

FAI European Championships 2013 for Slope Soaring Gliders

Donovaly, Slovakia

8th to 14th September 2013

This FAI European Championship 2013 for Duration Gliders was organised under the leadership of the National Aero Club of Slovak Republic and Model Union of Slovak Republic by the Model Club Zahorie and LMK Ružomberok.

Venue

The competition took place on the hill Zvolen above the holiday resort Donovaly. During the competition three courses were used (S, N, SW). For reaching the slopes it was necessary to use the chairlift Donovaly-Nová Hola (from 922 to 1361 m above sea level) and then walk about 800 m to the south slope or 2200 m to the N or SW slope.

Participation

The Championship was entered by 27 senior competitors and 2 junior competitors from 8 countries. Two seniors from USA were flying out of competition.

Organisation

The European Championship was well organised. Contest Director was Mr. Marian Maslo, Starter was Mr. Ludek Navarčík. All people in the organising staff were qualified and experienced. Two judges were also from Czech Republic. The number of timekeepers allowed smooth running of the competition flying.

For practicing of timekeepers and pilots a two day international open competition Donovaly Cup was held before the championships.

The organisers used an automatic timer program for controlling the preparation and working time. The flight time, the wind speed and wind direction was displayed on a big display. After analysing all flight times it was discovered that the timing system with PC had a quantisation error of 0,055 s. This error could not influence the final ranking and therefore the results were declared as valid by the International Jury.

International Jury

Tomáš Bartovský, CZE – president

Pavol Barbarič, SVK - member

Peter Zarfl, AUT – member

Accommodation and catering

Participants stayed in hotels within the Sport Resort Donovaly. Most participants used the breakfast service in their hotels. At slope soaring contest each participant brings his own lunch to the slope. Participants took the diner usually again in their hotels.

Weather

The changing weather allowed completing only 10 rounds of competition flights.

On the first competition day the flights started on the NW slope at 10.00. One complete round and 1/3 of the second round could be flown. Then the rain started.

The second competition day was the most successful. At strong S-SE wind it was possible to finish the rest of the second round and to fly seven additional rounds.

On the third competition day no flying was possible because of rain. A bowling competition was organised instead.

On the fourth competition day all competitors went to the NW slope, but no sufficient wind arrived. Later the wind turned to W and the organisers marked a new flight line on the opposite side of the hill. This slope and wind allowed flying one additional round.

On the fifth competition day all competitors went to the NW slope, but instead of wind the rain started.

The last competition day the rain and low wind didn't allow any competition flying.

Safety

There was not any serious safety problem during the European Championships.

Processing

For all model gliders entering the championships the nose radius and the correct markings were checked. No problems appeared during the processing. The organisers intended to use stamps for marking the processed parts. Unfortunately the ink used for stamping didn't dry on the polished surface therefore they used stamped stickers. These stickers didn't hold strongly on the smooth surface. Fortunately during the whole competition it didn't appear any situation where the identification of models could bring a problem.

Opening and closing ceremony

The opening ceremony was run in the main hall of the hotel Almet. Short speeches of the Contest Director and Jury President were followed by playing the Slovak national and FAI anthems.

The closing ceremony with medal and diploma awarding took place on Friday evening in front of the hotel Almet. The banquet was organised in the restaurant of hotel Almet.

Protests

There was no protest submitted at this championship.

Local rules

Again (as at the FAI World Championship for Slope Soaring Gliders 2012) the organiser declared and at one round applied the division of pilots into groups. This rule helps saving time at difficult weather conditions. For the future it is necessary to include the conditional group scoring into the FAI Sporting Code.

Conclusion

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

Donovaly 14th September 2013

Tomas Bartovský
Jury president