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World Paragliding Championship bid for Sopot 2013

The *Bulgarian Nacional Air Club* (BNAC), the Town Hall of *Sopot* and the organiser paragliding *Club Dedalus* have the pleasure of presenting this bid to hold the XIII World Championships in July 2013.

The schedule of the event would be the following, including 12 possible flying days and two training days.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Pre World Paragliding Championship July 2012

12. World Paragliding Championship 13-26 July 2013

Saturday	Saturday 13nd July	Arrivals, registration, training flights, paraglider inspection and registration
1st day Sunday	14th of July 2013	Training, paraglider inspection and registration, Mandatory Safety Briefing Opening Ceremony Pilot dinner and Party
2 d -14 th days	15-26 July 2013	Task days
Friday, 14th Day	26 July 2013, Friday	Prize giving and closing ceremony

TYPICAL DAILY SCHEDULE

- 08h00 - Headquarters open
- 08h30 - Deadline for protests for the previous day
- 09h00 - Team leader briefing at the main HQ
- 09h30 - Transport to take-off
- 12h00 – 17h30 Competition flights
- 17h00 - Scoring office opens at the main Headquarter

- 21h00 - Scoring office closes
- 21h30 - Provisional results
- 22h00 - Complaints resolution published

The BNAC has organised previously in Bulgaria in cooperation with local or foreign Clubs the FAI Cat.2 Paragliding World Cups 2005 and 2008 (*both in Sopot*), Russian Open 2008, Polish Open, National Championships, Paramania Competition Chain, SkyNomad competitions etc. The Site is well known all over the World for its superior flying conditions, protection from North Winds, big take off area.

As one of Bulgaria's premiere paragliding sites, *Sopot* has been the host of many national and international events since 1995. Our proposed Meet Director, Christopher Burns (Calvo) and CoMeet Director Ivan Valkov (local pilot and Retrieval and safety manager of many International competitions in Sopot) know well the Site of Sopot. The Organising Team was involved in the majority of previous events.

Apart from this long history experience of our organising team, BNAC propose a series of events leading up to 2013 to ensure every technical aspect of the event is covered:

These events will be:

2011

Bulgaria Paragliding Open Championship (Beginning of May. Confirmed)
 Shambhala Open (2-7 August, Confirmed)
 SkyNomad Open (August 2011)

2012

A National Paragliding Open or PWC (or PrePWC) (4th – 10th July)
 Pre World Championships (July 2012)
 Other International or Local Competitions

2013

13th World Paragliding Championships (13th-26th July)

Prior to submitting this bid we, the organisers, have considered the checklist for competition Organisers in Section 7 and provide the following information in support of our bid:

Site

The principal take off site of *Sopot* is located in Central Balkan National Park is South (including SoutEast and South West) Facing and has amply demonstrated its suitability as a high level competition venue for up to 150 pilots. It is well protected from North Winds because the high mountain behind is protecting the take off even in case when

the wind at the top of the mountain is more than 10 m/s. We have a spare take off area in case of malfunction of the Chair Lift, it's called Beklemeto and is suitable for more than 150 pilots, south facing. We will have one more take off facing NorthEast, we call it Dobrostan, close to town Asenovgrad and city of Plovdiv, but it is 70 km away from Sopot so we will use it just in case pilots wish to have Task on some other different place (last year we organize there Bulgarian National Championship with 6 Tasks out of 6 days). This 3d alternative Site is big enough for 60 pilots to take off together.



Sopot Take Off-PWC 2005

Accommodation: We offer free accommodation in local Hotels for all pilots during World Championship, like we do in 2008 for Paragliding World Cup and Russian Championship in Sopot. Link : <http://www.shterevhotels.com/BG/Sopot.html>
<http://www.shterevhotels.com/BG/Karlovo.html>
and
<http://www.shterevhotels.com/BG/Anevo.html>

All Hotels are connected with a Public transport system.



Sopot Take Off during PWC 2008



Take Off Beklemeto



Dobrostan Take Off

The legal right of use of the launch belongs to the Town Hall of *Sopot and Shambala*.

The official landing/Goal is a large grass field next to the Lift Station at a 2,5:1 glide from the launch site. It is rented for the specific use as a paragliding landing field by the Shambala organisation. There is second big landing/Goal field from East side of Sopot, close to Lucoil Gas station (with small nice Restaurant) on the main road between Sopot and Karlovo.



Landing Sopot



Location

Sopot launch site (1450 m asl. Lat 42° 41' N. Long 24° 44' 50 W) is 850m above and 3km away from Sopot in the valley below.

The mountain is orientated to the South-SouthWest, and behind extends a high mountain chain at altitude of 2100 m. The place has some possibilities for helicopter and top landing along the whole length of the mountain.



Access to the site is by ChairLift direct from *Sopot*. There is a car park and a building built as a bar, with toilets, water and electricity. 150m to the west of launch a HT power line and ChairLift Line runs directly down the mountain slope to *Sopot*. In the long history of events these cables have never proved a problem for pilots.

