

2022 FAI F3J World Championships for Model Gliders Seniors and Juniors

31 July to 5 August 2022, Tekovský Hrádok, Slovakia

This 2022 FAI F3J World Championships for Model Gliders was organised by Club Litteam, Levice, under Slovak Aerospace Modelling Association and Slovak National Aeroclub.

Venue

The competition took place on the Littva Team Airfield, near the town of Levice. The total dimensions of the airfield are 380 x 230 meters, including the hangar. A tarmac runway 12 meters wide is in the grass field. The area for winch lines was along the runway. A strip of 306 meters long and about 100 meters wide on the NE side of the runway was marked. It included seven landing spots. On the other side of the runway, one landing spot was added. For fly-off, a ninth landing spot was marked. A narrower strip at the NW fence was reserved for tents and camper cars. The soil was dry. On the field, no full-size aircraft activity was run during the Championships.

Participation

Thirty-four competitors from nine countries entered the Championships. 26 were seniors, including two women; eight were juniors from four countries.

Organisation

The processing of models took place in the hangar.

During the competition, the Contest Director had his shade at the entrance of the launching corridor. For the Jury, the organiser prepared a similar shade nearby.

In general, the World Championships were well organised. Timekeepers and other organising staff members improved their skills and knowledge during the F3J World Cup Competition, which was held on 20th and 21st July on the same airfield. Mr Sotir Lazarkov (BUL) was the Contest Director. He had the same position at the 2018 FAI F3J World Championship in Brasov (ROU). His driving the competition was excellent.

The organisers used an automatic timing system for announcing the preparation and working time. The Working time was shown on two big displays in the middle of the launch corridor. The sound signals were brought to pilots through 6 loudspeakers evenly distributed along the launching corridor.

The excellent organisation allowed the completion of 16 qualifying rounds with six fly-off rounds for seniors (9 pilots) and 16 qualifying rounds with six fly-off rounds for juniors (5 pilots).

The software used for the evaluation of results worked reliably.

Accommodation and catering

Some competitors and helpers used the camping provisions on the airfield. Some participants stayed in hotels at Levice (about 12 km driving).

The organiser delivered the lunch in plastic packages to the field for those who ordered it. The meals were good and in sufficient amount. The organiser did not provide breakfast and dinner.

Refreshment was possible to buy at a shade on the field.

Weather

In general, the weather was favourable during the championships. On Sunday, when the processing occurred, it was raining almost the whole day. The opening ceremony was postponed from 5 pm to 7 pm when the rain had already stopped.

It was sunny from Monday to the end of the championships, and no rain occurred.

On Monday and Tuesday, the temperature rose to 30°C. On Wednesday, it reached 32°C, Thursday 33°C, and Friday, the last flying day, up to 35°C.

The wind was blowing mainly from the north, so the winch lines were laid down parallel with the runway in the northwest direction. On Monday, the average wind speed was up to six m/s, whereas on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the average was around four m/s. Only on Friday, the wind turned south for about three hours, so most pilots decided to change the winch lines' direction to the southeast. The wind speed at this time was about three m/s.

Flying Performance

The performance of the majority of pilots was excellent. In many cases, the placement in fly-off was different from the placing in preliminary rounds. Whereas the winner in the senior class Martin Rajšner (CZE), kept first place he took in the preliminary, the second, Neal Huffman (USA), was ninth in the preliminary. Jo Grini (NOR), who was second after preliminary rounds, finished in third place.

The junior class won Sean Summer (USA), who was fifth in preliminary. The second place took Thomas Charleston (USA), who was in the same place after preliminary rounds and the third place kept Paul Ole Borsdorf (GER). Jaroslav Vostřel (CZE), who won the preliminary rounds, finished in fourth place.

Safety

There was no severe safety problem during the World Championships.

Processing

The nose radius and correct marking were checked for all model gliders entering the championships. The organisers supplied stickers to identify the different models of each competitor. The validity of licenses was checked in the database in advance. The organiser prepared three tables and six people, so the model processing was running fast, while the checking of the winches lasted about six hours.

Opening and Closing Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony was run on the airfield on Sunday Evening. The short opening speech was held by the secretary of the Slovak Aeromodelling Association. The Opening Ceremony was concluded by the Jury president, who officially opened the World Championships, then the FAI Anthem was played, and the FAI flag was raised.

The Closing Ceremony with the medal and diploma awarding took place on Saturday evening on the field. The Awarding Ceremony was concluded by the Jury president, who officially closed the World Championships, and then the FAI Anthem was played, and the FAI flag was lowered.

Protests

There was no protest raised during the championships.

Technical Meeting

During the midday break, a short Technical Meeting was held on Thursday. It discussed the future of the F3J class. Some proposals were presented, but a straightforward way to increase the number of pilots flying this class was not found.

Jury

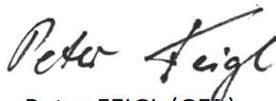
The composition of the FAI Jury was: Tomas Bartovsky (CZE) president, Andras REE (HUN) and Peter FEIGL (GER), members..

Conclusion

In the opinion of the FAI Jury, these were very successful World Championships carried out in a friendly atmosphere. The organisers are to be commended for an excellent event.



Tomas BARTOVSKY (CZE)
FAI Jury President



Peter FEIGL (GER)
FAI Jury Member



Andras REE (HUN)
FAI Jury Member