**Jury report summary - Events 2017**

**20th FAI European Hot Air Balloon Championship**

Brissac-Quince, France. 21st - 27th August 2017

**Jury Report**

### General

The Event Director, Garry Lockyer, and his entire team are congratulated on a very successful Championship. Garry did a great work as being appointed late as the Event Director. **Garry**

We are all sorry for the fact that David Levin is not with us any more, but when this happens we
expect that the Deputy Event Director shall step up and take the Event Directors position. As this
did not happen the organiser did a good work to find a new Event Director and Deputy. Even the
Safety Officer resigned. This means the new top officials did come in to work with a team of officials
that they had not been involved in the selection of. I believe that it worked fine as many of the top
officials were well known to Garry Lockyer and his team. **EDS**

The Event Director and his team of officials did very good work and we had a good competition
with 23 tasks. **AX WG**

All passes and merchandise items did not have the FAI/CIA logos and did not have the correct naming
 of the event. (20th FAI European Hot Air Balloon Championship). The naming in French was good
but not correct according to the Organiser Agreement (Championnat d'Europe de Montgolfiers"). **EDS**

Web-site was poor and badly updated before and during the event. It did not have any pictures from
the event and very little other information. **EDS**

The web site shall be the window to our sport and our competitions. There was more information on
the Facebook pages (there were actually two pages, one from the local organiser and one from the
event administration). **EDS**

The Pilots were confused as there were two sets of numbering for them at check in, number set by
the local organiser and the official competition number. There should be only one number that is
used, the official competition number. **AX WG, Scoring WG**

### Invitation process:

The invitation process worked fine even if it started 14 days late due to administration problems.

The main problem during the invitation process and the time after the process, up to the weeks before
 the start of the event, was lack of information to competitors and other interested party's on the web site. **EDS**

### Opening and closing ceremonies:

The opening and closing ceremonies followed the protocol. **EDS**

### No Shows:

The following registered pilots did not check-in to the event: **CIA president, Jury Board**

* + Eva PRAWICA-LINKE (Poland)
	+ Vladyslav KLYMENKO (Ukraine)

The Jury investigated the two pilots and found the following:

* + Eva PRAWICA-LINKE, Poland, was not able to participate as the day before the event she was informed that her grandmother died and she had to urgently return home to her family.
	+ Vladyslav KLYMENKO, Ukraine, was, after investigation declared as a "No-Show". The organisers had received an email 36 hours before the General Briefing stating that he would not be attending. No other explanation was given and we did not find any Force Majeure evidence why he withdrew from the competition.

### Competition

The competition was very well performed, considering that the Event Director got a late start on his mission. It's not easy to quickly take over an organisation when you have not been involved in the selection process, even if many of the persons involved are well known to you. **Garry**

Maybe there were too many Hesitation Waltzes during the event, 11 HWZ out of 23 task. **AX WG**

On the second flight we had a serious accident between two balloons. The basket of the top balloon went deep inside the envelope of the balloon below and tilted it to 90 degrees sending equipment to the ground (radio, phone and computer). Tearing the envelope of the lower balloon, and created a hole in the envelope just below the parachute. The lower balloon went down quickly, the pilot used his burner non stop during the quick descent. The balloon landed hard on a path close to a wine farm. The pilot of the lower balloon had a broken right leg and the navigator a sprained ankle. The pilot of the upper balloon was much shocked after the collision but continued to fly in the competition upon consultation with the safety officer.
 **Safety SC**

### Scoring

Scoring was good even if it did take some time before everything got started due to problems with networking and scoring software. **Scoring WG**

The implementation of "Ballooning Safety Analyse" (BSA) can be discussed. It is a good tool to find problems in vertical speeds. But it needs further investigations by studying the tracks to see what has happened. The punishments may not only be based on instantaneous events, but it should be
calculated on a number of samples to generate an average. **Safety SC**

### Event Debriefing

The event debrief was held on Saturday afternoon as it was not possible to have it after the last flight on Sunday morning. This may have resulted in fewer participants, but it was the only possibility.

