

FAI JURY REPORT ON THE 2015 FAI F2 CONTROL LINE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

For Seniors & Juniors

Pazardzhik, Bulgaria 22nd – 29th August, 2015

1. Contest Information

Four bulletins were published and emailed to the appropriate NACs. The Organisers also set up a website for information purposes. The bulletins were also available for download from this website.

There was an information board outside the office block where the Championship administration was located on the second floor. An information board was placed at the F2B, F2C & F2D circles; F2A shared the main notice board. The distribution of information on the main notice board was usually reasonable.

There was only one Team Managers' meeting held on Sunday 23rd August. It was held in a local hotel which was an improvement on the open-air meeting of 2012, but the room allocated to the meeting was badly affected by the noise of a wedding reception held in the hotel. This made it very difficult for people to hear what was being said.

This meeting followed the usual practice of the F2B, F2C and F2D Heads of the Panels of Judges and the F2A Senior Judge informing, and taking questions from, the Team Managers.

2. General

World Cup

A World Cup in all four classes was held over the two days immediately prior to the Championships. Doing this does give an opportunity to resolve any obvious problems and permit training of competition officials. Nonetheless, as has been noted at previous championships, it does take up a lot of resource that could, perhaps, be better spent on the actual championships.

Preparation/Administration

Although the actual flying site was well prepared this year, I regret to say that there was still a lack of preparation in the administration. For example the Championship T-shirts that formed part of the gift bags given out at Registration for each team member did not appear to have been sorted by size into boxes to enable them to be easily identified for distribution. Then finding the right sizes took up valuable time during Registration although the Championship Organiser had some help from Miss Lazarkov in this task.

It is always a good policy to get as much of the preparation done as far as possible before the Championships begin leaving more time during the Championship for those unforeseen and unexpected problems that need resolving.

Again the Championship Organiser was the only person doing all of the administration from registering the teams to resolving problems to generating the results. Of course there will be fewer entries for an F2 European Championships than for an F2 World Championships, but more than one person in the office is vitally necessary. Mr Lazarkov is very skilled at multi-tasking, but still there were inevitable delays.

First Aid

There were first aid facilities, and a qualified First Aider, located at the F2A and F2D circles. The first aid facilities at the F2D circle served the F2C & F2B circles as they were in close proximity to each other. A Doctor of Surgery was on call 15 minutes away at the local hospital. After the second F2D accident, the FAI Jury President advised that an emergency first aid vehicle be organised to remain at the F2D circle. Mr Lazarkov immediately organised this. The FAI Jury President also advised that there should be a "first aid" notice at each circle with information on the location of the first aid kits and contact numbers for the first aiders. This was also immediately organised.

Trophies

All the European Championship trophies - F2B Individual, F2B Team & F2D Individual - were delivered back in good, clean condition and the trophy forms were completed and sent by the FAI President to the CIAM Secretary. All three FAI trophies were presented at the prize-giving.

3. FAI Jury

The FAI Jury comprised Mrs Yolanda Garcia, Mr Lyubomir Donchev and Mrs Jo Halman GBR (President). A specific room had not been allocated for the FAI Jury to attend to protests. There was a small room available at the back of the administration office but this was not convenient in most cases. As in 2012, the FAI Jury attended to protests at the circle (F2D) but ensured that their deliberations were not overheard.

The site is very spread out and each FAI Jury member was provided with a mobile telephone and so communication between the Jury members and the Event Director was simple and easy. It is recommended that this technique be extended also to the individual Contest Directors and Head Judges.

The two Jury members who were staying at the Hotel Primavera II were collected from the hotel each morning and returned there each evening. It is recommended that all three Jury members should stay in the same hotel.

4. Flying Site

The site was new in 2012 and since then it had improved hugely and there were no site problems. Because of the low entry in F2B, this was run as a "single-circle format" and the F2B grass circle was utilised as an F2B practice area.

5. Transport

Mr Lazarkov arranged transport with various drivers to ferry the FAI Jury back and forth from the administration office to the F2D circles when protests were handed in. This worked reasonably well.

