

**9th European Women
Gliding Championships
Marpingen (Germany) 1995**



Finally the organization of the Women's European Gliding Championships landed in Germany, in Marpingen an der Saar, homefield of the regretted German and world champion Helmut Reichmann. Picturesque surroundings, traditionally favoured by good gliding conditions which seem to be confirmed by not less than 9 tasks successfully flown – in Club class even 10.



For indeed, this time the organization covered 3 classes, a wish already expressed in 1993.

The opening ceremony was really a special one. Two long hours all people present had to stand in the burning sun to listen to the (too many) speeches, followed by an unusual ceremony. The General Secretary of the FAI Max Bishop was handing out three special medals, repairing the omission of his predecessor Kepka who never sent the 15 m class medals of Subotica 1985 to Gisela Weinreich, Geogeo Litt and Maria Kyzivatova. After a very long correspondence here came the “*recovery*”, **ten years later**. The three ladies were present, two even as a competitor. The whole long opening ceremony was more than patiently interpreted by our dear (since then deceased friend) Marianne Deutschmann-Koch.



State Secretary Werner Raber and Polish pilots from left to right Dankowska (blue), Chrzaszcz, Demczenko, Rynkiewicz, Michalak.

During the first week we all enjoyed brilliant weather. Day after day everybody flew well and made good speed, like 111 km./h. Usually cloud base was about 2000 m, now and then the sky offered blue thermals, THE occasion to practice team flying. There were not many out landings, which in turn sometimes put the question, why not a bigger task?

Super weather cannot last forever, but the sunshine was ever present. After 6 consecutive flying days the organizers declared a rest day, the pilots did not want it and did not need it, they insisted. They were all the more disappointed because exactly on this rest day the sky was loaded with cumuli. It appeared it was the management who needed a rest day to catch up with delayed transmission even of “preliminary results” and more than once even the final results had to be corrected, errors had to be put straight, especially the wrong coordinates of various turn points.



In my quality of steward I accompanied the Director in his plane on various occasions to register the correct data of several airfields picked out as turn points, in order to adapt the apparently wrong logger data received.



From left to right Prof. Piero Morelli, Jury President, stewards Gill Van den Broeck and Philippe Schroeder.

During a pre-competition meeting, it had been agreed upon to extend the start line to 1000 m (total length of runway). Unfortunately the director had forgotten to transmit this decision to the Peschkes specialists present, to have the loggers programmed accordingly.

GPS Peschkes Loggers. In Marpingen every pilot had received – free of charge- a GPS Peschkes Logger – passive System-.For many pilots this “black box” was an absolute novelty but they felt reassured when they heard the only thing you had to do is to plug the logger in the battery of the glider.

On the very first day of the championships three of the best German pilots were disqualified “no start because they had flown off OUTSIDE the start line”. But sir, we did agree on extending the start line to 1000 m, don't you remember? ... So loggers had to be readapted, but the Peschkes people had already left, so they had to be called back... and in the end the three innocent “sinners” got their points.

We all expected an exemplary organization from the proverbially experienced Germans but at the start Marpingen did not live up to this reputation, there was confusion in the management office. Fortunately Walter Eisele was present in Marpingen and he kindly volunteered to act as Co-Director and task setter. He was the saviour of these European championships.



Club class was the big novelty in 1985. Building some kind of reserve for women competitors, an encouragement for the “not yet so contest driven ladies” who have to be satisfied to fly on glider types of somewhat lesser quality. With three classes competing it is rather complicated to go into details in every class. I shall rather concentrate on a few strong impressions.

Number 1 figure **in the 15 m class** should be the winner – or better the three



42 pilots from 15 countries.

winners among which the 28 year old translator from Wiesbaden, until now not so well known in European gliding women circles: Maren Thomas. From 1989 till 1994 Maren's homefield was Marpingen, so she was well acquainted with the region. Also she had the right partner who contributed largely to her success: the rising star in the German gliding world Angelika Machinek, who had already drawn attention two years ago in Ceske Budejovice. Nevertheless, Maren would not have become European champion, if Angelika had not lost her top overall ranking on the 8th day. Nerves? Impatience? Angelika had to land out. The complete German podium was occupied Maren Thomas, the regular Gisela Weinreich und Angelika Machinek, much to the disappointment of Claire Luyat, the only French pilot entered, but what a pilot!

