

**FAI JURY REPORT ON THE  
2023 FAI F5J WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FOR ELECTRIC POWERED  
THERMAL DURATION GLIDERS  
Seniors and Juniors**

DATE: August 13-19, 2023 - LOCATION: Dupnitsa, Bulgaria

**ORGANISER:** Bulgarian Aeromodelling Federation, Model Club Ikar Dupnitsa and Municipality Dupnitsa

**PARTICIPATION**

The 2023 FAI F5J World Championships for Electric Powered Thermal Duration Gliders, seniors and juniors, were participated by a total of 30 countries, with 88 senior competitors from 30 countries (NZL, CRO, SVK, NOR, GER, ITA, ARG, FRA, AUS, CZE, UKR, POL, SLO, AUT, USA, LAT, BUL, GRE, JPN, ROU, BRA, HUN, GBR, DEN, SUI, POR, MKD, KAZ, EST, FIN), 26 juniors from 13 countries (GER, FRA, CZE, BUL, ROU, SUI, SLO, GRE, BRA, ITA, LAT, AUT, POL), including 4 senior and 4 junior females from 4 countries (BUL, CZE, FRA, GER).

**EVENT PERSONNEL**

President of Organising Committee: Metodi CHIMEV (BUL)

Contest Director: Sotir LAZARKOV (BUL)

FAI Jury: Andras REE (HUN) as president, Antonis PAPADOPOULOS (GRE) and Emil GIEZENDANNER (SUI) as members.

**COMMENTS ON THE EVENT**

**Pre-contest information:** Three bulletins were published on the official web page of the organiser with all the necessary information.

**Flying site:** The event was organised on a grass field near Dupnitsa having no permanent infrastructure at all, so the organisers had to transport and provide all that was necessary for the event. Fourteen launching/landing spots were built. The line for putting up pilots' shades and tents was drawn about 20 meters from the end of the corridor. Here was the tent for the Jury as well. The contest director and the contest administration were situated close to the end of the corridor. The organizer provided tents with electricity for all teams.

**Weather:** The weather conditions were rather different which was given as "usual" in this part of the Summer (light NW wind, sunny). We had rather stable weather during the whole event, it was mainly sunny, but with strong (up to 8 m/s average and 13 m/s gusts), mainly N, NE wind and, a clear or partially cloudy sky, around 30°C max. temperature.

**Model processing:** Model processing was run inside a sports arena in Dupnitsa city. The organiser prepared three sets of templates for checking. It was running smoothly. The required random checks during the event were made as well.

**Flying:** In general, the flying was arranged so that three rounds of seniors (each with seven groups) and three rounds of juniors (in three groups) were flown through four contest days, daily alternately starting with the seniors and juniors. Two more senior rounds were flown on the fifth day followed by two final rounds of 14 senior and two rounds of 8 junior pilots. On the forenoon of the sixth day, the two finishing final rounds happened.

The generally strong wind caused tough flying conditions. In most of the flights, it was a high risk to circle. Contrary to the used big ballast weights (up to 2.4 kg), circling might lead the model to drift too far causing the danger of not reaching the landing zone resulting in zero score for that flight.

**Data processing:** Data input to the computer was made in the CD tent. The results were published after each round by printed sheets on the official information board near the CD tent.

## **COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS**

There were no official protests or complaints filed during this championship.

## **ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND TRANSPORTATION**

The jury and several teams were accommodated in the Hotel Rila in the city centre of Dupnitsa. Others were camping on the field or used individual accommodation possibilities in the surroundings. The staff and jury had their lunches on the airfield and participants also could order. The local transportation of the jury was solved by itself.

## **CEREMONIES & PRIZES**

The opening ceremony was held at the main square in the city centre of Dupnitsa. In the beginning, the Bulgarian anthem was played. The contest director and the representatives of the Bulgarian Aeromodelling Federation and the Municipality of Dupnitsa gave short speeches. Then the CIAM president had greeting words, and the jury president declared the Championship open. Finally, the FAI anthem was played, and the FAI flag was raised.

The prize-giving and closing ceremony was at the same place as the opening. The three best individuals and the three best teams received FAI medals and diplomas in the senior and junior categories. The three new challenge cups – offered by the organiser – first time were awarded. The senior winner was Adrian GALLET (FRA), and the best senior team was New Zealand. The junior winner was Romain GALLET (FRA), and the best junior team was Germany. The winning senior female was Marie Ange GROZ (FRA), and the junior female was Anne JANZER (GER). A unique result happened in the senior and junior individual overall classification, two French brothers were the winners, the older in the senior and the younger in the junior one.

The closing ceremony followed immediately the prize giving. Short speeches were given by the officials as in the opening ceremony, and the jury president declared the championships closed. The FAI anthem was played, and the FAI flag was lowered and handed over to the next organizer.

## **SAFETY NOTICE**

During the event, a model crashed into a car rooftop in the parking area close to the team tents. No injuries were reported. The repair of the car was taken care of by the insurance of the owner of the car and the competitor. The Jury would like to recommend the CIAM Bureau to take care of this important matter.

## **CONCLUSION**

The event was well in the hands of the CD, Sotir Lazarkov. As F5 subcommittee chair he was running a meeting on one contest day after the daily program looking for ideas and opinions regarding the future of the F5J class.

In the opinion of the FAI Jury, this was a successful World Championship carried out in a friendly atmosphere. The organisers are to be commended for the excellent event.

*Andras REE*  
FAI Jury President

*Antonis PAPADOPOULOS*  
FAI Jury Member

*Emil GIEZENDANNER*  
FAI Jury Member