CHAMPIONSHIPS

3rd FAI World Paragliding Aerobatics – Trasaghis, Italy
This was a very successful competition superbly held by the organizers: good briefings, right time management, excellent local people involvement. The COVID19 risk was well managed but it shortened the list of participants a bit, however all the top pilots were present and the was a high representation of this discipline. The wind affected the competition a little but at the end 4 solo runs and 3 synchro ones took place in 7 days, all of them streamed online in real time with technical commentary. One accident reported: a pilot hurt himself landing hard on the raft but he was fine enough to make the final run the day after. No complains or protests raised during the competition.

The 28 pilots represented 10 nations.

- Overall Solo – The gold for Victor Carrera (CZE); Horacio Llorens (ESP) silver and Luke De Weert (NED) bronze.
- Overall Synchro – Gold for the couple Horacio Llorens/Raul Rodriguez (ESP), Silver goes to Norbert Winkler and Thomas Schoegl (AUT) and bronze for Roland Brunnbauer and Thomas Laireiter (AUT)
- Team – France win the gold, Colombia and Spain take silver and bronze.

Fabio Loro

17th FAI World Paragliding – Tucuman, Argentina
This event was planned in very short order as a replacement for the covid-cancelled PG worlds in France. In light of the very improvised nature of the event, there were various organizational issues along the way. But, ultimately, new world champions were successfully crowned. There were unfortunately multiple complaints and protests, but safety standards were high and there were no serious injuries or incidents.

150 pilots represented 27 nations, and the FAI.

- Individual – The gold medal went to Russel Ogden (GBR), the silver to Honorin Hamard (FRA) and bronze to Luc Armant (FRA).
- Women – The gold medal went to Yael Margelisch (SUI), the silver to Seiko Fukuoka (FRA) and the bronze to Klaudia Bulgakow (POL)
- Team – The UK team took the gold medal, with the silver going to Switzerland and bronze to the Czech Republic.

Jamie Shelden

11th FAI World Paragliding Accuracy – Prilep, N. Macedonia
This event was completed successfully, albeit in challenging, very adverse weather conditions that prevailed throughout the competition. Three rounds were eventually completed with two more incomplete due to the rainy conditions and a necessary change of site.
129 pilots including 29 women represented 32 countries.

Most pilots demonstrated incredible skills and consistency in the often-inclement weather with the top 20 pilots having total scores of just 15cms.

- Overall: Seungil Ahn (KOR) won the Gold medal, very closely followed by Vlastimil Vachtíl (CZE) in Silver and Dagyeom Lee (KOR) in Bronze.
- Women: Dagyeom Lee (KOR) won the women’s gold medal beating Marketa Holubova Tomaskova (CZE) into Silver position on count back, both achieving the same overall score. Eunyoung Cho (KOR) was in Bronze place.
- In the Team event, Korea were first followed very closely by the Czech Republic and Slovenia.

Unfortunately, there were two accidents, both occurring on landing. All involved have since recovered.

*Andy Cowley*