I Went with Mixed Feelings

Interview with F3B World Champion Andreas Böhlen

How did you prepare for the World Championships in Finland? Preparations really started as early as after the World Championships in Kirchheim. I must have tried all commercially available models until I came upon the right model, more or less by accident three months before the World Championships. Then of course there were a team to be selected and preparations for the World Championships to plan.

And what was it like at the World Championships in the end? On Friday there was an unexpected announcement that there would be a 7th round, after which I had a crisis. As I was going to be World Champion after the 6th round, I initially found it hard to get motivated again. When it was confirmed on Saturday that I had won the title again, I was overjoyed. I have achieved more than I ever dared to dream about.

And how do you feel today? After these World Championships? And as two times consecutive World Champion? For me, the first title was already the pinnacle of my F3B career. Defending the World Championship title was a lot harder and therefore a bigger achievement than winning the first title. I see this second title as confirmation of my achievements and am pleased that things worked out a second time.

And finally: What's in the future for you? Any plans? My main focus will now be on professional changes. I will continue to fly F3B as it is my big passion, but not as intensively as before a World Championship. I have also fulfilled a big dream and bought a large glider.

The winners of FAI World Championships 2005 for F3B radio controlled Gliders, Lappeenranta, Finland.
1st Andreas Böhlen, SUI, World Champion 2006 and also succesful title defender.
2nd Andreas Herrig, GER
3rd Reinhard Liese, GER

That all sounds like a lot of effort? It is und this must in no event be underestimated, as with serious and good preparation you can save yourself a lot of trouble.

FAI World Champion 2003 and 2005 F3B glider class Andreas Böhlen, Switzerland

With what feelings did you travel to Finland? I went to Finland with mixed feelings. One the one hand, I was looking forward to experiencing something new and to flying in a different place. On the other hand I was a bit apprehensive as it isn’t all that easy to enter a competition as the defending champion.

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F3B gliders must be started with electric winches – an extrem strong team work

Interview and pictures by Christoph Helbling