

# **10<sup>th</sup> European Women Gliding Championships Prievidza (Slovakia) 1997**

**10th INTERNATIONAL EUROPEAN WOMEN'S GLIDING  
CHAMPIONSHIP PRIEVIDZA, SLOVAKIA  
1997**



Let's look at the map: where do we find Prievidza? In the western part of middle Slovakia – the historical town has 6000 inhabitants and is still growing. To the north you find the Tatra mountain chain. Around Prievidza many natural sources attract Slovakian –and other visitors – who love taking cures. The women pilots will be interested to hear that in this town in 1771 the local women revolted against the Bojnice rulers... and Bojnice is the name of the beautiful castle above the airfield on a 260 m hill, wonderful navigation help when coming back from a task. As soon as there is a rest day a visit to this castle is a must. The surroundings are warm green, the airfield is well taken care of.



For the start of the championships the rainy weather did not offer much chance for training and one had to wait till the third day after the opening ceremony to start real tasks. In other words there was time enough for the planned visit to the castle. The word wonderful is not exaggerated. It was built in the middle ages but in the Renaissance and baroque periods the palaces were turned into a gothic core. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the last owner Count Jan Palfy gave the castle its final romantic image. It took hours to look at the historical furniture, paintings and precious interior decoration. Later during the contest we were offered the chance to attend an original evening theatre on the border of the lake near the castle, with brightly dressed actors in the decorated boats, presenting a middle age fairy-tale. Thank you very much, director Wala! Not to speak of the various occasions he offered to listen to the lovely sound of the local musicians who also brightened up the BABAJAGA ceremony, with ever more imaginative dressing phantasy from the witches, old and new.

On the airfield meanwhile the tow planes were waiting for the ladies. They are



*New babajaga Suzanne Ariane Decloux (GB).*

converted aerobatic Zlins 326, very efficient and powerful. At the beginning of the championships the sky showed its friendly face with cloud base at 1800 m and an average of 1,5m lift. The organizers were very cautious: tasks of slightly more than 200 km in the three classes. These rather modest tasks were on the menu for the first three days, the four remaining contest days always exceeded 300 km, so no reason to be dissatisfied.



*43 pilots from 11 countries.*

A striking phenomenon in the **15 m Class** was the regularity of the performances, at least for the favourites. Gisela Weinreich and Angelika Machinek both registered two day victories in their logbook, so did Alena Netusilova. Consecutive day rankings of Gisela were 2 – 2 – 1 – 5 – 1 – 3 – and then only 9<sup>th</sup> on the last day, 16 km/h slower than Alena Netusilova. This meant a loss of 300 points for Weinreich but she had **34** points left to ensure her **FIFTH EUROPEAN TITLE**. Like in Marpingen Gisela had practiced team flight with title holding Maren Thomas, this last day it costed Maren a place on the podium. The rising Czech star Alena Netusilova, a successful business woman, closed her daily rankings of 1 – 3 – 3 – 6 – 3 – 4 with a win on the 387 km task becoming the speediest of her class with 91,9 km/h

And Machinek? She had nothing to fear with daily rankings 2 – 4 – 6- 1- 2 – 1 – 5 and this was what brought Maren Thomas at a distance of 500 points.

For the first time since Adele Orsi started in Leszno in 1973 Italy was again represented in Prievidza: a likable communicative figure, this Margherita Acquaderni with her DG 800, unlike her introvert older friend Adele. Margherita – she prefers to be called Margot, was not very happy with her results but firmly promised to join again at the next championships.



Podium 15 m class: 5<sup>th</sup> title for Gisela Weinreich - GER.

### **Standard Class**

With 3 day victories British Gillian Spreckley could have aimed at the title. She always ranked 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in the day tasks, except on day 5, where she even had to

suffer a few penalty points because of “overweight”? No no, not slim Gillian but her LS 8 glider! (another loss for Gillian was her bicycle stolen...) It took all the energy and regularity of Gundula Goeke to threaten her British competitor, whom she finally preceded by 48 points – experienced Jana Veprekova and her Discus were no real danger for both contenders in spite of Jana’s victory the last day with a special taste: the best speed of the whole championships: 103,7 km/h (taks 323,7 km) Jana’s bronze was safe. She put Cornelia Schaich at a safe distance and made her stand *next* to the podium, ranking 4<sup>th</sup> the worst place, one says, but that was not the opinion of Cornelia.



