

2011 FAI World Championship for RC Model Aircraft RC Multitask Gliders (F3B) Laiwu, China

The 18th FAI World Championship for Radio Controlled Model Aircraft, class Radio Controlled Multitask Gliders (F3B) was organised under the leadership of the Aerosports Federation of China by the People's Government of Laiwu.

Venue

The competition was organised on the new model flying site north of Laiwu City near the town Kouzhen. The field was finished only few weeks before the championship. Formerly it was an industrial area. The organisers prepared the raw surface for wet weather by covering the winch area with nonwoven textile. Unfortunately small parts of bricks and pieces of concrete were left on the field, hidden in the grass and some model gliders were damaged at landing. A large tent (about 10x200 meters) erected on the neighbouring road served as infrastructure of the event.

Organisation

The organising staff was well prepared and very numerous. The Aerosports Federation of China invited also four experienced F3B people from Czech Republic. Roman Vojtech, the Contest Director, visited Laiwu twice during the year 2011, helped to select the field and to prepare it for the competition. He brought with him also the signalling device. This device was not as complex and comfortable as in previous F3B Championships, but it served well fulfilling all requirements of the rules.

Entry

The Championship was entered by 26 competitors from 8 countries. The number of competitors was low in comparison with previous F3B world championships. Many teams from Europe absented. This fact doesn't decrease the quality of the competition, because the best competitors of the world were present.

This F3B World Championship was the first one at which the juniors had the possibility to join the senior teams. Unfortunately only one junior participated. He joined the team of South Africa.

Accommodation and catering

All competitors stayed at the very good hotel in Laiwu City (XinBai hotel). The transport to the air field (14 km) was every day provided by three busses. Breakfast and dinner was served in the hotel, lunch was served on the field. The meal was supplied in a quantity which exceeded the usual needs.

Weather

The weather was very favourable during almost all competition days. No rain except the last day. During the sunny days some smoggy haze appeared, but it doesn't bother the competition.

Good weather and rather small number of competitors allowed flying ten complete rounds. Eleventh round couldn't be completed because of rain. Nevertheless the number of rounds outstripped the previous F3B Championships.

Safety

The safety area included the launching lines, the tent and a small spectator's area. All other parts of the space were free for flying and landing. With this arrangement there were no discussions about flying limitations and the level of safety was still kept reasonable high.

Processing

Before the championship all entering model gliders were checked concerning the nose radius. During the contest the resistance of winch circuits was checked by random selection. About 20% of winches were measured. All winches passed.

Protests

There was no protest submitted. Some people raised a discussion about using talking timer devices and field glasses. Jury stated that such devices are not forbidden by the rules and therefore may be used in the field.

Opening and prize giving ceremony

The opening ceremony had two parts. Before the beginning of the Championship flights a short ceremony was held with a speech of vice mayor of Laiwu City. The next day in the afternoon all participants visited an opening ceremony of the CIAF (China International Air Fiesta) at the airfield on Xueye lakeside. An air show was part of this ceremony.

The prize giving ceremony was also connected with the prize giving of CIAF. It was a great artistic show with singers, musicians and circus performers. The medal awarding was dignified in this connection, but some deviations from the FAI Sporting Code happened, because the anthems of winners weren't played and flags weren't raised.

Conclusion

At the web page of the USA team it was written (by Gordon Buckland): „It had been a tremendously well organized contest from start to finish in spite of the difficulties with culture and language. The only sad part was the fact that so many teams that did not attend this worlds missed out on a spectacle and wonderful memories they would have cherished forever.”

In the opinion of the FAI Jury the organisers are to be commended for an excellent event.

Laiwu City, 30th September 2011



Tomas Bartovsky
Jury president