

## **AGENDA ITEM 4.1**

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF CIVA**

**Michael R. Heuer**

#### **The 2009 Contest Year**

As we finish the 2009 contest year, I can report to you another successful year of FAI Aerobatic Championships. This year was also marked by great tragedy, as we suffered our first fatal accident at the World Aerobatic Championships since 1960 with the loss of US Team pilot Vicki Cruse. We pay tribute to her at this meeting as well as the other friends and colleagues that have been lost in the last year.



A successful contest season was possible due to the hard and dedicated work of our corps of volunteers. This includes not only the local people who help organize and run our contests, but the cadre of volunteers who work for CIVA year after year. They can be found on the Jury, in the Scoring Office, on the Boards of Judges, on Technical Commissions, and throughout the contest site.

2009 was a special challenge for the CIVA aerobatic community, as five FAI Aerobatic Championships were held this year which caused a considerable strain on our rather small corps of FAI International Officials. There has never been a schedule of events more demanding than this year's.

#### **FAI Aerobatic Championships**

In 2009, the following events were held:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> World Air Games; Turin, Italy
- 25<sup>th</sup> World Aerobatic Championships; Silverstone, United Kingdom
- 6<sup>th</sup> European Advanced Aerobatic Championships; Radom, Poland
- 13<sup>th</sup> World Glider Aerobatic Championships; Hosin, Czech Republic
- 2<sup>nd</sup> World YAK 52 Aerobatic Championships; Rojūnai, Lithuania

In addition, there was one "special event" as well.

- The World Elite Aerobatic Formula was held at Constanta, Romania under rules approved by CIVA and directed by Jurgis Kairys. A full report on this event and plans for the future appear under Agenda item 14.1.

Here are the details:

Event	Date	Place	Pilots	NACs
WAG	6-13 June	Turin, Italy	16	10
YAK WAC	25 June-5 July	Rojūnai, Lithuania	20	6
WGAC	10-19 July	Hosin, Czech Republic	34	11
EAAC	6-16 August	Radom, Poland	47	15
WAC	19-29 August	Silverstone, UK	60	18
<b>Total</b>			<b>177</b>	

The total of **177** competitors compares to **154** competitors who flew in 2008 classical Championships. In 2007, it was **131**. Of course, there was some duplication of pilots in both Power and Glider between the World Air Games and the other Championships.

### New World and Continental Champions

The new World Aerobatic Champion is **Renaud Ecalle** of France (left). Mr. Ecalle also won the title of World Air Games Aerobatic Champion (Power). Renaud flew the Extra 330SC and took home the Aresti Cup.



World Women's Aerobatic Champion is **Elena Klimovich** of Russia (right) flying the Sukhoi 26. It was Elena's first win of the world title and she took home the Royal Aero Club Trophy.

World Glider Aerobatic Champion is Georgiy Kaminskiy of Russia flying the Swift S-1. This was Mr. Kaminskiy's third win of the world title. He also competed in the World Air Games.





World YAK 52 Aerobatic Champion is Alexander Myakishev of Russia.

European Advanced Aerobatic Champion is Daniel Ryfa of Sweden flying the YAK 55M. This is the first time a Swedish pilot has won an FAI Continental Championships in aerobatics.

My congratulations to the winners and the teams!



### **Contest Software and Judging Analysis**

This year, only one contest scoring program was in use:

**ACRO** – Developed by Nick Buckenham (United Kingdom) and approved by the Bureau of CIVA for use at FAI Championships in 2008. ACRO was used at all 2009 FAI Aerobatic Championships. Its judging analysis is particularly robust and useful. The overall judging analysis reports for this year's competitions can be found in the Agenda Packages.

We now have an excellent scoring program in place and the best judging analysis tools we have ever had. This will be of enormous help to us in the future in two areas:

- Selection of Judges for Championships.
- Judging training, education, and feedback.

Over this past winter, Steve Green and John Gaillard continued work on compiling Rank Indexes (RI) for all of the FAI Aerobatic Championships for the past 5 years. All 2009 data has now been entered into the spreadsheets and John Gaillard has presented his grid of judge ranking in his report (see Agenda item 11.4).

Judge selection in the future should be routine and Mr. Gaillard has reported on this in some detail in his report as referenced above.

I also thank Nick Buckenham for his attention to detail in continuing to improve ACRO and including CIVA's unique requirements that go far beyond what is needed at domestic competitions. Mr. Buckenham's presence at two of our Championships was of great help to organizers but also provided him with feedback and ideas on how to improve ACRO. His speed in implementing these changes has been astonishing.

Judging analysis must be in the public domain. In other words, Teams must have access to it as they are entitled to know how they are being treated by Judges. By being completely open with this information, inaccurate rumors about the judging will be squelched and the Teams and pilots fully aware of the performance of the Board of Judges.

The judging analysis reports that are generated by ACRO were prepared by me at WAC and provided to the Judges on site in Silverstone. These reports were also e-mailed to all Team Managers on 7 September 2009. Judges were also provided analysis reports for our other Championships as well.

Along these lines, it is interesting to note that protests are now rarely received on judging. I think this is a credit to John Gaillard and the members of the Judging Sub-Committee who have worked hard to improve our standards. ACRO provides the judging analysis they need to resolve problems, identify trends, and to provide feedback to Judges and it is working very well.

## Contest Results

Results for the 2009 FAI Aerobatic Championships can be found at [www.civa-results.com](http://www.civa-results.com).

