

Team GBR

2022

F3K World Championships

Martin, Slovakia



Team Managers Report - Carlos Dos Santos

F3K WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, MARTIN, SLOVAKIA 2022

The Team

The Covid pandemic saw to it that the 2021 F3K World Championship was cancelled. The event was pushed back to 2022 with final confirmation received towards the end of May 2022 that it was definitely going ahead. Up until final confirmation, there was substantial doubt amongst the international F3K community that the event would be held due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The Pilots:

Gavin Stern: Has flown in multiple F3K international comps including the European and World Champs.

Michael Stern: Has flown in numerous international F3K comps including the worlds, and is our greatest F3K ambassador.

Paul Carrington: His first F3K worlds having competed in multiple F3B World Champs.



^ Gavin Stern, Michael Stern, Paul Carrington, Myself

The top three pilots selected from the national 2021 league were David Poole, Gavin Stern and Paul Carrington. Both Gavin and Paul acknowledged the challenge and made their intentions clear that they would be accepting their team places. David declined due to work commitments. The remaining team place was therefore offered to Michael Stern and he accepted the challenge.

All proposed members of the team were successfully ratified by the SFTC.

Having not being able to fly most of the national league competitions myself due to work commitments, I was honoured to be asked to step up and apply for the position of Team Manager. I was extremely pleased to be accepted as the UK F3K TM for the 2022 World Championships during the official application.

I received help and support throughout from the BMFA, SFTC, and Neil Harrison which I am greatly appreciative of.

				Buckminster	Twywell 2	ISA		number
				BMFA NFC	Twywell	Hockliffe		of
			BMFA	16/08	05/09	20/09	Best 2	scores
1	David	P	182174	100.00	100.00	98.39	200.00	3
2	Gavin	S	148987	83.23	90.84	100	190.84	3
3	Paul	C	76153		94.36	87.67	182.03	2
4	Michael	S	136270	73.15	98.18	82.4	180.58	3
5	Neil	H	35124	81.03	65.44	92.14	173.17	3
6	Mike	C	52613	94.73	77.99	75.72	172.72	3
7	Paul	R	184146	75.56	83.20		158.76	2
8	Simon	B	185231	72.47	71.16		143.63	2
9	Carlos	DS	192030		86.59		86.59	1
10	Monique	L	185491		63.70		63.70	1
11	Lorry	G	47322			61.38	61.38	1
12	Mike	F	41722	42.06		6.01	48.07	2

^ BMFA F3K League Table 2021

The Championship Site

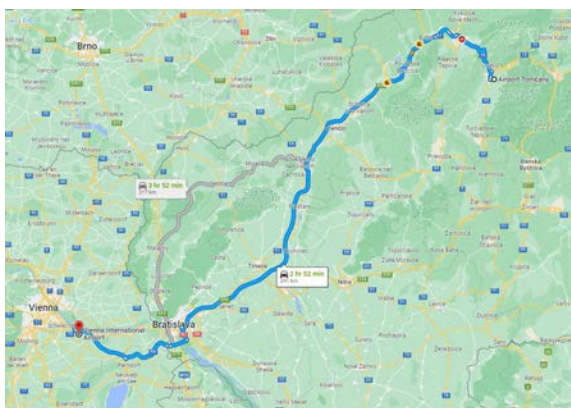
Fédération Aéronautique Internationale Slovak National Aeroclub, Slovak Aerospace Modelling Association, RC Model klub Martin.

Martin (GPS coordinates: 49°03'41.8"N 18°55'10.0"E) is situated in the Zilina region in the north of the Turiec Valley (Turčianska kotlina), in the catchment area of the Turiec River.

