



JURY PRESIDENT REPORT

*Fédération
Aéronautique
Internationale*

**11th FAI Women's World Hang Gliding Championship
17th World Hang Gliding Class 2 Championship
4th World Hang Gliding Class 5 Championship**

**Sigillo (Italy)
2008**

*Avenue Mon-Repos 24
CH-1005 Lausanne
(Switzerland)
Tél.: +41(0) 21/345.10.70
Fax: +41(0) 21/345.10.77
E-mail: sec@fai.org
Web: www.fai.org*

1. FAI Hang Gliding World Championships for Women and Classes 2 and 5

This combined event was the 11th Women's World Championship (flying Class 1 gliders) 17th Class 2 Championship and 4th Class 5 Championship.

2. Organiser and staff

Italian Free Flight Federation (FFVL)

The organisation was based in a permanent Free Flight facility at Villa Cierco, close to the town of Sigillo, where the ceremonial elements of the Championship took place. The Organisation enjoyed an enviable degree of support from the community of Segillo, the Mayor being frequently at take-off and goal, and the local Police and emergency services in attendance generally.

The Organiser, Flavio Tebaldi, must be congratulated for assembling a large and efficient team which functioned very smoothly. The Meet Director was Francesco Rinaldi, the Safety Director, Maurizio Tassinari and Chief Scorer Stefano Claut. We regret that space prevents us from naming the rest of the enthusiastic crew whose hard work made these Championships such a success.

3. Location

Monte Cucco, Perugia, Italy

4. Dates

July 19 to August 2 2008

5. Flyable days and Validated tasks

All days were flyable for a substantial part of the competition time, but for safety reasons there were cancellations and stoppages. The final placings were decided after six tasks for the women and Class 5, and seven for Class 2.

6. Weather

During the event the weather was dominated by high pressure. Conditions were generally soarable, with strong thermals developing from mid-day onwards.

One task in the Women's Championship was cancelled immediately before the launch window opened, due to wind speeds greater than 40 kph being experienced at the take-off site. In addition, a further Women's task and one each from Classes 2 and 5 were stopped in flight due to threats from thunderstorms before the minimum requirements for scores to be recorded had been met.

Tasks were stopped again because of thunderstorms on July 31. This time scoring requirements were met and the tasks scored correctly in accordance with the Local Regulation which required scores to be calculated to where the competitor was 15

minutes *before* the 'stop' time. This caused some controversy because pilots who had reached goal in the 15 minutes before the 'stop' time were not credited with goal scores. We are satisfied that the scorer's interpretation was correct and after discussion no formal complaints were made.

All tasks were stopped without score on the final day (Aug 1), again due to thunderstorms.

7. Competitors

Women: 28
Class 2: 8
Class 5: 43

A number of the competitors were admitted to the event with exemptions from their NACs, having not qualified under WRPS rules. This caused no problems and all pilots displayed suitable levels of skill.

8. Winners

Women Individual:

Corinna Schweigershausen (Germany)
Francoise Dieuzeide Banet (France)
Kathleen Rigg (Great Britain)

Women Team:

1. Germany
2. Russia
3. Japan

Class 2 Individual:

(No team event in this class)

1. Manfred Ruhmer (Austria)
2. Steve Cox (Switzerland)
3. Brian Porter (USA)

Class 5 Individual:

1. Alessandro Ploner (Italy)
2. Christian Ciech (Italy)
3. Robert Reisinger (Germany)

Class 5 Team:

1. Italy
2. Austria
3. France

9. Safety

Safety was clearly a major consideration for the Meet Director and the Jury has no criticism in this respect. Decisions to stop tasks were made entirely according to

weather safety conditions and without concern for the scores of pilots. This is as it should be.

A doctor was on site at launch and goal every day and local ambulances were in attendance. A rescue helicopter based at Ancona was on call. Flight time from the competition area would have been approximately ten minutes.

We are aware of two accidents involving physical injury:

In light wind a pilot in Class 2 failed to launch his Swift cleanly in Task 2, breaking a small bone in his foot as a result.

In Class 5 a competitor damaged his ankle during an out-landing in Task 7. Both pilots withdrew from further competition.

10. *Jury actions etc*

The Jury was active throughout the Championship, trying, as tactfully as possible, to give advice and help as appropriate and observing every element of the event. We also measured the angles of the anti-dive rods (sprogs) on a number of the Class 1 gliders, as part of the CIVL initiative to prevent or reduce the incidence of tumbling accidents.

11. *Protests*

There were no protests

12. *General Comments*

This was a well-run event at which it was a pleasure to officiate. Problems were few and usually easily overcome. Anticipated difficulties with scoring three classes simultaneously did not materialise.

13. *Suggested improvements*

Nothing to add

14. *Recommendations for changes to Sporting Code*

In this event the speed sections of all tasks ended 1.6 km before the goal landing cylinder, thus discouraging pilots from racing to the ground. At Monte Cucco the goal-time cylinders and goal-landing cylinders were concentric, but this need not always be the case. This system is usual in paragliding events but not always used in hang gliding. We believe it should be, as it is inherently safer. We understand that a small modification to the *Race* program is needed to score such tasks automatically.

Experience at Monte Cucco suggests that the Section 7A requirement for a 2-hour duration before a stopped task may be scored (5.5.8 and 16.5.4) may be inappropriately long in some cases. The time could be required to be stated in the Local Regulations rather than remaining at the arbitrary 2 hours.

It should be made clear that references to wind speed limits (2.17.1.1) should relate to those in the immediate vicinity of the launch site and not to the entire task course.

15. Related special events

A beer festival was held in Sigillo to coincide with the Championship. There were also a number of parties, both official and unofficial. The opening and closing ceremonies were followed by dancing in the town arena, and were well supported by the local community.

16. Declaration

These Championships have been conducted in accordance with the Rules of the FAI and the Local Regulations to select worthy Champions through fair competition.

Signed:

Karolina Kociecka (Poland) Jury Member

Giovanni Vitola Sutter (Guatemala) Jury Member

Noel Whittall (UK) Jury President

Sigillo, 2.08.2008