

3rd Women's World Gliding Championships Klix (Germany) 2005



It would have been almost indecent if Germany had not made a bid to organize the 3rd women's world gliding championships. Indeed on 32 possible titles they conquered 11, followed by 5 of the Czech Republic—or 6 for Poland including the FAI approved contests 1973–1975–1977.

More: no other country ever entered a larger number of pilots, except the Czech Republic, when we all met in their gliding capital Ceske Budejovice in 1993 on the occasion of the 8th European championships.

Marpingen German organizer... 1995, a long time ago and it was not really an example of good organization. Now Klix was willing, well equipped and ready to do the job, with a long time organization experience from the days of the competitions of the socialist countries. Klix indeed used to be part of the DDR. The large airfield can accommodate large numbers of gliders and off-landings in the beautiful flat agricultural Oberlausitz region have never caused any problem. Also: authorization to fly over adjoining Polish and Czech territories.

Attractive perspective: in **Klix in 2004** in the pre-worlds not less than TEN tasks had been successfully achieved and distances flown mostly exceeded 300 km – one day even 500 km – with very often 1000 points for the winners. Unfortunately here and now in **Klix 2005** meteo conditions were quite different.

Poor Uwe Nitz, excellent weather technician (easily compared with Austrian Herman Trimmel and that IS quite a compliment!): after ever postponed briefing hours again and again he had to announce poor conditions, filling the Yuri Gagarin briefing hangar with disappointed sighs of the eager ladies he then tried to comfort with his never failing jokes and witty drawings.

It was certainly not his fault in Klix 2005 only one race of more than 300 km was imposed and accomplished (332,1 km) and even then only in the 15 m class.



The very first competition day organizers set an SAA task: achieve the highest speed in a designated time around assigned areas.

Not all 47 participants are familiar with this type, meant to grant pilots a chance to make their own decisions and alter course immediately adapting to the rapidly changing weather conditions. Maybe the victory in **15 m class** of Mette Pedersen before Swiss Yvonne Schwarz came as a surprise. For Mette this was her first appearance in the international women's championships, yes, but that did not mean she lacked experience. One look at her honours list tells us she has participated in two Junior World Championships and last June in the pre-worlds in Swedish Eskilstuna she won two days well ahead of all male competitors. So right from the beginning in Klix Mette showed her visiting-card and her crossing of the finish line was applauded as were all finishers by more than two thousand enthusiast spectators.

The start in this 15 m class was rather disappointing for the 3 Czech pilots Alena Netusilova, defending world champion and her compatriots Jana Treslova and Lenka Kuthanova. However, the Czech team captain tasted sweet consolation in the **standard class**, thanks to the victory of Jana Veprekova, not impressed by the combined British forces of the ladies Kelman and Spreckley. Sarah Kelman, a new British name? Oh no, she was the first world champion in standard class in Pociunai (Lithuania) in 2001 but at that time she called herself Sarah Steinberg. Even before that in Leszno 1999 she was entered as Sarah Harland and became the 11th European champion. Here in Klix she was accompanied by her new husband Kelman and an adorable baby.

In this standard class German teamwork was put to a test, things seemed to work for both Sue Kussbach and Gundula Goeke but not for Annette Arndt



and defending champion Cornelia Schaich. Teamwork was also the key word for the 4 Germans in the **club class** but nobody was a real threat for Olga Bubnova, another victorious Czech pilot.

“*Back to normal races*” thought Ukrainian Valentyna Toporova when a classical race was given as the task for the *second day* in the **15 m class**: 322,1 km – largest distance of the whole championships! Not only did she win but she was rewarded 1000 points, only 7 more than lively Italian Margherita Acquaderni who took the overall lead.

1000 points also on the *second day in the standard class* – and that was the last 1000 points day ever Klix 2005 – for Gillian Spreckley, enjoying revenge on Jana Veprekova whom she left far behind... maybe not far enough because it took “iron will” Jana only 3 competition days to join again the struggle for medals. Overall standing was then 1. Spreckley 2. Kelman 3. Veprekova... and the game was not over! The 4th task – again a SAA, operating quite a shake up with many off-field landings in ALL classes – brought Jana Veprekova back on overall top with some 300 points more than the British duo. The winner of the day Polish Joanna Biedermann came to the rescue of Veprekova and chased Sarah Kelman from medal position. Biedermann-Veprekova and titleholder Cornelia Schaich were the only three pilots landing back on Klix airfield.



Booth throwing contest – good British initiative.

