



Agenda Item 6.2. - Report of the CIVA Contest Organisation Working Group, 2014

The aim of the CIVA Contest Organisation Working Group (COWG) is to monitor and assess the working practices and effectiveness of organisers of CIVA events, with a view to developing existing successful processes and adopting new methods where these are seen to have beneficial value. The COWG, partly through the efforts of the appointed CIVA event liaison officer, works to avoid and prevent policies or practices that conflict with the commissions' view of "good practice".

During 2014 the COWG has exchanged views on a number of subjects, and has liaised with organisers and bureau members in regard to these matters at the following events:

The WGAC / WAGAC at Torun, Poland

Following the poor standard of organisation seen at these combined events during 2013, the formal introduction of the detailed CIVA Guide to Contest Organisation at the 2013 plenary and the presence of a CIVA liaison officer at each of the 2014 events, it is disappointing to record that the organisers of WGAC / WAGAC this year failed also to meet the standard expected in a number of key areas. Details of these shortcomings will no doubt be provided by the Chief Judge and the Jury President on their respective reports.

The WAAC at Dubnica nad Vahom, Slovakia

Free Unknown judging paperwork

During the second Free Unknown sequence – programme 4 – as one competitor started his performance it quickly became clear that the sequence version specified on the judges Form-A did not match the sequence being flown. By immediately reviewing their other sequence diagram versions a majority of judging teams identified the correct one in time to judge the flight, and four of the seven judges were able to submit their Form-A's with almost complete sets of marks. Three judges were unable to provide any marks at all, and a later submission from one such team one was rejected by the Chief Judge as being outside his control.

As the flight was an Unknown it could not be repeated. Faced with this dilemma the International Jury determined that an acceptable standard of results could be calculated for the competitor based upon only the grades given by the four judges, the FairPlay System being considered capable of 'filling-in' the missing grades by statistical means to an adequate level of accuracy. Clearly CIVA must put in place formal procedures to ensure that such a problem cannot be repeated – see the further comments below under the EAC title.



Accuracy of figure K-factors

While subsequently examining the accuracy and consistency of the different versions of sequence figure K-factors entered into the WAAC contest data file, the software author noticed that one other pilot had two fairly similar K-factors transposed, and this had led to some inaccuracy in the calculation of results. The difference was slight and when corrected did not affect the ranking of any of the medal winning competitors; the results on the CIVA website were updated to the revised standard, and the published data file also incorporates this minor adjustment. Clearly however it is essential that the scoring software detects and prevents the entry of any such inconsistencies as far as this is practicable, and further steps have been taken within the ACRO code to meet this requirement.

Medals from FAI

The collection of medals received by the WAAC organisers did not match the originating request they had placed to the FAI office, and hence they were unable to present the full range of medals at the final prize-giving and awards ceremony. As they alone have a clear knowledge of this shortfall the COWG will leave them to make their own appropriate comments, while noting that securing a correct delivery from FAI at the earliest possible time would allow the most time to handle any such errors.

The EAC at Matkópuszta, Hungary

Judging paperwork and radio procedures

The Chief Judge at EAC, being also the WAAC CJ's assistant in Dubnica and thus having witnessed the Free Unknown sequence wrong-paperwork problem there at first hand, introduced for this event a radio-exchange procedure for the Free Unknown programmes that included a reference to the sequence version the judging panel expected the competitor to fly, in the form "Chief Judge to competitor 99 with sequence Alpha, Over!", the response from the pilot serving to confirm – or deny – that both parties were indeed holding the same version of paperwork prior to commencement of the flight. The COWG recommends that CIVA adopt this solution for all Free Unknown programmes, and that wording to this effect should be inserted in Section-6 part-1 at para 4.2.1.6 and part-2 at para 4.2.1.2.

On the subject of sequence paperwork accuracy, it should be noted that at EAC one Free Unknown flight had to be aborted by the Chief Judge before it could start when a sharp-eyed competitor informed the International Jury that two rolls had become transposed on the relevant version of the sequence diagram. The judges were subsequently briefed on the necessary revision to their paperwork and this competitor's flight was satisfactorily completed later in the programme. This again serves to emphasize the need for competency and thorough checking at every stage in the construction of Free Unknown sequence versions and the subsequent accurate entry of the figure



data into the scoring system, anomalies at any stage inevitably leading quickly to confusion and probable errors in the calculated results.

And finally - CIVA Trophies

As a general comment, it is clear that timely delivery by the relevant NAC's to the contest office of CIVA championship trophies for award at an event is often a source of real concern. Most of these prestigious trophies have their own secure transit case, but their security and insurance is a subject that could benefit from a further robust overview by CIVA officers.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Nick Buckenham', is located below the text.

Nick Buckenham
CIVA Contest Organisation Working Group chairman, 2014