

2009 FAI European Championship for Thermal Duration Gliders (F3J) Wloclawek, Poland

The 7th FAI European Championships for Thermal Duration Gliders were organised under the leadership of the Polish Aero Club by the Aero Club of Wloclawek on 10th to 15th August 2009

Venue

The site of Airfield of Wloclawek was an excellent stage for the competition. As required by the Sporting Code there was no possibility of slope soaring around the airfield.

Organisation

The staff of the Aero club Wloclawek had experience with organising many World and European Championships. They wisely invited experienced F3J people from abroad for helping on the field.

So the Deputy Contest Director was Mr. Serdar Sualp (TUR) and one of the Flight Line Directors was Mr. Marin Kordic (CRO). The whole event was efficiently led by the Contest Director Marek Kozynski president of the Aero Club Wloclawek. Officials were well trained and sufficient in numbers. The sound system on the flight line was excellent, the sound system for pit area was sometimes not sufficient.

Entry

The Championship was entered by 51 senior competitors from 19 countries and 42 junior competitors from 15 countries. The higher number of juniors compared with the last F3J ECh is really pleasant. Large number of supporters also participated.

Accommodation and catering

Most teams stayed camping at the airfield. Part of competitors stayed in hotel in Wloclawek and neighbouring villages.

Breakfast was served in the hotel and in a restaurant on the field. It was possible to buy lunch at the field. It was served in a big tent. The quality was acceptable. A small restaurant was at disposal to pilots, helpers and supporters.

Weather

Weather was changing during the week. On Tuesday after the first group trying to fly in the morning the competition was interrupted for rain showers. The flying continued on Wednesday. For the remainder of the week east wind prevailed reaching up to 8.5 m/s. Advantage of these conditions was a wider distribution of pilots' results, which then clearly showed the best pilot. The difficult weather reigned also at fly-off

Protests

One protest against the decision of CD concerning "early launch" was submitted by the German team. The protest was declined by the International Jury.

International Jury

Tomas Bartovsky (CZE), Raimond Pavan (LUX) and Sydney Lenssen (GBR).

Conclusion

It is the opinion of the FAI Jury that these were very successful European Championships carried out in a most friendly atmosphere. The organisers are to be commended for an excellent event.

Wloclawek August 2009

Tomas Bartovsky
Jury president