The continuous dubious weather with air masses quickly changing was a nightmare for the organizers but they never gave up hope, even when heavy thunderstorms flooded the airfield and the area around the administration building and you can imagine the camping area was a big mess. Not even the building was spared because a lightning strike severely damaged the telephone system, fortunately sparing the computers. With combined efforts the repair work in the weekend was finished just in time to make a contest day possible on Monday, even if only for club class, other classes were neutralized.

The day of the “mudding catastrophe” of the airfield pilots were offered an occasion to admire the many artistic buildings and monuments like the impressive Zwinger museum, the famous Semper Opera House with in front the equestrian statue of King Johann, the “philosopher on the throne of Saxony”. Pilots will never forget this visit of the historic town of Dresden, “Florence of the river Elbe”, an example of courage and perseverance in rising out of its ashes and enjoying the reunification of Germany.

Prof. Dr Hans Obermayer, further on called Hanno, was a happy choice as director in Klix. This physicist had participated 3 times in world championships and became European 15 m champion in Leszno in 1998. He remained optimistic and what a relief it was for him when after the 4th official contest day with 29



gliders landing out the required minimum of 4 tasks had been accomplished, so **three official world champions** would most certainly be crowned. Who would they be? Small distances in 5th and only 6 days later 6th races with few points scored finally confirmed blond Jana in standard class solidly on top but both British pilots Gillian Spreckley and Sarah Kelman kept Joanna Biedermann well out of medal reach. Biedermann lacked 157 points to mount on the rostrum but in turn she could beat off the combined attacks of the 4 Germans. But what a narrow fight it was, overall not less than 5 pilots were grouped within 50 points! **JANA VEPREKOVA** was no doubt a fair champion, she *started* the championships in **STANDARD CLASS** with a win and *finished* with final victory as well deserved reward.

Meanwhile stewards had discovered a slight error in the scoring system because of use of an outdated parameter but later corrections in all SAA scorings hardly changed anything.

Back to **club class**. Here also a fierce struggle for medals was going on. Swaantje Geyer (Germany) won the 2nd day to stay on top after the 4th SAA competition day and even after 5th and 6th task Still, nothing was really decided, Geyer's lead was melting away like snow in the sun, the author of this catching up manoeuvre was Hana Vokrinkova. She took the overall lead after the 6th task (another SAA task!). Would fate be decided in the 7th task? For indeed only the club class was given a 7th contest day, former 6th day results in both other classes had



47 pilots from 14 countries.

been cancelled because nobody had accomplished the minimum of 100 km. So: 7th and last chance for Geyer? She finished BEFORE Vokrinkova, yes she did, but gained only 7 points more than her Czech opponent, not enough for final gold but sufficient for silver for temperamental Swaantje Geyer. She was the only German present on the honorary scaffold of the club class, whereas the bronze medal was the prize blond Marina Kalaeva took back home to Novosibirsk, the outermost eastern part of Asian Russia.

Quite different results from last time in 2003 when Christine Grote and Kathrin Wötzel got gold and silver before Hana Vokrinkova who got her revenge here in Klix.

Senior performances: in the club class two senior pilots did not pass unnoticed. Polish Ada Dankowska (winner in 1975 and second in 1977!) celebrated her 70th birthday here. With 5800 flight hours she not only had the largest experience but also proved to be an intelligent SAA-pilot, in both tasks of this kind she finished 3rd and 4th.

It was with joy that she greeted her friend and former opponent Tatiana Obretenova from Bulgaria who became the 5th European champion in Shumen in 1987. After 17 years Tatiana with her unforgettable deep Balkan bass voice had taken up gliding competition again.

Both Ada and Tatiana were warmly greeted by their other "old" friend Maria Bolla from Hungary, who was practically never absent in Women's European and World championships Klix 2005 was the 17th participation of the athletic Hun-



Prize giving ceremony

garian, a record hardly to be beaten! Her best performance and her nicest memory, she says, was silver in 1983 in Belgium, where I happened to be director, nice coincidence! "But Klix is my last appearance" Must we, can we believe her?

Of course, the presence of these three "senior" ladies increased the average age of participating lady pilots: 40,4 years, in spite of two much younger girls: Jennifer Bradley, 22, member of a well known gliding family in South Africa (her brother participated at the same time in the World Junior Gliding Championships in Husband Bosworth, GB) and 23 year old Swiss Christine Bürki. Both girls know each other well, they indeed fly at the same aero club Magalies in South Africa where Bürki's parents had emigrated.