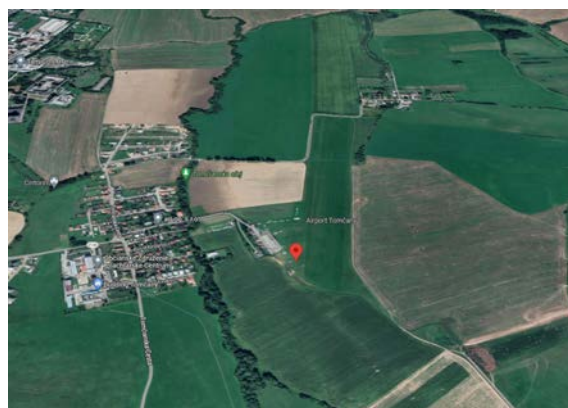
The whole territory extends through the hills, valleys and the eastern slopes of Small Fatra (Mala Fatra).

Tomcany, which is a suburb of Martin, has a light aircraft/gliding airport, which was our competition site. Interestingly, the airfield has its own Soviet era vintage aircraft museum.

After managing successfully to fly to Vienna, (our flights were cancelled twice due to the UK's extraordinarily chaotic situation at it's airports) we picked up our rental car and drove for 3hrs to our hotel which was 5 mins drive from the competition site.



^ Route From Vienna Airport to Martin



^ Aeroklub, Martin



^ Aeroklub, Martin, Aircraft Museum



^ Aeroklub, Martin, Aircraft Museum

The Aeroklub Martin, was a fantastic venue. It is simply huge with an approx. 150m wide grass runway that is 1km long. The start and landing field (the Box) measured approx. 160x75m with the closest line of trees to the east, directly behind the hangar building, 185m from the east perimeter edge of the box.

350m north east was the next closest line of trees from the north east corner of the box. Also approx. 350m from south east corner of the box was the only other line of trees. Corn fields surrounded the site to the north, west and south. With such a huge field and lack of immediate thermal generators, the pilots air reading skills were always on show.



^ Aeroklub, Martin

The Martin Cup (Pre-Comp)

Having arrived at 1:30am at the hotel, after numerous unforeseen events with the car needing additive to the fuel and threatening engine failure (Google maps also tried to navigate us into a river around midnight), we were up at 7am on Friday to register for the Martin Cup. We were all a bit dazed and disorientated to say the least. I was initially not going to fly as being the TM and the timer for our 3 pilots, I wanted the most

time possible to practise with them, but they insisted I fly. I registered us all for the comp, we set up our base next to team USA and the Swiss, and almost immediately had a briefing from the contest director, Miro Majercik and the competition kicked off (The pre-comp is held before the WC and gives all the helpers and other local pilots an opportunity to fly against the best pilots in the world).



^ Team GBR base

The Pre-Contest consisted of 9 rounds, with groups of 14 pilots flying per slot. There were 80 competitors and 6 slots per round.

The first round kicked off with Task H (1,2,3,4 minute target flights in any order). Gavin flew first in Group B. The conditions were good and we all flew the round well.

Conditions on the first day were unbelievably hot, with calm to moderate wind, whereas the

second day was tougher with wind picking up in the afternoon with many pilots landing out and ballast selection critical. The Pre-Comp is essential to fly in as it gives pilots "local" knowledge of the conditions to expect.

All in all we had a good pre-comp. With Michael 21st, Gavin 41st, myself in 48th, and Paul 61st. I was happy with my result as I didn't fly in one round due to a radio programming error.

