

# 4<sup>th</sup> European Women Gliding Championships 1985 SUBOTICA – Yugoslavia



Subotica in the Province Vojvodina is a town of 150.000 inhabitants. Her vast plains and her fertile soil granted her the reputation of being the granary of the country... therefore offering excellent conditions for gliding. Nice to hear but on our road to Subotica we saw giant long stemmed grain-, maize- and sunflower fields, waiting to be harvested, nothing was cut yet. SO: careful when landing out!



Till 1945 the region was part of Hungary – the name was Szabatka – and still to-day half of the population speaks Hungarian. Also, the letter pilots were given, to ask help from people coming to their rescue when landing out, was bilingual: Serbo-Croatian and Hungarian. Agreeable surprise: a beautiful catalogue with turn points and maps. Right from the beginning of the contest pilots and crews discovered quite confusing differences between flight- and roadmaps and real nature. SO: careful navigation!

The happy counterpart for these small slip-ups were the superlative weather conditions. This was the end of a long rainy period and sunshine greeted the arriving teams. Poland, DDR and surprisingly USSR did not show up.

I prefer this time not to give meteorological situations for every contest day for indeed the weather was practically ideal the whole time, warm continental summer with strong cumulus build – up, cloud base often near 2000 m and winds getting ever stronger towards the end of the championships.

The festive opening ceremony with the usual inimitable folk dances gained additional charm by the unveiling of the monument of Ivan Saric, the most famous son of Subotica where this pioneer achieved his first flights in 1910. And right in the centre of town three parachutists (two men, one woman) made a precision landing in a small circle, after which participant teams marched with their flags around a beautiful ceramic fountain designed and put up specially for these European championships. Indeed a permanent enrichment of the town! The large representation – not less than 4 women pilots! – of Switzerland did not pass unnoticed.

Flying possible every day? Well, now and then even Subotica had a thunderstorm and outlanding ladies and crews have even been attacked by myriads of aggressive mosquitoes. But you have to admit:

a **record of TEN valid contest days**, how often has anyone lived such satisfying adventure? Seven days with distances over 300 km, one exceeding 500 km passing over Vrsac where the well remembered “stormy” world championships were organized in 1972. At the second turn point pilots saw a large lake, which they searched in vain on their maps. With an appreciable speed of 84,49 km/h experienced Maria Kyzivatova of the Czech Republic was the speediest of the four 15m class heroines touching Subotica grass again after 518,7 km. Hat off for Geogeo Litt, Ingrid Blecher and Gisela Weinreich.

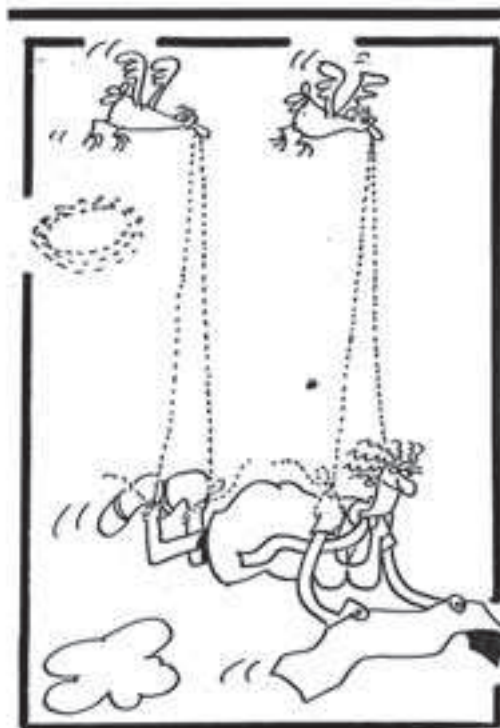
National records rewarded Bulgarian Tatiana Obretenova and young Yugoslavian Marija Letic. In standard class not less than 9 pilots made it back to Subotica, Christine Morokoko with 81,35 km/h, she and Marie-Françoise Gavaret and Claire Couture were the winning French trio.

Where is

SUBOTICA ??

150 km North of Belgrado

46°01'23" N  
19°42'43" E



near Hungarian border

As usual in Yugoslavia the day after a 500 km task was neutralized. Of course exactly on that day the sky was paved with cumuli, but nothing doing; no flying! Consolation was offered by an impressive beef roasting party in the hunters lodge, with traditional folk-dance and folk-song, the right occasion to deepen old friendships and tie new ones.

**Daily winners in 15 m class** with 4 victories each:

*Gisela Weinreich*: 2., 6., 7., (when she had to land on an agricultural strip 4,5 km before the finish) and 9.

*Maria Kyzivatova*: 1., 3. (when nobody made it back to Subotica) 5. and 8.

