CIVA championship scoring during 2019

The ACRO scoring system was employed at all five CIVA aerobatic championships during 2019, support for the alternative French ACMS software developed by Michel Dupont having been concluded at the end of last year. In operation ACRO has continued to be easy to use and generally reliable, though with one notable exception in the Czech Republic at WIAC where it failed to prevent the entry of an unusually long internet link to a remote online file (i.e. a file not produced by ACRO) into the Index Page system. This caused a line of historically faulty code to trigger some corruption in that area of the data, making further use of the contest file inconsistent.

The root cause of the problem was however soon identified, the defective code revised and a new version of the software created; this has remained stable throughout the remainder of the year. In this case the marks for a small number of flights had to be re-entered and the internet link that sparked the issue shortened so that the area of corrupted data could be replaced, after which the scoring team was able to complete the event without any further problems.

Speedy publication of results

At the WAC in France this year two of the three judging locations were some distance from the scoring office, so the organisers employed a mobile-phone based system that enabled one of their team to photograph each page of the completed judging paperwork and transmit these sets of images to the scoring office without delay. There the scoring team was able to rapidly hand-enter the judges' marks, then recalculate and upload the refreshed results to the online publication website.

This solution is easy to implement and requires little in the way of special equipment provided a reliable phone communication system is in place. The speedy availability of accurate and detailed results was widely appreciated, in most cases pilots and teams being able to review the judges' assessments immediately after each flight.

Nick Buckenham