

DAY 5 - 22nd June

At briefing, of course with the quite shattered overall ranking after day 4, some red shirts with the white overall victory number 1 changed backs: Susanne Schödel took over from Anne Ducarouge, Sue Kussbach from Joanna Biedermann – but Amelie Audier could still keep this her favourite shirt, hoping to never get rid of it.



Weighing the gliders to the grid

Weather conditions seemed quite similar to the ones of the former day. The south was more humid—Swedish farmers were quite satisfied! - the afternoon seemed so-able “if showers will kindly stay away“, the risk of thunderstorm, if any, would only be late evening. After yesterday’s record of outlandings (23 on 47!) hopes were high to seriously avoid such a number. It was advisable to have all gliders gone as early as possible for their 2h30 AAT task, club to be followed by the 15 m class.

The weather situation apparently did not improve, the official decision was to keep the cancelled standard class gliders on the ground.



Busy grid

Up there in the sky getting some height was very difficult and nobody above the airfield found anything better than 700 m cloud base. On the way nobody reported anything better than occasionally 1200 m. First club class pilot to get on her way was Sabrina Vogt at 10 past one, the last was Jane Nash one hour later – whatever, to-day departure times did not seem to have any influence on the results.



Sabrina Vogt



The only home comer was patient Polish Marta Najfeld on her somewhat old fashioned Jantar std 3. It meant more than 4 hours hard and slow struggle (41,9k/h k/h) for 179,4 km but what a sweet tasting victory this was! Her 388 points meant some 100 points more than the outlander with the most km: Agnete Olesen again, proudly getting the club class top red shirts on her Danish back, 73 points more than British Ayala Liran and 117 more than – who else?- Amelie Audier. Still, too early for the final podium!

Coincidence or not, in 15 m class also only one pilot made it home: not Anja Kohlrausch,



Agnete Olesen getting the Club Class red shirt

earliest starter (some catching up to do for this strong lady with competition number HP – horse power?) but French Anne Ducarouge, keen on continuing her beautiful habit of 3 victories in a row (broken by one unfortunate outlanding). Eric Napoleon was the happy team captain to welcome Anne back on Arboga “flygfalt”.



Anne Ducarouge with Eric Napoleon at briefing

Her victory of to-day pulled her up from 6th to 2nd in overall ranking, behind Susanne Schödel (momentarily out of reach with 147 points advance) but preceding Annette Klossok by 69 points. Standard class cancelled, there was of course no change in the positions, maybe much to the comfort of the German upper threesome Kussbach-Lindell-Haberkern.



Annette Klossok



Briefing time

This does not mean nothing happened to-day. The German team presented a complaint against Czech pilots Hana Vokrinka and Dana Novakova, Polish pilot Joanna Biedermann, Russian Nina Shalneva and Danish Helle Lundgren, all of the cancelled standard class. They were suspected of possible aid to their compatriots of the other classes still on the air on their task. Said (cancelled) pilots indeed continued flying for fun, wishing to get the most possible gliding please for the expensive fee they pay. "Every flying minute is a gift from heaven". Fortunately present technical means allow precise checking of the involved pilots, they clearly showed the 8 pilots concerned indeed continued flying BUT remaining above the airfield, which is absolutely allowed by the Sporting Code: "Pilots of the cancelled task must land or return to the competition site" which of course they did in the air. So luckily this avoided to turn a complaint into a protest.



A long queue of trailers

A little postponement of the start time of the BABAJAGA FESTIVITIES allowed all outlanders to appear one after the other on the spot, all in quite well inspired disguising outfits. Everybody present could start with varied food and drinks offered by various teams. The warning of this morning at briefing "please do not come too hungry" could frankly be ignored.



Preparing "Babayaga"

THE BABAJAGA CEREMONY - 22nd June



Babayagas

NOVICES

Aude GRANGERAY - FR
Barbara SILEN - SWE
Sabrina VOGT - GER
Petra PAPEZIKOVA - CZ
Amelie AUDIER - FR
Francesca AITKIN - GB
Gloria STENFELT - SWE
Laetitia MOREAU - FR
Kirsten EICHHORN - GER
Eija KUJANSUU - FINL

GODMOTHERS

Lenka KUTHANOVA - CZ
Joanna BIEDERMANN - POL
Orsolya DIOFASI - HUN
Gunilla LINDELL - SWE
Sue KUSSBACH - GER
Nina SHALNEVA - RUS
Jutta STURM - FR
Elizabeth SPARROW - GB
Valentyna TOPOROVA - UKR
Margherita ACQUADERNI - ITA

After a while the BABAJAGA ceremony could start: dynamic leading lady Lena Bergquist surprised everybody with an inimitable voice, performing a mystery song



Lena Bergquist

from Dido and Aeneas by H.Purcell – Lena must clearly be a professional!
After explaining the basic fairplay reasons for this traditional ceremony she called up the first novice French Aude Grangeray and her Czech godmother: Lenka Kuthanova did not make it easy for Aude to repeat in Czech language her solemn oath to be a good Babajaga.



Lenka with Aude

A dance around the bonfire, a kiss on her page in the witches book to seal this solemn oath and... a little schnapps to encourage her to be faithful to it and to dance well on her broomstick around the nightly fire. Then the next novice was invited...