6. Accommodation & Food

Accommodation was in a number of hotels in Pazardzhik with camping at the flying site. The FAI Jury was accommodated with some of the F2B judges in a small hotel. The staff was very helpful. It is always useful if the FAI Jury, the Judges and possibly even the main officials for all four classes can be accommodated in one hotel but that cannot always be the case.

Official lunches were served in a marquee near the F2B circle which was some distance from the administration office.

7. Weather

There were huge rain storms in the lead-up to the Championships and in the first few evenings otherwise the weather was sunny & hot.

8. Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was again held in the town square. The teams walked the short distance from the assembly point to the square and lined up along the perimeter of the square to listen to the welcoming speeches and the formal opening of the Championships.

9. Processing (Official & In-Competition)

The official processing day went reasonably well and generally to schedule.

No models or engines were found to be in contravention of the rules.

None of the aircraft checked during in-competition processing were found to be in contravention of the rules.

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10. Entry

There were fewer entries than expected, only 158 including the 27 dedicated F2D mechanics, from a total of 23 countries with 18 juniors from 8 countries. The entry breakdown was:

F2A - 28 in total: 23 seniors from 11 countries & 5 juniors

F2B - 37 in total: 33 seniors from 13 countries & 4 juniors

F2C - 28 in total: 25 seniors from 12 countries & 3 juniors

F2D - 38 in total: 32 seniors from 12 countries & 6 juniors

There were two defending champions: the RUS F2A Junior, Jan SPIRIN and the RUS F2C Senior team of Yury SHABASHOV/Viktor YUGOV. Other champions did compete but as part of their national team.

11. Competition

F2A

The Contest Director ran the competition very competently and it was noted that he had produced an excellent diagram of the line check area which was faithfully reproduced on the tarmac by his team. This contributed to the smooth through-put of competitors.

The F2A Chief Judge withdrew for personal reasons immediately prior to the competition and was replaced by Mr Marian Jurkovic, SVK who was also the binocular judge. The TransiTrace scoring system was very capably run, and the tabulated results produced, by Miss Julia Lazarkov. The binocular and height judges, the Circle Marshall and line check officials were very competent and everything ran very smoothly.

One replacement attempt was necessary because of the failure of both TransiTrace systems.

The F2A competitors are to be congratulated on the exemplary way that they conducted their "free training" sessions.

There were no protests in F2A.

F2B

The Contest Director and Circle Marshal ran the competition very competently. However it was a very different matter regarding the results management.

There was only a single person to manage the results who entered the raw data into the computer & managed the printing. There was no-one to check his inputting. The Results Officer did not keep the score sheets in any order or logical storage which made post-printing checking almost impossible. The management of the results and the general management of the competition all took place in an open tent without restricted entry with the result that there was frequent milling around of people. This is absolutely not the environment in which, nor the way, to manage F2B results.

In fact Mrs Yolanda Garcia, Jury Member and the Head Judge, Mr Serge Delabarde, physically restored the order of the score sheets and checked the scores but this is not the responsibility of the FAI Jury nor of the Head Judge. They also had to prepare all the scorecards before each round of the Fly off. They did this without complaint but, again, this is the responsibility of the organiser, not the Jury or Judges.

Additionally, Mr Serge Delabarde found out just two weeks before the competition that there was no management software for F2B and so he was obliged to institute an adequate programme. Again, this is not the responsibility of the Head Judge and certainly not so close to the actual Championships.

It seemed that there had not been much improvement in the administration of the F2B competition since the 2012 World Championships.

An F2B Judges meeting took place on Sunday 23rd August.

There were no protests in F2B.

F2C

The Contest Director and Circle Marshall managed the competition very competently.

The competition itself was very good with good sporting behaviour by the teams and there were no incidents that caused model crashes or protests.

This year there were problems with timekeeping. This seems to have been because of some inexperienced timekeepers. These were replaced with more experienced people but the inexperienced ones were encouraged to continue to unofficially time to improve their skills, increase their experience and to give them a goal to see how close they could get to the experienced time-keepers.

The contest organisation ran smoothly and any requested changes we were promptly met.

The Panel of Judges worked very well together. There was also an observer, Mr Max Dillinger AUT, who was included (outside the racing) when the Panel of Judges reviewed their performance in each break as a training exercise. This worked very well.