**EVENT DEBRIEF**

**20th FAI European Hot Air Balloon Championship**

**Attendance**

Bengt Stener – Jury President

Les Purfield, Paolo Oggioni - Jury Members

Competitors – 7, Officials – 4, Crew / Others – 14

**General Comments**

* It would have been nice to have contact with the Home-stay people prior to the event. **EDS**
* Communication – Difficult to find information
 Waiting time for confirmation was long
 However all was OK in the end **EDS**
* Costs – The cost of practice flight fuel was a surprise.
* We were happy, that the FAI found somebody to organise this event in such a short Time! Many thanks! **EDS**
* It’s a great idea (again) to stay in host families we had in 2009 and now. I really like the people **EDS**
* French chaos, but it all turned out to be OK in the end. We Swiss had two numbers, one on the basket for the competition (74) and one for the organisers, on the car, on the badge, ... (80). I never understood this. **EDS, COH**
* The website was not up to today’s standards, neither regarding design/layout, nor regarding content. There were even two different schedules online! **EDS**

**Briefings EDS, COH**

* Room was hot and noisy
* Projector was not adequate for such a large hall
* Plenty of space and large tables were good
* Weather radar should be in colour.

Trend information was good

Could pi-ball information be sent by phone.

* Very good, besides the fact that there was no good beamer.

**ED Task Setting COH**

* Too many HZW
* Helpful information and apology when things went wrong
* Openness was welcome
* Task setting could be more adventurous.
* Garry did a great job! I never remember to have such a nice and interesting task setting in the last 10 years! There were nearly no mistake in the sheets; which was in the past not so, with other event directors…! Garry also had a good team in his back! We could feel that.
* The communication between the organizers and the director should be better. I was missing very important information during the whole event:
* Garry and his team did a great job given the circumstances! But I think they could have used more information from the organisers as well... Task setting was perfect, which was demonstrated by a huge number of markers on the targets. Only the last flight was a bit like roulette (?)

**Flying Area**

* Generally good but we generated too many new PZ’s and upset many landowners.
* There were many nice landowners
* It’s a really nice area to fly in August

**Safety Safety SC**

* Good to try and split field with multiple HZW
* Many balloons were suffering burn damage – WHY?
* Tasks should consider the requirement to climb fast after passing the target **COH**
* Driving – poor, more care needs to be taken by retrieve crews.
* Landowner information should be published earlier
* I think this was the first time I had a Safety Officer that really involved himself in the discussion and made some bold statements that influenced the ED. This is how it has to be! Thanks to Benoit! **Benoit**
Safety during the event was a bit funny. I understand that the French had to do some checks when entering the parking spaces, but it was very, very inconsistent. Sometimes they just counted how many people are in the car. And from the competition centre, everyone could enter whenever they wanted. As we say in my company, we do things properly, or we don't do them at all.
I think we can unfortunately see more and more dangerous flying and collisions in the air. The penalties have to be more severe! For REAL dangerous or reckless flying, even a disqualification should be considered. I had a pilot shooting past me from below with more than 3m/s 50m over ground. I did not even have a chance to react. It was pure luck that he turned a bit to the side just before he would have crashed into my basket, so it was only envelope to envelope. I still had to make sure we don't start do descent very fast. He got a penalty of 300 points, which is fair, but this does not hold him back from doing it again. He regards it as bad luck. If he would be charged money or if he would be disqualified (maybe for one flight), he would be more considerate next time

**Debriefing**

* Debriefing was good and quick after the flight.

**Refuelling EDS, COH**

* Refuelling times should consider pilots requirements
* Gas should be available when pilots return, not when it is convenient for the gas people.
* Layout should be better, having to wait for the front team to move was frustrating.
* Layout was dangerous.
* We know all, that we had big problems with that….
* I think there is enough said..