Youngest participant *Petra Zimmermann* won the 4. day with 74,46 km/h on the 301,7 km triangle.

Sympathetic Hungarian *Ilona Benke* ended the championships with a victory – on Jantar 3 if you please! – in the last and 10<sup>th</sup> task 92,84 km/h. For this last task the organizers ignored the largely cumulus paved sky. Instead of the possible 500 km they kept it short: only 187,4 km They wanted to have all the ladies back on

the field early afternoon in view of early publishing of the results... and to allow Czech Airforce pilots to exercise for the air show of next closing ceremony day! Not one single day victory for Belgian Geogeo Litt who became vice-European champion, certainly a fine result she owes to her reliable regularity.

Her friend Maria Kyzivatova was very unlucky on the 6<sup>th</sup> contest day (twice 157 km), when strong wind made her land out in the beginning of her second round, a catastrophic loss of 500 points, impossible to catch up even for a pilot like Maria who had been leading the ranking until this day. She however succeeded with 43 points more in stopping Gudrun Emde to climb on the rostrum. So it was bronze instead of gold for Kyzi who thus made the path to a second European title somewhat less difficult for Gisela Weinreich.

A short comment on the incredibly unluckiest pilot of them all. Ingrid Blecher. With Gudrun Emde and Petra Zimmermann she had been under heavy attack of aggressive mosquitoes, bites making them look like measles-patients at the end of their 100 km but ten long hours retrieving from the muddy field. Then came the 7<sup>th</sup> day and the landing out adventure of tiny Ingrid welcomed – too much so – by gipsies with “pawing hands”, much too near for comfort... and suddenly the soft voice of unrecognizable Ingrid turned into such an impressive roaring that she succeeded in keeping her admirers at some distance. That was not the end of her predicaments: in these championships a photo of the “ground clock” had to confirm a silent start, development of these photos caused quite some problems, seldom organizers developed so many “black photos”. You will have guessed: Ingrid Blecher dropped by 686 points.



**The daily winners in standard class** showed a more balanced harvest.

- two victories for *Christine Moroko*, the “big” 5<sup>th</sup> day 518,7 km at 81,35 km/h and the 6<sup>th</sup> day 314 km at modest speed 58,69 km/h with very strong wind;
- two victories for *Marie-Françoise Gavaret* on day 4, result of successful cooperation with Christine Moroko and Claire Couture, not forgetting the excellent advice of French team captain Jean-Jacques Couture.

In this 284 km triangle Marie-Françoise achieved the best speed of the whole championships with 95,96 km/h. She got her second victory on the 8<sup>th</sup> day (a 302 km triangle);

- two victories for Chech *Jindra Paluskova* on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day (313 km triangle) and Jindra finished “in beauty” with her victory on the last, shortest (187,4 km) 10<sup>th</sup> contest test day;
- two victories for neophyte *Christine Weimann*, victorious on the 7<sup>th</sup> day in successful cooperation with Marlis Bertram (388,2 km), victorious again on day 9 (311,4 km) when she started 4 minutes after her federal German team-mates Marlis Bertram and Helmi Lebok;
- one victory for elegant Hungarian *Eva Daroczy* the second contest day – 245,2 km thanks to solid teamwork with Maria Bolla (both on Jantar 2!) but a few seconds faster than Maria;
- one victory for Swiss *Heid Goetz*: right on the very first contest day Heidi proved to be an exemplary team captain in the large Swiss team.

That was the first day.



The last contest day Switzerland drew full attention again on quite another unusual occasion. A real conspiracy prepared nothing else but the wedding of Swiss pilot Maja Schwarzenbach and her Dutch fiancé Peter Eke with folklore dresses and all the trimmings, that evening in the beautiful town hall.

**SINCERE WISHES**

**HAPPY MARRIAGE**



**Maja SCHWARZENBACH (CH)**

**Peter EKEL (NL)**

Some excitement in the morning before the start... and PLEASE Maja, come back or you miss your own wedding! She did come back from her double round of 2 x 93,7 km just in time for the emotion loaded celebration with all pilots as guards of honour. Organizers, pilots, crews and citizens of Subotica joined in the festivities in the large hangar till late at night.

But coming back to the championship flights and results: in spite of the more than decent distances of the tasks set the scoring system did not once reward the winner with 1000 points. Top 967 points in 15 m class on day 9 went to Gisela Weinreich. Top 958 points in standard class on day 6 were for Christine Moroko.

