

**2<sup>nd</sup> Women's World  
Gliding Championships  
JIHLAVA – Czech Republic 2003**



***2<sup>nd</sup> Women's  
World Gliding Championships***

***Jihlava, Czech Republic***

The importance of English knowledge, especially for a championship's director, was never as evident as in Jihlava, an airfield practically in the heart of Europe, 60 km north of the Czech-Austrian frontier.

That was the reason for the substitution – it was more than assistance – of the director by the foreseen secretary Jaroslav Vach, who then had to act as *devil-do-al*. Finally it became too much, even for Jaroslav. One had to look for him everywhere. Treatment of “*complaints*” was postponed, which of course influenced introducing of official protests – and not much time for social life!

Fortunately this difficult situation had hardly any negative impact on the friendly and competent young group of assistants, who gave a happy example of handling of announcement of “landing out” and the immediate showing of results on the TV screen. For printed “*preliminary results*” one had to wait till next morning.



*Angelika Machinek preparing before take off*

The 1<sup>st</sup> Addendum of the championship's rules prescribed penalties for crossing the finish ring, radius 3 km – incorrectly: too high, maximum 1150 m QNH – or too low minimum 850 m QNH. In fact the “finish ring” is a finish line around the airfield, which apparently many pilots seemed to forget or ignore. At a team captains meeting a second Addendum was handed over, with a short explanation of the finish ring AND penalties: too high: WARNING, too low 50 PENALTY POINTS. On the 5<sup>th</sup> day not less than 6 pilots were “punished”.

Motive for the decision of a few pilots (or rather of their calculating crew – f.i. the astute Japanese team captain), to declare a *virtual landing* in order to avoid penalty for crossing the finish ring too low.

However, “virtual landings” have been foreseen by IGC in dangerous weather situations, which was not the case here in Jihlava. Other teams having played the game by the rules were not very happy, a flood of complaints then protests

followed. The whole affair was carelessly managed. Stewards advice was not accepted, not even when the President of the Jury, Professor Waldemar Ratajczak was of the same opinion. What else could be done than getting in contact with Tor Johannesen, President of IGC and THE specialist in matters of IC rules. His e-mail answer to the organizers confirmed our opinion “*local rules cannot overrule Annex A rules – everything should be rescored from Day 1.*”

Followed situations like “final results” were not even final after 6 days... they were announced 11 days after the flight.

This kind of uncertainty was not very favourable for the general atmosphere on the field.

Visiting Klix people – organizers of the next world championships – were impressed, I am sure they will avoid similar – and avoidable – difficulties in 2005.

The fever of setting AAT tasks has also contaminated the organizers in Jihlava. They imposed an uninterrupted sequence of AAT tasks, running the risk – considering the lasting bad weather situation – to exceed the maximum of 67% of one and the same type of task, as prescribed by the rules.

On top of that the organizers twice neutralized the day much too early (before 11 a.m.) – they probably needed the time for their delayed recalculations.

Sometimes things became a bit complicated when Jaroslav Vach gave his opinion as Vice-President of IGC – he was not the only one present on the premises, Brian Spreckley also has this privilege and was a very busy man in Jihlava, not only coaching the British team but also crewing for his wife Gillian Spreckley.

The patron of these championships was the Czech Minister of Defense but he apparently had no influence whatsoever to get airspace free for the pilots. Tasks set very – TOO? – near the borders of forbidden air space zones caused considerable loss of points not less than 8 times.

In the **15 m Class** such sad fate struck Angelika Machinek on day 4. Some 20 km before her final glide a wing of her Ventus touched a forbidden zone for 200 meters. For scoring her flight was considered as ending at this very spot – 500 points lost, she tumbled to 7<sup>th</sup> place in the overall ranking.

In Pociunai 2 years ago the first world champion Gillian Spreckley was the main threat for Angelika – or was it the other way around? At the end only 4 points separated the world champion and the vice-champion. Not so in Jihlava. Right from the beginning the role of favourite was clearly reserved for Czech Alena Netusilova, now healed from her spinal column injury after her disastrous landing out in Leszno 1999. On day 5 Gillian Spreckley- then in 3<sup>rd</sup> position, had to choose a cornfield to land out after only 20 km cross country flight. Gone was the dream to prolong her world title. Number one in Pociunai became number 6 in Jihlava.

