

Report of the President of the International Jury

23rd World Glider Aerobatic Championships

11th World Advanced Glider Aerobatic Championships

Leszno, Poland

28 July – 7 August 2021



Manfred Echter

Venue and Local Organisers

Leszno Strzyzewice airfield is ideally suited to host such championships. Since 1958 it had been the venue of four World Gliding Championships.

Judges and officials were housed in the same hotel in easy walking distance from the airfield. Rooms were clean, with bathrooms and showers, most of them air-conditioned. All meals were served in the hotel. Quality of the food was adequate.

Local management consisted of airfield manager Michal Grazyk and WGAC/WAGAC coordinator Blazej Polozynski. Both were highly professional, friendly and always helpful. Together with their staff of volunteers they did an outstanding job, providing optimum conditions for the conduct of the championships.

Contest Director was Vladimir Machula. He was assisted by his wife, Katerina, who did the scoring single-handedly. Thanks to Vladimir's enormous experience in running aerobatic competitions and many long working-hours, these were among the most smoothly and efficiently managed championships I was ever part of.

Teams and Competitors

The Unlimited championship comprised 19 competitors from 7 nations, including one H/C pilot. There were 3 complete teams of three.

The Advanced championship had 23 competitors from 8 nations, including one H/C and 5 complete teams of three.

International Jury

Due to the uncertain situation with Covid-19, CIVA had agreed, in order to save costs of accomodation for jury members, to have only the Jury President on site with the other Jury Members on call remotely if needed. There was no need however, to use the "on-call" option.

Jury Member Madelyne Delcroix, by private initiative and at her own cost, was present in Leszno from 2 till 7 August.

Preparations

Familiarisation flights were completed on 28 July.

On that day the judging seminar took place in the forenoon and judging practise was done in the afternoon.

The opening ceremony on 28 July was held on the airfield, it was followed by the opening briefing and selection of figures for Programmes 2 and 3 in both categories.

Towing

Three towplanes were used, all light sport aeroplanes. Despite only 100 hp engine power, climb rates and towing speeds were fully satisfactory.

Warmup Flying

A total of 12 warmup flights were done by German pilot Eberhard Holl. Although the German team did not participate, he was available at short notice and performed very well.

Positioning System and Height Measuring

No electronic positioning system was available and positioning was marked in the usual manner by the judges.

Mr. Machula had brought the Czech HMD equipment and two operators. Height measuring functioned without major problems throughout.

Meteorology

Weather data were available through a local forecaster. Weather briefings were done by the Contest Director.

Wind was measured by GPS on board an aeroplane. Although the weather was generally good, we lost several flying days due to high winds at altitude

Judging

Three of the seven judges were the first time at an international glider aerobatic championship.

Philippe K uchler, as usual, performed perfectly as Chief Judge.

For more details on judging at this event, see the Chief Judge's report.

Scoring and Publication of Results

Scoring was done by Ms. Katerina Machula.

Results were always on time and immediately published on CIVA-Results.

Communications

Contest informations were distributed through WhatsApp. Informations were always timely and reliable. Handheld FM radios were used for ground communications.

Contest Flying

Flying operations were directed speedily and efficiently by flight director Michal Grazyk. Spacing of launches was controlled in the usual manner by the Chief Judge.

The competition started in the afternoon of 29 July with the Free Known of the Advanced.

In Programme 1 of the Advanced the Chief Judge ordered one pilot to break off for unsafe low flying. There were no other incidents or unsafe situations during contest flying.

By noon on 7 August, Programme 4 of the Unlimited was completed and contest flying was terminated.

Results

By 1600 hrs. on 7 August all results could be declared final. Prize-giving and closing ceremony took place on the airfield.

World Champion Unlimited Glider 2021 is Ferenc T oth from Hungary, who again defended his title from 2019.

World Champion Teams Unlimited Glider 2021 is the team from Poland.

World Champion Advanced Glider 2021 is Charlie Levy-Louapre from France.
World Champion Teams Advanced Glider is the team from Romania.

Protests

There were no protests.

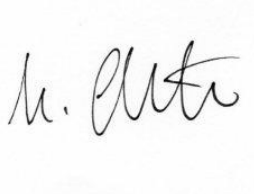
Conclusion

Considering the uncertain Covid-19 situation, participation of a total of 42 competitors in these championships is quite satisfactory. Nevertheless, it is a pity we could not welcome many more competitors to this fine event.

The championships were organised and managed very professionally and conducted without incidents.

I can only say "Thank you!" to Vladimir and Katerina Machula, to Blazej Polozynski and Michal Grazyk, to all the volunteers and helpers, to the International Judges and their assistants and lastly to "Pik" for two perfect World Championships 2021.

August 2021,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Echter', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Manfred Echter
Jury President