Paramotoring in the UK

2012 Annual Report to CIMA

Introduction

The wettest summer on record has badly affected British competition flying, both in terms of our own competitions and also with British pilots trying to train for international competitions.

Competitions

British Open Championships

Terrible weather left us with only a 24-hour flying window over the 4 days, but we still managed to validate 5 tasks. The bad weather forecast put many pilots off from attending, so there was a much-depleted field of 30 this year.

This was our fourth year at this site, which is particularly good for precision tasks, but we've decided that we should look for a new venue for next year's event. Pascal Vallée of France was this year's Open Champion.

British National League

The Open was also the closing event of the 2012 League. Unfortunately, the first League event was cancelled due to bad weather and the second was also badly hampered. The winner of this year's League and the new British Paramotor Champion is Dean Eldridge – congratulations for this great win. In second place was Phil Jennings and in third place was Michel Carnet.

USSR

Once again, severely affected by the atrocious summer weather of 2012, only 4 pilots started the event – this year from Halfpenny Green airfield near Wolverhampton in the West Midlands. In the foot-launched class, Richard Whitmarsh retained his title with a great flight in difficult conditions south to the Welsh coast and back.

The organisers are planning a different format for 2013 to combat the risk of poor weather on a single weekend. More details soon...

2012 European Paramotor Championships

The most important competition of the year was the 2012 European Paramotor Championships in Marugán, Spain. The British PF1 team won a bronze medal and the top three individually placed British pilots in the PF1 class were:

- Michel Carnet (8th)
- Dean Eldridge (17th)
- Barney Townsend (22nd)

British pilots competed in a number of other overseas competitions. Dean Eldridge took first place in the Canadian Fly Games World.

World League Cup

This was the first year of the WLC and to some extent, it's still experimental. The British team won third place behind Thailand (1st) and France (2nd). The individual winner was Pascal Vallee of France and the highest-placed British pilots were:

- Michel Carnet (=4th)
- Dean Eldridge (=8th)
- Phil Jennings (=15th)

Club organisation

Earlier this year, the British Paramotor Competitions Committee evaluated the possible exposure to litigation of officials involved in the organisation and running of competitions and training in the UK. As a result of this, the committee established a new club under the auspices of the BHPA: the BHPA Paramotor Competitions Club, now chaired by Dave Hill. This move safeguards the future of British paramotor competitions and organised training for FAI competitions.

Conclusion

After a challenging year, British paramotor pilots are hoping for much better conditions in 2013. The 2013 World Paramotor Championships are being held (subject to final confirmation) in Estonia in May.

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