

FAI JURY REPORT

10th R/C Helicopter World Championship

Noto, Japan

30. May – 8. June, 2003

ORGANIZATION: The 10th FAI F3C R/C Helicopter World Championship was organized by the Japan Model Aeronautic Federation, a division of the Japan Aeronautic Association. The championship initially had 68 competitors from 26 countries registered. Due to the SARS situation 5 countries did not participate reducing the number of competitors to 53. Initial competition information was provided in Bulletins I and II with later information detailed on the competition web site on a daily basis.

ACCOMMODATION: The competition officials, FAI Judges, FAI Jury and all of the competitors stayed at the Noto Royal Hotel resort. First class breakfast and dinner buffets were served at the hotel each day. Lunch was provided at the Noto Airport Terminal restaurant.

FLYING SITE: The competition took place on the new Noto airport prior to its official opening. The airport was a 45 minute ride from the hotel. Two competition sites were laid out on the grass apron next to the runway, approximately 1.5km apart and facing slightly west of north. At each site, three large tents were placed along the spectator line and used by the pilots and their models. A fourth tent near each contest area layout housed the transmitter impound and frequency monitor. The computer scoring system was located in a separate tent between the two competition sites.

MODEL PROCESSING: Competitor registration and model processing took place at the hotel on Friday 30. May and was followed by a team manager meeting in the afternoon. Each model was checked for FAI sticker, proper markings and compliance with F3C rules. Each transmitter was checked for frequency and bandwidth.

OPENING CEREMONY: The opening ceremony took place at 15:30 hours on Friday in the grand ball room of the hotel. The competition was officially opened by the president of the Japan Aeronautic Association. This was followed by a welcoming reception/dinner at 19:00 hours.

COMPETITION: Official practice was scheduled for Saturday but the day was lost due to the proximity of a typhoon and official practice flying was rescheduled for Sunday. Two "Schedule A" warm-up flights for the judges were flown prior to the first preliminary round at each site. The four preliminary rounds started at 09:00 hours and ended at 17:20 hours and were completed on Thursday instead of Wednesday. Two "Schedule B" warm-up flights were flown for the judges before the first fly-off round on Friday. The final fly-off round was flown on Saturday morning. A compromise was reached for the total number of finalists. Only the countries who voluntarily withdrew from the competition were not

counted in the total. There were no official protests filed. A judges' analysis was performed for the competition. If necessary, this information will be used to discipline judges who showed national bias.

BANQUET AND AWARD CEREMONY: Two award ceremonies were scheduled. The first took place Saturday afternoon in front of the airport terminal building where the FAI medals and perpetual trophies were presented. The second award ceremony took place during the evening closing banquet at the hotel where the organizers presented additional trophies. The FAI Judges and Jury members received souvenirs.

SUMMARY: The 2003 F3C World Championship was the first to run the risk of cancellation. In December 2002 one of the primary judges withdrew. China and The Philippines voluntarily withdrew a few months prior to the competition due to the SARS situation. Two weeks prior to the event another primary judge withdrew. The remaining reserve judges could not come with such late notice. A frantic search for one primary and reserve judge was made and succeeded just in time. A few days before the start of the competition Ishikawa Prefecture (a primary sponsor) requested that the organizers withdraw the invitation for the teams from Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan due to the SARS risk. In spite of this extreme pressure the Japanese organizers did a masterful job of running the competition. In the opinion of the FAI Jury, the 10th F3C World Championship was run in a fair and friendly atmosphere. We thank the staff of the brand new Noto airport for the exclusive use of their facility during the entire competition. A special thank you goes to Mr. Tsutomu Masuda for his total dedication to this competition. We congratulate the Japan Model Aeronautic Federation for a job very well done. And finally, we thank the FAI Judges and the entire competition staff for making this a super World Championships.

The FAI Jury :

Horace Hagen (President)
Georg Breiner
Senji Watanabe
Peter Keim