

## Agenda Item 8.1 a)

### Report of the President of the International Jury

**21<sup>st</sup> World Glider Aerobatic Championships**

**9<sup>th</sup> World Advanced Glider Aerobatic Championships**

**Zbraslavice, Czech Republic**

**2 August – 11 August 2018**



**Manfred Echter**

#### **Venue and Local Organisers**

Zbraslavice had been the venue of the 18<sup>th</sup> WGAC and 6<sup>th</sup> WAGAC in 2015. When it was chosen again, we could be assured that the local conditions would be suitable and the organiser had the necessary experience.

The grass runway is 780 m long and 150 m wide. Hangar space is somewhat limited, but with expert help from the locals, most of the participating gliders could be stored inside and only few had to be disassembled or parked in the open.

Otherwise the infrastructure is adequate, but office space is strictly limited and the Jury had to use an office ca. 150 m away from the main building.

The box is directly above the airfield and aligned with the runway. Three judges' positions were used and all are well placed in relation to the box boundaries.

Judges and officials were housed in the same hotel in nearby Caslav, ca. 20 min. away from the airfield.

Contest Director was Mr. Vladimír Machula, President of the Czech Aeroclub. He had already managed the WGAC/WAGAC 2012 in Dubnica and the 2015 championships at Zbraslavice. His assistant CD was Mr. Tomáš Zemánek. Mr. Machula is no doubt a highly experienced CD, however, attempting to do everything single-handedly, occasionally caused some problems.

Due to the location of Zbraslavice in a thinly populated area, there was practically no "public". The organisers had a video team which produced a number of videos of the championship, but obviously these were never shown outside Czechia.

#### **Teams and Competitors**

There were 22 competitors from 7 nations and 5 teams in the Unlimited championship. One Unlimited pilot fell ill and could not complete the championship.

The Advanced championship had 35 competitors from 11 nations and 7 teams.

#### **Preparations**

Free practise flying had started on 25 July and familiarisation flights were conducted from 29 July till 1 August.

On 1 August the judging seminar took place in the forenoon and judging practise was done in the afternoon.

The championships were officially opened in a short ceremony on 1 August, followed by the opening briefing in the evening.

After the opening briefing there was sufficient time to do the selection of figures for Unknown programmes in both categories.

## **Towing**

There were mostly three tow-planes in operation. Performance was generally adequate, although very high air temperatures created some problems mainly with engine oil temperatures.

## **Warmup Flying**

Early in the year I had contacted the Contest Director to find out whether the organisers had their own warmup pilots. I was assured several pilots would be available.

Later the Contest Director offered to fly warmup himself, but another Czech pilot would also be available. When jury member Jerzy Makula arrived, he agreed to take over warmup flying.

Eventually J. Makula and the Czech pilot agreed to fly alternately.

After having completed the warmup for the first Unknown of the Unlimited, the Czech pilot attempted to do a low pass over the judges. Flying directly into the sun, he misjudged his height and touched the ground with the forward fuselage at high speed. He was able to recover and land safely. Surprisingly the glider had suffered minor damage only.

We agreed that only by sheer luck we had escaped a catastrophic accident. The Contest Director removed the pilot and assured me that his irresponsible action would have appropriate consequences.

For the following programmes J. Makula and the CD flew warm-up alternately.

## **Boundary Judging and HMD**

When questioned at the CIVA plenary in November 2017, the Contest Director had promised to have available an HMD system with boundary tracking capability.

On 25 July, however, the Contest Director asked Wojciech Krupa from the Polish "Red Van"-team whether they would be able to take over the HMD and boundary tracking service, because the person responsible for the Czech system had fallen ill and was in hospital.

Not surprisingly the Polish team was unable to come at such short notice.

As it then turned out, the HMD system that had been used already in 2015 would be available but without boundary tracking capability.

We discussed the situation in the Jury together with the Chief Judge and decided to go with basic HMD capability but without line judges. Since this was not in accordance with para 4.2.1.1 of SC 6, Part 2, agreement of two thirds of the team managers was required. Of 14 teams 13 voted in favour of no line judges.

The HMD suffered several failures of the downlink system, but in all cases the data could be retrieved from the onboard SD-card.

## **Meteorology**

Weather data came from FLYMET, a private enterprise specialising in met services for general aviation. Detailed time cross-sections were available and forecasting was mostly reliable.

Wind measurement was by drone with GPS reference. Wind data displayed at the flight line were generally up to date and accurate.

## **Judging**

Chief Judge Philippe Küchler, as usual, did an outstanding job.

The International Judges deserve high praise for their work during long days in extreme heat. Video sessions were monitored by members of the jury whenever possible.

For more details on judging at this event, see the Chief Judge's report.

## **Scoring and Publication of Results**

Scoring was done by Ms. Lenka Rejentová, who did most of the work single-handedly.

Results were always on time and published on CIVA-Results as soon as practicable.

## **Communications**

All contest information was distributed by SMS. The system functioned very reliably. Teams and officials were constantly kept up to date.

Internal communications were done by portable FM radios. All contest officials could be contacted without difficulties.

## **Contest Flying**

Flight Director for most of the time was Mr. Tomás Jung, assisted by Mr. Jan Florián. They did an outstanding job and flying operations were always safe, speedy and efficient. Spacing of launches was controlled in the usual manner by inputs from the Chief Judge.

The competition started on 2 August with the Free Known (P1) of the Advanced.

In Programme 1 of the Unlimited one pilot was disqualified for flying below 100 m. Otherwise there were no incidents or unsafe situations during contest flying.