The principal launching area is above the Lift Station to the North-NorthEast from it. All take off areas are marked with windsocks, those in the down area large enough to check wind direction when viewed from the town below (with binoculars/telescope). We have a radio connection with Chair Lift staff on the top to give us reports about the wind too and Meteo station connected to Internet.

The take off area is huge for more than 130 pilots which in its natural state is covered in grass. There is mobile phone reception at take off and the valley landing areas. We intend to build several big Tents for the event for shadow during the Task briefings.

The spare South take off Beklemeto is located on 1100 m with 800 m difference from the valley landing. It is 15 km West from Sopot on the main asphalt road connecting Karnare and Troyan. Site is big and could be used from more than 150 pilots. We could use it in case of malfunction of the Chair Lift. Top landing is easy at this take off. Landing for Helicopter will be no problem too. Conditions from this Take off are the same as in Sopot (its only 15 km away from Sopot on the same ridge).

The 3-d Altrnative take off Site of Dobrostan is facing North East 750 m above the valley. Landing area are huge grass fields, take off is covered by grass too. I as said we probably will not use it, but we wish to keep it as alternative if we have many Tasks in Sopot to offer it as attraction different take off....(Picture of Dorostan Site)

Access to Dobrostan Site is by asphalt road. It is located East 20 km from town of Asenovgrad.

Wind and thermal conditions at Sopot and South wind conditions.

From June to mid September any good soaring day, irrespective of the forecast isobaric wind direction, the wind will blow upslope at Sopot. Even with back winds of up to 25km/hr, the anabatic wind will normally prevail, and we will be able to fly at Sopot Site. In the case of stronger back winds at Sopot the conditions would be unsuitably strong to contemplate using our South wind launch sites for a competition task.

The dates chosen for the competition have been very reliable over the last 14-15 years of paragliding activity at *Sopot Site*. During this period we loose few flying days, with the majority being highly suitable for long cross country paragliding racing tasks.

Task flying area.

It is a very rural area, with few build up areas and an abundance of safe landing options. The road system is excellent, with the national way following directly the path of the Tasks which commonly sets up during this period of the year. The latter has allowed us to set long goal tasks of up to 110km (PWC 2008, Polish Open, SkyNomad Open and Russian Open Championship).

Our furthest goal fields are at 70km (600m asl) to the East, and 50km (600m asl) to the West. However, due to the light winds prevalent at this time of the year, closed circuit tasks of up to 110km with a goal in *Sopot* (600m asl) are more common.

With the experience gained in hundreds of tasks we have been able to refine our official turnpoints to make the most of all soaring forecasts. Our official map and turnpoint list can be downloaded at ...later will be published.

Airspace

The main competition flying area, some 50km to the West, 70km to the East and 15km to the South does not present any problems with regards to airspace. Official clearance to FL100 (3000 m asl) can be obtained from FIR Sofia. All paragliding competitions in Bulgaria are flown in reserved airspace. During the tasks the airspace is exclusively used for paragliders and no other type of aircrafts is allowed to enter (except rescue helicopters in case of emergency). Last 2010 National Championship in Dobrostan, we received NOTAM and we could stop any other activity in the area of the competition- including shooting practice at Military Test area in the Task air space.

Radio

The use of 2M FM radios from the air, is officially permitted. We have used 2M radios in every previous event with the knowledge of the local authorities. Official frequencies of the organisation will be inside amateur Low band of 144.000-146.000Mhz.

Mobile/Cellphone Coverage.

Throughout the whole flying area there is good coverage for mobile phones. The weakest signal is found at the take off, though still sufficient for reliable calls.

Weather

During the period selected for the event the soaring weather is reliable and well suited to paragliding XC racing. There are a number of microclimate effects which assist us in flying closed circuit tasks and some very long goal tasks. The mountain faces South West, many of the most interesting task routes are permitted when the prevailing winds are North. (We fly *Sopot* with all wind directions relying on the anabatic slope wind).

During the period of the event the normal task window will be approximately between 12.30 pm and 3pm, with the most likely window open time of 1pm. The normal pattern of the day is that from 11am the wind starts to gently cycle on to the hill. By 12.30pm it is easy to stay. Strong wind gusts are rare but sometimes if the wind is North there are some Dust Devils on the take off area. Strong South winds are not happening often because the mountain in front is protecting take off from them.

It is normal for a smooth residual lift to set up in the late afternoon. This effect is useful for long out and return tasks when pilots are come back to the valley late in the day. We have also benefited from it on late afternoon tasks, permitting successful XC tasks of up to 50km with late window open.

Weather forecast will be taken from information published on websites such as Bulgarian Meteo Service, NOAA Air resource and *others*.

Interpretation of internet weather information with its relevance to the local microclimate will be made by Nikolay Yotov, Daniel Dimov and Calvo (Christopher Burns), both with wide experience of forecasting.