Three new F2C World Records were set: two for 100 laps and one for 200 laps. The FAI Jury President made the initial notifications to the FAI and also sent the three teams all the necessary paperwork for them to submit their world record claims.

An F2C Meeting took place on Thursday 27th August.

There were no protests in F2C.

F2D

The Contest Director managed the competition very competently. There were no complaints regarding the officials. As there were fewer competitors than usual, the competition proceeded in a more leisurely way than normal.

There were two directly-over-the-pilot-circle mid-air collisions. In each case, one of the pilots was injured badly enough to require lengthy hospital treatment but both were able to continue in the competition the following day.

There were six fly-aways and all had working shut-offs.

Mr Lyubomir Donchev arranged a "roof" of fishing net over the line-check area as a safety measure against close landing fly-aways. He also advised that all persons in close proximity to the F2D circle wear helmets and this was publicised on the F2D notice board.

There were five protests. (See item 13: Protests & Complaints.)

12. Results

Results of the rounds were issued in a timely manner throughout the Championships. They were published at each circle and on the main noticeboard. It is regrettable that they were still not easily available in paper form for the Team Managers.

13. Protests & Complaints

There were five protests of which one was upheld and four were denied. All the protests occurred in F2D which, given the reality of that class, is not unexpected.

14. Prize Giving & Closing Ceremony

The prize-giving had again been scheduled for early evening (18.00) in the town square to be followed by the closing ceremony and then the banquet.

Again, the prize-giving ceremony began over an hour late and was marred by Organiser mistakes with some of the national anthems and national flags. It was further marred by a late query from the Russian Team Manager over his F2C team's 2nd place in the team results when he and his team refused to ascend the podium in 2nd place. There was a great deal of clamour from the 1st placed French F2C team whilst an interpreter was found and the FAI Jury attempted to sort out the query. The FAI Jury President assured the Russian Team Manager that there was no mistake in the F2C team results. The Russian team did eventually take 2nd place on the podium and the prize-giving continued.

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By the time the F2D medal presentations had concluded it was quite dark - and there was no lighting of any sort – and almost all of teams had dispersed. The FAI Jury President closed the ceremony but the FAI flag was not flown and neither was the FAI anthem played.

Immediately after the presentation, at approximately 21.35, the FAI Jury went back to the office to show the Russian Team Manager the appropriate rule in the FAI Sporting Code. When he and the Russian/English interpreter saw the rule, they then compared it to their Russian version of the Sporting Code that did not actually have the relevant second paragraph of rule 4.3.10 d) in it. The Russian Team Manager made an immediate, profuse and abject apology. The FAI Jury suggested that this apology should be made to the FAI Jury, the Organiser and the French Team and that it should be in writing. He readily agreed to this.

15. Banquet

This was held in one of the big hotels in the town centre.

16. Comments & Main Problems

- The town square without floodlights is not suitable for an evening prize-giving for four F2 classes with classifications for Seniors and Juniors in each class.
For F2 Championships, off-site open-air venues for prize-giving are not to be recommended. If the prize-giving cannot take place on the flying site then the only other real alternative is at the banquet. Although this is not in strict accordance with the Sporting Code, it is quite common given the logistics of an Aeromodelling championship. For a four class championships such as F2, it is often the only realistic option.
- Not enough administrative pre-preparation.
- Not enough administrative personnel during the Championships.

17. Recommendations (for future F2 Championships in Bulgaria)

- 17.1 Event Director: As was pointed out in the Jury Report of the 2012 World Championships, the Event Director (Championship Organiser) needs to have a competent deputy able to share the workload, answer queries and make decisions.
- 17.2 Jury Members: That the three FAI Jury members stay at the same hotel.
- 17.3 Administration: That there is adequate administration staff throughout the Championship.

Finally, Mrs Yolanda Garcia must be thanked for the huge effort she put into her FAI Jury service at these Championships. Mr Lyubimir Donchev must be thanked for the very competent first aid that he rendered to both the F2D accident victims and for staying at the hospital with them.



Mrs Jo Halman
FAI Jury President
For and on behalf of the FAI Jury
2015 FAI F2 European Championships