

JURY REPORT – 2007 EUROPEAN F1D CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR SENIORS AND JUNIORS Belgrade, Serbia, Aug. 27-Sept. 1, 2007

The 2007 F1D Championships were organised by the Aeronautical Union of Serbia and the Aerolux Aeroklub and were the third European Championship hosted by this group in two months. The event attracted 25 competitors from 10 nations in the senior category, seven of which sent full teams. There were five full junior teams plus the previous European Champion, who repeated her previous success in 2007.

Three bulletins were provided in advance of the event. Accommodation was in a hotel in central Belgrade and at a student hostel. Lunch was available at a restaurant on the banks of the Sava, a few hundred metres from the flying site.

SITE

The site was one hall of an exhibition centre; height of the domed ceiling was around 20 metres, making the hall a Category 3 site. An overhanging area along one side allowed just sufficient space for the teams at this event, each of which was provided with a partitioned area for model preparation. A much larger hall also exists on the site, and the organisers hope to use this for the World Championships.

ORGANISATION

There was a team managers' meeting and two timekeepers' meetings, all of which were attended by the jury. There was excellent collaboration between the very hard-working organising team and the jury throughout the Championships. As a result, and thanks to the good timekeeping, there were no protests. One member of the jury spoke very little English but spoke Slovak in addition to his own language, into which discussions were translated by another member.

SCHEDULE

An open international contest in the hall immediately before the Championships showed that the morning air was very turbulent; indoor temperatures had reached 41° and the humidity was high. After discussion with the jury, the organisers proposed delaying to 2 p.m. the start of the two 3½ hour rounds scheduled for the first two days; allowing for a dinner break, this meant that the second rounds would finish at 11.30 p.m. To allow for the closing ceremony, the final two rounds on day 3 started at 10 a.m. The team managers' meeting accepted this arrangement.

TIMING

Five foreign timekeepers were available, the remaining ones being Serbian. No major problems occurred, apart from a Spanish model being lost in flight by the competitor and both timekeepers. A re-flight was allowed in this case, as the watches had not been stopped when this occurred.

OPENING CEREMONY

A short opening ceremony took place outside the hall, with a group of girls aged around eight and dressed in fluorescent pink tutus performing disco-type dances. The ceremony ended with a double opening of the Championships, as local protocol apparently required a local government official to do this, which he did immediately after the opening on behalf of the FAI.

BALLOON GAS

After the first day's flying it looked as if the supplies of helium for steering balloons would be exhausted before the end of the contest. The air temperature was melting the adhesive on the tape used on Mylar balloons, and bursting several of the rubber meteorological balloons used by other teams. The organiser said that no more gas was available in Serbia, so two jury members made their own investigations and, with help from the director of the Serbian Aero Club, located a supply 5 km from the flying site; in the event, the existing gas lasted just long enough for the contest to finish. The jury suggests that the Indoor Organiser's Guide includes a requirement that sufficient gas be provided, possibly with a charge per balloon fill to discourage waste.

STEERING WARNING

The jury also suggests that timekeepers use a standard form of words when warning flyers about steering infringements, for example "Iceland, - first warning". This would avoid misunderstandings due to language problems.

CLOSING AND BANQUET

At the prizegiving, held indoors, FAI diplomas and CIAM medals were awarded, as well as trophies from the organisers; national flags were raised and winners' anthems played as appropriate. There followed a superb banquet held in the luxurious restaurant of the Serbian Aero Club, complete with local musicians playing at a suitably low level to permit conversation. Copious drink was provided, as well as excellent food.

CONCLUSION

This was a very well-run Championships, organised by a hard-working and enthusiastic team and enjoyed by the competitors. The jury thank them for their efforts for free-flight.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) That the Indoor Organiser's Guide include a requirement for organisers to provide sufficient balloon gas or helium for all teams. A small charge per fill may be made to discourage extravagant use.

2) That in Volume F1, 3.4.9 should advise timekeepers to use a standard form of words when warning flyers about steering infringements, for example "Iceland, - first warning". This will minimise language difficulties.

Martin Dilly, GBR, Jury President
Srdjan Pelagić, SRB, Jury Member
Andrzej Rachwal, POL, Jury Member