Main Organizer: **BNAC** and **Club Dedalus-Dimitar Valkov**. Big experience as organizer of FAI cat.2 Competitions and successful National Championship 2010 as well as sponsor of the PreWorld Cup Sopot 2004 and Paragliding World Cup 2005. Big experience as competition pilot from National Team of Bulgaria for the last 5-6 years. Participation at many Worlds, Europeans and Paragliding World Cup events from 2004 till 2010.

Meet Director: Christopher Burns (Calvo) and CoMeet Director Irina Ivanova or Ivan Valkov. Irina was a meet director of last Paragliding World Cup in Sopot 2008. Ivan Valkov was Meet Director of very successful 2010 National Paragliding Open Championship of Bulgaria in Dobrostan.

Scorer Team: Georgi Yordanov and Stanislav Velchev-both have big experience as scoreres for big international events like World Hanggliding Chapionship 2010 and World Paragliding Championship 2007 in Australia, many National Championships and other local competitions.

Medical team: Medical Department takes on Medical and Ambulance services from Karlovo State Hospital and Doctor we are using for all our competitions for the last 5 years. There will be Ambulance down at the Lift station.

Meteorologist: Georgi Yordanov and/or Nikolay Yotov

Retreival Coordinator/Director: Ivan Valkov. He is local pilot who was Retreival Manager for the last 10 events including Paragliding World Cup 2005 and 2008 in Sopot.

Comunication Coordinator: Still open position

Rescue Mountain Team: Sopot, Karlovo and Asenovgard Mountain Rescues.

Air Rescue Team: Bulgarian Air Forces Cougar Helicopter equipped with winch. We are making efforts from now with Chief of Bulgarian AirForces General Popov to have written agreement for 2013 Air Rescue operation during the World Championship from 13th till 26th of July 2013.

IT Coordinator: Daniel Dimov

Chair Lift Manager: Dani Bankov

Other officials: Not fixed yet.

COMPETITION LANGUAGE

The official language during the competition will be English.

Finance and Sponsorship. (Also see separate sheet)

The association of Bulgarian Tourist businesses are fully behind the project and will be involved in the finding of more important sponsors beyond the usual local assistance. Although the event is budgeted to be able to go ahead without sponsorship, the likelihood of finding local and national sponsors is high and we can confidently predict a higher level of support and service to pilots than that detailed in the budget.

Local facilities

One of the main industry of *Sopot* is tourism. Although only a small town of 10'000 inhabitants, it has a very wide selection of hotels, hostels and rural houses for rent.

We offer free accommodation in local Hotels for all pilots during World Championship, like we do in 2008 for Paragliding World Cup and Russian Championship in Sopot.

There are 2 or 3 supermarkets and a large number of bars and restaurants. Full details of all businesses in *Sopota* can be found on the Town Hall website

Retrieves

A shuttle to Sopot Chair Lift and retrieve from all tarmac roads will be supplied by the organisation. A coordination service to team leaders wishing to retrieve their own pilots with their own transport can be provided.

The organisation will use 50 seat and 9 seat buses with 2m base radios and mobile phones.

Insurance

We need all pilots to show during Registration Medical insurance covering paragliding and we will offer special insurance for Helicopter in case somebody need it.

Entry Fee

The entry fee for each pilot will be 460€ and for Team Leaders and Assistants using organisation transport will be 200€. For Team Leaders and Assistants not requiring the organisation transport the price will be 100€

FAI Entry rule. No pilot from an FAI country member will be refused entry into the country. For the pilots needing visa will be sent all the necessary documents (invitations and etc.) to obtain visas and enter the country.

Early arrivals

Pilots may arrive to fly as early as they wish. There will be no official transport until the 13th of July. Depending upon demand, hire of buses r Vans to Sopot could be arranged from *Sofia or Plovdiv* airport.

Guest Pilots

Guest pilots will be accepted only if all allocated spaces from FAI competing nations do not reach 150. Guest pilots will be accepted in order of the WRPS ranking and only if they are ranked in the top 100.

Statement of compliance with the FAI code on the environment

(<http://www.fai.org/environment/PolicyStatement>)

The BNAC, the Town Hall of *Sopot* and the local organiser Aerial Club Dedalus are in agreement with the Environmental Policy Statement of the FAI.

Liaison with police, military, public services.

2 members of Mountain Rescue Team will be present at launch during the task. There will also be close liaison with the Civil Guard of *region*.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The prospect of a FAI World Championship in our small rural village would play a very positive role in the furthering the development of the area and the sustainability of the working community of *Sopot* and the *Valley of Karlovo*.

Sopot has long been demonstrated to be a firm favourite amongst competition pilots for its reliability and potential for long XC competition tasks. We hope the CIVL delegates will favour our bid for the 2013 Worlds, and we will be pleased to provide further information in support if required.

Signed December 15th December 2010

Valentin Bratkov, Chairman of BNAC

Dimitar Valkov, Chairman of Airclub Dedalus