

Report of the President of the International Jury

20th World Glider Aerobatic Championships
8th World Advanced Glider Aerobatic Championships
Toruń, Poland
26.07.2017 – 05.08..2017



Manfred Echter

Venue and Local Organisers

Toruń had been the venue of Glider Aerobatic World Championships already twice before in 2011 and 2014. The local organisers, Aeroklub Pomorski under their President, Jerzy Wisniewski, are well experienced in preparing and running this kind of event.

Seven times glider aerobatics World Champion and GAC Member, Jerzy Makula, acted as Contest Director for the first time.

The airfield, situated directly at the western edge of the city, is well suited for an event of this kind and size. It is large enough to place nearly the entire aerobatic box within the airfield perimeter. The orientation of the main asphalt runway is 28/10 and unlike in earlier years, the box was laid out parallel to the runway. The box was well marked and competitors commented favourably on the layout and the visibility of box markings.

The infrastructure was satisfactory and sufficient office space was available. The judges had a dedicated room, large enough to hold meetings and video sessions. One of the hangars was divided in two sections one reserved for briefings the other used as dining facility. Sufficient space was available in a newly constructed hangar for all participating gliders and there was no need to disassemble overnight.

All officials and judges were accommodated in the same hotel near the city centre. Rooms were comfortable and transit time to/from the airfield was ca. 20 minutes.

Teams and Competitors

In the Unlimited Championships there were 23 competitors from 10 nations, but only three complete teams, so there was no team competition.

The Advanced Championships saw 35 competitors from 11 nations and 6 complete teams.

Preparations

Practice flying had started on Friday, 21 July and the majority of familiarization flights had been completed by Monday, 24 July. The next day weather became unflyable and no further flight were possible until Friday, 28 July.

On Wednesday, 26 July the judges' briefing was held, but due to the unfavourable weather, the Chief Judge decided to do without the usual judging practice flights.

Although required to do so by the regulations, the organisers had not checked the Free Known sequences submitted by competitors. Luckily, flying of Programme 1 was delayed by weather and eventually the Chief Judge assisted by three judges did the sequence checking.

The opening briefing started 08.00 local on Thursday, 27 July. Although ample time would have been available, selection of unknown figures could not be started because there were still six competitors who had not had their familiarisation flights.

When the weather improved sufficiently in the afternoon of Friday, 28 July, the remaining pilots did their familiarisation flights under a cloud base of 700 m. Meanwhile selection of unknown figures for Advanced was conducted. On Saturday forenoon unknown figure selection for Unlimited was also completed whilst the Advanced had started flying Programme 1.

Warmup Pilot

Early in the year I had contacted the Contest Director to find out whether the organisers had their own warmup pilots. He assured me that at least three qualified pilots would be available for this task.

A few weeks before the Championships, however, I was informed that the foreseen pilots would not be able to function as warmup and that J. Makula would have to do this himself. I was not in favour of this solution and asked to look for a warmup pilot among the Poles since it would be very difficult to find someone else at short notice.

After my arrival in Poland I was informed by the German Team Manager that a German team member might be qualified and available.

As it turned out, Martina Kirchberg, long time Unlimited Pilot, whom I have known for many years, was willing to fly warmup and she did a most remarkable job.

Boundary Judging

For the first time the electronic tracking devices developed by the team from the university of Poznań were used to control the performance zone boundaries. The system performed highly satisfactorily. Essentially it is the well-known PHMD height measuring system with the GPS tracking function integrated into the same onboard device. The competitors received a printout of height and positioning data and a graphic view of their ground track overlaid on the box outline.

Before the start of the competition a jury member went around all four corners of the box holding one of the onboard devices and the recorded track accurately matched the actual box layout. This proof of the accuracy of the system satisfied the competitors and there were no subsequent questions or complaints concerning box-outs.

Meteorology

Weather information mainly came from the met office at nearby Bydgoszcz airport (ca. 20 km away). Forecasts were accurate and reliable.

Wind measuring was done by balloon tracking and timely wind information was always available at the flightline.

Judging

Philippe K uchler as Chief Judge again did an outstanding job.

All the video sessions were monitored by a member of the jury. The Chief Judge used the sessions to demonstrate typical judging errors and how to improve the quality of judging.

For more details on judging at this event, see the Chief Judge's report.

Scoring and Publication of Results

Scoring was done by Pawel Szcapanowski who has many years of experience as a scorer at international championships.

