

FAI JURY REPORT (Draft)

12th F3C European Continental Championship Maubeuge, France 5. thru 12. July, 2008

ORGANIZATION: The 12th FAI F3C R/C Helicopter European Continental Championship was organized by the "Association D'Aeromodelisme du Bassin de la Sambre" (AABS) club in association with the French Aeromodeling Federation (FFAM). Competition information was provided in Bulletins 0, 1, 2, and 3 with update information provided on the competition web site. Forty-eight competitors from 17 countries were registered.

ACCOMMODATION: The FAI Judges, Jury, competition officials and most of the competitors stayed at the "IBIS" hotel in Maubeuge. Breakfast was served at the hotel. Lunch and dinner were provided at the flying field.

MODEL PROCESSING: Competitor registration and model processing took place at the flying field next to the Maubeuge Aerodrome on Saturday 5. July. Each model was checked for FAI sticker, proper markings and compliance with F3C rules. Each transmitter was checked for frequency with a handheld scanner. Twenty-two competitors registered transmitters on the 2.4 GHz spread spectrum ISM band.

OPENING CEREMONY: The opening ceremony took place at 16:30 hours on Sunday in front of the main hangar on the Aerodrome. The flag of each participating nation was carried in by a representative from that country. The competition was officially opened by the President of the FAI Jury.

FLYING SITE: The competition took place on the AABS Club flying field. The field is located adjacent to the main runway of the Maubeuge Aerodrome. The azimuth orientation of the model and main runways was 05/23. The F3C course was laid out at 09/27 azimuth. With this layout the position of the sun was not a problem for most of the day. However, the model helicopters did come close to the main runway on occasion. The FAI Jury expressed concern about possible distraction from full size aircraft but little was actually experienced. Several large tents served as shelters for the competitors and their models and the competition officials.

COMPETITION: Official practice took place on Sunday 5. July. A team manager's meeting was conducted that evening. Two "Schedule A" calibration flights for the judges were flown prior to the first preliminary round on Monday. The preliminary rounds were scheduled to start at 09:00 and to end at 17:00 hours. Due to unpredictable rains the first three preliminary rounds were interrupted but completed before darkness set in. A protest was filed by the Israeli team during the third preliminary round but was not upheld by the FAI Jury. The last preliminary round was completed on Friday morning just prior to the first fly-off.

Two "Schedule C" calibration flights were flown for the judges before the first fly-off rounds. The first and second fly-off rounds were flown in the morning and afternoon on Friday, respectively. The third and final fly-off round was flown on Saturday morning.

AWARD CEREMONY AND BANQUET: The award ceremony took place in front of the main hangar at the Aerodrome Saturday afternoon. The FAI certificates and CIAM medals were presented to the winners by members of the FAI Jury. Trophies sponsored by the organizers were awarded by City officials. The closing banquet followed at 20:00 hours. The FAI Judges and Jury members received souvenirs from the competition organizer.

COMMENTS: The timely information flow for this competition was good. The web site was up well in advance of the event and was constantly updated. The flying site was less than ideal due to its orientation. The flight times for schedule "C" were measured and approximately 15% of the flights exceeded the original 10 minute limit. The F3C Subcommittee decision to increase the limit to 11 minutes was therefore justified. The organizer did a good job of providing food, drinks and shelter for the competition officials at the flying site. However, the meal prices were on the high side. Although unannounced, the president of the FAI Jury measured all 2.4GHz transmitters for compliance with the French telecommunication authorities. Eleven (half) of the 2.4GHz transmitters violated the French specification. All of the violators used the Direct Sequence/Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum (DSSS/FHSS) method of transmission. The European Telecommunication Standards organizations are in the process of homologating this type of transmission for radio control model airplane use. Therefore the organizer decided not to take any action. The organizer performed a judges' analysis during the competition. No significant national bias was observed during the preliminary rounds. However, one judge showed significant national bias during the fly-off rounds. It is recommended that this judge not be used in future international competitions.

SUMMARY: We thank the members of the "AABS Club" and the FFAM for running the 12th F3C European Continental Championship in a fair and friendly atmosphere. We especially thank the FAI Judges and the entire competition staff for making this a very successful championship.

The FAI Jury :

Horace Hagen (President)

Georg Breiner (Delegate AUT)
Pierre Pignot (FRA)