

Jury Report

2023 FAI F3DE World Championships for Pylon Racing Model Aircraft

The Netherlands, August 1st – August 5th 2023, Drachten Airport

The 2023 F3DE World Championships were organized by the Aeromodelling Section of the Royal Netherlands Aeronautical Association.

Information

Three information bulletins were issued.

Participants

There were 33 competitors in the F3D class, under which were 2 juniors and one female. In the F3E class there were 20 competitors with 1 junior. Number of countries for F3D: 13 and for F3E 8. FAI ID's were checked by the organiser.

Program

Saturday 29 July: Free practice.

Sunday 30: July Free practice.

Monday July 31: Free practice; Registration at the contest office; Team Managers meeting; Welcome reception.

Tuesday August 1: Opening ceremony; Official practice on competition course; Model processing; Team Managers meeting.

Wednesday August 2: Competition flights; Team Managers meeting.

Thursday August 3: Competition flights; Team Managers meeting.

Friday August 4: Competition flights; Team Managers meeting.

Saturday August 5: Reserve day for competition flights; Closing ceremony and Closing party/banquet; Prize giving and Closing ceremony; Closing party/buffet.

Sunday August 6: Departure.

Team Managers meetings

Five Team Managers meetings were held. Main discussion point: number of rounds in relation with the changing weather situation. During all Team Managers meetings, any questions were answered. All engine running and flying had to take place between 9 AM till 6 PM due to noise restrictions. Due to the weather situation no super finals were flown.

Flying site

The competition was organized on the former Philips' airport of Drachten in the northern part of the country. The airport was closed during the competition.

Several hundred metres from the central place with the tent the course was laid out on the tarmac runway. Competitors and models were transported to the course by car with a trailer.

The tent was the one and only accommodation, where also the banquet was held.

During the contest days a very limited variety of food was available.

Camping

Many competitors and judges camped on the field, despite the weather. Free local internet was available to view the contest results as they were posted.

Processing

Processing took place in a corner of the big tent on six stages and was performed by expert volunteers. No planes were disapproved.

Random checks were carried out on 30+ models when returning from a race to the pits.

The top 4 placed aircraft were held in parkferme for full processing at the end of flying, all were processed and shown to comply with the class rules.

Weather

Before and partly during the competition the weather was fairly bad with rain, moderate till gusty winds and fairly low temperatures for the time of the year.

Despite the poor weather conditions the organisers found the way to hold 12 rounds of flying for each class.

Protests

There were no protests submitted.

Timing system

A sophisticated timing system was used to record all times achieved, however when checked by a Jury member during the first few heats a bug was found in the system that effected 2 racing lanes recorded times. This was reported to the Contest Director who took immediate action to resolve the issue and called a TM meeting to explain the situation and method to resolve.

Ceremonies

The opening ceremony took place besides the tent with speeches of the contest director, the Jury President, the President of the aeromodelling section of the KNVvL and a representative of the local community.

The closing ceremony was held on the same place shortly after the competition and before the banquet.

Trophies

During the banquet the The Sopwith Perpetual Trophy was awarded to the first placed pilot in F3D Emil Broberg (SWE).

The British Electric Flying Association Perpetual Trophy was awarded to the first placed pilot in F3E Jan Sedláček.

The Emil Broberg Perpetual Cup for the first placed F3D junior was not available.

Final Results

F3D:

1st: Emil Broberg SWE

2nd: Randy Bridge USA

3rd: Gino del Ponte USA

F3D – Team:

1st: USA

2nd: Sweden

3rd: Czech Republic

F3E:

1st: Jan Sedláček CZE

2nd: Christoph Meier GER

3rd: Tjarko van Empel NED

F3E – Team:

1st: Netherlands

2nd: Australia

3rd: Germany

There were not enough diploma's available from the FAI.

The results were not presented in the format according to the Sporting Code, the National ID and FAI number were not present before the competitor name.

FAI Jury

Marcus Griggs (United Kingdom), President

Gilles Desgruelles (France)

Peter Keim (Netherlands)

Conclusion

It was a fair and well organized competition with helpers from the Dutch model flying community including the pylon racing family.

A Dutch modeller expressed it in this way: "I enjoyed the event. Wonderful international atmosphere, your openness (against my expectations, the tent was freely accessible to visitors) and in everything you radiated family hospitality. Thanks for that!"