In gliding also “oil will always float on the water”. It was not really a surprise, this second European title in 15 m class for **Gisela Weinreich** of Federal Ger-



many on LS 6, she had 247 points more than vice champion Geogeo Litt. The other “floating oil” in standard class was **Christine Moroko** starting for the first time in these official women championships. It was “veni, vidi, vici” for this solid French lady, 155 points more than her fellow-countrywoman Marie-Françoise Gavaret, European champion 1981. Together they operated quite a publicity campaign for the excellent French glider Pégase.

Will you allow me a last remark?

As Belgian team captain I had little work and much satisfaction with my pilot Geogeo Litt who finished European vice-champion.



**31 participants from 9 countries.**



The burden came during the very first meeting of the team-captains, making up the international Jury. Their first task was to elect a President.

I immediately proposed as logical candidate Ingo Renner, multiple world champion. “No no, I am just here as crew for my wife Teresa “(Toivonen). He went in the counter-offensive proposing me, which lead to a unanimous vote. I thought this task would not give me much trouble. Wrong!

Because of the incredible lack of resoluteness and firmness of the director Velimir Basic the international Jury had to examine four protests. The President has to draft the minutes in English and in Subotica by hand too, because the organizers had NO typewriter available and of course PC was not invented yet. Neither did the organizers have photocopiers available, so copies for CIVV/IGC, director, parties concerned and members of the Jury had ALSO to be written by hand. But yes, electricity was available for my nightly paper work.

To be elected President in Subotica was no present!!

One protest, presented by Jaroslav Vach CZ regarding missing speed points was rejected by 5 against 4 votes; where 2/3rds are needed. I had the very firm impression, team-captains had carefully calculated how much points possible acceptance of the protest would have “costed” their own pilots. It is a pity, but quite understandable and human and until there is an independent jury such considerations will never be avoided...



15 m class, from left to right. Geogeo Litt (BEL) 2<sup>nd</sup>, Gisela Weinreich (GER) 1<sup>st</sup>, Maria Kyzivatova (CZ) 3<sup>rd</sup>

4. Women's European Gliding Championships 1985

SUBOTICA (Yug)

Final results after 10 tasks ( 6 more than 300 km, 1 of 500 km)

15 METER CLASS :

PLACE	NAME	STATE	SAILPLANE	CONT.No.	TOTAL SCORE
1.	Gisela Weinreich	D	LS - 6	WX	7671
2.	Georgette Litt	B	VENTUS	IT	7424
3.	Kyzivatova Marie	CS	VENTUS	7F	7300
4.	Gudrun Eude	D	ASM 20	ND	7266
5.	Monika Richter	D	ASM 20	UH	6995
6.	Petra Zimmermann	D	ASM 20 L	ZP	6890
7.	Talivonen - Renner Tereza	S	ASM 20	71	6877
8.	Ilona Benke	H	JANTAR ST3	33	4901
9.	Judit Pollockman Zambone	H	JANTAR ST3	24	4830
10.	Ingrid Blecher	D	VENTUS	JB	4077
11.	Ludmila Zweifel - Thury	CN	VENTUS	LN	2869



Standard class, from left to right:  
Marie-Françoise Gavaret (FRA) 2<sup>nd</sup>, Christine Moroko (FRA) 1<sup>st</sup>, Maria Bolla (HUN) 3<sup>rd</sup>

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STANDARD CLASS :

PLACE	NAME	STATE	SAILPLANE	CONT.No.	TOTAL SCORE
1.	Christine Moroko	F	PEGASUS	B2	7821
2.	Marie Françoise Gavaret	F	PEGASUS	LC	7666
3.	Maria Bolla	N	JANTAR ST2	TE	7357
4.	Eva Daroczy	N	JANTAR ST2	S2	7289
5.	Harlis Bertram	D	LS - 4	B9	7184
6.	Paluskova Jindriska	CS	ASW 19 B	A4	7144
7.	Yeprekova Jana	CS	ASW 19 B	A1	6942
8.	Claire Couture	F	LS - 4	C	6903
9.	Christine Heilmann	D	ASW 19 B	GA	6806
10.	Marija Letic	YU	ST. CIRRUS	85	6619
11.	Tatiana Obretenova	BG	JANTAR ST2	A	6606
12.	Helmi Lebok	D	LS - 4	YC	6467
13.	Goutz Adelheid Heidi	CH	LS - 4	M6	6228
14.	Nagyova Gabriela	CS	ASW 15 B	17	5885
15.	Naja Schwarzenbach	CH	ASW 19	WB	5841
16.	Kunzler Christine	CH	ST. CIRRUS	K1	5461
17.	Milena Cestnik	YU	DO 100	10	5265
18.	Diliana Hristova	BG	JANTAR ST2	V	4632
19.	Svetlana Mitrovic	YU	ST. CIRRUS	32	2369
20.	Eva Garai	YU	ST. CIRRUS	28	995