

**FAI JURY REPORT**  
**FAI F3C WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**GÖLBASI/ANKARA, TURKEY**  
**7. THRU 14. SEPTEMBER, 1997**

The 7th FAI F3C R/C Helicopter World Championship (WC) was organized by the Turkish Aeronautic Association (TURK HAVA KURUMU - THK) as part of the first World Air Games (WAG). The competition took place near the town of Gölbası about 35km south of Ankara. The competition was run by members of the THK and members of several modeling clubs. Sixty-two contestants from 28 countries were registered for the competition. The written information received prior to the event was adequate but often late. A few teams experienced difficulties getting fuel into Turkey while other teams experienced serious delays in getting their models through Turkish customs.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** The headquarters for the contest officials, FAI Judges, FAI Jury and most contestants was the Dedeman Hotel located in downtown Ankara. Although rated as a four star hotel, many of the rooms and the food did not meet that rating. Some of the competitors stayed in more modern hotels which were also closer to the flying site. Breakfast and dinner were provided at the Dedeman Hotel. Lunch packages were delivered to the flying site.

**FLYING SITE:** The F3C flying site was located on a very large pasture near the town of Gölbası about 35km south of Ankara. The contest area was laid out facing north which permitted its use all day. The helipad preparation was adequate. Three-man tents were provided for the competitors and their models. Two large tents were located adjacent to the flying site. One housed the transmitter impound, frequency control and computer scoring system and the other was used by spectators. Thankfully, the flying site was large enough and the wind always in the right direction so that the simultaneous international free flight competition never interfered with the F3C WC.

**MODEL PROCESSING:** Contestant registration and model processing took place on Saturday 6. September in the Dedeman Hotel. 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. The activities for each day were presented at a team manager's meeting at 20:00 hours.

**OPENING CEREMONY:** The official opening ceremony for the F3C WC took place at the Gölbası sports stadium during official practice on Sunday 7. September. Consequently most of the contest officials and some participants were unable to attend.

**COMPETITION:** On Sunday 7 August, the official practice day, the organizers ran a zero round in order to calibrate against available daylight. The practice round was changed to start at 07:00 hours and this was a wise decision. Due to some delays the round actually did not begin until 07:45 and ended at approximately 18:30 hours. A training flight with the "A" schedule was forfeited by the judges. The first elimination round on Monday 8. September followed the same time table as the practice round. The same schedule was followed for the second, third and fourth elimination rounds on 9, 10 and 11. September. The weather for the elimination rounds 1,2 and 3 was sunny, warm and dry with variable winds. Elimination round 4 encountered strong winds. A training flight with the "B" manoeuvre schedule was organized for the judges before flying started on Friday 11. September and was followed by three fly-off rounds. This was followed by the awarding of FAI Medals to the individual winners on the field. A special award ceremony was organized by the UK team for the five juniors that participated in the WC. The flying standard observed during the entire contest was extremely high. The 1997 F3C program was well received by the competitors and the scoring procedure added an air of excitement with the individual winner not determined until the last round. There were no protests filed.

**AWARD CEREMONY:** The award ceremony was split into two parts at the request of the F3C FAI Jury. The FAI Medals for the individual winners were first awarded at the flying site and this was repeated later at the Dedeman Hotel. The FAI certificates and trophies for the winning F3C teams were awarded at the Dedeman Hotel. The F3C award ceremony was combined with the much larger Free-Flight award ceremony and was delayed for more than an hour. This created great confusion, unrest and discomfort among the F3C competitors and guests. The decision to also award the individual FAI medals at the F3C flying site was a good one and resulted in excellent pictures for the modeling press. It is recommended that in the future all awards be given out in daylight at the flying site.

**BANQUET:** The closing Banquet was to start at 20:00 hours but actually did not start until 21:00 hours. The banquet room was so crowded that some of the contest workers were asked to leave to make room for contestants and WAG officials. In protest, several F3C teams left early and dined at other restaurants.

**CLOSING CEREMONY:** There was no closing ceremony because the F3C WC was completed before the official opening ceremony for the WAG.

**COMMENTS:** Several aspects of the competition could have been improved. The event was the first without an official pictorial competition program which significantly reduced the amount of socializing between teams. Key officials with a better command of the English language would have dramatically improved the operation. The fact that the contest site was dictated by other simultaneously flown competition classes (i.e. Free-Flight, F3B and Space) was a detriment to the F3C WC. Many competitors wondered why the Turks advertised the F3C WC as part of the WAG when in fact it was not. The headquarters hotel should not be located 45+ minutes from the flying site. The contest site should always contain nearby sanitary facilities. Standby airline tickets should never be used for transport of foreign judges and jury and their arrival should be scheduled at least two days prior to the start of the competition. There was no public acknowledgment for the work done by the FAI Judges, Jury and foreign specialists. A few aspects of the competition went quite well. The event was the second to successfully use the World Wide Web to disseminate information before, during and after the competition. The author of the computer scoring program for the new F3C schedule was present during the entire contest which saved the day on several occasions. The 7th F3C WC was a success largely due to the hard work of the Turkish F3C contest officials and foreign specialists coupled with good weather.

**SUMMARY:** In the opinion of the FAI Jury the 7th F3C World Championship was run in a fair and friendly atmosphere. The contest officials went to great lengths to make every participant feel at home. Many of the organizational problems were a direct result of trying to run several competitions simultaneously and as part of the first World Air Games. The Turkish Aeronautic Association (THK) and the many F3C contest officials are to be congratulated for achieving success under difficult circumstances.

The FAI Jury: Horace Hagen – USA (President)  
 Dr. Georg Breiner - AUT  
 Yalcin Bozduman \_ POL