

## 8TH R/C HELICOPTER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Horace Hagen – President FAI Jury

The 8th FAI F3C World Championship took place from 13. to 21. August 1999. The competition was hosted by the Polish Aeroclub and the site was located on the Polish Air Force Academy air base in the town of Deblin about 100km southeast of Warsaw. I received three competition bulletins prior to the event describing all of the necessary details. When I arrived in Warsaw on Thursday 12. August, friends Stephan Kraszewski and Ryszard Witkowski who helped run the 1994 European Championships in Leszno welcomed me. For this competition Stephan was appointed to primary flight line director and Ryszard to the FAI Jury. Together with FAI Judge Tom McAteer and FAI Jury member Georg Breiner we traveled to the town of Deblin. When we arrived at the airbase I realized that the bulletins did not adequately describe it. It is a great facility because it is a small self-contained city. It has all of the necessary amenities like several restaurants, hotels, hostels, hospital, newsstand, museum, officers club, picnic area, sports stadium and a number of private homes.

My first stop was the "Secretariat" or headquarters building where I met my friends of many years, and main driving forces behind this competition, Dorota and Pawel Wlodarczyk. Pawel is the Polish delegate to the FAI CIAM and Dorota is the alternate delegate. I also met some of the other contest officials and a few competitors and team managers as they registered and received their competition souvenirs and programs. After I received the program and souvenirs I was given a short tour of the building and shown where the various functions would be accomplished. There were separate rooms for reception/registration, computer scoring, FAI Jury meetings and newsletter printing. The next stop was the flying site that was laid out on a grass strip directly in front of the main hangars. The helipad and start box surfaces consisted of a heavy vinyl sheet, which I thought, might present a problem and recommended their removal. These were indeed removed in favor of short grass before the start of the competition. I was happy to see that the flying site faced directly north which permitted its use from sunrise to sunset with minimal interference from the sun. This was a primary concern for me because we had a record participation of 74 competitors from 30 countries that would require more than 13 hours for each preliminary round.

I visited the main hangar next and met many more competitors. I also met contest director (CD) Wieslaw Szymkowski and assistant flight line director Roman Mucha. Although there were 26 officials listed in the program my main contacts as president of the FAI Jury would be CD Szymkowski, flight line directors Kraszewski and Mucha, computer scorers Wieslaw Krzymien / Wojciech Potaczek, frequency controller Roman Dyrzbaniski, noise marshal Ireneusz Pudelko and translator Anna Starczeswska. At least one specialist and in some cases multiple specialists were assigned to the various job functions. While walking to the main hangars I noticed a lineup of military aircraft in the distance. They were part of an outdoor museum exhibiting Polish and Russian aircraft used by the Polish Air Force since World War II.

It was now time to check into our living quarters and I was informed that members of the FAI Jury were staying in a private home on the airbase. My room was located within a 200-yard walk of the flying site. The FAI Judges had rooms in the hotel across the street from the site. Most of the competitors stayed in a hotel or hostel on the air base within a short walk of the flying site. A number of teams stayed in a hotel in the town of Pulawi about 20 km south of the airbase.

During the first day of model processing and official practice the FAI Jury was invited by the commander of the Polish Air Force Academy to tour the practice fields via private airplane. The plane only had room for two passengers and so Mr. Witkowski volunteered to stay and keep an eye on things. Georg Breiner and I flew in a Polish "Wilga" glider-tow-plane to the first practice field, landed there, inspected it and spoke with some of the teams. The pilots that we spoke to were very pleased with this practice site. We then continued to the second practice field and inspected it without landing because of the heavy activity there. The pilots then flew south along the Wisla River to the historic town of Kazimierz Dolny. Along the way we stumbled onto the private practice field of the American team. We waved to them but they did not know that the FAI Jury was snooping on them. Our pilots told us that many of Poland's movie stars own or are building villas in Kazimierz. It is a very picturesque town and after taking several pictures the pilots waved me off. A few moments later we were making "low level bombing runs" on the castle ruins atop a mountain and he said take a picture now. It was

all I could do to hang onto my camera. We were back at the competition site after an hour to continue our duties. The first team managers meeting took place at 5pm. We were all invited to a barbecue picnic at the "The Pilot's House" recreation center on the air base at 7:30pm. All of the participants attended and enjoyed the food and drink.

