

## Public Letter 3/06

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Editor: emil.giezendanner@modellflugsport.ch

## 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.



**The winners of FAI World Championships 2005 for F3B radio controlled Gliders, Lappeenranta, Finland.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Andreas Böhlen, SUI, World Champion 2006 and also successful titel defender.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Andreas Herrig, GER**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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

Interview and pictures by  
 Christoph Helbling

*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.

