



21st FAI World Precision
Flying Championship
Bautzen, Germany 2013



21st FAI World Precision Flying Championship

7th September to 14th September 2013 in Bautzen (Germany)

Championship Director's Report

Introduction

The idea of organising a world precision flying championship in Germany was born in March 2010 when I was on my way back home from a training seminar for judges and competition organisers. The 3rd FAI World Rally Flying Championship in Aschaffenburg and the 5th FAI European Precision Flying Championship in Schoenhagen took place decades ago (1980 and 1991). Relying on the great experience in organising competitions, which Deutscher Präzisionsflug-Verein (German Precision Flying Association) has gained over the years, I was very confident that we could manage it. One year later, i.e. about two years prior to the opening of the world championship, we started to set up our organisation team. Although we had to look for an alternate venue because our "original choice" was not available, we finally managed to create the necessary conditions for such an event right in time for the 2012 GAC meeting held in Larnaca, Cyprus. Germany's final bid to host the 21st FAI World Precision Flying Championship was unanimously approved during the meeting. Thank you very much for the confidence placed in us.

Competition

The official website www.wpfc2013.de was launched shortly after the GAC meeting. All important documents such as the Local Rules were published there. During the world championship, a daily blog was established to provide information, pictures and results. We have had more than 42,000 hits until now with about 3,300 on 12 September 2013 alone. Even today, we still have 150 visitors a day. Special thanks go to our webmaster Michael Schneider who did a great job. The webcam giving a view across the competition apron was also very popular with internet visitors. During the whole period, we prepared a total of five bulletins containing the latest information. We distributed them to all NACs involved and published them on the website. Bulletin No. 5 was published approximately two weeks prior to the world championship.

Shortly after the official entry forms were available on the website, we received the first entries. Entries even came in long after our deadline had passed. At that time, we already got the first cancellations and we were grateful for every competitor who registered for participation. For a short time, we counted 60 registered pilots of whom 47 participated in the competition in the end. I was particularly pleased to see Team Germany comprising seven pilots. I hope that their participation will give fresh impetus to the rally and precision flying activities in our country.

I completely underestimated the workload involved in booking rooms for the teams. We had lots of changes and even cancellations (unfortunately sometimes without prior notice) till the very end. The time and work we spent on this matter during the last three weeks prior to the event was enormous. Luckily however, the Bautzen Best Western Hotel management team was very cooperative and accommodating. Our decision to use separate hotels for the national teams and the organisers/judges/jury members turned out to be a good one.

The actual need for transport during the training and the competition week was also difficult to assess. Many teams solved the problem by hiring a car. We were lucky that our bus operator was so uncomplicated and cooperative.

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In order to make future championship organisers' life much easier, we should consider excluding accommodation and transport from the entry fee. The teams should arrange for accommodation and transport themselves, which nowadays is no longer a problem even from a distance. Rate negotiations, however, can be conducted by the organisers. This procedure has long been used in many other sports. Another advantage: The teams can choose an appropriate accommodation based on their budget.

During the entire preparation period, there were a few important issues I placed a particular focus on. Among these issues were the use of Czech and Polish airspace, the use of credit cards for aircraft rental and fuel payment, and short walking distances between the aerodrome facilities and the apron. All this was carried out successfully and so was the landing competition on the grass runway. We were able to ensure a continuous flow of landings without any interruptions. The experience we made with the new high-speed cameras was extremely positive. The excellent quality can be seen from the video on the WPFC2013 website. The film shows the 3rd landing of the new landing world champion.

An impressive opening ceremony was another topic that was very important to me. The City of Bautzen was very supportive and made its market square available for the ceremony. Hoisting the FAI flag with the wrong side up was due to the fact that there were ropes on each side which both could be pulled. The same happened to the flag of Deutscher Aero Club (German Aero Club) atop the hotel. Both were corrected immediately. Unfortunately, I was not always able to arrange for cold beer at the Info Point after landing. However, based on the feedback I have received, I can confirm that the Info Point was continuously staffed with friendly and qualified people.

Conclusion

In the precision flying subcommittee we already discussed the necessity of defining the distance of a navigation test more accurately. I was not quite sure whether the minimum distance of a navigation test is measured from SP to FP or whether arrival and departures routes are included. It was also difficult to find out where the sanction fee and its amount have been stipulated in the FAI rules and regulations. I hope that this has been changed in the meantime to make future organisers' work easier. The experience we gained from using loggers during the world championship was already dealt with in the report presented in my function as Technical Advisor GNSS.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the International Chief Judge, Paul Szameitat, and the Jury represented by Andrzej Osowski, Jiri Dodal and Jacky Carriquiriberry, for the fruitful cooperation. A big thank-you also goes to all members of my team for their great commitment and the excellent work they have done.

Both the sanction fees and the list of results have been transferred to the FAI. The fact that for the first time ever in the history of world precision flying championships not a single protest had been filed, underlines the quality of this competition. It has been a pleasure and honour serving the FAI as championship director. I look forward to more such events in Germany in the future.

Best regards,



Ralf Grunwald