A "Schedule - A" calibration flight for the FAI judges took place at 7:45am prior to the continuation of official training on Saturday. The organizer arranged for a bus tour to the town of Kazimierz but only 15 people accepted the offer. I left Georg and Ryszard in charge and tagged along. It was a pleasant 4-hour tour and this time I saw the castle ruins up close and personal. I was surprised to find my favorite "Hazelnut" ice cream at one of the kiosks in the Town Square. I took a lot of pictures and we returned to the airbase at 2:00pm. Upon our return we met CIAM President Sandy Pimenoff who was invited as a special guest. At 4:45pm we all gathered to walk to the sports stadium for the opening ceremony. The stadium was decorated with a row of flags of the participating nations. In the center was a pedestal holding an Olympic flame. Each team was accompanied by an Air Force Cadet and marched onto the field to music played by the Academy marching band. An athlete ran around the track and lit the Olympic flame. The competition was officially opened by General Ryszard Olszewski the commander of the Air Force Academy while other high ranking government officials looked on. We watched an air show that consisted of a five-man aerobatics team flying turboprop trainers, a World War I biplane making low level passes, a large Sokol transport helicopter performing slow motion, wild maneuvers and a hot air balloon. The full-scale airshow ended with parasail equipped skydivers landing in the stadium center carrying the Polish and FAI flags. This was followed by a demonstration flight by the reigning F3C World Champion Manabu Hashimoto from Japan. We went to bed early because the first preliminary round was scheduled to start at 6:00am Sunday morning and that meant that we had to meet at 5:00am for breakfast. Fortunately sunrise occurred earlier so we had breakfast in daylight.

The first preliminary round started promptly at 6:00am on Sunday. A big concern was "Can we complete a round before sunset?" Everyone was anxious to see which pilot had improved the most since the 1997 World Championship (WC) in Turkey. The weather during the first round was good but the wind varied enough to add a luck factor to the outcome. The round ended just before dusk and we recommended that the remaining preliminary rounds also start at 6am. After each flight the scores were quickly displayed on a score board and copies of the score sheets were given to each pilot. The total number of competitors was 74 and this meant that 15 pilots would go on to the fly-off rounds. At the end of the first round the top fifteen places belonged to:

1. Youngblood- USA	6. Gray – CAN	11. Kunii – JPN
2. Hashimoto – JPN	7. Roessner – GER	12. Lucchi – ITA
3. Mann – USA	8. Christy – GBR	13. Livi – ITA
4. Sensui – JPN	9. Graber – SUI	14. Brianchon – FRA
5. Kobayashi – JPN	10. Hoenle – GER	15. Worgas - AUT

The USA team consisted of Wayne Mann, Dwight Shilling, Curtis Youngblood and Team Manager David Harkey. Curtis and Wayne did extremely well and came in first and third but Dwight had some problems and was down in 20<sup>th</sup> place. The entire Japanese contingent got into the top fifteen but Hashimoto, defending his 1997 WC title, was not part of the team. The team standings after the first round were 1<sup>st</sup> USA, 2<sup>nd</sup> Japan and 3<sup>rd</sup> Germany. The first preliminary round ended at approximately 7:40pm with only about 20 minutes left before sunset.

The second preliminary round on Monday followed the same time schedule. During this round we had a few rain showers with one lasting almost an hour. I was really worried that we could not finish this round but with the hard push from the flight line directors and excellent cooperation from the pilots we were able to complete the round before darkness set in. Hashimoto won this round resulting in Curtis and Wayne being bumped down a notch but Dwight moved up to 14<sup>th</sup> place. After this round the top 15 pilots were:

1. Hashimoto - JPN	6. Kobayashi - JPN	11. Feil - GER
2. Youngblood - USA	7. Kunii - JPN	12. Livi - ITA
3. Sensui - JPN	8. Gray - CAN	13. Branchion - FRA
4. Mann - USA	9. Roessner - GER	14. Shilling - USA
5. Hoenle - GER	10. Christy - GBR	15. Lucchi - ITA

The third preliminary round was flown on Tuesday and the wind again varied in direction and speed. The rather high profile of the judges' tent added some significant turbulence that made some unlucky pilots work very hard on the hovering maneuvers. The USA team was on a roll with Curtis and Wayne moving up to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and Dwight moving up from 14<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> place. After this round the top 15 pilots were:

