

**9<sup>th</sup> 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.**

winner 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: 4<sup>th</sup> in Dunaujvaros 1979, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Subotica 1985, 22<sup>nd</sup> in Shumen 1987, 1<sup>st</sup> in Oriol 1989, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Husbands Bosworth 1991, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Ceske Budejovice 1993, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> day. Battling with weak thermals Rieke won the day and moved up from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> 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	PlaneType	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, GILIAN MARY	LS 6C/15	GBR	6438
10	ZP	SOMREIGHTS, LIEVE	ABW 208	BELGIUM	524

#### Standard Class after 9 Competition Days

Rank	C-S	Pilot	PlaneType	Nation	Total Score
1	80	DEMCIENKO-GRZ., BOZENA	S2D-SS	POLAND	7339
2	01V	GÖCKE, GUNDULA	LS 7	GER	7200
3	XL	KYDOROVA, 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	T	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	PlaneType	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	SKALSKIENE, EDITA	STD.JANTAR 3	LITHUANIA	5374
6	S	SVRKOVA, TAMARA	STD.JANTAR	RUSSIA	5244
7	4w	KOTHRADE, INGRID	STD.CIRRUS	GER	4773
8	99	BACKES, PETRA	LS1E	LUX	4747
9	P	GÖSER, SWANANTJE	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