

FAI World Championship for Soaring Model Aircraft

Arboga Sweden

4th to 10th July 2011

This FAI World Championship for Soaring Model Aircraft was organised under the leadership of the Swedish Air sports Federation by the Aero Club of Arboga (Arboga Flygklubb).

Venue

The competition took place on the flying field of the Arboga Aero Club. On this airfield there is a tarmac runway and a grass strip 85 meters wide parallel to the runway. The start and landing area was marked on this grass strip. Dimensions of the start and landing area were 80 x 145 meters. This area was sufficient for even the biggest group. The neighbouring ground was flat, the nearest trees were about 500 meters apart and so the possibility of slope lift was at minimum.

Organisation

It was the first world championship in this class so the organiser could not use any previous experience. The organiser expected to get some experience by organising a two day competition just before the championship on the same field. Unfortunately this competition didn't use official timekeepers, the pilot's helpers measured the flight time (sometimes with bias). In fact the official timekeepers who arrived only at the first competition day of the championship worked well, without mistakes. Nevertheless the number of people in the staff was low. During model processing the Jury had to help otherwise the time schedule could not be kept. For fly-off the organiser engaged some not flying pilots for timekeeping.

For controlling the preparation time, working time and landing time the organisers rented the automatic timing system from Munich Model Club. In the automatic mode the system allowed very smooth running of the contest.

The organiser introduced an area for spare model gliders in the neighbourhood of the start and landing area. This arrangement proved well and should be codified in the rules for the future.

The competition was divided in two parts. Three days qualification flights, than one day break, declared as reserve day and one day for fly-off. Some participants were not happy with the reserve day. In my opinion it is not necessary do declare a reserve day at competitions where the number of qualifying rounds isn't be strictly set by the rules. The time (number of days for qualifying rounds) should be just declared and the real number of round flown could vary depending on weather conditions.

Entry

The Championship was entered by 77 senior competitors from 27 countries and 17 junior competitors from 9 countries.

Accommodation and catering

Most teams camped at the air field. Others used cottages at the Herrfallet camp 13 km apart.

Break and lunch was served in a hangar on the airfield. All food was good and ample.

Weather

The weather was very convenient during the championships. Some small rain showers on the second day interrupted the flying. For the remainder of the competition the weather was more favourable. The only problem was sometimes the strong wind. But the best pilots were able to manage it.

Safety

There was not serious safety problem during the World Championships.

Processing

All the entering model gliders were checked concerning the wing span and nose radius. Some model gliders had smaller nose radius and couldn't pass at once but after some repair (sanding) were accepted.

Technical Meeting

On Thursday 7th July was held a technical meeting. Most of the team managers attended it. Different proposals were discussed. The majority of attending people recommends following modifications of the rules:

5.7.1.5 Forbid using of any communication device in the starting and landing area, except the transmitter for controlling the model glider.

5.7.2.3 Write a model-change box into the rules

5.7.4.3 Penalise only contact with an object or person, like in F3B and F3J.

5.7.7.8 Define a procedure for awarding new working time if the competitor could not get the correct result because of the fault of the organiser. The wording may be like in class F3J.

5.7.9.4 Correct the conditions for penalties. The present wording doesn't follow the changes introduced recently (preparation time vs. flight test time).

5.7.1.3 Leave out the start helper for disabled person. This paragraph was sometimes misused in the past.

Protests

There was no protest submitted at these championships.

Conclusion

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

Arboga 10th August 2011

Tomas Bartovský
Jury president