The fate of Angelika Machinek was not quite as catastrophic. After her loss of 500 points, having slightly touched the border of a forbidden zone she was not going to take it lying down. Together with Katrin Senne she concentrated on her catching up manoeuvre and succeeded in getting the unexpected bronze – friend Katrin Senne was rewarded with the silver.



Podium 15 mt Class

### World Women Gliding Championship 2003

Jihlava, Czech republic, 17 - 31. May 2003

#### 15-meter - Overall results after Day 9

#	CN	Pilot	Country	Glider	Total points
1	AZ	Alena Netusilova	CZECH	Ventus 2a	6866
2	VV	Katrin Senne	GERMANY	Ventus 2ax	6422
3	AD	Angelika Machinek	GERMANY	Ventus 2a	6213
4	LK	Lenka Kuthanova	CZECH	LAK 17a	6127
5	WS	Ingrid Mayer	GERMANY	LS 6b	6033
6	59	Gillian Spreckley	GREAT BRITAIN	LS 8	5925
7	CZ	Jana Treslova	CZECH	Ventus 2c	5671
8	V8	Lucy Withall	GREAT BRITAIN	ASW 28	5502
9	VP	Bozena Demczenko-Grzelak	POLAND	ASW 27	5382
10	V7	Maria Bolla	HUNGARY	Ventus 2b	5245
11	73	Valentina Toporova	UKRAINE	Ventus 2b	4915
12	57	Margherita Acquaderni	ITALY	DG 800	4145

In **Standard class** Sarah Steinberg (formerly Harland) did not defend her title. A few months before the championships she had to make a difficult choice: either a new job as airline pilot OR compete in Jihlava.

With 3 day victories Cornelia Schaich on her demonstration glider LS 8 b remained in the upper part of the ranking. On day 6 she was not the only pilot to regret the short period of only 3 hours for the A A T task. On this sunny Sunday she made it home after only 3 hours and 5 minutes. After three forced rest days nothing was decided yet. Cornelia was third in overall ranking, followed by Sue Kussbach (with Ingrid Blecher crewing). Meanwhile however Alejandra Repicky from Argentina had climbed to the very top. She was not the only non-European participant, the second one was Japanese Akemi Hirotsune, who had gathered her international experience in Australia. She was somewhat disconcerted by the lack of homogeneity in the weather pattern the first half of the competition. A promising new-comer in these women's championships was enthusiastic young Swiss Yvonne Schwarz on Lak 19. She was not satisfied with her 5<sup>th</sup> placing, She expected still better and swore to do so next time. Standard pilots in Klix 2005 are warned!

On day 9 the trio Schaich-Kussbach-Mühl, joined by Yvonne Schwarz, could keep the rest of the class at respectable distance, navigating in the shifting blue-and cloud thermals. The die was cast. Like Katrin Senne Claudia had cared for both their young children who were ever so proud of their mammy climbing in the middle of the podium, beside Sue Kussbach and the fiery Alejandra Repicky who got bronze around her Argentinian neck.



**Babajagas!**

## World Women Gliding Championship 2003

Jihlava, Czech republic, 17 - 31. May 2003

### Standard - Overall results after Day 9

#	CN	Pilot	Country	Glider	Total points
1	8B	Cornelia Schaich	GERMANY	LS 8 b	5954
2	KA	Sue Claudia Kussbach	GERMANY	LS8	5882
3	T1	Alejandra Repicky	ARGENTINA	LS 8 a	5649
4	JB	Jana Veprekova	CZECH	LS 8	5592
5	YYY	Yvonne Schwarz	SWITZERLAND	LAK 19	5563
6	161	Jane Anne McCoshim	GREAT BRITAIN	LS 8	5217
7	BW2	Stefanie Mühl	GERMANY	Discus 2 b	5136
8	VL	Petra Hurtova	CZECH	Discus	4902
9	CE	Eva Cerna	CZECH	Discus CZ	4732
10	321	Anna Wells	GREAT BRITAIN	LS 8	4559
11	LOT	Joanna Biedermann	POLAND	LS 8	4199
12	M	Akemi Hirotsune	JAPAN	LS 8	4110
13	11	Vera Chichlakova	RUSSIA	Discus cz	3659
14	SK	Krystyna Marszalek	POLAND	LS 8	3336
15	P	Judy Zambo Pollerman	HUNGARY	Discus CS	2186



Podium Standard Class

On babajaga evening, well managed by Lenka Kuthanova and Ingrid Blecher, Alejandra showed real temperament with an unforgettable toreador dance.

