

## **22<sup>nd</sup> FAI World Precision Flying Championship**

**19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2015 Skive – Denmark**

### **Competition Director's Report**



Royal Danish Aero Club in cooperation with DMU Sport and Skive Flying Club hosted the 22<sup>nd</sup> FAI World Precision Flying Championship at Skive Airfield in Denmark 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> July 2015. In total 74 pilots from 19 countries participated.

Initially, it was not planned that this championship should be held in Denmark. At the GAC meeting in 2012, Croatia submitted a letter to indicate their interest to host the 22<sup>nd</sup> FAI World Precision Flying Championship in 2015. Despite this, a year later at the 2013 GAC meeting in Spain there was actually no bid for the 2015 WPFC, and for the first time ever, the possibility of a cancellation of the championship was a possibility.

During an afternoon break at this 2013 meeting, the Danish delegation made a quick decision. After a few minutes and a phone call to the Chairman of Skive Airfield, the decision was made to offer to host the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Precision Flying Championship.

Actually, there was never made any official bid due to the short notice and fast decision process. At the 2014 GAC Meeting, held in Lausanne, Switzerland, we presented the Local Regulations together with a presentation of Skive City and Airport, hotel and surrounding area.

The official website [www.wpfc2015.dk](http://www.wpfc2015.dk) was launched shortly after the 2014 GAC Meeting. A few days before Christmas 2014, France was the first team to sign in. As we received more entries during the first months of 2015, we soon discovered the great interest to participate in this championship. At one point, we believed that the old participants record would be beaten this time. In May, we had received entries from 88 pilots from 19 countries. Together with team-managers, judges and other officials it made a total of 130 persons. Our first plan to host all participants in one hotel had to be revised, but luckily, we soon got an agreement with the only other available hotel in the city of Skive.

Finally, we ended up with 74 pilots plus 32 team-managers, judges and other officials. A total of 106 persons in addition to the local officials. A number very close to the record of 1989 (8<sup>th</sup> WPFC, Skive)



For the first time ever, China was participating in the World Precision Flying Championship. However, the Chinese pilots did not get a validation of their certificates before the competition start, and unfortunately, they had to participate outside the official competition. Nevertheless, they got a good introduction to the sport ...and who knows, maybe one of the future World Championships will be held in China. Thank you so much to the pilots who did their best to help our new participants and made them feel welcome.



The weather was nice during the unofficial practice week prior to the championship. The first team arrived on July 11<sup>th</sup>, and all other teams shortly after. Everybody had good training opportunities during this training week.

Service at the airfield was available from the start and The Flying Club offered lunch every day during the training week.

All rental aircrafts were available for the teams upon arrival at Skive Airport or very shortly after. The information desk was ready to help participants upon arrival, and the staff did their utmost to facilitate everyone's experience in Denmark.



After official landing practice, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>, the Opening Ceremony took place in the nice park in front of *Resenlund*.

Mr. Pedro Cabanero from Spain, GAC FAI President of Honour, officially opened the Championships.

Despite the light rain everything went well. A special thank goes to Skive Municipality and the Mayor of Skive for arranging the fine reception after the opening ceremony.

As mentioned before, we had to divide accommodations into the only two hotels in Skive: Hotel Strandtangen and Best Western Hotel, Gl. Skivehus. Both hotels in nice standards and both situated about 8 km from the airfield.



Bus transport between hotels and airfields was scheduled and arranged for each day, but many teams had arranged their own rental cars, so there was actually a very limited use of this offer. For future competitions it may be considered if it is possible to state on the entrance form if you need arranged transport or if you prefer the freedom of your own rented car.

All competition days were successfully completed. Only the second navigation on Tuesday was delayed for 3 hours due to bad weather conditions in the morning.

The international judges and other officials with high competence from earlier competitions were of great importance, since they assured that everything went smoothly. All results were presented within a reasonable time after the competitions, thanks to Mr. Martin Hrivna, Czech Republic, and his computer team.

I would also like to thank the staff behind the German landing system, who took over almost everything regarding the landing competition and made everything much easier for the organizers.

The people from Skive Flying Club, information desk and many other volunteers worked hard from early morning to late evening. Some of them for nearly 3 weeks. Thank you to all those volunteers, who are required to have an event like this to work. All officials did a great job during this competition, and unfortunately, it is not possible to mention everybody here.

I will extend my thanks to the very competent members of the jury: Mr. Jiri Dodal, Czech Republic, Mr. Peter Grist, UK, and Deon van den Berg, SA.

Thank you to all the international judges.

Special thanks to Chief Judge Mr. Andrezej Osowski from Poland, who arrived days before to check that everything was in order before the competition started.

Arne Panduro, the route-planner had obviously made the greatest work before Andrezej Osowski's arrival in Denmark, but Andrezej Osowski's eye for all the details was truly visible after each competition day. Mr. Andrezej Osowski and his assisting Chief Judge, Mr. Ralf Grunwald, Germany, had only few complaints that had to be handled after each navigation day.

The three navigation routes resulted in only a single protest, which was later rejected by the jury. After the landing competition the jury received 5 protests. Other results and the description of the competition days are still available at [www.wpfc2015.dk](http://www.wpfc2015.dk) together with many pictures and articles from the event.





An outing to the island of Fur had been arranged on our reserve day. There was a guided tour of the Museum of Fur by a very enthusiastic guide who explained the history of planet Earth from a geological point-of-view. There was a fossil hunt in the mo-clay pits, followed by an excellent lunch at Fur Brewery.

According to FAI-GAC decision, organizers pay sanction fee of EUR 40,- for every competitor. Total amount of sanction fees was calculated by President of the International Jury. This amount of total EUR 2.960,- for the 74 participants was paid to the FAI-GAC account during the championship.

The closing ceremony was held at Hotel Strandtangen. FAI GAC President Mr. Jean-Pierre Delmas, France, officially closed the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Precision Flying Championships. He and the French team were of course very happy to see a French pilot to be the World Champion in Precision Flying for the first time.



Congratulations to the new *World Precision Flying Champion 2015: Damien Vadon, France*, standing here between Marcin Skalik (silver medal) and Boleslaw Radomski (bronze medal), both from Poland.

Hvalsoe, October 20<sup>th</sup> , 2015

Best Regards

Allan Hansen