

## **AGENDA ITEM 11.1**

### **REPORT OF THE JURY PRESIDENT**

#### **15<sup>th</sup> World Glider Aerobatic Championships & 3<sup>rd</sup> World Advanced Glider Aerobatic Championships Dubnica nad Váhom, Slovakia**



#### **Manfred Echter**

This was the first time an international glider aerobatic championship was held in Slovakia. The Aeroclub of Dubnica nad Váhom, on the other hand, has considerable experience in organising international aerobatic events, having hosted the EAAC in 2011 and the EAC 2012 in September. The airfield is ideally suited for this kind of contest, with a large grass runway and obstacle-free approaches from either direction. Hangar space was not quite sufficient to house all the participating gliders, but thanks to the fine weather, it was no problem to park the remaining gliders in the open.

The Contest Management under Contest Director Vladimír Machula was highly professional and there was always an excellent relationship and cooperation between Contest Management, Board of Judges and International Jury.

Weather was no factor with only one day of continuous rain. On a few days it was necessary to wait for the cloud base to rise sufficiently, but this mostly meant a delay of no more than two hours. In the end, thanks to the favourable weather, all six programmes could be completed in both championships.

#### **Aerobatic Box and Line Judging**



The box was laid out perfectly in accordance with the regulations and judges' positions were correctly situated and well prepared on the three sides which would be needed depending on the time of day.

Line Judges' positions were set up on all four corners and Line Judges had an unobstructed view, although three out of four positions were in high corn. The proven Swiss aiming devices were used as before in Finland 2010 and Poland 2011. The Line Judges were experienced aerobatic judges who performed their duties expertly.

The results of these World Championships proved again that line judges are indispensable for this level of competition. Without line judges, we would give away a crucial element of selectivity in our contests.

## **Height Measuring**

The Polish PHMD height measuring system was used and performed reliably during the entire contest. The use of an HMD ensures that competitors respect the height limits and are aware of the consequences of height violations. There were remarkably few "low" penalties and no violations of the disqualification height were recorded.

Minor technical difficulties with the system were corrected on the spot by the personnel from Poznan Aero Club. There were two complaints from pilots who claimed they had not heard a high or low signal in the cockpit. But in both cases the official video showed that the signal had been received properly on the ground, so this might well have been due to noise in the cockpit rather than a malfunction of the audio signalling in the onboard transmitters.

On the other hand, it was quite complicated to view the log file of a specific flight, since the system apparently records all logs in one continuous file. It would be much more convenient, if the individual flights' files could be addressed directly.

## **Towing**

Two Z-137T airplanes were used for towing. The Z-137T "Turbo Čmelak" is a big ag-plane developed in the 1970s in Czechoslovakia, where the original 300 hp radial was replaced by a 520 hp turboprop. Its towing performance is spectacular; taking about four minutes from takeoff to glider release over the box. The tow pilots were highly professional and all aero tows were performed without any delays or incidents.



## **New Contest Format**

The changed sequence of programmes (Known, Free, 1<sup>st</sup> Unknown Compulsory, Free Unknown, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Unknown Compulsories) presented no major problems. Many competitors had submitted their Frees online in advance, so the checking of Frees was finished in time to start with Programme 2 on the second day already.

On the other hand, most pilots were not familiar with the procedures for the Free Unknown, since this was the first time since the EGAC 2006 that this programme was actually flown. So, a learning process was necessary and many competitors complained about the extra workload preparing their own sequences.

## **New Procedure for Unknown Programmes**

This was the most radical change we had introduced this year. In the past, the teams selected all the figures for a total of four Unknowns in one session and the International Jury would produce three Unknown Compulsories from these figures and set aside seven figures to be

used for the Free Unknowns. From the competitors' point of view this was very comfortable, since the Jury would do the work and all they had to do was first complain about the sequences presented to them and then fly them.

The new procedure, however, calls for a lot of thinking by the competitors: First, they must propose figures which are suitable to fit into a flyable sequence and secondly, they must sit down and put together reasonable sequences themselves. Understandably, there were many loud calls to return to the "old" system on the spot!

As I had expected, the first session to select seven figures each for the first Unknown Compulsory and the Free Unknown went rather chaotic. The Teams were proposing figures which either had too high K-factors or used up too much height to fit all into one sequence. Only after lengthy and heated discussions, we had a selection which was usable. It was only too obvious that both the Teams and the Jury still had to learn their lessons.

The Jury then selected the Unlimited sequence submission which looked the safest and the most flyable. But when the warm-up pilot flew it, he had obvious height problems and many competitors flatly refused to fly the sequence. We took care of this "revolt" by calling a Team Managers' meeting, where we discussed possible solutions. We used the Jury's prerogative to modify the sequence for safety reasons and decided to delete one figure. The Team, which had proposed it, agreed and the next morning the first Unknown Compulsory was flown without further incidents. Actually, it turned out that most pilots were able to finish the modified sequence with a comfortable height reserve, but we accepted this for safety's sake.

Subsequent selection sessions for the second and third Unknowns in both classes went smoothly and the proposed figures were well suited to build sequences from. When we reviewed the submissions for the third Unknown of the Unlimited, we had again doubts that there would be sufficient height remaining in the end. So, after consulting the Team Managers, we again removed one figure.

The experience with the new procedure for the Unknowns at these championships showed that a few adjustments to the rules will be necessary in order to make the system manageable. CIVA is asked to agree these (minor) rule changes, so they can go into effect for next year's championships.

## **Judging**

Cooperation with the Chief Judge was excellent. Philippe Kuechler proved once more that he is most likely the best C.J. we have in glider aerobatics today. His control of the Board of Judges is exemplary. The quality and consistency of judging at these World Championships can be considered outstanding.

## **Protests and Complaints**

There were two protests which followed after the I.J. had turned down previous complaints

on the same subject. Both protests dealt with HZs awarded after a video conference. The International Jury investigated the way the CHZ decisions had been arrived at and found no violations of rules of the Sporting Code.

Both protests were denied, informing the protesting competitors that the I.J. had no authority to reverse decisions by the Board of Judges and/or the Chief Judge and that the I.J. only had the duty to verify that these decisions were taken within the rules of the Sporting Code.

Additionally, there were a number of complaints against "high" or "low" penalties given on the basis of HMD indications. The official video and/or the HMD log files were checked and no malfunctions of the HMD system could be confirmed.

### **Scoring**

Like last year in Torun, the scoring office was again run by Pavel Szczepanowski of Poland. Pavel did an outstanding job nearly single-handedly, with only one helper sorting the papers for him. The Judges' folders were always ready on time and unofficial scores were available on the web in the shortest possible time.

### **Results**



In Advanced, the Italian Team had the most solid performance from the beginning, so it was no surprise to see all three Overall medals go to Italy.

The Overall Advanced Glider Aerobatics World Champion 2012 is young Luca Bertossio of Italy.

In Unlimited, the future champion also showed his potential early in the contest.

Maciej Pospieszyński of Poland is the Overall Unlimited Glider Aerobatics World Champion 2012.

Both Overall World Champions also won Gold in the Known Compulsory and in the Unknown Programmes.

### **Other Business**

Unfortunately, the International Jury saw the need to issue a Formal Reprimand to one competitor in the WGAC.



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This person had caused a number of unsafe situations by violating Slovakian Civil Aviation Regulations and Local Regulations as well as safety rules of the Sporting Code. Furthermore, he had voiced untrue allegations about an International Judge towards a third person.

The reprimand was handed out in writing on 18 August 2012.

A detailed report on the issue was forwarded to the FAI Secretary General and the President of CIVA.