**Club Class** Nobody had really reckoned with this final success – least of all Christine Grote herself. The very first international participation of Christine, 27 and youngest competitor in the German team, was a direct hit. Christine and her standard Libelle finished on top of the club class. Another German exploit was expected from Swaantje Geyer whose last flight allowed her to catch up, yes, but not further than 4<sup>th</sup> place, preceded by Czech Hana Vokrinkova. It was the tour de force of Katrin Wötzel to conquer the silver.

For the first time the start list showed Norwegian presence. Ragnild Lindqvist said so herself: “I am here to learn”. She finished 14<sup>th</sup> before Lithuanian Dalia Vaniene who had to interrupt her gliding activity after haven broken her right leg while fitting up her Jantar Std glider.

Soviet pilot Tamara Sviridova was only a shadow of herself in Jihlava. Number one in Pociunai 2001 became number 10 in Jihlava. 2003 .



**Podium Club class 1<sup>st</sup> Christine Grote (GER); 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathrin Woetzel (GER); 3<sup>rd</sup> Hana Vokrinkova (CZ).**

A PAG with WinPilot was fitted in most cockpits. Every day air space data had to be put up to date: a first class job was performed by Astrid Kuhr in the German team. The difficulties in the organization could not stop German successes The delegation collected six out of nine medals, quite different results than two years ago in Pociunai.

### World Women Gliding Championship 2003

Jihlava, Czech republic, 17 - 31. May 2003

#### Club - Overall results after Day 9

#	CN	Pilot	Country	Glider	Total points
1	1M	Christine Grote	GERMANY	Std.Libelle	6271
2	UX	Kathrin Wötzel	GERMANY	LS1f	6162
3	XC	Hana Vokrinkova	CZECH	Cirrus STD	5953
4	VS	Swaantje Geyer	GERMANY	LS1f	5781
5	BZ	Halina Rynkiewicz	POLAND	SZD-48-3M Brawo	5592
6	FRX	Elizabeth Sparrow	GREAT BRITAIN	Pegase	5489
7	IYD	Olga Svacinova	CZECH	Cirrus STD	5292
8	JRG	Kay Melanie Draper	GREAT BRITAIN	Cirrus STD	5259
9	BI	Anna Michalak	POLAND	SZD-48-3M Brawo	4905
10	S	Tamara Sviridova	RUSSIA	Jantar st.3	4705
11	01	Marina Kalaeva	RUSSIA	Jantar st.3	4624
12	DI	Dana Novakova	CZECH	Cirrus STD	4375
13	R	Edita Skalskiene	LITHUANIA	Jantar st.3	3907
14	CC	Ragnhild Lindqvist	NORWAY	ASW 19b	2775
15	B	Dalia Vainiene	LITHUANIA	Jantar st.3	1573

In Jihlava also “*tracking devices*” were fitted in the last four gliders of the last launched class. A few pilots absolutely refused. The screens in the hangar showed the four gliders concerned, with 15 minutes delay, they were the positions of the gliders, NOT their progression on the track.

A welcome novelty was the election of 3 pilots as members of the Security Committee. In Club class it was the experienced Polish Anna Michalak, in Standard class British Jane McCoshim, in 15 m class German Katrin Senne. They constantly recommended caution especially in the gaggles, no pulling up and no releasing of water ballast.

A colourful and stylish daily Bulletin has presented the various flying and organizing team members. It gave tasks, results and meteorological data and at the end the complete list of addresses and data of all participants, a very much appreciated gesture, contacts between the pilots being made possible also after the world championships.

On 24<sup>th</sup> of May a spectacular barbecue with free beer, all offered by the local aero club was a real hit, which cannot be said of the farewell party. The weather was a big disappointment – it WAS raining or it WILL START any moment.





**42 pilots from 13 countries**

There were not enough seats in the covered parts of the terraces and where could you stay dry? Why not in the briefing hall?

Thus the whole company split up in smaller groups looking for a dry place. In one corner of the briefing hall I witnessed a cordial fraternization between Switzerland and Argentina

(both teams had made a common protest (upheld) at the start of the championships) and not to forget Italy.

Auf Wiederseh'n in Klix 2005 – 3rd world championships!

Where the responsible organizers will certainly want to avoid the shortcomings of Jihlava.