1	Sander Henri	999	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	8,999	100.0%	46	GER-70932	Germany
2	Anthony Rotteleur	1000	998	1000	1000	1000	997	1000	1000	890		8,885	98.73%	60	FRA737	France
3	Alan Smith	988	995	1000	1000	992	1000	848	996	1000		8,819	98.00%	67	81366	South Africa
4	Oleg Golovidov	1000	997	1000	968	908	996	1000	942	909		8,720	96.90%	21	130813	United States
5	Steeve Collin	998	998	1000	1000	919	1000	1000	941	791		8,647	96.09%	19	100055	France
6	Oliver Jakob	1000	1000	1000	1000	981	993	1000	677	913		8,564	95.17%	26	100188	Switzerland
7	Cezary Janas	995	994	1000	982	981	992	1000	856	708		8,508	94.54%	15	66925	Poland
8	Verrier Jean Bernard	993	777	1000	1000	1000	996	1000	740	993		8,499	94.44%	72	60430	France
9	Oleksandr Synielytsyi	999	992	1000	970	784	854	1000	959	909		8,467	94.09%	65	75356	Ukraine
10	Cederic Duss	999	996	1000	1000	978	996	1000	626	857		8,452	93.92%	25	29119	Switzerland
11	Klaus Schlömmner	1000	992	856	998	912	1000	921	873	895		8,447	93.87%	35	124307	Austria
12	Sebastian Florek	995	976	800	1000	670	980	1000	1000	993		8,414	93.50%	80	94396	Poland
13	Walkenhorst André	999	993	839	1000	1000	1000	663	924	981		8,399	93.33%	31	GER 19797	Germany
14	Rafał Budzoni	994	934	1000	972	1000	897	1000	787	802		8,386	93.19%	73	54132	Poland
15	Harald Helm	999	996	1000	1000	931	998	986	902	544		8,356	92.85%	66	47138	Austria
16	Hermann Haas	998	988	642	1000	944	990	1000	848	937		8,347	92.75%	23	AUT49481	Austria
17	Matej Smycka	996	992	763	1000	704	929	1000	908	1000		8,292	92.14%	63	70763	Slovakia
18	Paul König	998	994	1000	1000	940	999	1000	687	662		8,280	92.01%	28	GER-131122	Germany
19	Christoph Wolff	994	984	1000	974	767	987	745	807	1000		8,258	91.77%	45	GER3876	Germany
20	Miljenko Frančić	985	989	667	1000	852	986	1000	985	772		8,236	91.52%	57	61255	Croatia
21	Michael Stern	994	996	1000	679	680	992	1000	1000	875		8,216	91.30%	52	66376	United Kingdom
22	Arijan Hucaljuk	998	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	738	336		8,072	89.70%	42	61359	Croatia
23	Roy Dor	998	979	1000	190	924	997	1000	994	989		8,071	89.69%	12	70948	Israel
24	Joseph Dougherty	1000	995	1000	1000	973	998	667	437	1000		8,070	89.68%	22	164360	USA
25	Steven De Weerd	989	789	1000	1000	572	977	941	973	827		8,068	89.65%	8	30287	Belgie
26	Bernhard Flixeder	998	1000	1000	248	1000	998	1000	1000	766		8,010	89.01%	7	46785	Austria
27	Bednarczyk Walthier	994	970	757	1000	1000	996	993	447	848		8,005	88.95%	27	GER-90374	Deutschland
28	Ondrej Režler	970	996	1000		973	1000	1000	941	996		7,876	87.52%	2	68322	Czech Republic
29	Stier André	986	798	1000	1000	594	989	1000	679	830		7,876	87.52%	43	GER-163541	Germany
30	Clint Christofferson	949	909	407	885	813	994	993	819	994		7,763	86.27%	16	164359	United States
31	Yossi Fox	996	991	1000	1000	504	985	1000	434	831		7,741	86.02%	14	121349	Israel
32	Craig Goodrum	993	990	306	1000	997	997	1000	504	926		7,713	85.71%	68	81365	South Africa
33	Nikola Frančić	1000	1000	915	1000	995	995	890		707		7,502	83.36%	58	61256	Croatia
34	Ryan Höllein	971	1000	1000	1000	740	997	1000		690		7,398	82.21%	37	GER76309	Germany
35	Andrea Giavarini	995	988	613	978	431	996	919	504	948		7,372	81.92%	10	93354	Italy
36	Haußmann Aaron	960	950	1000		980	995	1000	679	797		7,361	81.80%	59	ger132452	Deutschland
37	Denes Sandor-Zsigmond	985	984	1000	204	902	985	872	745	671		7,348	81.65%	5	164231	Romania
41	Gavin Stern	986	698	1000	560	852	990	859	759	542		7,246	80.52%	53	83028	United Kingdom
48	Carlos Dos Santos	970		1000	713	771	905	1000	928	679		6,966	77.41%	51	83020	United Kingdom
61	Paul Carrington	991	986	117	400	762	981	827	581	854		6,499	72.22%	54	123500	United Kingdom