And speaking of Bürki: she seems to have made many new friends in Klix. When leaving Switzerland for her first participation in world championships, she made no secret of her aim: finish in the first ten. Aim achieved, she finished 9th and offered great moral support to her Swiss team mate Yvonne Schwarz in her quest of success in the demanding **15 m class**.

I remember congratulating Yvonne Schwartz for her 5th place in standard class when she first participated in 2003 Jihlava (CZ). She looked at me "Why congratulate me, I am not even on the rostrum". My answer: then you will have to do that in Klix. And so she did!

OVERALL FINAL RESULT			STANDARD CLASS (OFFICIAL)		
Rank	CN	Name	Ctry	Glider	Score
1	JB	Veprekova, Jana	Czech Republic	LS 8b	3953
2	59	Spreckley, Gillian	Great Britain	LS 8	3813
3	S1	Kelman, Sarah	Great Britain	ASW 28	3727
4	SK	Biedermann, Joanna	Poland	LS 8	3571
5	3S	Schaich, Cornelia	Germany	LS 8	3531
6	GI	Arndt, Anett	Germany	LS 8	3401
7	PW	Goeke, Gundula	Germany	LS 8	3341
8	KA	Kussbach, Sue	Germany	LS 8 st	3310
9	9C	Bürki, Christine	Switzerland	LS-8	3182
10	MP	Michalak, Anna	Poland	LS 8	3152
11	19	De Backer, Astrid	Belgium	LAK 19	3131
12	22	Trotter, Lisa	Australia	LS 8	3042
13	DL	Skalskiene, Edita	Lithuania	LAK-19	2938
14	GX	Bensova, Andrea	Czech Republic	Discus 2a	2890
15	RC	Turner, Lisa	Australia	ASW 28	2712
16	NF	Hirotsune, Akemi	Japan	LS 8	2457



OVERALL FINAL RESULT			CLUB CLASS (OFFICIAL)		
Rank	CN	Name	Ctry	Glider	Score
1	XC	Vokrinkova, Hana	Czech Republic	Std. Cirrus	3578
2	VS	Geyer, Swaantje	Germany	LS 1f	3556
3	WB	Kalaeva, Marina	Russia	Jantar Standard	3390
4	BC	Olesen, Agnete	Denmark	Std. Libelle	3299
5	PM	Malzacher, Sandra	Germany	LS 1f	3298
6	BW3	Wötzel, Kathrin	Germany	Std.-Libelle 203	3231
7	1M	Grote, Christine	Germany	Std. Libelle	3110
8	AT	Vilne, Daina	Latvia	DG 300	3056
9	IYD	Bubnova, Olga	Czech Republic	Std. Cirrus	3025
10	DI	Novakova, Dana	Czech Republic	Std. Cirrus	2981
11	V9	Shishlakova, Vera	Russia	LS 1d	2981
12	BI	Dankowska, Adela	Poland	Brawo SZD 48 3M	2930
13	NL	Obretenova, Tatiana Ivanova	Bulgaria	LS 4	2911
14	2E	Shalneva, Nina	Russia	Std. Cirrus	2837
15	RZ	Johnson, Rosemary	Great Britain	ASW 19	2784
16	FRX	Sparrow, Elizabeth	Great Britain	Pegase	2647
17	F	Bradley, Jenny	South Africa	LS 1d	1912
18	BZ	Rynkiewicz, Halina	Poland	Brawo SZD 48 3M	1886





OVERALL FINAL RESULT						15M CLASS (OFFICIAL)					
Rank	CN	Name	Ctry	Glider	Score						
1	AG	Pedersen, Mette Schmelztz	Denmark	ASW 27 b	4275						
2	YYY	Schwarz, Yvonne	Switzerland	LAK-17	3874						
3	1G	Klossok, Annette	Germany	Ventus	3859						
4	AZ	Netusilova, Alena	Czech Republic	Ventus 2a	3785						
5	73	Toporova, Valentyna	Ukraine	Ventus 2b	3776						
6	VV	Mühl, Stefanie	Germany	Ventus 2ax	3757						
7	AX	Treslova, Jana	Czech Republic	Ventus 2 Ax	3738						
8	57	Acquaderni, Margherita	Italy	Ventus 2 Ax	3609						
9	432	Withall, Lucy	Great Britain	ASW 27	3520						
10	AD	Machinek, Angelika	Germany	Ventus 2a	3295						
11	LK	Kuthanova, Lenka	Czech Republic	LAK 17	3028						
12	PC	Bolla, Maria	Hungary	Ventus C	2973						
13	FL	Khamitova, Larissa	Russia	LS 6a	1648						