The extreme heat during most of the championship was hard on pilots and officials. From the side of the organisers no special measures were taken to alleviate the effects of the heat. Teams bought tents and umbrellas to provide shadow for their pilots and helpers at the start-line.

In the afternoon of 11 August the Unlimited finished Programme 5, so both categories had flown 5 Programmes each and the championships were terminated.

## **Results**

By 1620 hrs. on 11 August all results were declared final.

World Champion Unlimited Glider 2018 is Ferenc Tóth from Hungary, who defended his title from 2017.

World Champion Teams Unlimited Glider 2018 is the team from Germany.

World Champion Advanced Glider 2018 is Jonas Langenegger from Switzerland.

World Champion Teams Advanced Glider is the team from the Czech Republic.

## **Protests**

There was one protest from a German pilot who claimed that an insertion penalty in Programme 1 was not justified. The flight had been watched by one jury member, but the official video was inconclusive. After discussion with the Chief Judge, the Jury agreed that indeed an insertion had been the case and rejected the protest. The Pilot was informed in writing of the decision. (see Appendix 1)

## **Conclusions**

These World Championships were conducted under extreme weather conditions. Afternoon temperatures rose as high as 38° C on several days. Yet neither pilots nor judges complained that conditions were unbearable or unsafe.

It showed on several occasions that the organisers were short on manpower and resources. The contest director was highly experienced and capable, but he attempted too often to do everything himself at the same time.

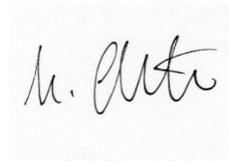
An important element of selectivity was lacking due to non-availability of the required electronic position tracking system. Although the quality of position-marking by the judges was remarkably high, this cannot compensate for the lack of boundary tracking. Line-judges were not used because national judges must be supervised by the jury (see 1.3.2.5 and 4.2.2.1) and this cannot be done continuously with only three persons in the jury.

From the sporting point of view these were highly successful championships. The large number of young competitors proved that concerns over the future of glider aerobatics are unfounded.

My special thanks to the board of judges for their endurance under extremely hard conditions. You did an admirable job!

And finally a big "Thank You!" to my colleagues Mady and Jurek for their support and their fine work as jury members.

September 2018,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Echter', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Manfred Echter  
Jury President

## Appendix 1 to Jury President's Report from WGAC/WAGAC 2018

### Protest by Pilot Moritz Kirchberg, GER Team

Dear Jury,

Because of the known decision of the CJ to our complaint we decided to protest.

As you can see our reason for that:

After Fig 5 in the Free Known program, I saw myself heading 180° in the wrong direction in inverted flight. According to the FAI Sporting Code Section 6, Part two, article 4.4.3.2 I was supposed to do a heading change of not more than 180°. So I decided to go the fastest way (distance and timewise), bank, turn 180° and go back into the inverted flight for the next figure. My turn was a positive turn, but I never did a half roll or two half rolls. Nowhere is written that the turn must be an inverted turn, so banking, doing a positive turn and go back in inverted flight with reducing the bank again is not an interruption. My wings were not level at any time and I never did a half roll. I rolled back into the inverted flight while turning, so it was not more than one move to get back into the right direction.

Regards,

Franzi Kaiser

Teammanager Germany

### Jury Decision

21<sup>st</sup> WGAC 2018  
International Jury  
3 August 2018

Mr.

Moritz Kirchberg

German Team

Subj.: Your Protest dtd. 3 Aug. 1813 CET

Dear Moritz,

The International Jury considered your protest, watched the available video of your flight and interviewed the Chief Judge, Mr. Küchler. We reached the following decision:

Based on available evidence, your protest must be turned down.

Reasons:

1. You claim that you attempted to return to the correct direction and attitude by "bank, turn 180° and go back into inverted flight for the next figure".
2. According to SC 6, Part 2, paragraph 4.4.3.2 in order to return to the proper attitude or direction "This correction of direction or orientation must not be more than a heading change of 180 degrees or attitude change of one half roll or half loop."
3. From the video, the report of the Chief Judge and my own observation, you did a manoeuvre looking somewhat like a 180° rolling turn, ending in a part-roll back to inverted attitude.

The International Jury is unanimous that this manoeuvre exceeds the limitations set in paragraph 4.4.3.2. The only acceptable manoeuvre in your case would have been a 180° inverted turn.

Insofar awarding an insertion penalty was justified in your case.

Best regards,  
Manfred Echter  
Jury President

## Appendix 2 to Jury President's Report from WGAC/WAGAC 2018

### **Urgent Proposal**

Remove the requirement for using boundary judges in case the electronic position tracking system fails or is unavailable. (Para 4.2.1.1)

### **Rationale**

In 2017 CIVA agreed to make electronic position tracking mandatory for Glider Aerobatic World Championships.

So far the only such system which has been approved by CIVA is the Polish "Red Van". With available technology, however, it should not be too difficult to produce an alternative system which is less complex and costly.

Experience from recent championships shows that acceptance of line judges as an alternative to electronic position tracking is dwindling rapidly. The equipment used is not always accurate and reliable. International line judges are a non-starter for cost reasons. Continuous supervision of national line judges (Para 4.2.2.1) by the I.J. is not feasible.

On the other hand, penalties due to box-outs can easily decide the final outcome of a championship. If we make electronic boundary tracking mandatory and competitors do not trust human line judges, the logical consequence is to do away with them.