1. Youngblood - USA	6. Kunii - JPN	11. Roessner - GER
2. Mann - USA	7. Kobayashi - JPN	12. Christy - GBR
3. Hashimoto - JPN	8. Feil - GER	13. Lien - TPE
4. Sensui - JPN	9. Gray - CAN	14. Lucchi - ITA
5. Hoenle - GER	10. Shilling - USA	15. Worgas - AUT

The fourth and final preliminary round was flown on Wednesday with similar weather conditions during another 14-hour hiatus. Hashimoto of Japan won his second round and moved up to 1<sup>st</sup> place. Curtis and Wayne held on to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and Dwight moved up to 8<sup>th</sup> place. This nailed the USA team into 1<sup>st</sup> place. The individual order of finish after the four preliminary rounds is determined by summing the three best scores. The following top 15 pilots continued to the fly-off rounds and their total scores are listed below:

Place	Competitor	Country	Total Score
1	Hashimoto, Manabu	JPN / 97-Champion	2982.08
2	Youngblood, Curtis	USA	2972.39
3	Mann, Wayne	USA	2940.41
4	Hoenle, Johann	GER	2925.08
5	Sensui, Kazuyuki	JPN	2922.23
6	Kunii, Shinya	JPN	2892.07
7	Feil, Ruediger	GER	2856.90
8	Shilling, Dwight	USA	2807.08
9	Kobayashi, Minoru	JPN	2795.33
10	Gray, Scott	CAN	2705.18
11	Christy, Mark	GBR	2697.20
12	Lien, Yung Wang	TPE	2645.81
13	Roessner, Sven	GER	2620.17
14	Kastiel, Efraim	ISR	2598.20
15	Lombard, Laurent	FRA	2576.79

The team standings are calculated by taking the best three scores for each team member and combining them with the other team members. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams, the competitor numbers, individual total scores and the combined team total scores are listed below. Congratulations to the USA Team for winning 1<sup>st</sup> Place and taking the magnificent F3C perpetual trophy home.

Place	Team	Comp. #	Score	Comp. #	Score	Comp. #	Score	Total
<b>1</b>	<b>USA</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2940.41</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>2807.08</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>2972.39</b>	<b>8719.89</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2795.33</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2892.07</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>2922.23</b>	<b>8609.63</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2856.90</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2925.08</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2620.17</b>	<b>8402.15</b>

Up to this point there was no time for an F3C Subcommittee meeting that I wanted to hold during the World Championship. The first fly-off round was scheduled to start at 9:00am Thursday morning. With this later start I planned to hold a short F3C Subcommittee meeting between 7:30 and 8:30am. There were eleven members present and we discussed several items. 1) Removing the engine displacement limits. 2) Banning the use of nitro

methane (NM) in our fuel. 3) The helicopter event to be recommended for the 2001 World Air Games. 4) The possibility of a new F3C program for the 2001 Sporting Code. The meeting actually lasted over two hours because of a rain delay.

The first fly-off round started at 10:30am and ended at 1pm. Later that afternoon the organizers arranged for the trip to Kozlowka. We visited the ZAMOYSKI museum and were led by English, German and Polish speaking tour guides. The museum was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century as the residence of Baron Konstanty Zamoyski and contains significant works of art. One of the adjacent carriage houses was converted to a museum that houses statues collected from all over Poland. These statues serve as grim reminders of the socialist government of recent times. After the tour we walked through the formal garden to the picnic area. At the picnic area a four-piece band playing Polish music greeted us. There was plenty of food and draft beer for everyone. Some folks lined up for a tethered balloon ride and had a ball rising up about 10 meters among the treetops. The organizer was disappointed because only about sixty people participated but also realized that some of the top 15 pilots and their crews were out practicing for the remaining two fly-off rounds.

Friday was dedicated to the remaining fly-off rounds. The second fly-off round took place before lunch and the third and final fly-off round was completed after lunch and ended at 4pm. The final individual standings are listed below:

