

Report of the Chief Judge



Philippe Kuchler, pik

11th WORLD ADVANCED GLIDER AEROBATIC CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021 &

23rd WORLD GLIDER AEROBATIC CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

Leszno, Poland

28.7.2021 – 6.8.2021

Overview

19 pilots (19 in 2019) from 7 countries (7 in 2019) competing in Unlimited and 23 pilots (31 in 2019) from 8 countries (13 in 2019) competing in Advanced. In each category one pilot was flying as H/C.

Leszno is located in Western Poland half way between Wroclaw and Poznan.

Only 2 types of aircraft could be seen flying this year. Swift S-1 and MDM-1 Fox. Its worth to mention that the Swift was the only competing type in Unlimited. This for sure underlines the importance to find a replacement/successor for the Swift with a very high priority.

Website: <https://www.wgac2021.pl/>

Official Staffing

The board of judges consisted of:

<input type="checkbox"/> ANDRAGHETTI, Luca	ITA
<input type="checkbox"/> AVRAMENKO, Liliya	UKR
<input type="checkbox"/> BIALEK, Maciej	POL
<input type="checkbox"/> GURALY, Bela	HUN
<input type="checkbox"/> HAU, Steff	GER
<input type="checkbox"/> LOUVEL, Remy	FRA
<input type="checkbox"/> TAUTKEVICIUS, Vytautas	LTU

Scoring Office:

<input type="checkbox"/> MACHULA, Kateřina	CZE
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Warm-up Pilot:

<input type="checkbox"/> HOLL, Eberhard	GER
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Overall Winners

Advanced:

Unlimited:

Individual:



Charlie LEVY-LOUAPRE
Swift S-1
France



Ferenc TOTH
Swift S-1
Hungary

Team:



Octav ALEXAN, Valentin HOȚA and
Lorand DAROCZI
Romania



Piotr LEWANDOWSKI, Jan MAKULA
and Stanisław MAKULA
Poland

Congratulations to the Champions!

Preface

Leszno is well known within the distance gliding community for having organized already many competitions on different international levels. The team behind organizing WGAC/WAGAC was however not directly involved in any of these. So if I look at them as greenhorns in Aerobatics and Glider Aerobatics in particular they did an excellent job and stamped out memorable competition under difficult circumstances. Well done guys!

The catering for officials and interested pilots was done by the neighbouring Hotel Ach To Tu. This Hotel was also the place to stay for all officials and many pilots.

3 judge positions were prepared and ready to use by the organizer. Thanks to prevailing winds only 2 of them have been used. Both in walking distance from the hotel and the main airport buildings.

The HMD system used again this year was the one developed by Vladimir Machula and supplied the height limits but not the box ground tracking used for box outs. Again, we operated without box out penalties. The score for positioning given by the judges was therefore very important. My thanks go out to Michal "Cerv" Červený as the main operator, assisted by 2 more Czech Volunteers and support from the Polish organizer.

Video was done by Josef "Peppa" Šutka as already in many glider and power comps before. The quality was good and Peppa was very cooperative to support the CJ team at the line with any necessary quick review. Thanks Peppa, much appreciated.

Sadly several nations, first of all for sure Germany, decided not participate for their own reasons.

Judges Preparation

The judges and their assistants went through the usual one day preparation session. The theoretical part consisted of changes out of 2 years because of the missing comp in 2020 and some repetition of important elements from our book. The practical part took place as usual with flights each of Unlimited and Advanced category. A thanks goes out to the pilots who participated in this.

Competition Flights

Both classes flew only 4 Programmes due to limitations by meteorological conditions. Even if this is only two third of the possible 6 Programme, I look at the event as a challenging and fair competition.

Flight Safety

In Advanced one pilot had to be disqualified in Programme 1 (Free Known) for going below disqualification altitude. The situation was not be considered dangerous but the necessary talks with the concerned pilot took place. I am very happy that the pilot decided to continue to fly Programmes 2 to 4 under the appropriate pre-cautions and necessary attention with safe performances.

