

Na otoku La palma se je ravnokar končala tekma v hitrostnih preletih z jadralnimi padali, na kateri sta brata Valič zopet posegla po najvišjih mestih. Aljaž je se je uvrstil na prvo mesto, njegov mlajši brat Urban pa je bil uvrščen na drugo mesto.

Finala tekmovanja se je udeležilo okrog 40 tekmovalcev katere je privabila velika denarna nagrada.

Vec informacij na straneh: www.kovk-drustvo.si

www.flylapalma.com

PRESS RELEASE - December 13th, 2007

English version:

Aljaz Valic takes Gold at the 2nd Island of La Palma Challenge!

Having flown more than 380km in 5 tasks, and adding the 38km he carried over from the 1st Round, Slovenian pilot Aljaz Valic takes home first prize from the 2nd Challenge: 8,000? in cash! As the last task drew to a close, the elder of the Valic brothers wasn't the only happy pilot: for the great majority it has been a fun competition, with a great atmosphere and excellent tasks, in which the leaders flew anything from 55km to 86km daily. Twenty different prizes distributed a total of 24,000? over the three different competition categories, the highest prize money ever awarded in paragliding.

The two Valic brothers, as swift as any, turned the Final into a closely fought affair, with Urban leading the ranking the first days but finally finishing a few kilometres behind Aljaz. Other top pilots were also in the running for the first prizes: Gin Team members Charles Cazaux and Hans Bollinger (former World and World Cup Champion) used all their experience and expertise in speed flying to try and catch the Valics, finishing 3rd and 4th respectively. Spanish Champion Iván Colás, who set the Island distance record in November, was close on their heels and managed good results in some tasks, but after a couple of errors in others it seemed he would have a hard job finishing in the top six. However, his decisive victory in the last task enabled Iván to climb a couple of places in the ranking ahead of Stéphane Drouin (FR, Mac Para Magus 5) to finish 5th, while fellow Spaniard Goyo González Oliva (Aircross Ultima 3) took 6th prize in the Open Category.

Current World Champion Bruce Goldsmith (Airwave FR4) started well by ending second in a task, but an accident at landing put him out of the competition after task 3. Fortunately it wasn't serious and he's now recovering at home with his family.

In the DHV2 Category, Paratrike World Champion Daniel Crespo (ES, Sky Antea) took first prize, while Belgian pilot Thierry Moreau (Axis Vega 2) won the DHV 1-2 Category.

This competition was very well organized with lots of media coverage. La Palma is a small

island but has excellent conditions, and you can fly fast so there's less element of luck. A pilot's skill and decisions are more important, explained Aljaz. This prize is around three times the largest sum he had won up to now.

The Challenge Organiser, Javier López, is very pleased overall with the event, since it has surpassed the expectations of tourist promotion for the Island as well as for flying. It's been great for this sport: not only have the pilots had a good time and gone home happy, but also we've shown the PWC observers that we are capable of organizing an important event and they've taken it into account, he commented.

It is very possible that in future top pilots will visit La Palma on the World Cup circuit, but meanwhile the Challenge hopes to return in 2009 to award more great prizes for flying in winter and only at 3 hours' flight from Europe.