Kissing the witches' book

and so on. There should have been 10 of them but it was an unpleasant surprise when Eija Kujanuu did not show up. Inquiry made: she was having a shower after her long retrieve. Inquiry again: after complaining he had not been informed on this ceremony (did he never hear any of the various announcements at briefing?) the team captain of Finland had sent his pilot to sleep competitors should be in bed at 10 p.m. How lucky this team captain is, his pilot was NOT me. So shy obedient Eija missed her official enthroning by her inspiring godmother Margot Acquaderni who waited in vain for her godchild to turn up. Anyway, even not being a novice anymore, if and when she will represent Finland in the next world championships 2013 in Issoudun, she will nevertheless be sworn in there and then (unless Finish team captain is again Pekka Ylipaavalniemi?)



Dancing around the fire

The evening turned out a most agreeable event, all pilots dancing around the bonfire, soon joined by the crews enjoying the happy atmosphere... But hey, did you hear this cry for help? Worried spectators saw a poor half naked man on a stretcher barrier, who was hurriedly dragged to the fire until pitiful pilots came to his rescue... and SO the poor meteo man – indeed, it was him! – escaped a terrible fate.



The meteo man dragged to the fire

This little “incident” quickly forgotten, the happy crowd did not stop its activities. Nobody was worried to stay so long, anyway for the next day there was no possibility at all for a new task.

So, sleep well BABAJAGAS!

And indeed next morning (23rd June) everybody could or rather HAD to take the day off. Rain, rain, big showers, super weak unsoarable conditions with great amounts of clouds breaking up.

SO: post-babajaga day: shopping or washing – drying was only a matter of minutes because of the very strong wind, providing one stayed under cover...



DAY 6 - 24th June

DAY 6 - of course DAY 5 for the standard class, cancelled yesterday. This time again: it finally ended in... **NO!**

Meteo... Charlotte again to-day, maybe her male colleague had not recovered from his emotions-near-the-bonfire of last night. Predicted were flat cumulus clouds with risk of spreading, foreseen maximum 1400 m base, most soarable chances north and west of Arboga.



Meteo man

Logic respected: **standard class** with one flying day less than both other classes was ready in front of the grid. Mission: racing task of 244,8 km with 6 turn points, “beer cans” of 500 m radius at every turn point – except of course the 3 km for the finish. The 4 pilots strong German squadron in the ranking lead (only interrupted by Swedish Gunilla Lindell 63 points less than top Sue Kussbach) certainly planned blocking all other contenders. Wait and see...

Same task for 15 m class but every chance still open: leading Susanne Schödel before strong

French Anne Ducarouge, followed by Annette Klossok. From 7th placing on only a miracle could pull the pilots up on the podium. But CAN’T miracles happen? ...remember Nathalie Hurlin in Szeged 2009, ranking 4th the morning of the last day BUT at the end of the day – and thus of the championships- she was **WORLD CHAMPION!**

Club class also had a racing task today, with 5 turn points adding up to 214 km. Unlike in both other classes the German “clubbers” were absolutely keen on improving their rather poor rankings.



Indeed, on top Ayala Liran and Amelie Audier were fighting it out, with Polish Marta Najfeld (last task's winner) not at all out of the running, only 170 points less than strong Danish Agnete Olesen on top.



WE WANT TO FLY!!

Hopes were high, everybody waited for the hoped for 14°C to get thermal activity starting. Meteo experts inside in front of their computers had continuous deliberations with the championships organizers, who took them outside to explore looks of the sky here and in the direction of the task.



Waiting under the wing

One could have guessed: a new briefing on the grid decreased the length of the tasks, an absolute must. Finally launching did not start logically with the standard class missing one task but with club class like all previous days, for safety reasons (possible relights on grass and concrete paths).



Italian Steward Marina Vigorito, Finnish Member of Jury Juha Silvenmoinen and Norwegian Chief Steward Arild Solbakken

Right from the start 15 m class pilots could forget the day: cancelled before launching! Thermals were getting a bit stronger, peaks reaching even 2m/second. Some of the pilots occasionally announced 1200 m cloud base.

Club class cancelled. Radio announcement: "Startline for standard class will be open in 5 minutes". Confirmation was expected in vain, before the 5 minutes had passed "club and standard classes cancelled for the day". Surprise! Meteorological provisions on the track (- as usual to the north-west) caused cancelling for safety reasons, general outlanding very probably if not absolutely unavoidable.



Rain almost everywhere

A hard decision to make and probably much regretted by organizers and pilots because at the end of the afternoon both Danish Helle Lundgren and Polish Joanna Biedermann landed on Arboga, proving the task was possible to achieve - of course without competition speed pressure! Nevertheless Joanna Biedermann reached 55km/h. No points added but self assurance confirmed.

Babajaga ceremony having already taken place, every team had to dream up any pleasant way to spend an agreeable evening, trying to forget the missed chance to improve results.

Finally even this DAY 6 became a DAY NO.



Drying up the washing?... Hard task!



THE RAINBOW! HOPE GIRLS, HOPE...