiköy (about 1 km apart). The short cut grass area was about 450 x 180 meters. This area was sufficient for the flying. The neighbouring ground was flat, and there was no possibility for using any slope lift. Also the big tents were in a row parallel to the prevailing wind and didn't produce any lift. The towing was possible in the NE and SW direction and it corresponded with the prevailing winds. The catering, camping, toilets and showers were on the opposite side of the road

#### **Participation**

The Championships were entered by 52 senior competitors from 18 countries and 21 junior competitors from 12 countries.

#### **Organisation**

Generally the European Championships were well organised. Contest Director was Mr. Serdar Sualp, Starter was Mrs. Semin Balçik and the Flight Line Director was Mr. Marin Kordic from Croatia. 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 Thrace Cup was held before the championships.

The organisers used an automatic timer program for controlling the preparation and working time. The working time, the number of the ongoing round a the number of flying group together with temperature, wind speed and wind direction was displayed on a big display (3 panels 1.5 x 1.2 m at the field).

The good organisation and the good weather allowed completing 14 qualifying rounds and 3 fly-off rounds within the expected number of days.

#### **International Jury**

Tomáš Bartovský, CZE – president  
Raymond Pavan, LUX – member  
Alex Wunschheim, GER - member

#### **Accommodation and catering**

Some participants stayed in hotels (mostly in Cerkezkoy, 40 km driving). Many used the camping possibility on the airfield.

Lunch was served in a shade on the airfield. The price of the meal was included in the entry fee. It was also possible to buy refreshment in this canteen on the field. The catering was excellent all the week. Breakfast and dinner was in the hands of participants.

## **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, in average 7 to 8 m/s. The gusts reached 19 m/s but the conditions stated in paragraph B.15.1 for interruption of the contest were not reached. When on Tuesday the wind gets little bit stronger the CD decided to postpone the junior rounds to a later time and let fly seniors. On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> the wind got even stronger. Flying was stopped at 14.30 for wind over 12 m/s and continued at 17.20. On 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. 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. Only due to strong wind at some competition days the separation between top competitors was wider.

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 not serious safety problem during the European 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 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 appear any situation where the identification of models could bring a problem.

## **Opening and closing ceremony**

The opening ceremony was run on the airfield. Short speeches of the Contest director and Jury president were followed by playing the Turkish national and FAI anthems.

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

## **Protests**

There was one protest submitted asking for new working time for line crossing at launch. The protest was denied because the timekeeper didn't witness the line crossing and in addition the competitor continued flying up to the end of working time.

## **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.