Scoring and Results production at FAI / CIVA Championships in 2015

Four CIVA international aerobatic championships – EAAC, WGAC, WAGAC and WAC – were completed during 2015. The WAC at Chateauroux used the French ACMS system, the others as usual employing the ACRO software to calculate the results.

Events:	*Scoring Director:*
European Advanced Aerobatic Championship, Deva, Romania	Dorina Gheorghui
World Glider Aerobatic Championship, Zbraslavice, Czech Republic	Lenka Rejentová
World Adv'd Glider Aerobatic Championship, Zbraslavice, Czech Republic	Lenka Rejentová
World Aerobatic Championship, Chateauroux-Deols, France	Michel Dupont

Still to come:

FAI World Air Games, Dubai, UAE (December)	TBA

Operations

Whereas the ACRO software was used in the usual manner in Romania and the Czech Republic, the scoring office staff entering the judging-line data by hand from returned judges paperwork, in France the ACMS software employed a tablet system that CIVA has not seen before. In this the judges worked normally and recorded their grades on standard Form-A's, after which the marks were transcribed by a 'secretary' at each judge station into a tablet which, when approved by the judge, forwarded the data to a central tablet operated by the Chief Judge. It should be noted that it remains infeasible for the judges' assistant to act as the tablet operator while the flight is in progress because he/she must concentrate entirely upon reading the sequence diagram in order to 'call' for the judge.

Following review and sign-off by the Chief Judge using his 'master' tablet in conjunction with the Form-A paperwork returned by the judges, the data from the whole panel was transmitted via the 3G mobile telephone network to the scoring office where it was automatically received directly into ACMS and updated results published without delay. Pilots were subsequently able to check and sign their paperwork when this eventually reached the scoring office and a computer print-out of the entered data was attached.

Issues

At Zbraslavice both the Unlimited and Advanced championships were initially run within a single ACRO contest file, and while the software was able to separate the two categories for all of the paper output the scoring office was obliged to redirect the web output stream each time to one or other of the separate Unlimited and Advanced destination server folders. This difficulty was

resolved at an early stage by making a second copy of the file, setting one to Unlimited and the other to Advanced and thereby enabling each file to stream to its stored / dedicated web URI.

In France as mentioned above, the scoring office used the ACMS tablet system as an interim stage to receive and collate the data from all judges, then act as a transmitting process to forward this data directly into the scoring software system. An increasing number of FAI commissions are already using or, like CIVA, working to develop similar processes to receive and assemble the output from their judges and get it into the scoring computer swiftly and, potentially, without the usual interim paperwork stage. Importantly the tablets used by ACMS have high contrast 'paper-white' screens that retain good clarity even in direct sunlight, whereas the 'instant scoring system' tablets used by CIVA at Special Events have so far used normal Samsung style LCD panels which excel in lower light environments but are less readable in bright sunlight.

Unfortunately the e-book reader viewing panels as used by ACMS appear much slower to react to on-screen inputs, and once the flight rate at WAC reached its usual level from programme-2 onwards the time required by the secretaries to complete the post-flight data entry was sufficient to cause the Chief Judge to slow the launch rate in order that the judges were free of involvement in checking the data entry and ready for the next flight. Add to that the additional staff member per judge required to act as secretary plus the occasional problems that this system itself inevitably caused, and the advantage that an all-electronic process might be thought to offer rapidly disappeared.

Undoubtedly the availability of better tablet panels and faster operating systems will encourage CIVA to maintain a watching brief in this area, and hopefully a more all-encompassing system will become feasible and workable in the complex environment of an aerobatic judging line at some point in the future.

Judging data and post-sequence analysis

For 2015 the ACRO software has included in its web results system the optional creation and upload of individual judge analyses at the conclusion of each programme. These are accessed via linkage from the judges' names on all single sequence results pages, and obviate the need for the scoring office to make extensive print-outs in the busy period immediately prior to the start of the next programme.

The layout of the analysis closely follows that of the printed sheets, but as it is all on one (somewhat 'deeper') page it is easier to read and digest. It is also of course generally available to anyone viewing those internet pages, and for the first time pilots can now see how FPS assesses the judges as a balance to the long established openness that CIVA has fostered in enabling everyone to see how the pilots marks are handled to reach their final scores. Note however that there is currently no parallel process to create the Chief Judge's overall analysis which serves to directly compare each judge in the panel against the final FPS assessment, though this can be done to some extent by comparisons between the individual judge assessment pages. The author expects to complete the coding in ACRO for the CJ's overall

report as an online page for 2016, but it is thought likely that publication of this information should be confined to post-event rather than while the event is in progress.

It is certainly pleasing to report that the open circulation of these analyses at not only CIVA events (EAAC and WGAC/WAGAC) but also for example at the Swiss and US national championships [§] has been welcomed and the information discussed with interest. I would like to think that this is a valuable addition to CIVA's long established policy of open dissemination of FPS related information, can help to focus every judge's attention on improving their personal output and will generally foster broader acceptance in and trust for the whole process.

Nick Buckenham
October 2015

§ *see -*
Swiss 2015 nationals: http://www.saa.ch/snac-2015-results/
and
US 2015 nationals: https://www.iac.org/files/nationals-results/2015/index.htm