

FAI JURY REPORT

8th FAI F3C EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP ASSEN, NETHERLANDS

ORGANIZATION: The 8th FAI F3C R/C Helicopter European Championship was organized by the Royal Dutch Aeronautical Association (KNVvL). The competition was run by members of the Assen Model Flying Club with help from other clubs. The competition took place 18. through 25. August, 2000. The site was the Assen Model Flying Club field located adjacent to the famous Assen Race Circuit. Forty-two contestants from 17 countries registered prior to the competition. All information bulletins were received in a timely fashion.

ACCOMMODATION: Due to limited space in the primary Hotel Assen the FAI Jury members, Judges and some competitors had to stay in a different hotel for the first two nights. After that, members of the Jury, Judges and most of the contestants stayed at Hotel Assen located within a short drive of the flying site. Some of the competitors stayed in a campsite adjacent to the flying field. Meal coupons were issued to the guests of Hotel Assen for excellent buffet breakfasts and dinners. Lunch consisted of sandwiches and drink served in the food tent on the flying site.

FLYING SITE: The contest area was laid out on the Assen Model Flying Club's field and faced directly north. This permitted its use with minimal interference from the sun. A chain-link fence separated the flying area from the spectators. A large tent was placed to the far side and behind the spectator line and was used as a shelter for the models and pilots. A corner of this tent was used for the transmitter impound and frequency monitoring station. A second tent was set up for the lunchroom. The clubhouse was used for a reception area, newsletter printing and computer scoring.

MODEL PROCESSING: Contestant registration and a sports briefing took place on Friday 18. August. Model processing and official practice occurred on Saturday. Each model was checked for FAI sticker, proper markings and compliance with FAI regulations. This was followed by a transmitter frequency check. Every competitor and Team Manager received a competition program and contest souvenirs.

OPENING CEREMONY: The opening ceremony took place at 18:00 hours on Saturday on the flying field. Each team marched onto the field accompanied by music and carrying their national flag. The competition was opened by the deputy mayor of Assen and representatives of the Royal Dutch Aeronautical Association. Some of the wives of the contest officials were dressed in traditional Dutch costumes adding local charm to the event.

COMPETITION: An "A Schedule" calibration flight for the judges was arranged prior to the first preliminary round at 07:45 hours on Sunday. The first preliminary round started at 08:00 hours and ended at approximately 17:00 hours. The anticipated noise interference from the race track during the autorotations proved minimal. The same schedule was followed for the second, third and fourth preliminary rounds on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday without the noise interference. The weather during the preliminary rounds was partly cloudy with relatively light winds. Three training flights with the "B Schedule" manoeuvres were organized for the judges before the first fly-off round on Thursday. The second and third fly-off rounds were flown on Friday. A few problems were encountered with the computer scoring program. Thanks to the internet and a very cooperative program designer the problems were corrected in near real time. There were no official protests filed.

AWARD AND CLOSING CEREMONY: The contest officials first presented the FAI medals to the individual and team winners on the field. This was followed with trophies sponsored by the Royal Dutch Aeronautical Association. The organizer presented special awards to the four junior participants although there is no official Junior classification in the F3C category. It is hoped that this recognition will induce additional young people to participate in the category.

BANQUET: The closing banquet took place in the clubhouse of the Assen Race Track. The room accommodated all guests and allowed some indoor R/C Helicopter flight demonstrations. The FAI Judges, members of the Jury and contest officials received souvenir gifts. The buffet-style dinner and comradery was enjoyed by everyone.

SUMMARY: It is the opinion of the FAI Jury that the 8th F3C European Championship was run in a fair and friendly atmosphere. Competitors, officials and supporters all experienced the warm hospitality of the Dutch people. We thank the leaders of the Aeromodelling Section of the Royal Dutch Aeronautical Association for hosting this event. We congratulate the entire competition staff for running an excellent European Championship. And finally, a special Thanks to the FAI Judges for their hard work.

The FAI Jury: Horace Hagen (President)
 Georg Breiner
 Peter Keim