

Complaint

PWCA Event

Monte Cornizzolo, Italy

Task 3, 17 July 2007

Parties

Complainant: Maxime BELLEMIN, 447

Against: Pawel FARON, 309

And: Robert BERNAT, 38

Air collision at 17:26:57 (GPS time on PWCA tracks)

Last 30 seconds study

- I am in the thermal, turning right, continuously gaining altitude: 1950, 51, 51, 55, 62, 74, 77
- PF starts gaining altitude: 1930, 34, 43, 50
- Then he gets out of the thermal: 49, 50
- So he wants to re-enter what he left and what I am in and is going up again: 58, 70
- Then we collide.

PF clearly changed his route to re-enter the thermal he left, coming from my left. I was thermalling continuously, turning right, and no option to escape him more when I saw him getting closer as I was already turning right.

So PF touched my harness with the right side of the external part of his wing. And then, instead of putting his hands up or turning left, he pulled the brakes, and that made me go through his wing, getting my harness trapped in his lines. Hopefully I could stabilize my position and my glider so that some of his glider lines broke and set me free.

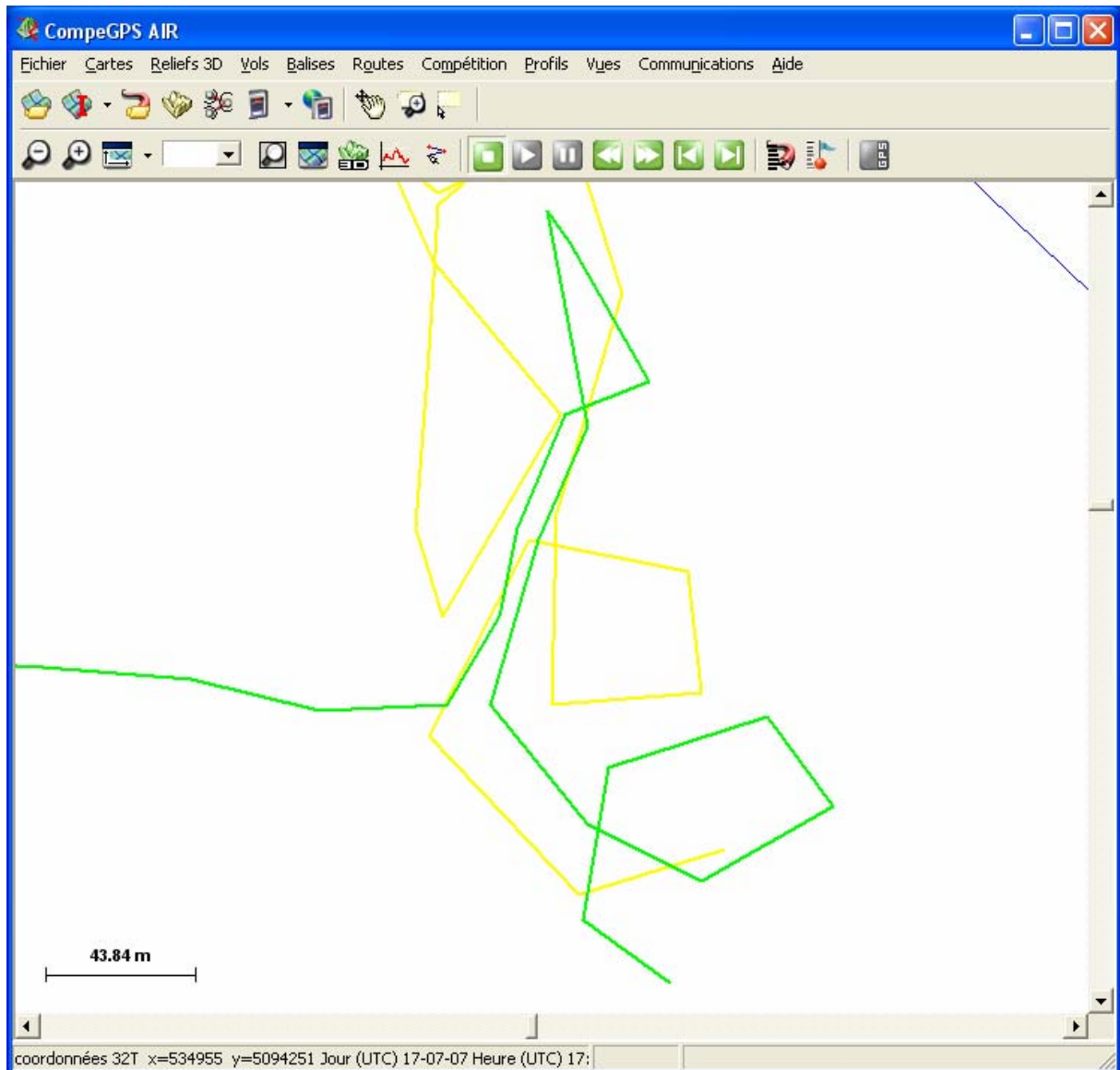
My harness is sliced in various parts. The handle of my reserve was dangling, which makes me think that the situation could have turned much worse. After the collision, PF headed for the valley. I was ready to follow him for landing. Instead he started again thermalling and continued the task, in spite of several lines broken.

