

REPORT ON THE 6TH FAI WORLD AEROMODELLING CHAMPIONSHIP F3J ADAPAZARI, TURKEY, 30th JUNE TO 6th JULY 2008

Organizer

This very successful world championship was organized and executed by the Istanbul Model Glider Club "Soarist" on behalf of the Turkish Aeronautical Association (Turk Hava Kurumu).

Participation

77 senior competitors from 25 countries and 44 juniors from 17 countries took part in the competition. For comparison the participation at the previous WCh in Slovakia the numbers were: 88 senior competitors from 30 countries and 43 juniors from 19 countries. The previous Championship was organised in the middle of Europe and at this place the number of teams is always higher.

Pre-contest information

Detailed information was distributed via two bulletins. All aspects of the championship, lodging, travelling, costs, rules, and procedures were covered. The organizers prepared a web page containing all important information.

Accommodation and catering

One part of competitors, helpers, supporters and competition staff members were accommodated in two hotels in Adapazari, about twenty kilometres from the Airfield. About half of competitors used to stay at a camping site about 2 kilometres from the airfield.

During all competition days the organizer offered lunches served on the airfield. Meals were of good quality and quantity. For refreshment there was also a field restaurant available.

Contest site

The competition took place on a sod farm. The dimensions of the field and its surface fit well to the purpose. There were also no slopes in the surrounding. Still competitors used many times for last salvation the lift caused by wind blowing against trees and tents on the border of the field. The long line of trees and tents combined with the prevailing direction and speed of the wind made this situation possible.

Contest organization

Prior to the World Championship an international F3J contest was run, called Sporyapi Cup. This event, attended by 153 competitors, helped to teach-in the organiser staff.

The World Championship competition was well organised and smoothly executed. The Turkish organising staff had a number of qualified members. It should be mentioned Mr. Serdar Sualp the contest director, Mr. Serdar Cumbus the president of the organisation committee and Mrs. Semin Kiziltoprak the assistant CD.

Besides of the local experts the organiser invited for posts of flight line managers two foreign specialists: Mr Alex Wunschheim from Germany and Marin Kordic from Croatia..

For transfer of timing and landing results a special wireless system was prepared, which allowed immediate transfer of data to the computing centre.

All applied frequency bands were continually checked.

Weather

The weather was favourable during the whole week. Adverse effect of the moderate wind was the possibility of "slope soaring" over the row of tents. Many pilots used this possibility for salvation when they couldn't find thermal lift.

Protests

There were two protests submitted, both concerning the decisions of judges. One protest dealt with the penalty for low flying over the safety area. In fact the three meter margin is impossible to measure exactly and the views of competitors and their team managers were at these incidents different from the view of judges. Because the low flying was penalised in many other cases and the approach of judges (flight line managers) was consistent in all cases the protest was declined. The second protest required a new working time for collision with a tow line during launch. Because new working time can be awarded only when the collision is fully witnessed by the timekeeper and the timekeeper didn't admit such incident the protest was also declined.

Accompanying events

One evening was devoted to technical meeting concerned with the problems of the class and the future proposals for amendments. The majority of subcommittee members and team managers voted for removing the 3 m margin at flying over the safety area. Similar majority recommended greater and deserved recognition to towmen and spotters. Most team managers also plead for allowing four helpers for each competitor on the field. Surprisingly the introduction of winches into the F3J class gained only few votes.

Award ceremonies, functions, closing banquet

The opening ceremony was conducted on the airfield. Also the prize giving ceremony took place on the airfield. The FAI medals and the perpetual individual and team trophies were awarded to the winners.

The banquet was prepared in free air at the sod farm's headquarter. It was attended by many people (about 300). There was enough quality food offered and this occasion was well used for strengthening the international friendship.

Conclusion

Turkish Aero Club and the Istanbul Glider Club "Soarist" are to be commended for an excellent event.

Prague 10th July 2008

Tomas Bartovsky
Jury president