Place	Competitor	Country	Prelim.	FO #1	FO #2	FO #3	Total
1	Hashimoto	99Wch	1000.0	1000.0	995.1	986.3	2995.1
2	Youngblood	USA	996.8	983.4	1000.0	962.5	2980.2
3	Sensui	JPN	979.9	978.4	998.4	989.8	2968.1
4	Feil	GER	958.0	983.4	940.0	1000.0	2941.4
5	Mann	USA	986.0	970.1	978.9	953.9	2935.1
6	Kobayashi	JPN	937.4	963.5	975.7	895.9	2876.6
7	Kunii	JPN	969.8	948.6	901.1	844.7	2819.5
8	Hoenle	GER	980.9	897.2	910.9	537.5	2788.9
9	Shilling	USA	941.3	890.5	883.3	858.4	2715.2
10	Christy	GBR	904.5	872.3	894.7	882.3	2681.4
11	Gray	CAN	907.1	404.6	833.1	875.4	2615.6
12	Roessner	GER	878.6	829.2	820.1	834.5	2542.3
13	Kastiel	ISR	871.3	852.4	816.9	778.2	2540.5
14	Lombard	FRA	864.1	840.8	821.7	819.1	2526.6
15	Lien	TPE	887.2	766.2	825.0	766.2	2478.4

To indicate that consistency pays off note that, of the top five finishers, only Sensui did not win a single round and yet placed third overall. Although Hashimoto had a commanding lead after the second fly-off, the contest was not over until after the final fly-off round. Curtis Youngblood could have overtaken Hashimoto by 1.7 points if he had won the last round.

The closing ceremony was also held in the airbase stadium. The teams again marched onto the field led by Air Force Cadets and the marching band. The Olympic flame was extinguished and this was followed by a formal award ceremony. Reigning F3C World Champion Manabu Hashimoto of Japan was named the 1999 F3C World Champion and received the FAI Gold Medal. The individual Silver and Bronze Medals were awarded to Curtis Youngblood of the USA and Kazuyuki Sensui of Japan, respectively. The F3C Team awards were given out next. First place trophies and certificates were awarded to the USA team. The second and third place trophies and certificates were awarded to the Japanese and German teams, respectively. Guest of Honor Sandy Pimenoff and yours truly were privileged to present some of the awards and give closing speeches. The organizers really outdid themselves with regard to awards. There were so many additional medals, certificates and trophies given to the individual and team winners that some had to purchase additional suitcases to transport them home.

The closing banquet took place in the Officer's club. The banquet room was magnificently decorated and accommodated over 200 participants. The FAI Judges, Jury, special guests and contest officials received souvenir vases and plaques. The banquet included live entertainment featuring a music ensemble playing Polish

folk music and a folk dance team dressed in magnificent traditional costumes. We all enjoyed the dinner consisting of traditional Polish food and "Bison Vodka".

Some personal observations made at the competition: I hope that Hashimoto's performance encourages other pilots to return to helicopters carrying full fuselages. I overheard some spectators asking: Why do so many models look like "broomsticks"? I noticed that 30 percent NM fuel does not necessarily generate a lot of smoke. Some of the Japanese pilots generated less smoke with 30% than others did with 5% NM fuel. During calm periods the smoke generated by some of the models using 30% NM was unbearable. One of the youngest pilots ever to attend an F3C World Championship was 11 year old Avi Levi from Israel. We were amazed to watch him put his helicopter through its paces. He received a round of applause every time he flew. USA Team Manager Dave Harkey did a great job of supporting our team. The event was blessed by the combined support of the commander of the Polish Air Force Academy and the aeromodeling staff of the Polish Aeroclub. The use of the magnificent "Banquet room" in the officers club for the official reception and closing banquet made the event very special and one that will long be remembered. The meals served in the Air Force Academy restaurants were of excellent quality. Although there were some short interruptions caused by rain and full size aircraft movements these did not create a problem. This World Championship marks the first autonomous event in 12 years. I hope everyone realized that for the first time in many years we did not play second fiddle to any other event. I have been fighting the temptation by the CIAM to combine events into a multi-event Aerolympics for many years and finally succeeded. The 2001 World Championship at the AMA National Aeromodeling Center in Muncie, Indiana – USA will also be under our exclusive control and I encourage everyone to pitch in when the time comes.

As president of the FAI Jury and Chairman of the FAI/CIAM F3C Subcommittee, I would like to thank fellow Jury members Georg Breiner (Austria) and Ryszard Witkowski (Poland) for their support. My sincere thanks to the FAI judges: Shigetada Taya (Japan), Tobias Schulz (Germany), Frits van Laar (Netherlands), Jeremy Fox (Great Britain) and Tom McAteer (USA) for their superhuman dedication. And finally, special thanks to Dorota and Pawel Włodarczyk, General Olszewski and the many competition officials for a very well run World Championship.