



**2024 FAI F3J World Championship
for Model Gliders
Starmoen, Elverum – Norway
28th July to 2nd August 2024**

FAI JURY REPORT

This 2024 FAI F3J World Championship for Model Gliders was organised by the Aero Club of Norway.

Venue

The competition occurred at the Starmoen Airfield, which is situated near Elverum (10 km). Along the tarmac runway, oriented 15/33 and about 900 m long, is a 150 m wide grass strip where the winches were laid out. This airfield was closed for full-size aircraft traffic during the whole competition week.

Pre-contest Information

Two Bulletins containing all necessary information regarding the championships were published. The first bulletin was emailed to all CIAM delegates by the CIAM secretary and published on the Championship Website. The second bulletin was emailed to all preliminary entered countries' contact persons and published on the Championships website.

Participation

The number of participants was relatively low compared with the pre-COVID years. The starting list contained 30 competitors. Of these, 24 were members of national teams, coming from eight countries (AUS, AUT, BUL, GER, ITA, NOR, SUI, USA). Six competitors were holding wild cards: three from the USA, one from AUS, one from GER, and one from NOR. The number of participating juniors was extremely low. Two participating juniors were far too low to run the separate junior Championship. One of the two juniors was a girl. The number of participating women set a new record compared with the previous F3J World Championships. Unfortunately, five women, including the junior one, made the declaration of the female World Champion impossible according to the limits stated in the Sporting Code

Organisation

The World Championship was well organised. Mr. Espen G. BAKKE was the Event Director, and Mr. Sotir LAZARKOV (BUL) was the Contest Director. Both cooperated well to ensure the smooth running of the competition.

Mr Kjell BENTZEN took on the role of the chief timekeeper, supervising and coordinating the timekeepers. This staff tuned their practice during the pre-contest.

During the competition, the Contest Director placed their shade at the entrance of the launching corridor. The organiser prepared a similar shade nearby for the jury.

The organisers used an automatic timing system borrowed from the Bulgarian staff to announce the preparation and working time. The Working time was shown on two big displays at each end of the launch corridor. The sound signals were brought to pilots through six loudspeakers evenly distributed along the launching corridor.

Weather and Course of the Competition

It was almost sunny during the flight days, from Tuesday to Friday, from clear to cloudy, but no rain. During this period, the wind changed direction, and the CD set the winch line's direction accordingly daily. The wind speed changed from light air to fresh breeze. The strongest wind blew on Wednesday during rounds six, seven and eight. Following the fast-moving thermals, some models flew far downwind,

and as a consequence, at seven of them, in different groups, the pilots could not get the models back and landed farther than 75 meters from the landing spot.

On Friday, there was light air and sunshine at fly-off, promising good thermals. Therefore, almost all pilots released their models from the tow line at low altitudes (30-40 m). Still, only seven flights from 36 were worse than 99% of the winners in the group, and only two flights were worse than 90%.

In general, the competition ran very smoothly.

Accommodation and catering

The organisers offered many accommodation options. The list included two hotels in Elverum (10 km away), smaller or larger cabins around the airfield, rooms in the dormitory building, and camping in tents or caravans in the devoted area on the airfield. Two Jury members were accommodated in rooms in the dormitory building. The third one chose to stay in his own mobile home.

Lunch and dinner for competitors and staff were served in a big tent on the airfield; breakfast was served in the common room in the main building. All meals were offered for self-service. Soft drinks were available in the neighbouring kiosk. Competitors had to order the meals in advance. The meals were good and in sufficient quantity, in a Norwegian style.

Team Managers Meeting

The Team Managers Meeting took place in the meeting room in the main building after the opening ceremony. The CD informed about the championship schedule and discussed and explained the significant aspects of the championships.

Publicity

The results were published almost immediately on the Gliderscore web page. After each round, the organiser displayed the printed results on the official information desk.

Safety

The safety area comprised the launch corridor according to the Sporting Code. All other parts of the airfield were free to land. The airfield was closed for full-size aircraft during the week, and three exceptional starts were coordinated well with the organiser.

Processing

The models were processed on Monday morning in the Aero Club hangar. It took only a short time because the organiser processed most of the models in advance on rainy Saturday during the time reserved for the pre-contest. All models passed the checking without any problem.

Opening and closing ceremony

The opening ceremony took place on the airfield on Sunday evening, after the prizegiving of the pre-contest. It started with teams marching from behind the main building to a row along the flagpoles. Each team was led by one member holding the banner with the nation's name. Then, the Anthem of Norway was played. The Jury president welcomed all participants and declared the Championship open. The FAI anthem and the rising of the FAI flag concluded the ceremony.

The prizegiving and closing ceremony started with the anthem of Norway at the same place. After the Jury president stated the results were valid, the President of Norges Luftsportforbund, Mrs Rebecca Dahl Hansen, gave a speech of thanks to the participants and organising staff. Then, the two juniors received diplomas and trophies donated by the organiser. Similar trophies and diplomas were presented to the best three women. The president of Norges Luftsportforbund handed over all these trophies. After that, the individual winners were awarded medals, diplomas, and trophies donated by the organiser, and the new World Champion got the FAI Perpetual Trophy.

Finally, the three best teams were awarded medals, diplomas, and trophies by the organiser, and the winning team received the FAI Perpetual Trophy. At each awarding, the flags of the competitor's country were raised, and the anthem of the winner's country was played.



Trophies



Norges Luftsportforbund President speaking

Finally, the FAI Anthem was played, the FAI flag was lowered, and the Jury President declared the 2024 FAI F3J World Championship closed.

For the banquet, the organisers prepared a barbeque facility in front of the dining tent.

International Jury

The International Jury included Tomas Bartovsky (CZE), the president, Narve Jensen (NOR), and Lennart Arvidsson (SWE), members.

Protests

No protest or complaint was submitted.

Conclusion

The FAI Jury considered these excellent World Championships, and the organisers are to be commended for their preparation and running.

Starmoen, August 2, 2024


Tomáš Bartovský
Jury President
Jury Member


Narve Jensen
Jury Member


Lennart Arvidsson
Jury Member