This website was created in 2008 and hosts the results as well as the contest data files for these Championships. There are links provided so you can download ACRO and the contest data files. It is all open and transparent.



The screenshot shows the CIVA Championship Results website. It features the FAI Aerobatics Commission logo on the left and the CIVA logo on the right. The main content is a table listing upcoming and past events. The table has three columns: Year, Event Name, and Results available. The 2009 section lists five upcoming events, all marked with green checkmarks. The 2008 section lists six past events, also marked with green checkmarks. At the bottom, there is a link to the Contest Data File Archive and scoring software, and a credit to exploit-design.

2009	Forthcoming Championships	Results available ...
June 3 - 13	The World Air Games, Torino, Italy	✓
June 25 - July 7	The World YAK 52 Aerobatic Championship, Rojunai, Lithuania	✓
July 11 - 18	The World Glider Aerobatic Championship, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic	✓
August 6 - 16	The European Advanced Aerobatic Championship, Radom Piastow Airfield, Poland	✓
August 19 - 29	The World Aerobatic Championships, Silverstone, UK	✓

  

2008	Past Events ...	Results available ...
June 6 - 8	The World Aerobatic Cup, Airfield Roudnice, Czech Republic	✓
July 5 - 13	The European Aerobatic Championships, Hradec Kralové, Czech Republic	✓
July 26 - Aug 3	The European Advanced Glider Aerobatic Contest, Rothenburg, Germany	✓
August 1 - 10	The World Advanced Aerobatic Championship, Pendleton, Oregon, USA	✓
August 7 - 17	The European Glider Aerobatics Championship, Piastow Airfield, Radom, Poland	✓
August 17 - 24	The World Yak-52 Aerobatic Championship, Novosibirsk, Russia	✓

[Contest Data File Archive and scoring software](#)

web by exploit-design



## **World Air Games**

Let me make some additional observations regarding the World Air Games in Turin. I very much agree with the reports submitted by Osmo Jalovaara and John Gaillard (see Agenda item 6). We can discuss improvements and changes to our rules for the Games at our 2010 meeting. The Games went quite well, though we were very concerned in the weeks prior to the event that we were not going to get adequate time slots to run our flight programmes. This was resolved and our working relationship with Luca Salvadori and his crew on site was excellent.

I did not serve in an official CIVA role at WAG. My duty was as President of the International Air Sports Board, a sort of “Super Jury”. This Board was not intended to be an appeals board but rather a supervisory body to make sure the objectives and goals of the World Air Games, as envisioned by FAI, were kept by all of the air sports disciplines. However, at the event it did hear one appeal from a competitor, Svetlana Kapanina of Russia. The details of that appeal appear in other reports. I thought it was resolved satisfactorily.

However, I was disappointed that when this appeal was filed, I was temporarily removed from the Presidency of the IASB by the FAI President. To this day, I do not understand this decision. If anyone was qualified to participate in a hearing of an appeal from an aerobatic pilot, it was me. This must be changed in the future and I was delighted to note that recommendations have been made by the remaining members of the IASB (Brian Spreckley, David Hamilton, and Bob Henderson) to prevent this interference in sporting matters from occurring again. I would be honored to serve on the IASB at the World Air Games in the future but only if such changes are implemented and the IASB remains an independent body.

## **Other Web Projects**

A new web domain, [www.civa-news.com](http://www.civa-news.com) has been purchased by Nick Buckenham on CIVA’s behalf and we plan to begin using this website soon as a repository for contest documents, guidance, and information. I will make an announcement when the project is underway.

## **In Conclusion ...**

My special thanks to Tom Poberezny, President of the Experimental Aircraft Association, for agreeing to host our CIVA meeting this year in Oshkosh. I have known Tom since 1968 and I served on the EAA staff between 1974 and 1978. It was one of the most interesting and educational experiences of my life. Tom is a former member of the US Aerobatic Team and competed at Salon de Provence in 1972, so we are meeting in a very friendly environment where I have always felt at home.

All of us in CIVA continue to learn from our events and come up with new ways to improve them. I am proud we are not too rigid to try new ideas but at the same time, we hold fast to our rules to give the pilots stable and predictable events in which to compete.



Some of the things I learned this year which are worth repeating:

- There is well established and easy-to-use technology out there to improve communications at our Championships, to keep people well informed throughout the world, and to make competition organization more efficient. CIVA and all FAI Air Sports Commissions should take advantage of all of them. Sometimes it is a matter of just knowing what is out there.
- It is very important to have emergency response and accident procedures in place. FAI provides an excellent document and this was the basis of WAC's procedures which, unfortunately, were needed. All Championships organizers must examine and implement such procedures.
- WAG was well received by CIVA officials and pilots. It is a viable concept and our people look forward to the next event and are look forward to news from FAI on the 2011 Games.
- I endorse the report of Brian Spreckley on the International Air Sports Board (IASB) at WAG. I recommend the adoption of his recommendations. There should not be any interference with the functioning of this Board in adjudicating protests.
- Websites are only useful if they are up-to-date and contain pertinent and recent information. "Blogging" on the CIVA website proved to be easy, thanks to FAI's help, and response was very good. I would recommend all Championships have a look at what was done at Silverstone and adopt their methods of communicating. Websites must be up-to-date and or they will not be visited.

As an attachment to this report, I have included the 2009 Championships logos. We had some beautiful artwork this year and my compliments to the logo designers.

It has been an honor to serve as your President this past year and I appreciate your support.

Collierville, Tennessee, USA  
27 September 2009



## 2009 Championships Logos