^ Martin Cup Results

The World Championships

After the Martin Cup prize giving on Saturday evening, the World Championship opening ceremony was held after model processing and the Team Managers meeting on Sunday afternoon, just before the heavens opened up with torrential rain - we went back to our hotel to prepare for the main event on Monday morning.

Monday:

Round One - Went well for the team, As with the Martin Cup, the first round was Task H (1,2,3,4 minute target flights in any order)

Conditions were pretty easy, so it was a proper turnaround task.

Paul dropped about 8s, Gavin 6.7s and Mike did a personal best of about 3.5s,

Round Two: (2 Flights, 4 minute max) Started with conditions still pretty good, a tiny bit more wind. Unfortunately there were some Pandora issues (official timing devices). Round 1 slot E had to be re-flown as I noticed the slot time had stopped on the Pandora. We continued Round 2 after the re-flight.



^ Photo Credit: Izabela Krawczyk



Paul and Mike both made the 4mins. Gavin dropped about a minute. Conditions got a bit tough in his round, there were little bubbles that you could easily fall out of. Gavin was fairly far downwind and had to choose to come home and land in or push out and hope to re-engage the lift - He came home. There was someone who pushed out and got it. Tough call though.

Round Three: (3 flights with 3:20 max), Mike was in group A and had good reads for first two flights and climbed fast. His read for the 3rd was not

definite, but was doing ok, for a while. There was a bird in lift and it pushed off upwind and soon after the lift died, he probably should of followed it! He came back over the field and found enough to make the time though. Dropped 2.9s. We thought it would probably be a 990 score.

The air in the next slot for Paul was a lot trickier. Most people were down after 1:30ish. He managed 1:41.2 then 2x 3:20. Paul and I thought someone did manage to get all the times though.



^ Photo Credit: Izabela Krawczyk

Gavin's third round was a little tricky and he dropped 15secs on his last flight.

Round Four: (One flight only) Paul was first in fairly tough air. If you weren't in lift, you were in sink. Paul was in sink and landed in the corn field. Took a while to find the plane and Paul!

Gavin launched a few seconds after the buzzer. Much of the field went down wind after some lift, he went his own way, a bit east of the field and found decent air.

He worked it back up high then came back at a sensible time and height to make the box, but looked to be a bit short of time. Over the box he got some more light lift and managed to make the time! A really good flight.

Mike and I had no reads, he waited a while and eventually launched to the west of the field after seeing two planes in some air. It wasn't that good and the 3 of them drifted back but not gaining much height.



^ Photo Credit: Izabela Krawczyk

He moved around and found various bits of lift and went from pretty uncomfortably low and far down wind to a reasonable height and with about 1:45 left, started heading back. We had walked about 60-80m past the box to better see the model, he had to start running to get back to the box and thought he was going to make it but landed about 4m short of the box. Such a shame, it was masterful flying.

Round Five: (5x 2minute flights)The round started

just before 7pm. All us team managers agreed that the last round is allowed to start at 18:59 but not 19:00. With a stiff breeze this group was basically a surfing exercise off the SW of the field. Mike did manage to go back with some slightly lofty air on the 3rd flight. He went back to the surfing area for the 4th, but got it slightly wrong and did a 1:42, then back again to finish. All his flights were difficult, only just making the times and dropped about 23s. Paul had it tough too in the last group of the day, dropping about a minute.



^ Photo Credit: Izabela Krawczyk



Mike was flying his 230g Bamf, Gavin was flying his new, light 2 servo wing Vortex 4, with Paul flying the same set-up as Gavin.

