

2nd European Women Gliding Championships 1981 Chérence – France



The airfield Mantes-Chérence is situated in a picturesque hilly region, some 160 m high, slowly descending towards the Seine valley, 120 km from the northern coast of France. In other words: maritime influence on the weather to be expected. This was clear during training week but unfortunately pilots got too few occasions to gather local experience, therefore this training was absolutely no full rehearsal before the real start of these second European Championships. Absolutely no meteorological change until 19th July when tempting cumulus clouds appeared in the sky above Chérence. Yes indeed, BUT this was the official opening day. Instead of contest gliding the crowd attended an air show with 2 oldtimers, Montgolfière and the speech of Chérence's burgomaster. Pilots and crews had lost the first contest day, they also lost the "battle of the cold buffet" in the briefing hangar – preceded and beaten by local spectators. The buffet tables were empty...

To summarize the first competition days: rain, briefing, rain, briefing, neutralizing – Is this really the country of the sun-king? It was waiting till the 23rd of July to hear the French meteorologist man announce "workable" weather, cloud base however only at 750 m. In vain the ladies looked for thermals, so after 50 minutes everybody was walking on the grass again.



One day later, finally the **first championships day**. A compact veil of rain forced the whole standard class to land before the first turn point. The task set for the 15 m class was a 206 km triangle but only 3 pilots – both Federal Germans Ingrid Blecher and Inge Müller and also Belgian Bertels came further than 100 km, to be exact 105 km The harvest for this performance was a poor total of 100 points!

Later on IGC was well inspired to change this rule, presently a valid day needs 25% of participating pilots to have achieved 100 km

Then it was waiting again till the 27th of July when previsions for the **second contest day** mentioned a possible cloud base of 1000 to 1200 m and vario 1,8 to 2 m/s. In the afternoon large screening annihilated all favourable sunshine. Standard class was set a 214 km task... but nobody came back to Chérence.

HELP ME, PLEASE

S'IL VOUS PLAÎT,

JE NE PARLE PAS LE FRANÇAIS,

SOYEZ ASSEZ GENTIL POUR M'AIDER

ET TELEPHONER AU 16-3-478.13.33

LES RENSEIGNEMENTS CI-CONTRE.

CHAMPIONNAT D'EUROPE

FEMININ 1981

MANTES - CHÉRENCE

Tel. 16-3-478.13.33



Nevertheless 3 pilots (Monika Warstatt, Eda Laan and Anne-Marie Pinon) were royally rewarded with 1000 points for their 166 km distance. What a strange scoring system! In 15 m class Marie-Françoise Gavaret had to be satisfied with 158 km. Bad luck for Ingrid Blecher and Inge Müller who ended up with zero points, the rules in those days prescribing a minimum flight of 50 km – hardly thinkable nowadays! And yes, the pair Blecher-Müller had landed after *only* 47 km.

There was not much time left and with increasing nervousness organizers even considered possible prolongation of the championships dates.



Deliverance! **3rd contest day.**

At briefing on 28th of July tasks of over 300 km were set with expected cloud base at 1200 m but – as a warning – in the Loire region thermals would be mostly blue.

After seven nerve racking hours 5 standard class pilots came home... but how Anne Marie Pinon managed to beat other competitors by one hour in these complicated conditions remains a mystery until to-day. Checking was impossible because departure times were never communicated in Chérence!

In 15 m class 8 gliding ladies accomplished the task, the best was Denise Cruette and her modest speed of 67 km/h was surprisingly sufficient for 1000 points.

Next day standard class pilots were to complete a 219 km triangle.

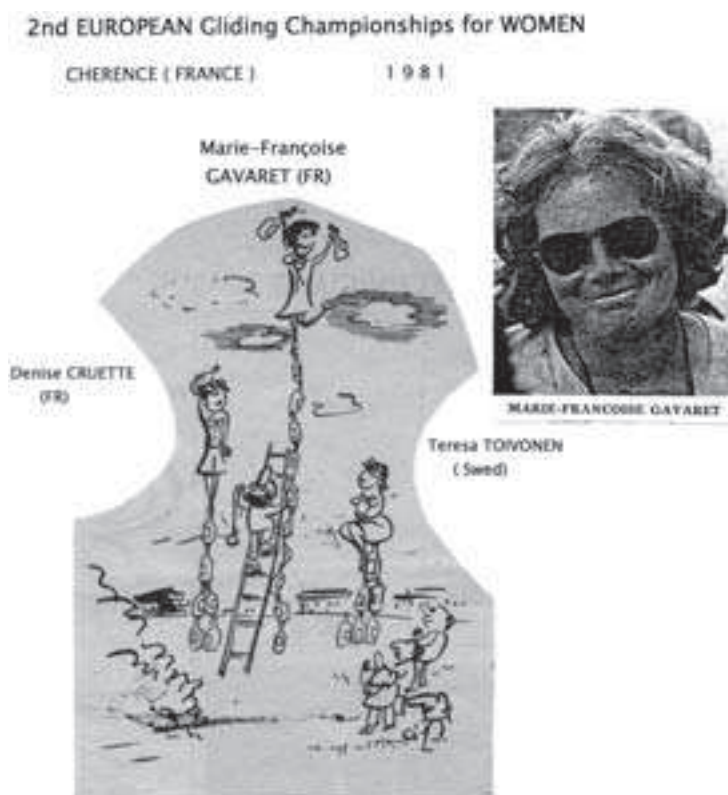
When the Federal German ladies had caught up with the earlier started Paluskova and Kyzivatova, these Czech pilots made a big mistake by turning back to make a second start in Chérence. This poker game destroyed all podium chances for both of them, for indeed 20 km before the finish they had to join some cows in a field.