**Scoring**

* Slow – Results should be available quicker. Many direct measurements should
enable results to be published quicker. **COH**
* Electronic Notice Board (ENB) should be the only notice board. **AX**
* Was OK, I think the best way is to hang out the measurements (copy), right after
the flight to the NB **COH, AX**
* We have with these loggers the best way for nice and cheap competitions.
* It was correct and good to use Barometric altitude!- In the past we often used
GPS-Alt, this is not so correct in many reasons! **COH, AX**
* Also well done, but it took them some time to score, more than I was used from
other events (Debrecen 2015). But this is perfectly fine. **COH**
* I really like the FAI loggers (have one myself), but I think we can see that they are degrading. I never managed to charge mine fully during the whole event, and the
rubber parts start to get sticky. I think new loggers are underway. For me, the most interesting/important feature would be something for mid-air collisions, like FLARM or whatever. So that the pilot knows, that he is approaching a situation which will give
him penalty points. So there would be no discussion any more, if something was dangerous or not - the logger decides.
FLARM: Flight Alarm, Electronic device based on GPS. Traffic and collision warning system. **NT**

**Social Events**

* Food facilities were close and convenient.
* While I enjoy spending time with fellow balloonists, the competition is not the
right time for social events. Either before or after. So focus should lie on the Closing Ceremony, which definitely could have been improved, regarding language (!!!),
location, program. Talking about schedule, I found the schedule of the event a bit
funny. We could have started on Monday or even Sunday, and all would be home
on Sunday. Now I had to take vacation from Thursday to Tuesday.. **EDS**

**Other comments**

* Check-in was slow. **EDS**
* Repair station and spare equipment should be available. **EDS**
* Rule 3.1.3 – Rotation Vents old wording should be re-instated as some balloons
were using it to advantage. RSC to be asked to change the rule. **AX**
* Access to the streets were blocked due to security measures. - No information as to times that the roads would be closed was available – long detours required.
* Overall comment – It was a good event. **EDS**
* OK.- I think the „Dangerous flying (program)“ has to be improved: I know, that is
difficult and hard to find a safe and fair regulation; But I have seen, danger which
is OK within the rule and others are 0% dangerous and were penalized! For example:
You pass a balloon 20meters higher with faster wind. When you have passed it
(you are moving faster than the other) pull the parachute to descent fast and pass
the other balloon with 5-10m (envelope to envelope) you may be fined. It would be perhaps dangerous, if you descent slowly next the other balloon, but not even, if
you do it quickly **COH, AX**
* While I very much liked the event overall (!), I'd like to once again voice my opinion
on the Europeans/Worlds schedule. In my opinion, every two years is a crazy
program, which means we have to find organisations for Europeans every two
years, but also the Worlds are often in Europe, so let’s say currently, we need
roughly 7 to 8 organisations for large balloon events in 10 years. We saw for 2017
that this was difficult and I heard that some guidelines and timelines had to be
"bent" in order to make it work. I would opt for less large events (maybe switch to
3 or 4 years rhythm) but they could be perfect.
Also for us pilots the Europeans, Worlds plus some preparation events take up
nearly all our vacation... I love my hobby, but I could also do a year of break or so :)
 **EDS**
* Also another additional comment, I sometimes had the feeling (e.g. closing ceremony, or when there was not enough gas any more, because fiesta was fuelled already), that we, the competition, are just side program for their party. But I could be wrong..
* Event Debriefing - as I wrote above, not a really good time to schedule it. But I
know you had no other chance... I'm perfectly fine with written feedback, though. **JURY**
* Maps -Good enough, we still had to make our own PZs overlays because it was
outdated. **COH**

**4th. FAI Women’s European H A B Championship, Leszno, Poland.**

**4-9 September, 2017**

**Jury Comments**

**General**

Overall a very well organised and managed FAI Event. The **4th. FAI Women’s European Hot Air Balloon** **Championship** was organised in accordance with the FAI Sporting Code and the Rules and Regulations approved for this Event by the CIA. All results were verified by the Jury and no major deficiencies were found. All tracks have been analysed by the Jury and all question related to scoring were answered by the Chief Scorer and the Deputy Event

Director. **MvV**

At the roll call in the General Briefing of the Event the Jury perceived that one of the entrants, Ewelina Leszczuk from Poland, is not present.

