

SPORTBALLOONING BELGIUM 2022

Traditionally our Belgian Balloon Trophy was held in May. During this event/competition our Sportscommission of the Royal Belgian Balloon Federation held the Belgian, Dutch & Luxembourg championship in Vielsalm, Belgium. We had 38 participants for this open championship with 10 Belgian participants. Even an USA pilot came over to join our well known trophy. Due the bad weather we only had 3 flights. Overall we had British pilot Dominic Bareford as winner. David Spildooren became the 3th time Belgian Champion.

In our challenges, we had the Waasland Challenge in the begin of 2022. With just 6 participants and 2 flights out of 4 chances we had Steven Vlegels as overall winner. In december there was an One Day Flight planned with 2 flights and +25 participants! Unfortunately bad weather made us to cancel the event.

Next to our challenges there was a trail event beside of the Vredefeesten in Sint-Niklaas. Open for all pilots who would like to learn competition ballooning. With 10 participants, we had Kenian Dekein as overall winner.

Also our pilots were active in championships aboard. Steven Vlegels went to Czech for the nationals and became 1st in the open overall ranking. Thomas Spildooren went to Hungary for the CE cup and became 1st in the overall ranking. Kenian Dekein was active in France furing the Coupe d'Europe.

In September we had the World Championships in Sobota, Slovenia. Belgium went to this championship with 4 pilots: David Spildooren, Thomas Spildooren, Kenian Dekein and Steven Vlegels. Dade made it to the top 10, a fantastic result after his 3th place at the European Championship in 2021.

In gas ballooning we had this year no results. There was an intention to participate with 1 team during the Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett, unfortunately the participants took the discision to cancel their participation last minute.

In general we can speak about a fantastic year for our Belgian Competition Pilots. With great results in International Competitions we see the effect of young driven pilots who want to get to the top. To help our Competition Team growing, and find new pilots with interest in Competition Ballooning, our Belgian Balloon Federation organised a training day with 30 pilots who show their interest.

Simoen Djorry

Sportscommission Royal Belgian Balloon Federation

