

**7th European Women
Gliding Championships
HUSBANDS BOSWORTH –
Great Britain 1991**

British Gliding Association



EUROPEAN
WOMEN'S GLIDING
CHAMPIONSHIPS



COVENTRY GLIDING CLUB
HUSBANDS BOSWORTH
LEICESTERSHIRE
GREAT BRITAIN

3rd AUGUST to 18th AUGUST 1991



Subotica 1985, Shumen 1987, Oriol 1989, it was high time the organization of our European Championships finally came back to the West again. One would rather have expected Germany to make a bid, especially after the excellent results of the German ladies and most of all the 3rd European title for Gisela Weinreich. But no, from the German front: no news, no organizing bid.

So off we went to Great Britain, which does not really have a reputation of good weather and gliding conditions but honestly, who

has any right to complain when not less than 8 daily tasks – between 197 and 338 km – were set and flown?

Organizer was the Coventry Gliding Club and the operations site was Husbands Bosworth near Birmingham. Well appreciated advantage of these championships was the one and only official language – no interpreters needed, everything happens in English.



But was there going to be a 15 m class competition? The rules impose minimum 10 participants, no problem there BUT the rules also request a minimum of 5 countries represented. France? not interested. Bulgaria? Too expensive. Sweden or Finland? Not again. Yugoslavia ? No news. And why not Italy? Who else? Belgium? Their only pilot mama Geogeo Litt (since the withdrawal of daughter Bernadette after their unfair common fate in Oriol) had to undergo a hip prosthesis operation. Her surgeon consulted: “can it wait till AFTER the championships?” *If absolutely necessary but painful.* I felt a bit cruel to insist *my dearest friend Geogeo, without you the 15 m class will die.* Result: Geogeo with glider on the way to Husbands Bosworth, carefully hiding her crutches except when we privately visited Shakespeare’s country together with Maria Kyzivatova.

So YES, there WAS a 15 m class in Husbands Bosworth but it had been far from easy.



At the opening ceremony one journalist of the Daily Telegraph Ian Ridley approached the tiny “2 ladies” Belgian team “What are your expectations for your daughter, Madame?” Immediate protest of Joëlle, the 3rd women pilot of the Litt dynasty (furthermore counting pilots husband André and sons Baudouin and Manu): “Wrong, sir, the team captain is ME, my mother is the pilot, for the very last time, maybe next European championships it will be the other way around.” Just by coincidence this also happened to be Geogeo’s birthday.

Next day Daily Telegraph printed a photo covering the whole breadth of a page. Sub-heading *Belgian grandmother celebrates 60th birthday by landing on the strictly military airfield Halton.*

She got full attention again on the very last contest day: despite strong head



Jane Nash – GB – with husband and baby.

this does not mean the end of French involvement in European championships...

Great Britain had entered 6 home pilots. Until now we knew Pam Hawkins, she was also in Oriol where her misfortune of the wrong photo developing on the 2nd day dragged her down to 13th place In Oriol there had been another British (meanwhile Americanized) pilot Mary Meagher ending last of the European pilots. Upon arrival in Husbands Bosworth I was surprised to see her name not as competing member but acting as team captain, which did not stop her from flying on the track. Wasn't she afraid of being accused of *forbidden* help-to-the-team in-the-air? Other British pilots reassured me "not one of us would follow her advice anyway". They also held it against her that she made a regrettable error in the printed Great Britain map on the dark blue sweater- promotion material she had brought along – she had "forgotten" or "ignored" the whole northern part of Great Britain. Her last misjudging: when organizing the **Babajaga** ceremony she considered the microphone was an unnecessary luxury...and for most present and especially the neophyte British pilots the evening instead of being a festive happening became a FLOP! Mary Meagher was indeed not an ideal team-captain!

Most of us had no idea about the gliding value of the British pilots. One of them surely did not walk in the shadow: Jane Ash with her appreciated obliging husband crewing not only for his lovely wife but also for their adorable baby safely anchored on his shoulders from where it looked with apparent interest at the whole happening.

wind she was 5 minutes quicker than title defending Gisela Weinreich. Surprised director Claude Woodhouse couldn't believe his eyes, had the film quickly developed to be sure. "Geogeo why couldn't you fly as well the previous days?" – Because your turn points were always petrol stations on a motorway, this time it was easy to find the beautiful cathedral!

So this day victory was her final farewell to contest flying... and Geogeo hurried straight home to land on the operation table.

In Oriol. no France. In Husbands Bosworth: no France. We all hope

In the GB team right from the beginning it was clear: challenger number one for Pam Hawkins was Gillian Spreckley, up in the sky one was rarely seen far from the other. The duel finally turned out to the advantage of Gillian Spreckley – she became 6th with 35 points more than Pam -7th

4 Hungarians had made the long trip to cross the channel but they did not really live up to their reputation. Team work was still THE strategy but this time success was failing. In Great Britain Maria Bolla had to be satisfied – or rather DISsatisfied with 14th ranking, a bit unusual for this athletic Budapest pilot and her sisters in 15 m class finished at the end of the list.

Happy memories were brought back by Maja Schwarzenbach, the best (she finished 11th) of the three Swiss representatives... nobody attending will ever forget the touching marriage ceremony on the very last contest day in Subotica in 1985 – 6 years ago already! and of course her crew in Husbands Bosworth was her sweet husband Peter Eke.