This was my first full day timing for all three pilots, it was tough going, but really enjoyable.

Tuesday:

Round Five Continued: Gavin was up in the first group. The air was fickle. He made the first, dropped a bit on the 2nd, made the 3rd and 4th, then the incident...

He managed to have the most spectacular mid air of the champs. He locked wings with his throwing peg lodging itself in another model's wing. Both gliders entered into a graceful pirouette "arriving" gently. Gavin had no damage whatsoever, however the other model (Yoda) came off far worse. They landed outside the box so was a catastrophic result for Gavin nevertheless. But, at least his model was intact - if models could grin...



^ Photo Credit: Izabela Krawczyk



Round Six: (Big Ladder) Paul was up first. Very light air and overcast. He did well, dropped about 10secs. He flew 220g his Vortex 3. Mike was up next. Queue Benny Hill music.. 1 min flight was fine. He saw some little birds to the south east corner, so headed there for the 1:30. Then Mike's brain started receiving an update via Wi-Fi! After watching his model losing height for about 20secs, the update finished and he realised he needed to do something about it.

He headed north and found nothing, a guy who was near him headed west and got something. Mike landed for a 1min, losing 30secs. He then looked about planning for his 2min flight, knowing he had to launch before I called 7:30 left. As he was prepping to launch someone ran in front of him during his relaunch, so he had to abort, losing another few seconds. Mike flew straight into lift, and climbed reasonably high. After not hearing anything from me (I was also getting a brain



^ Photo Credit: Izabela Krawczyk



WI-FI Update whilst looking for more lift!). I suddenly called it's 1:50, come down!! So Mike dived like mad then at about 5ft I think it's the 2:30 flight and scream, "KEEP FLYING, it 2:30 you are going for!!!" So Mike pulls up and then I/we realise, no, it's 2:00mins your going for! Mike relaunched losing about 8s! Then we hear our official timekeeper say 'oh my good, this is so hectic!'

Mike made the 2:30 and 3 ok. We then compared times with the time keeper and I had a slightly

shorter time for the 2:30 flight. We question her and she says no, you pressed the button later after your F*** up! Fair enough, we accepted her time!

For Gavin's slot, the wind picked, so he added 50g ballast. All the way to 2:30 went well, but they were tough with very light lift. He landed 58s early on the 3min.

Then rain stopped play... Restart at 8am Wednesday was agreed.



^ Photo Credit: Izabela Krawczyk



Wednesday:

We were supposed to start at 8am, but woke up to heavy mist. We got to site about 7:20 and did some low level test flying. Mike managed a 7:45, sometimes almost vanishing in the mist! It cleared enough by 9:15 to get started.

Round 7: (Best 3 flights of 6) Gavin did well. Went his own way on the first flight and it was a little touch and go, but made it, then went with the pack and made the other two times,

mostly over the hanger.

Mike launched and went to the east of the field, towards the corn field. 6 or so others went the same way, but with much better launch height. Seemed ok at first then just died for him. The guys above were doing ok. He made the decision to relaunch, costing him about 35secs, rather than risk losing more. Flew the 3 flights fine from there. Paul had two good reads for the first two and made the times fine. The 3rd was a little tough, but found it at about 1min in towards the SW of the field, to get the max.



^ Photo Credit: Izabela Krawczyk

Round Eight: (5 min max in 7min window) Paul was up straight away as he flew group F then A. He had a good read on the test flight on the east of the field over the corn. He launched first, found the lift near the SE corner and got the time. Gavin tried the SE corner first after a possible read, but wasn't happy, so relaunched to join others towards SW corner. Was good for some time, climbed well, but the lift disappeared after about 2:30ish. He managed to find enough air to make the time though!