32 days before the start of the Event the pilot informed the Organisers that she could not participate because she had become pregnant. The Jury President asked her to send a medical certificate proving that her physical condition would have prevented her to exercise her pilot licence privileges during the Event. She has sent the medical certificate indicating that she can not fly by balloon.

Taking into consideration the pre-Event correspondence and the medical certificate received, the Jury in cooperation with the Event Director, Moniek Vande Velde, have judged that her absence was unpreventable, therefore it can not be considered as a No Show case. **JB**

The Event deserves high marks in most of the important areas. The terrain is suitable for balloon events, the map was sufficient although some new road under construction were not marked on the map. Facilities at the competition centre were good, accommodation and meal for officials were very good. It should be noted that the Jury had not got an own room on the first two days but later a separate corner in the hotel restaurant was available for the Jury.

Event Director, Moniek Vande Velde, and her staff made perfect job in running and managing the competition very smoothly and properly. On the first two days there was anxious of not having a valid event because of the strong wind and rain. Finally we had 5 flights with 18 tasks flown. The tasks were a combination of virtual and regular tasks. It was good that the Event Director was able to fly the balloons over the host city so the local people could enjoy the sights of the balloons over the town while the competitors still had challenging task to fly.

The participants took part in a very spectacular Opening Ceremony on the main square of Leszno with national teams marching, with street brass band and with majorettes show. The Awarding Ceremony and the Closing Banquet was also spectacular and very well organised in accordance with the FAI Protocol. It was a good idea from the Organisers that in one evening a Night Glow was arranged in the city stadium. The show attracted a lot of visitors and it was very scenic and popular among the local people. **EDS**

„WhatsApp” mobile phone application was used for communication among the officials and pilots and for recall procedure, for spreading out information, meteo and wind readers data. The free of charge application proved useful, fast and efficient. **AX, COH**

A competitor has made contact with a power line before landing. The Safety Officer with the cooperation of the Polish Jury member dealt with the situation quickly, keeping all competitors and officials informed about the case. Fortunately no injury resulted from this accident but there was damage in the envelope and in the basket, as well. **Safety**

The Jury highly appreciated the very sportive atmosphere that was created and maintained by the pilots and officials during the whole Event. According to the Jury the sportive atmosphere and the common sense here was on higher level than it can be experienced at other events. **Org,MvV, OFF**

In summary the Jury thanks the Event Director and her staff for conducting the Event in an open, relaxed and very professional manner. Many thanks to the Organisers that they did their best to organise and host successfully the Event in Leszno. **OFF**

**EVENT DEBRIEFING**

**Attendees**: Pilots 24

Officials 12

Crew 14

Organiser 5

**Topics**:

* **General.** An excellent event. Only few small penalties concerning safety. Everybody had good common sense. Pilots have learned from each other, there was work among the countries. **Org, MvV**
* **Administration.** The arranging of crews was fine. The organizers were very supportive, very reachable, quickly solve the questions. Need more details in advance about additional payments (for loggers, for maps). The food was well organized. **Org**
* **Event Director and task setting.** Committed very good job, tried to do the best in very difficult conditions. Understands the competitors very good. Task setting was challenging (that was good). Many thanks to Event Director. **MvV**

Met man was good, made strong efforts to make flights possible. **Org**

* **Briefing Facilities.** Adequate room, coffee in time, big screen. The same building as for official’s accommodation. All office equipment was available. **Org**
* **Flying area and maps**. Area is nice, large fields for landing. Many new roads (that are not on the map), roads under construction. Need newer maps. Need highlighting the power lines. **Org, COH**
* **Debriefing**. The same place, as accommodation (it was good). Calm, quiet, frankly, fast.
* **Loggers.** Nothing special. **NT**
* **Safety.** One target was just before the big power line. One flight was very surprising (almost everybody was sure, that it would be a cancellation, because of wind and rain). **Safety**
* **Communication before the Event** was good, fast and satisfactory. **Org, EDS**
* **Communication during the Event.** WhatsApp was a good idea. There were places in contest area without coverage, so it could be a good idea to add to WhatsApp group every crew member. **Org, COH, EDS**
* **Website, ENB.** Nothing special.
* **Refuelling.** Quick, near the debriefing and hotel, flexible (could refuel more gas cylinders, than usual). **EDS**
* **Costs.** Reasonable costs, cheap and good hotel for pilot’s accommodation (the same as for Competition Centre). **EDS, Org**
* **Social events.** Good excursion **EDS, Org**

