

FAI JURY REPORT

6TH F3C EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP NURMES, FINLAND AUGUST 4 THROUGH 11, 1996

ORGANIZATION: The 6th FAI F3C R/C Helicopter European Championship was organized by the Finnish Aeronautic Association. The competition was run by members of the FAA and members of several modeling clubs from the Helsinki area. Forty-one contestants from 16 countries were registered prior to the competition. All information received prior to the event was adequate and covered all aspects of the competition.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The headquarters for the contest officials, FAI Judges, FAI Jury and some contestants was the Hyvärilä Resort Hotel located adjacent to the flying site. Most of the competitors stayed in cabins associated with the "Bomba House" resort 2 km from the site. The remaining competitors stayed in cabins or the campground adjacent to the flying site. All of the facilities were of excellent quality. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were furnished by the Hyvärilä Resort Hotel.

FLYING SITE: The F3C flying site was located directly in front of the headquarters Hotel. The contest area was smaller than previously used and gave some initial concern. The contest area had to be laid out facing northeast which permitted its use only from 10:00 hours to minimize the sun getting into the pilot's and/or judge's eyes. The helipad preparation was excellent. Space for the competitors' models was provided in the adjacent technical building. This building also contained the transmitter impound and an auditorium. The auditorium was used for the team managers' meetings, a judges' training course for the 1997 rules and an F3C subcommittee meeting. A second building was used for the contest headquarters and computerized scoring system.

OPENING CEREMONY: The competition was opened by CIAM President Sandy Pimenoff and a representative for the mayor of the city of Nurmes on Sunday 4 August.

MODEL PROCESSING: Contestant registration and model processing took place on Sunday 4 August in the technical building. Each model was checked for FAI sticker, proper markings and to assure compliance with FAI regulations. Each transmitter was checked for carrier frequency and bandwidth.

COMPETITION: On Monday 5 August, the official practice day, each team was given thirty minutes to test fly their helicopters at the contest site. A demonstration flight for the judges took place at 09:30 hours before the start of the first round on Tuesday 6 August. The first round of competition followed at 10:00 hours and ended at approximately 17:30 hours. The same schedule was followed for the second and third elimination rounds on 7 and 8 August. The weather for the elimination rounds was sunny, warm and dry with little or no wind. Friday was a reserve day and was used by most for a day of relaxation. An F3C Subcommittee meeting to firm up the 1997 F3C program was held between 14:00 and 16:00 hours with 9 members present. The first fly-off round was flown the morning of Saturday 10 August followed by the second fly-off round after lunch. The flying standard observed during the entire contest was extremely high with the individual winner was not determined until the very last flight. A protest regarding a judges' decision was submitted during the elimination rounds. The protest was rejected by the FAI Jury.

CLOSING CEREMONY: A Finnish Folk Dance group performed prior to the award ceremony. Finnish Aeroclub gold, silver and bronze medals for the team and individual winners were awarded on site in front of the national flags by CIAM president Sandy Pimenoff.

BANQUET: The closing Banquet began at 19:00 hours on Saturday 10 August in the “BOMBA HOUSE” restaurant. The individual and team winners were awarded exquisite trophies sponsored by the organizers. The FAI Judges and Jury received souvenir plaques. Approximately 120 persons attended the banquet. The buffet style dinner serving traditional Finnish food was enjoyed by everyone.

COMMENTS: The 6th European F3C Championship was very successful due to the hard work of the contest officials coupled with an almost ideal flying site and ideal weather. The event was the first to use the internet to immediately disseminate information before, during and after the competition. Only two aspects of the competition could have been improved. First, it is the opinion of the FAI Jury that a real-time spectrum analyzer is better suited for monitoring the airwaves than the PC-based system used by the organizer. Second, standby airline tickets should not be used for transport of international judges and jury.

SUMMARY: It is the unanimous opinion of the Jury that the 6th F3C European Championship was well organized and run in a fair and friendly atmosphere. The Jury was impressed by the number of workers available for the competition. The organizer went to great lengths to assure that every participant was happy. The Finnish Aeronautic Association, the city of Nurmes and the many contest officials are to be congratulated for a job very well done.

The FAI Jury: Horace Hagen – USA (President)
Dr. Georg Breiner - AUT
Sandy Pimenoff - FIN