Mike had a read over the back, south of the box, but it didn't pan out, so came back. He probably didn't go back far enough, as some of the guys were going up, down wind. He launched and headed back and contacted lift about 100-150m back. It was pretty decent for about 1:30 then died! Everyone was scattering looking for air. He had to ride 6 or 7 different bubbles and was uncomfortably low a lot of the time. We walked about 50m past the back line to better see the



^ Photo Credit: Izabela Krawczyk

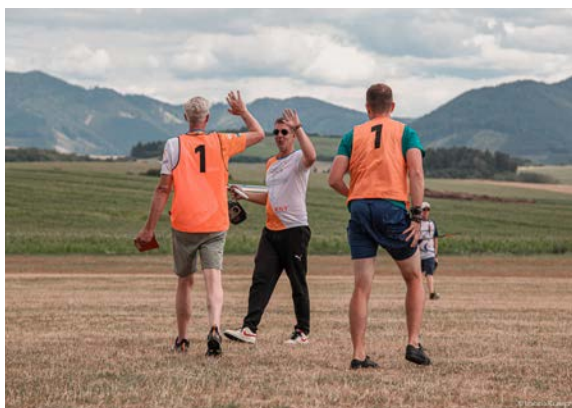


glider. Eventually hooked some good enough lift to get enough height to get back - he did well! The team all got 1000.

Round Nine:(All up, 3min max x 5 flights) Mike was up in group C. Seemed to feel nervous going out without his trusty timer/spotter/therapist. Saw a kestrel out the SE corner about 150m out. He headed out to find It was neutral for a while, but pushed further and contacted good air. Got pretty high.

2nd launch, he headed a bit south and hit the lift and it was fine. The 3rd flight was a little tricky. The pack drifted further west, and he had to find another bit of lift to make the time. There were two in a thermal a little further west, he went there and made it. 4th and 5th had good reads made all the time though.

Gavin flew superbly. He made all his times for all five flights. Paul's slot was tough air and didn't manage all his times. Only a very few did!



^ Photo Credit: Izabela Krawczyk



Round Ten: (Last three flights) Was flown in the afternoon. Gavin and Paul lost a bit of time, Mike did slightly better.

Round Eleven: (3 x 3:20mins) Gavin flew the last slot of the day and did fairly well scoring 953

Thursday:

Mike flew in the 2nd group of the morning. We woke up to a sunny but windy day, a north easterly. Surprisingly little lift. The super high launchers could park and surf. There were little

bubbles of lift where a few turns were manageable. Mike hooked his first launch and, so decided to come in and relaunch. He flew the rest of the times with a 3:20, 2:50, 2:40. He was very happy with that, scoring a 919.

Paul got a 758. The air was tough, and he was being cautious, making sure to get the flights in.

Round Twelve: (2 flights only, 5min max) This was a tough round!! Mike was in group B and thought he had a read and launched on the buzzer, no



^ Photo Credit: Izabela Krawczyk



one else did. He never really found it and ended up landing out. He then launched with 5mins to go and couldn't find anything and got a 2:27.5. Gavin also landed out and got a 3:20. Paul got two flights of about 1:43.

There was lots of pain dished out in the last two rounds. There was some great flying as well, with some pilots making full times. The drop after the 12th round didn't end up helping us at all. Damn.

Round Thirteen: (Big Ladder) Mike flew in group B, 2nd up after lunch. Wind had dropped a bit, with a fair bit of lift. There was good air for the 1 & 1:30. He went slightly wrong with the 2min, but managed to work a very low, light bit of lift near the sw corner to make the time. The 2:30, was no problem. He felt that air was not going to be easily reachable going back downwind, so headed upwind for the 3min (wind was light).



^ Photo Credit: Izabela Krawczyk



He got a little something, circled drifting down the east edge of the box. It wasn't really materialising. About 1min in, I pointed out some guys really low about 50m back off the sw corner of the box, so Mike decided to head for them. Got there at about 10m height, I was worried! He worked a small bubble, and started gaining height getting up to about 50m with about 40secs to go, so headed back and made the time, dropping 5s. Paul was next and had reasonable air. He went

his own way with his own reads even when I was pointing out lift. He dropped about 10s. Gavin didn't have anything too dramatic and also dropped 10s.