Results were always available on time and were published on CIVA-Results as soon as practicable.

Communications

For communications within the contest management a sufficient number of handheld FM radios were available functioning reliably all the time.

Information to teams and competitors was relayed via an SMS-distribution system. Due apparently to the large number of addressees from all over the world, there were frequent instances where not everyone received the information. Despite repeated attempts to fix the system, this problem persisted till the end of the championships.

Free Unknowns

The new procedure, by which all Free Unknown sequences are published and competitors are free to choose which sequence they want to fly, was applied for the first time. Sequences were identified by letters and teams confirmed the correct assignment of sequences to competitors prior to flying the programme.

No problems were encountered with this procedure.

Unfair Pilot Aids

One competitor had a cross-country gliding computer installed in his glider. When the jury became aware of this, the pilot was questioned formally concerning the capabilities and use of this device in aerobatics. He assured that there was no specific software for aerobatics installed and that he had never used the computer during these championships in any way prohibited by the Sporting Code.

Since the jury had no way to determine what software was actually installed and how the computer had been used, the pilot was asked to sign a declaration that he had not used the computer in an unfair way during these championships. (see Attachment1)

This question can be expected to arise again at future championships and the jury recommends to add a sub-para to Part 2, paragraph 3.6.1.3 specifying how to deal with such devices installed in participating gliders. (see Appendix 1)

Contest Flying

The setup at the starting line was simple but efficient. There was an info-board showing the next flight number, the current wind measurements and any other important information for the competitors. Spacing of flights was controlled in the usual manner on instructions from the Chief Judge. Towing was mostly done by 235 hp Morane or Robin and one historic Yak 12. The towplanes were well matched in terms of climb performance and there were no apparent difficulties with the spacing.

Due to weather contest flying did not start until Saturday, 29 July. Advanced and Unlimited categories flew their Programmes alternating, starting with the Advanced FreeKnown.

On Friday evening, 4 August, both categories had flown four Programmes each and the World Championships were declared completed.

Results

When the protest deadline had passed, all results were declared final and published Saturday morning, 05 August.

World Champion Overall Unlimited Glider 2017 is Ferenc Tóth from Hungary.

World Champion Overall Advanced Glider 2017 is Gustav Salminen from Sweden.

World Champion Team Advanced Glider 2017 is the team from Poland.

All results can be found on <www.civa-results.com>.

Protests

There were no protests.

Conclusion

20th WGAC 2017 and 8th WAGAC 2017 were competently managed and conducted without incidents. Despite some initial delays mainly due to weather, four Programmes each were successfully completed in both categories.

Congratulations to the Hungarian pilots who won all the Gold Medals in the Unlimited Championships.

A big Thank You! to Jurek Makula, Jurek Wisniewski and all the Polish volunteers for making possible this fine event.

Thank you also to the International Judges and their Chief "Pik".

And lastly, thank you to my Jury colleagues Mady and Kari for a job well done.

Appendix 1 to

Report of the President of the International Jury, WGAC/WAGAC 2017

Jury Proposals

Electronic Pilot Aids

Add new sub-para 3.6.1.3 c) to SC 6, Part 2:

"If electronic devices are installed in a glider the use of which may be considered unfair under the above rules, the competitor must declare this to the International Jury before the start of the contest. The devices must be made unusable for the duration of the contest. This must be verified by the Technical Commission."

Rationale

Modern onboard computers designed for cross-country gliding are highly capable devices which could be used in a number of ways to also aid the pilot in aerobatics.

It can be expected that such computers will also be installed in aerobatic gliders. It would be unreasonable, however, to ask competitors to remove the computer before an aerobatic competition. On the other hand it is impossible to determine or verify what software is installed and how it could be used. Therefore, it must be made sure that such devices are made unusable for the duration of an aerobatic contest.

Attachment 1 to
Report of the President of the International Jury, WGAC/WAGAC 2017

WGAC 2017 Toruń, Poland

5 August 2017

Luca Bertossio, Pilot

Italian Team

I declare that throughout the competition I have complied entirely with the spirit and intention of Sporting Code 6, Part 2, para 3.6.1.3.

I understand that I should have informed the International Jury that I have an LX "Zeus" gliding computer installed in my glider. I assure that I have not employed this equipment to aid in any aspect of my championship performances.

signed

Luca Bertossio