I was surprised by the risk she took making her right turn for arrival at very low altitude and with a steep curb. "Don't be surprised, in France I always arrive this way".

The presence of Hungarian Maria Bolla did not surprise anybody – she hadn't yet missed one championship. Ruling European champion Hana Zejdova was unable to repeat her performances and also Gillian Spreckley did not meet expectations. Since the 5th contest day Gillian, who speaks perfectly French had been team flying with Claire Luyat – but on day 9 Gillian shared the unhappy fate of Maria Bolla, both were the only two not to reach Marpingen again. And speaking of landing out: the new Belgian competitor Lieve Sebreghs unfortu-



Podium 15 mt. Class.

nately knew this fate on the 2nd contest day – her ASW 20 was seriously damaged, Lieve was lucky not to have any physical consequences but for her the championship was over. She stayed in Marpingen and kindly offered to crew for Swiss Daniele Elmer.

The victory of ONE champion made me really very happy: the one of Bozena Demczenko **in standard class**. A title she would have conquered in Husbands Bosworth if she had not lost a whole day because films and therefore photos had been missing in both cameras, an incredible misfortune pushing her far away from her overall ranking at that moment – as I have told you before. She had never shed a tear and in Marpingen there was certainly no reason to shed a tear, unless one of joy caused by 3 day victories and the final one. Probably nobody deserved this more than Bozena, the Polish unlucky bird.

In Germany it seemed logic to the “nationals” to rank among the good results, but only pharmacist Gundula Goeke got metal as a reward: the silver one. And Czech Maria Kyzivatova repeated her tour de force of two years ago, once more on the podium she seems to have a subscription on: 4th in Dunaujvaros 1979, 3rd in Subotica 1985, 22nd in Shumen 1987, 1st in Oriol 1989, 3rd in Husbands Bosworth 1991, 3rd in Ceske Budejovice 1993, 3rd in Marpingen 1995

Both Polish pilots Anna Chrzaszcz and “coming back” Ada Dankowska – with 60 years the oldest competitor – will never forget Marpingen , not because of their rather modest results but because of their long drive on the way to



Standard Class.

Marpingen and especially their sad fate at the frontier with very greedy custom agents. Only Valentina Toporova, European champion 1991 in Husbands Bosworth, had a still longer trip to bring her Discus all the way from Kiev: 4 long days, which however cannot be the main reason of her disappointing 12th place this time.

Switzerland was again represented, this time not by Maja Schwarzenbach but by Daniele Elmer, a mountain flying enthusiast. When TV journalists wanted to have her impressions, she complained “Everything is so flat in this region”, the Marpingen Bur-

gomaster Werner Laubn did not believe his ears, he was ever so proud of his but Schaumberg. This likable citizen was often visiting and also attended the Babajaga Ceremony (to be held inside, because of the weather): “One of the merriest evenings of my life”

Tatiana Obretenova was present in Marpingen, but just as a visitor... no Bulgarian money for competitors. She was warmly appreciated as one of the old Babajagas when she sang a melancholic Balkan song with her incomparable bass voice.

In club class (so, not only the younger ladies?) 41 year old engineer Anna Michalak from Poland conquered the 1st club class European title with a simple Standard Jantar, whatever Rieke Haastert, young German talent,



Club Class

tried with her superior LS 1 D. She did however catch up with the second Polish competitor Halina Rynkiewicz (50), also on Standard Jantar on the 9th day. Battling with weak thermals Rieke won the day and moved up from 3rd to 2nd place in the overall final ranking.

Conclusion: for the first time organized in Germany, and in spite of the initial difficulties, these European championships finally did allow a fair sports comparison on a high level.