**Podium standard class.**

Remains the **Club Class**. Polish Anna Michalak did not come here to defend her club class title of Marpingen, she started in 15 m class, which did not mean Poland was not represented in the club class: Krystyna Marszalek is not a beginner, neither is Rieke Haastert, 2<sup>nd</sup> last time and for Valentyna Toporova of the SU it would not be her first title (standard class champion in 1991 in Husbands Bosworth). This time Valentyna brought a simple Std Jantar. The registration of French Claire Luyat was a bit surprising. Two years ago she finished 4<sup>th</sup> on LS 6t in 15 m class. This time she brought a French glider Pégase AND her care-free unconcerned personality. “What a pity we were not sent in the high Tatra” she declared at the end of the championships she won sovereignly with day victories in 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>, with an amazing advance of some 700 points on Valentyna Toporova. It was really “veni, vidi, vici” for Claire! She was often seen in compa-

ny of Suzanne Ariane Decloux, one could guess she is of French origin married to a British subject – that unmistakable charming French accent when speaking English! She was not the best British pilot, that was Rosemary Johnson with a promising début, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> several days.

Young German Rieke Haastert had come to Prievidza to finish at least with bronze like last time. but she lacked 23 points to mount on the podium – the bronze went to her fellow country-woman Katrin Wötzel, a real airfield child, how can it be different when you are the daughter of Eberhard Wötzel, DDR champion and record pilot Ursula Wotzel.



**Podium Club class.**

There was one man who had nothing to do in Prievidza: Professor Piero Morelli, President of the International Jury. Not one single protest! All he had to do was to sign the final results for official, mainly while director Tadeus Wala had an open ear and eye for suggestions: a diplomat applying the rules without any trouble. He also had a good team, although in the beginning the scoring team was a bit slow but they soon caught up.

Allow me one remark as a steward: the present IGC scoring system is not really watertight. It does not seem fair pilots low in ranking can influence pilots of the first third of the group. Two German club class pilots did arrive at airfield Prievidza but following instructions from the ground crew, deliberately did not cross the finish line: it meant 100 points difference. I saw various eyebrows rising?



From left to right: Fred Weinholz steward, Prof. Piero Morelli, Jury President, Gill Van den Broeck, steward, Gordon A. Hookings, jury.



### Final Results

Class: 15-meters

Place	Score	Cy	Name	Glider	Co
1	5865	D	Weinreich Gisela	LS-6	WX
2	5831	CZ	Hradilová Alena	Vento C	LF
3	5592	D	Macháček Angelika	Vento 2A	AD
4	5091	D	Thomas Marc	LS6	GM
5	4853	PL	Michalak Anna	SZD-50-1	PV
6	4772	D	Klousák Annette	ASW-27	K
7	4410	CZ	Kysáková Marie	Vento B	ZV
8	4295	SK	Belašová Gabriela	Vento C	LI
9	3963	I	Acciarini Margherita	DG800	ST
10	3645	PL	Rybczewska Halina	SZD 50-1	BB
11	3405	GB	Lewis Jane Patricia	ASW-30L	PC
12	1899	GB	Burton Janet Teresa	Vento 2B	V57
13	1088	B	Schroeder Liese	ASW-20	PC



### Final Results

Class: Standard

Place	Score	Cy	Name	Glider	Co
1	5862	D	Oenke Gundula	LS8	PW
2	5814	GB	Spreckley Gillian	LS8	SE
3	5678	CZ	Vepřková Jana	Diana	CH
4	5597	D	Schleich Cornelia	LS4	SE
5	4955	D	Libert Petra	LS4	ER
6	4865	GB	Witball Sarah Lucy	Diana B	VB
7	4071	H	Böck Marie	Diana	P
8	4066	H	Zachari Rita	Diana	KB
9	3854	PL	Dziurawko-Grenak Beata	SZD-55-1	BD
10	3741	CZ	Kováčová Lenka	Diana C1	VL
11	3640	SK	Kučerová Maria	Diana C1	AR
12	3570	PL	Bogdanowa Joanna	SZD 55-1	AC
13	3517	CZ	Václavová Viera	Diana C1	65



### Final Results

Class: Club

Place	Score	Cy	Name	Glider	Co
1	5857	F	Lapost Claire	Pegasus	VV
2	5128	LI	Toporcova Valerina	JustaStd	117
3	5087	D	Witzel Kathrin	CeresStd	82
4	5064	D	Ilaszeri Rieke	LS16	GT
5	4970	PL	Marszałek Krysina	Justa	GT
6	4955	GB	Johnson Rosemary	DG-101	485
7	4883	D	Hanf Gudrun	LibelleStd	HAJ
8	4808	CZ	Zimová Hana	ASW-19	A1
9	4322	IJ	Georgias Jurgita	JustaStd	DG
10	4269	CZ	Trošková Jana	ASW-15	17
11	4238	D	Georgiowaerje	LS1d	VS
12	4229	PL	Przybyłowa Ewa	JustaStd	V2
13	4130	GB	Dobson Arlene Suzanne	Pegasus	122
14	3832	H	Kovács Dora	JustaStd	RD
15	3079	S	Chakrabarti Madeline	ASW-19	A4
16	2749	SA	Borobara Gabriela	VSD-10	81
17	2654	D	Stancová Alena	VSD-10	84