

Media Report
F3C European Championship
R/C Model Helicopters

At the 1983 FAI CIAM Plenary meeting the F3C Subcommittee chairman Francis Deproft and I pointed out to the CIAM that R/C Helicopters had flown in a competitions for several years in several countries with a sufficient number of competitors to qualify for World Championship status. The CIAM agreed and F3C was granted World Championship status. This competition marked the very first F3C European Continental Championship using the official FAI F3C rules.

The competition was organized by the Eibergen Model Airplane Club (ERMVC - Eibergse Radio Modelvliegclub). The competition took place on 19 and 20 May 1984 with 18 May serving as a practice day. An amazing 11 countries were represented by a total of 26~competitors. The preparation for the competition was excellent and the information received prior to the event covered all aspects of the competition.

The lodging facilities for the competitors were at the Motel Eibergen. Due to space limitations the FAI Jury and Judges were accommodated at Motel "Groene Weide" just outside of town.

The flying site was the ERMVC club field located about 2 km east of the town of Eibergen. The grass club field was the envy of many competitors and the preparation/condition was excellent with two complete F3C courses laid out to accommodate changes in wind direction. A high emphasis was placed on spectator safety with fencing separating the flying and spectator areas. The club house located on the field was very much appreciated and used by competitors and officials alike.

Competitor registration and model processing took place on Friday 18 May in a very large temporary tent located on the flying field. Each model was checked to assure compliance with FAI regulations. A special check was made to assure that metal tip weights were not used. A small but very sensitive metal detector was utilized for this purpose. It appeared that almost half of the competitors did not have the FAI model specification certificate nor the appropriate model sticker.

During the briefing session prior to the competition a number of questions arose which were answered by the FAI Jury. A major point concerned the time interval between when a maneuver is called and the start signaled by "Now". After a rather lengthy and late discussion the Jury promised to come up with a recommendation over night. It was posted at the flying site before the competition got underway.

The competition was started at approximately 10:00 am 19 May and was briefly interrupted by a visit from a member of the Dutch Royal family. The field was shut down at 19:30~hours after two complete rounds of competition. A third round was flown on Sunday 20 May and the competition ended at approximately 15:00 hours. The flying standard observed during the entire competition was very high.

An interesting event took place during the competition when two competitors from Romania arrived with home built helicopters and very old radio control systems. The models were obviously not competitive and they decided not to compete. Everyone was pleasantly surprised by a goodwill gesture by the Graupner company when they gave modern R/C systems and modern R/C helicopter kits to the Romanians.

The award ceremony took place on the field. where FAI certificates and FAI medals were presented to the individual and team winners.

Horace Hagen
FAI Jury Member