Round 14: (Poker) Paul was conservative, which was wise. He called 1:15, but the air was bad, so came back to relaunch. Made the 1:15 and then went window and made that for 8:15 total. Gavin was semi conservative... he called 4mins and made it easily. Then window from there. Easy. Total 9:42.



^ Photo Credit: Izabela Krawczyk

For Mike's slot, there was a huge flock of swifts just north of the box. Seemed an obvious all in. As he launched, they all disappeared and he couldn't hook it up. It was tough, he was down in just over a minute. Most others made it, but had to work hard in first 1:30.

Round 15: (5x2mins) The wind picked up again, from the NE, pretty similar conditions to the morning. Paul flew first and dropped about 24sec. Gavin was next. It was mostly a surf fest and he made the first 4 fine, but made a small error

and got a 1:19 on the last flight. Mike flew in the 2nd last slot. It was a launch and park task. He did that 5 times, dropped 8.8s. Unfortunately fumbling one catch and launched a second late on the first launch as it was so congested, He didn't want to risk getting into a mid-air with the super high launchers. And that was it. The end of the preliminary contest. Gavin came in 30th, Paul 49th, and Mike 51st. Henri Sander of Germany came first, Arijan Hucaljuk of Croatia 2nd, and Bernard Flixeder of Austria 3rd.



^ Photo Credit: Izabela Krawczyk



The Fly-Off

As agreed in the Team Managers meeting, the fly-off would include the top 12 pilots. Rain was predicted but fortunately the weather didn't arrive.

The competition director, Miro Majercik decided along with the pilots and team managers in the fly-off, that for an additional line of timing security, there would be a 2nd set of official timers. Myself, Gavin, and Paul volunteered to help out. Mike was asked to time for Oleg Golovidov (Team USA), he gladly accepted.



^ Photo Credit: Izabela Krawczyk

The scores in the fly-off's were unbelievably close throughout. It was only in the last round when the conditions suddenly shifted that separation started to develop.

The final scores :

World Champion:

Ivo Bratršovský Czech Republic

2nd Place:

Anthony Rotteleur France

3rd Place:

Henri Sander Germany

Overall, team GBR had a very successful World Championship. We had a fantastic and inspiring time amongst a wonderful community of fellow F3K pilots and their families. As always, the World Championship is an environment to learn from the best in the world and is an invaluable experience. This was a wonderful honour for me to be TM, navigating through all the current travel issues the UK is currently experiencing was a challenge and many times I had thought we may not make it, but we did.

The Team were fabulous ambassadors for our sport and our country. I am very proud to have been part of it all. My sincere thanks to the BMFA, SFTC, and Neil Harrison for the support and advice that made this a success.

2022 FAI F3K World Championships for Model Gliders Official Results - Fly-off Rounds Seniors						
	Name	Total Score	%	Class	FAI ID	Country
1	Ivo Bratršovský	5,996.8	100.00%	Senior	70324	Czech republic
2	Anthony Rotteleur	5,995.4	99.98%	Senior	60348	France
3	Henri Sander	5,992.5	99.93%	Senior	70932	Germany
4	Hermann Haas	5,989.5	99.88%	Senior	49481	Austria
5	Joseph Dougherty	5,941.3	99.07%	Senior	164360	USA
6	Cederic Duss	5,937.7	99.01%	Senior	29119	Switzerland
7	Cezary Janas	5,928.3	98.86%	Senior	66925	Poland
8	Bernhard Flixeder	5,730.5	95.56%	Senior	46785	Austria
9	Roy Dor	5,711.0	95.23%	Senior	70948	Israel
10	Arijan Hucaljuk	5,631.8	93.91%	Senior	61359	Croatia
11	Oleg Golovidov	4,792.9	79.92%	Senior	130813	USA
12	Nikola Frančič	4,599.2	76.69%	Senior	61256	Croatia

^ Final Fly-Off Scores