Also on the ground an incidence during the roll-out of a landing aircraft is for sure worth mentioning here. The 2 Swifts involved got damaged. This is truly not necessary and I want to remind everyone to show sportsmanship and to stick to the official announcements and directions given by the CD.

Judging Analysis

Advanced (WAGAC):

1	Bela Guraly	HUN	13.48
2	Steff Hau	GER	16.44
3	Liliya Avramenko	UKR	16.57

4	Remy Louvel	FRA	18.1
5	Maciej Bialek	POL	18.25
6	Luca Andraghetti	ITA	18.94
7	Vytautas Tautkevicius	LTU	23.93

Unlimited (WGAC):

1	Bela Guraly	HUN	12.66
2	Steff Hau	GER	14.77
3	Liliya Avramenko	UKR	16.13
4	Vytautas Tautkevicius	LTU	22.3
5	Remy Louvel	FRA	22.35
6	Luca Andraghetti	ITA	22.72
7	Maciej Bialek	POL	26.66

I do not want to comment any further on this, because for me these figure are clearly statistic values only.

Avramenko, Tautkevicius and Andraghetti where judging for the first time on a WGAC/WAGAC judge line. Thanks to the three of them for making themselves available. Of course a thank you goes out to all judges and assistants.

CJ Proposals, or better, request for comment/clarification

I do not have a direct proposal coming out of this years comp. One observation is already handled by Manfred Echter, President of the International Jury, by posting an urgent proposal about the box flight for the judges before the fist competition flight. To have all lines flown doesn't make sense anymore with rules regarding positioning in force. So having both axis and the base line is completely enough.

There is however something much more important that I need to mention here. As every year, and on every comp, the judges have watched many videos to clarify possible Hard Zeroes.

This years video conferences where more than disappointing for me. I was very close, immediately after the event, to stop my engagement as a CJ. I feel that the fairness and even the capability of the judge line was heavily questionable when it came to decide on clear facts on the video.

As always up to now, I tried to see me as the moderator of the video sessions in trying to explain what is seen on the Video and what should be seen, based on the figure in question. Explaining what happens based on my experience.

This year however, I was many times very unhappy with the decisions taken by the majority in the voting rounds. Clear facts where not taken into account and the final outcome was several times completely against my perception of fairness and competence.

This has led me to rethink the exact role of the CJ, despite doing this for many years the same way.

On glider comps the prescribed „conferencing“ was always done by looking at the video and taking a final decision by means of voting afterwards. The majority decides.

What does „conferencing“ (see para 4.5.4.3 in Section 6 Part 2) actually mean? Is it just discussing about what is seen and the result of this flows into a final decision by the CJ (CHZ or not) or is it really the idea that the board of judges decides with a majority to tick the box or not?

This whole thing is fuelled for me by the text in para 4.5.4.1 Section 6 Part 2: „The recommended procedure for handling...“. What is the intention of the word „recommended“?

I definitely think this part should be overthought and clearly redefined by the RC.

I therefore kindly ask Matthieu to take this point on the agenda for the next RC meeting, i. e. clarifying the intentions of these paras.

Conclusions

As an overall statement I want to say that I was very happy about the way the organizer has handled the difficult situation with this so called pandemic. By issuing the necessary personal paperwork for every pilot and all officials to enter Poland without any bigger hassle, they clearly laid the groundwork for a successful comp.

To have Vladimir as the contest director acting in Poland was for everybody a very positive and professional experience. Thanks Vladimir for making yourself available for this together with your wife and your kids.

From a sporting point of view a good competition. Having a World Champion in Unlimited to win the title despite adding a full roll in one of his flight was quite an experience. Amazing to be honest.

A big thank you goes out to the whole team in Leszno. Michal, Blazej and last but not least Aga. Guys, you did an excellent job in organizing a nice comp with a very special personal touch. And this despite a quite low budget as a result of the low number of participants and at least one very important glider aerobatics team missing completely. I would always work with all of you.

And finally a big thank you to Marina and Schorsch. I am very happy that finally it worked out this year. Even if it might have been the last time, I will keep this one in good memories.

Philippe K uchler, pik
31.10.2021, Zumholz, Switzerland