

FAI JURY REPORT

7TH F3C EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP VIENNA, AUSTRIA AUGUST 15 THROUGH 22, 1998

ORGANIZATION: The 7th FAI F3C R/C Helicopter European Championship was organized by the Aeromodeling department of the Aero club of Austria. Members of the department and members of several modeling clubs from the Vienna area ran the competition. Forty contestants from 16 countries were registered prior to the competition. All information received prior to the event was timely and covered all aspects of the competition.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The headquarters for the contest officials, FAI Judges, FAI Jury and most of the contestants was the four star Vienna Holiday Inn Crown Plaza located within 10 minutes of the flying site. Some of the competitors stayed in a campground on the opposite side of the Danube river from the Holiday Inn. The Holiday Inn provided excellent breakfast and dinner buffets. Lunch was served in the restaurant of the Freudenau Racetrack.

FLYING SITE: The F3C flying site was located directly in front of the grandstand of the Freudenau Racetrack. The contest area contained some trees about 150 meters to the north of the helipad, which gave some initial concern, but proved to be no problem later. The contest area had to be laid out facing slightly northeast which permitted its use from 10:00 hours to minimize the effects of the sun. The helipad preparation was excellent. A nearby grandstand provided space for the transmitter impound. The computerized scoring system was located on the third floor of the observation tower of the main grandstand. This tower provided a fantastic view of the aerobatic manoeuvres.

OPENING CEREMONY: The Austrian CIAM delegate and government officials of the city of Vienna opened the competition after the Austrian Army military band marched onto the field. An air show followed with a fly-by of two fixed wing aerobatic aircraft and the landing of two full size helicopters. The Austrian and FAI flags were delivered by parasail equipped skydivers.

MODEL PROCESSING: Contestant registration and model processing took place on Saturday 15. August in the headquarters hotel. Each model was checked for FAI sticker, proper markings 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 (President)

Dr. Georg Breiner

Sandy Pimenoff