Better luck for Gudrun Emde, because of her later departure she was four minutes quicker than the Hungarians Maria Bolla and Eva Daroczy flying wing-to-wing. Gudrun thus succeeded a 1000 points victory on what was to be the third but alas last championships day for the standard class.

In 15 m class – a 234 km triangle – Marie-Françoise Gavaret finished first with 67 km/h speed and confirmed her overall lead.

There was to be no more valid contest day, whatever and however the organizers tried. Again and again they launched competitors, again and again in vain. The crews had very hard times to go and get their precious ladies-and-gliders.

French organizers really tried, they intended to use the closing ceremony day, a desperate endeavour to reach the minimum of four tasks necessary for a valid title in the standard class. In vain...



So **only in 15 m class** with 4 valid tasks a European champion could be crowned. In Chérence and this title went to sovereign unchallenged **Marie-Françoise Gavaret**.

Her compatriot Denise Cruette was second with only 6 points more than Swedish Teresa Toivonen. Hard luck for Belgian Annemarie Bertels, she missed podium by only ONE point!

The title of the report in the German magazine “Aerokurier” was “*Championnat d’Amitie*”- championship of friendship. Once more mutual understanding and cordiality of East and West pilots had triumphed. French hospitality and helpfulness furthermore guaranteed good atmosphere.

Alternative programmes – social events, if you prefer – were precious contributions to general friendliness. Of course France has a lot to offer:

- Paris, the famous capital of light
- the just as famous castles of the Loire
- Rouen, the town of Joan of Arc
- Le Bourget and its Concorde
- not to forget gastronomic qualities

ETC ETC

and of course, the **Babajaga ritual**.

Nevertheless, these European championships did not stand comparison with the first ones of 1979 in Dunaujvaros. All teams came to Chérence with hopes for high level competitions. This kind of dream did not come true, mainly because of weather conditions.

Personally I had the impression Chérence did not take itself quite “au sérieux”. The organization left various wishes open. Sybille Krummacher (glider pilot herself) German scientific student in France at that time was a much appreciated assistant in the organization but could not prevent some degree of negligence. Example no announcement of departure times of all pilots, very late communication of results because “temperature in the caravan did not allow it”...

Also pilots saw and crews heard gliders of neighbouring airfields (Bailleau) on the track. More than once Marie-Françoise Gavaret begged them “please leave our frequency”. It was also Marie-Françoise Gavaret who pointed out to the organizers, the Cup in Chérence should not be handed over to her but had to stay with 1979 European champion Monika Warstat.

These European championships hardly over, everybody was already thinking of the next ones.

Alternatively in the East and in the West, as had been requested.

SO:

1979 Dunaujvaros, Hungary

1981 Chérence, France

Meaning we should meet again in 1983 USSR, organization foreseen on the airfield Oriol / Orel where various championships of the socialist countries have been organized in the past.



Monika Warstat(DDR) can keep the Cup

2nd EUROPEAN Gliding Championships for WOMEN

CHERENCE (FRANCE)

1 9 8 1

24 pilots from 8 countries :

10 pilots FAI 15 m class

14 pilots standard class

FAI 15 M CLASS

FINAL RESULTS after 4 tasks

1. Gavaret M. Franc.	FRA	ASW 20	X 17	2220 pts	victory 2 nd and 4 th tasks
2. Cruette Denise	FRA	Mosquito	M 11	2069	victory 3 rd task
3. Toivonen Teresa	SWE	ASW 20	EI	2063	
4. Bertels Annemie	BEL	ASW 20	AM	2062	co-victory 1 st task
5. Litt Geogeo	BEL	MiniNimb	GA	1942	
6. Guitton Maryvonne	FRA	LS 3	SO2	1782	
Muller Ingeborg	GER	Ventus	TL	1782	co-victory 1 st task
8. Hannhart Francine	FRA	Mosquito	PF	1670	
9. Blecher Ingrid	GER	LS 3	JB	1136	co-victory 1 st task
10. Brondel Anne Marie	FRA	DG 200	KO3	332	

STANDARD CLASS

only 3 tasks have been carried out : NO European title

Results were :

1. Pinon Anne Marie	FRA	Cirrus	2973 pts
2. Daroczy Eva	HUN	Jantar	2712
3. Laan Eda	SU	Jantar	2685
4. Warstat Monika	DDR	Jantar	2617
5. Zagainova Tamara	SU	Jantar	2612
6. Bolla Maria	HUN	Jantar	2536
7. Lebok Helmi	GER	LS 4	2533
8. Bertram Marlis	GER	LS 4	2452
9. Kyzivatova Maria	CSR	ASW 19	2103
10. Paluskova Jindra	CSR	ASW 19	2066
11. Ende Gudrun	GER	Cirrus	1825
12. Koch-Deutschm M.	GER	Hornet	1731
13. Morgner Irmgard	DDR	Jantar	1617
14. Gruss Eva	FRA	Cirrus	1578