**61st Coupe Gordon Bennett, Fribourg, Switzerland. 7-16 September 2017**

**Recommendations – AA Rules**

Rules should be standardized for this event with only changes allowed for local concerns. The rules should also reflect an electronic means of communication as well as paper.

“Fiesta” balloons are a good addition to the event but need to be subject to the same ATC rules that the competitors must follow.

An ongoing dialogue with ATC should be established.

**Summary – Organizer, EDS**

The event was very well organized. For an area of Switzerland that had not held an event of this type they did an excellent job. The addition of hot air balloons, skydivers, paragliders, aerobatics, aeromodelling, soaring and static displays were very good.

It will be difficult for future organizers to match or exceed the opening ceremony produced by the Gruyère organizers.

The competition balloons were inflated during the day and were ready to go at the appointed time. The launch was also on time.

The launch was followed by a night time multimedia show.

**FAI CIA Protocol – Organizer, EDS**

Protocol was followed for the opening ceremony in the Gruyère Castle, but there were some problems at the Closing Ceremony. Neither the CIA nor the Swiss flag were displayed on the stage. During the flag raising for the top three finishers the Swiss and Spanish flags were reversed and the French flag was displayed backwards.

**No Shows** –There were no No Shows.

**Pre-Event Meeting** –

Pre-event meetings and briefings were sufficient to introduce all involved and to cover operations.

**General Briefing** –

The General Briefing was held on Thursday afternoon, the day before the launch date. It was complete in all areas and was well run. All materials presented were also available as emails.

**Competition** –

The competition was held according to all FAI CIA rules.

There were no complaints or protests.

**Rules** –

Comments concerning the rules have been made previously in this report.

**Event Debrief** – **61st Coupe Gordon Bennett, 2017**

The debriefing took place on 16 September 2017 in the Salle de la Gare aux sorcieres at Moleson-sur-Gruyeres 1400. It was attended by 59 people consisting of pilots, co-pilots, crew members, event staff, organizer staff and the press.

The meeting was convened by the Jury President who then introduced the other Jury Members, Hiromi Furukawa and Claude Weber.

After complimenting the organizer on a very nicely done opening ceremony, the floor was opened for comments.

First discussion was concerning the administration of the event.

A comment was made that it would be helpful to have a schedule of fill times for individual balloons in order to let the crew know when they really need to be with the balloon once they had prepared the balloon for filling. **AA Rules**

A compliment was given to the organizer for the taxi service they supplied. It was a great help to all. **Org**

There were no comments made on Event Staff, Scoring and Safety.

The Briefing Facilities were said to be too small and with too much ambient light to see the visuals that were projected. **Org**

Communication was discussed. The ATC coordination seemed to have been effective all through the flight, although one pilot mentioned an airplane that was closer than he would like. The trackers were a great improvement over past equipment. It appeared that some had trouble with the Android version of the App but others did not. The IOS version seemed to be OK. **NT**

A comment was made about having the rules cleaned up. Event staff has some concerns with the rules also. A set of fixed rules should be adopted with a chapter to address the local concerns. Also, the need to recognize the “Electronic Age” would be good. An electronic notice board is probably more practical for this event than a posted physical notice board. **AA Rules**

General questions that were then discussed included the need to get more countries open for competition. This should be considered by the CIA as an ongoing project.

The debriefing was ended, and a presentation was made by the Bern organizers about next year’s event.

After the meeting a comment was received by a Jury member that there were some comments that went unmade because of the inclusion of the press at the Debriefing. A request was made that these comments be sent to the Jury so that they could be included in the record of the Debrief but no further comments have been received.