Two days after, 10 minutes before the briefing of task 5, PF and two of his friends, RB and another guy I do not know, came to tell me I am 100% responsible for the collision and have to give money to PF. As PF made 2nd during task 5, if his glider had a problem, it looks like I fixed it!

RB said he witnessed the scene and saw me going through PF glider in a sharp turn. The tracks show I did not, and that on the contrary PF made a sharp turn when he realized he was going out of the thermal, even sharper when you consider his track is a 4-secs recording. The difference in altitudes confirms that point, and I did not enter directly through the lines of PF glider, in spite of what PF and Robert say. During the last 4 seconds before the collision, PF gained 12 meters in altitude, 20 in the last 8 seconds.

They did not listen to my explanations and my own point of view. I said I was higher OK but PF was out of the thermal coming from left, so there is no clear fault and responsibilities are

shared. I express I want to avoid collisions, I am happy to be alive after such an experience. This did not satisfy them.



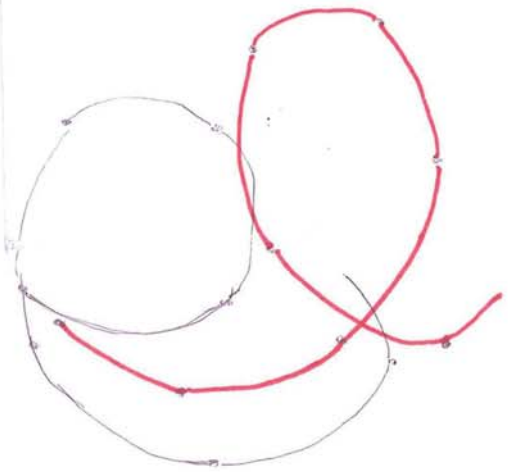
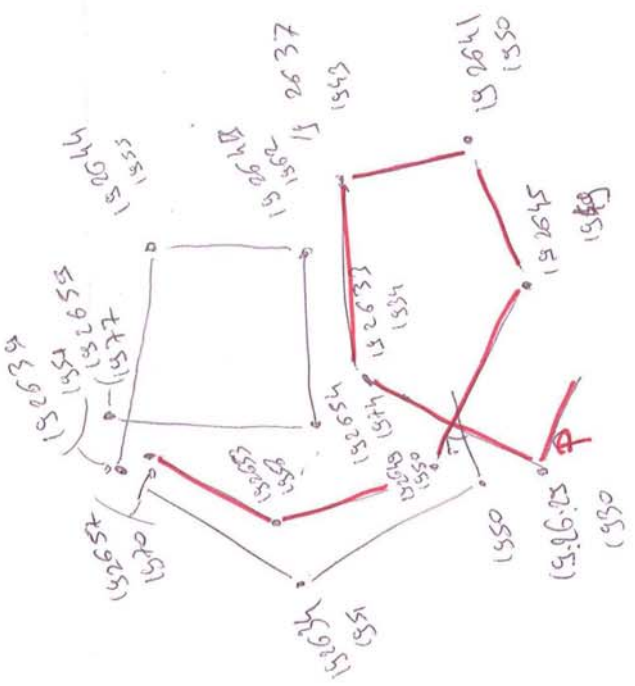
Now, after having studied the hard facts, PF is the clear responsible of the collision, and that he had not the right reactions before and during the collision. And RB did not speak the truth in his testimonial.

So I complain for:

- Air collision during task 3
- Harassment just before task 5
- Delivering unfair (to say the least) testimony
- Material damage to my harness

20 July 2007

Maxime BELLEMIN



$$S(2) \leftarrow S(1)$$