9.th Women's European Gliding Championship 1995

FAI 15 M Class after 9 Competition Days

| Rank | C-S | Pilot | Plane Type | Nation | Total Score |
|------|-----|-----------------------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1 | 09 | THOMAS, MARZEN | LS 6C/15 | GER | 7498 |
| 2 | 0X | WEINREICH, GISELA | LS 4/W15 | GER | 7282 |
| 3 | AD | MACHNEK DR., ANGELIKA | LS 6A | GER | 7159 |
| 4 | ET | LUNYK, CLAIRE | LS 6C/15 | FRANCE | 7074 |
| 5 | K | KLOZOSIK, ANNETTE | LS 6C/15 | GER | 7057 |
| 6 | ZV | VEPREKOVÁ, JANA | VENTUS B | CZECH REPUBLIC | 6614 |
| 7 | KW | BOLLA, MARIA | LS 6A | HUNGARY | 6594 |
| 8 | LF | ZEJDOVA, HANA | VENTUS C | CZECH REPUBLIC | 6509 |
| 9 | SS | SPRECKLEY, GLIAN MARY | LS 6C/15 | GBR | 6438 |
| 10 | ZP | SOMREIGHTS, LIEVE | ABW 208 | BELGIUM | 524 |

Standard Class after 9 Competition Days

| Rank | C-S | Pilot | Plane Type | Nation | Total Score |
|------|-----|------------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 | 80 | DEMCIENKO-GRZ., BOZENA | S2D-SS | POLAND | 7339 |
| 2 | 01V | GÖCKE, GUNDULA | LS 7 | GER | 7200 |
| 3 | XL | KYCKOVÁ, MARCE | DISCUS CS | CZECH REPUBLIC | 7173 |
| 4 | LE | NETUSILOVA, ALENA | DISCUS CS | CZECH REPUBLIC | 7159 |
| 5 | BK | KEDM, KATRIN | DISCUS R | GER | 7090 |
| 6 | LH | KUTHANCA, LENKA | DISCUS CS | CZECH REPUBLIC | 7060 |
| 7 | AC | DANKOWSKA, ADILA | S2D-SS | POLAND | 7046 |
| 8 | KB | ZSOLNAI, RITA | DISCUS CS | HUNGARY | 6834 |
| 9 | PH | HOHN, MARIKA | LS 4B | GER | 6776 |
| 10 | XY | ARNOT, ANNETT | LS 7WL | GER | 6497 |
| 11 | MB | BEUTH DR., JOHANNA | LS 4 | GER | 6463 |
| 12 | Y5 | TOPOROVA, VALENTINA | DISCUS CS | UKRAINE | 6433 |
| 13 | T | CHRZASZCZ, ANNA | S2D-SS | POLAND | 6272 |
| 14 | LZ | SELAK, GABRIELA | DISCUS CS | SLOVAK REPUBLIC | 6207 |
| 15 | ME | KOLESHNIKOVA, NINA | DISCUS CS | RUSSIA | 5709 |
| 16 | SS | KUSSBACH, SUJE | LS 4B | LUX | 5679 |
| 17 | I | SCHSCHLAKOVA, VERA | DISCUS CS | RUSSIA | 5604 |
| 18 | 19 | HARRONS, FAMELA SUSAN | DISCUS | GBR | 5247 |
| 19 | SS | ELMER, DANIELA | DISCUS | SWITZERLAND | 4585 |

Club Class after 10 Competition Days

| Rank | C-S | Pilot | Plane Type | Nation | Total Score |
|------|-----|--------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | Y3 | MICHALAK, ANNA | STD.JANTAR 3 | POLAND | 5671 |
| 2 | 07 | HAASTERT, RIEKE | LS 10 | GER | 5643 |
| 3 | Y2 | RYNKIEWICZ, HALINA | STD.JANTAR 3 | POLAND | 5618 |
| 4 | RD | REMETEL, DORA | STD.JANTAR 2 | HUNGARY | 5417 |
| 5 | JT | SKALSKA, EDITA | STD.JANTAR 3 | LITHUANIA | 5374 |
| 6 | S | SVRKOVA, TAMARA | STD.JANTAR | RUSSIA | 5244 |
| 7 | AW | KOTHRADE, INGRID | STD.CIRRUS | GER | 4773 |
| 8 | 99 | BACKES, PETRA | LS1E | LUX | 4747 |
| 9 | P | GÖBER, SWANTJE | LS 10 | GER | 4683 |
| 10 | 91 | VLANE, DAINA | STD.JANTAR 3 | LATVIA | 4602 |
| 11 | VS | DELLING, CORNELIA | LS 10 | GER | 4592 |
| 12 | 116 | IGNATENKO, OLGA | STD.JANTAR 3 | UKRAINE | 4107 |
| 13 | KA | ERMAKOVA, NATALI | STD.CIRRUS | RUSSIA | 3941 |