



CIVL 2018 PLENARY – ANNEXE 11 REVIEW OF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Championships

A very interesting diversity.

Big efforts on media. The mandatory use of live tracking devices in our cross-country competitions added significantly to risk management and publicity/marketing, with the latter area being a fertile area for opportunity and growth. In Accuracy, we need to develop an instant scoring system.

To be noticed:

—A lot more nations participating.

—We had to cancel a FAI Women World Hang gliding Class 1 championship for lack of competitors.

21st FAI World Hang gliding Class 1 in Brasilia, Brazil

131 pilots, 26 nations.

Individual:

1. Petr Banes (Czech Republic)
2. Alessandro Ploner (Italy)
3. Christian Ciech (Italy).

Team:

1. Italy
2. Czech Republic
3. Germany.

Nine tasks, each more than 100 km over the Brazilian flatland, were a real challenge for most of the pilots. The flying conditions varied and required lots of strategy. There were two days with only one or no pilots in goal, but the tasks were worth more than 500 points and were the important days that separated out both the team and the individual gold medals. The individual gold medal was decided on the last day with only 50 points separating the top two pilots, and the gold went to the Czech pilot Petr Banes who beat two previous World champions pilots Alex Ploner and Christian Ciech. The entire Czech team also flew well enough to capture the team silver medal. Another highlight for the pilots was flying into the capital city Brasilia on several tasks of the competition, where the organisers had done an excellent job with public displays and media that brought exceptional positive attention to the sport in Brazil.

20th FAI World Hang gliding (Class 2) in Aspres-sur-Buech, France

9 pilots, 3 nations.

Individual:

1. Manfred Ruhmer (Austria)
2. Jacques Bott (France)
3. Franz Pacheiner (Austria).

Eight tasks from 153 to 319 km sometimes under wind reaching 40 kmph with strong thermals and strong dust devils. Pilots of Class 5 competition that was run in parallel with Class 2 HG Worlds often had a cancelled day and watched Class 2 haltering the wave.

Throughout the competition the three leaders were Manfred Ruhmer, Steve Cox and Jacques Bott. The rivalry between Manfred and Steve was most acute but the misfortune to

land out in the final decisive task 8 put Steve also out of the podium – he is 4th. Manfred who has not left podium place number 1 since 2002 is very likely to set a new World record with that.

15th FAI World Paragliding in Monte Avena, Italy

150 pilots, 47 nations.

Podium:

1. Pierre Rémy (France)
2. Guy Anderson (United Kingdom)
3. Honorin Hamard (France), Jurij Vidic (Slovenia)

Women:

1. Seiko Fukuoka-Naville (France)
2. Kari Ellis (Australia)
3. Silvia Buzzi Farraris (Italy)

Team:

1. France
2. Slovenia
3. Switzerland

The competition was extremely well organised. Despite weather surprises, there were 10 valid tasks in 12 days and 1 not valid. So the pilots enjoyed pre-alpine flying every day at full scale. Conditions were tricky so pilots had to use all their skills and knowledge : one day, there were only only 21 pilots in goal out of 150. Some landing in difficult conditions but no injuries, no protests. Besides, a tremendous attention of local populations and nationwide press : RAI, Tg5, Gazzetta Dello Sport are the first in the row of dozens of media that followed the course of the competition plus support from National Airforce and legendary Frece Tre Colori! All this made 15th FAI World Paragliding Championship a huge milestone in the history of Air Sports!

9th FAI World Paragliding Accuracy in Vlora, Albania

147 pilots, 28 nations, 12 rounds.

Individual:

1. Tzvetan Tzolov (Bulgaria)
2. Matjaz Sluga (Slovenia)
3. Haiping Chen (China)

Women:

1. Nunnapat Phuchong (Thailand)
2. Marketa Tomaskova (Czech Republic)
3. Rika Wijayanti (Indonesia)

Team:

1. China
2. Serbia
3. Czech Republic

After initial administrative difficulties, the event ran well and the pilots were satisfied with the positive atmosphere. Competition at the top was fierce and the results excellent. There were even tie breaking flights for both the individual silver medal and team bronze medal. The competition attracted big media attention, for example, from Albanian National TV. The PR around the event was very good, culminating with the Albanian Prime Minister taking part in the awards ceremony.

The Championship also witnessed several pilots making three consecutive zero scores on a 2 cm dead centre pad, already exceeding the current World record. Anton Svoljšak of Slovenia took the record up one more level, making one more zero result and a new World record of 4 consecutive zero score landings on a 2-centimetre diameter target.

Test Events

We also ran 4 test events for the:

- 3rd FAI Pan American Paragliding Championship in Brazil.
- 15th FAI European Paragliding Championship in Portugal.

- 1st FAI Asian-Oceania Paragliding Accuracy Championship in Thailand.
- 6th FAI European Paragliding Accuracy Championship in Slovenia.

As we had the same organisers and key officials on the same site as for the 2016 Championships, no test events were ran for the:

- 20th FAI European Hang Gliding Class 1 and in FYR Macedonia.
- 8th FAI World Hang Gliding Class 5 Championship in FYR Macedonia.