4 representatives also made up for the Czech team – with 50% of success. Indeed, they were rewarded two podium places. Title defending Maria Kyzivatova this time got the standard class bronze behind the inaccessible flight instructor Valentyna Toporova from Kiev and – happy surprise – silver medal for gracious Polish Anna Chnraszcz who had already showed her credentials at the last European championships in Oriol two years ago. Maike Hohn, best German in this standard class, just missed the podium, when in final glide she landed her LS 7 hardly 5 meters (I have photographic proof!) from the airfield limit and from the bronze medal?... unfortunately she stopped on the wrong side of this boundary...

In the **15 meter class** the second half of the Czech success was assured by the ever present talented Jana Veprekova, who conquered bronze again, just like in Oriol 1989, much to the disappointment of her countrywoman Hana Zejdova. Hana had alternative good and lesser days with one sweet consolation: her 109,3km speed on day 5 on a track of 270 km. No one in Husbands Bosworth was quicker! The combined attacks of both Czech girls could however not stop the double German success.

Most of the time title defending Gisela Weinreich played her own self-confident, regular, reliable role in relaxed cooperation with young Petra Zimmermann who was never far from the lead and finally resisted the insistence of Jana Veprekova – only 31 points separated both medal competitors, the golden honour went to Gisela Weinreich on her LS 6. Her **FOURTH!**

Doesn't this remind you of the same number of world titles of Ingo Renner German-Australian champion from Lower Saxony?

Daily winners in standard class

1. Anna Chnrzaszcz, Poland
2. Ingrid Mayer; Germany
3. Christa Hinrichs, Germany
4. Bozena Demczenko, Poland
5. Maria Kyzivatova, CZ
6. Maja Schwarzenbach, Switz.
7. Valentyna Toporova, SU (Ukr)
8. Valentyna Toporova, SU (Ukr)

in 15 meter class

- Pam Hawkins ,GB
Petra Zimmermann, Germany
Jana Veprekova, CZ
Gisela Weinreich, Germany
Hana Zejdova, CZ
Hana Zejdova, CZ
Gillian Spreckley, GB
Geogeo Litt, Belgium



A real nightmare

Poland had concentrated its financial efforts on two pilots and their “miracle” SZD 55 gliders in standard class: Anna *with the impossible name* and Bozena Demczenko. They did rather well, these merry friends, but their excellent sequence was brutally interrupted on the 6th contest day – 200 km task, won by Maja Schwarzenbach with 749 points. I was in the improvised caravan intelligently converted in a well organized operational contest office. Both Polish pilots having landed on the same spot, entered the office to hand over their films. Never in my life shall I forget this incredible scene. Bozena opens her camera: EMPTY – no film. She opens her second camera. Empty. No film. NO sign or shriek of disappointment, no tears. Absolutely unimaginable, the self-control of

this quiet Polish dentist who was leading the overall ranking. And of course the 2 remaining days did not allow her to catch up the missed 749 points.

Conclusion: sorry Valentyna, you were one of the favourites and you have the official European title but the absolute best pilot was Bozena who finished 10th

Standard Class



Valentina Toporova – SU on Discus nr 11



More luck this time for pretty **Polish Anna CHRZASZCZ** 6th in Ore!, 2nd in Great Britain

Standard class

1.	Toporova, V.	SU	Discus	6204
2.	Chrzaszcz, A.	PL	SZD-55	6012
3.	Kyzivatova, M.	CS	Discus	5909
4.	Wohlschlag, M.	D	LS7	5841
5.	Timkova, S.	SU	Discus	5795
6.	Kuthanova, L.	CS	Discus	5785
7.	Müller, M.	D	LS4	5632
8.	Mayer, I.	D	Discus	5593
9.	Hinrichs, C.	D	ASW24	5501
10.	Demczenko-Grezak, E.	PL	SZD-55	5496
11.	Schwarzenbach, M.	CH	DG-300	5482
12.	Arndt, A.	D	Discus	5357
13.	Zsolnai, R.	H	Discus	5237
14.	Bolla, M.	H	LS4	5162
15.	Hodgson, K.	GB	Pégase	4680
16.	Küntzler, C.	CH	Std. Cirrus	4392
17.	Burry, J.	GB	DG-300	4154
18.	Husy, U.	CH	DG-300	2046



Bozena Demczenko (Pol)
incredible misfortune for dentist Bozena, 37, on the same field as compatriot Anna BUT no films in both cameras.

**Gisela Weinreich
for 4th time European
champion in Husbands
Bosworth (GB)**

15 m class				
PL	PILOT	COUNTRY	GLIDER TYPE	POINTS
1.	Weinreich, G.	D	LS6	6256
2.	Zimmermann, P.	D	LS6	5969
3.	Veprekova, J.	CS	Ventus	5938
4.	Zejdova, H.	CS	Ventus	5633
5.	Meyer Zu Wickern, I.	D	LS6	5621
6.	Spreckley, G.	GB	LS6-c	5611
7.	Hawkins, P.	GB	LS6-b	5576
8.	Nash, J.	GB	Ventus	5152
9.	Norman, L.	GB	DG-200	4773
10.	Litt-Gabriel, G.	B	Ventus	3500
11.	Benka, I.	H	LS6	3422
12.	Abrok, A.	H	LS3	3103



Zum vierten Mal hat sich Bundesamtsrätin der DDR Gisela Weinreich in Husbands Bosworth, auf Platz zwei Nicole Petta Zimmermann, Julia Veprekova zur Teilnehmerin der Europameisterschaften.