

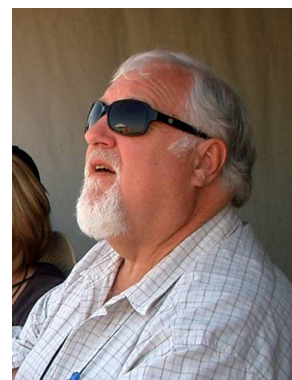
AGENDA ITEM 12.3

REPORT OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

10th World Advanced Aerobatic Championships
Nyíregyháza, Hungary

26 July – 5 August 2012

John Gaillard



General

This championship was one of the largest in CIVA history with eighty-one pilots flying the Q Programme. In general the championship was completed without any hitches or incidents, running smoothly almost from the outset. This can mainly be attributed to the Hungarian Organisers assisted by the Contest Director Palo Kavka. The facilities provided for the judges were excellent and the volunteers who assisted were also exceptional.

From a judging point of view it was realised from the outset, that in order to process eighty pilots, things would require to run smoothly on the judging line and essentially long hours would need to be spent accessing the flights if the championship was to be completed in its entirety. In this regard the weather played along and only minor delays occurred due to low cloud, in fact the main problem from a judging point of view was the heat, for most of the time temperatures reached the late thirties by midday and even in the evenings temperatures in the late twenties were being experienced.

Almost inevitably with the combination of long hours and high temperatures judging mistakes occurred but these were all sorted out on the line, maintaining concentration in these circumstances was always going to be difficult. I pay tribute to the judges who persevered with their task, they did a really good job.

Perhaps the best indication of how well their work was completed was the fact that there were no official protests lodged with the International Jury, any discrepancies amongst the judges being sorted out by video conferencing prior to sending the scores to the office. At the briefing it was made clear to the judges, that any differences in opinion concerning HZ would be conferenced even if a judge was in an absolute minority, this was carried out normally in the mandatory judge breaks on the line, on one occasion when we were breaking for lunch, the video conferences took place in the judges office, this was done mainly to get away from the heat at midday on the line.



Judge Selection

The Judges had been selected by the Judging Sub-Committee and verified by the CIVA Bureau. At fairly short notice one Judge Lyudmyla Zelenina became unavailable and a suitable replacement was sourced, the final judging line was as follows:

Auger, Guy	-	France
Bartholdi, Timo	-	Finland
Buckenham, Nick	-	Great Britain
Gallaway, Michael	-	USA
Gedminaite, Violeta	-	Lithuania
Hawthorne, Quintin	-	South Africa
Razhin, Vladimir	-	Russia
Talabos, Gabor	-	Hungary
Virtanen, Kimmo	-	Finland
Zumaglini, Jean	-	France

All had filled in and signed a declaration on a form issued by CIVA President Mike Heuer that they had suitably qualified assistants and were current themselves.

Recommendation

The current system of asking judges once selected to fill in a form asking them to verify their currency is outdated as all judges are initially invited to participate on the basis of their proven judging statistics accumulated over the past three seasons. This procedure should be modified to confirm the latest contact addresses for selected judges, to verify currency of those new judges with no data in the previous three years and to verify the qualifications of the proposed assistant judge.

Chief Judges Assistants

My two assistants were Laszlo Liszkay a South African Judge who was born in Hungary and very fluent in Hungarian and Irma Jancuikienė of Lithuania who speaks several languages fluently including Russian, German, and French and of course English. Between these two I had a perfect blend to facilitate communications on the judging line as well as with the organisers. Both carried out their duties with complete efficiency and were a pleasure to work with, I extend my thanks to both of them.

Judges Briefing

This took place at the scheduled time and consisted on going through in detail the Judges Questionnaire, which had been issued some months previously. This had dealt in detail with procedures on the judging line with an emphasis on what should occur when differences of opinion amongst judges especially when HZ & PZ as well as scores was involved. It was emphasized to the judges that at no time would their opinions be ignored or overridden

without conferencing and video checks as required, this procedure was strictly adhered to in the contest itself.

Judges Accommodation

The judges were accommodated at a spa hotel within a few minutes' drive from the contest site, this hotel was comfortable and well appointed. The Jury also stayed at this hotel. This hotel was highly acceptable and the judges were very comfortable.

Judging Positions & Facilities

The organisers had prepared three judging positions, the use being dependent on both the direction of flight and position of the sun. The southern position was within walking distance of the central village and was on grass to the south of the runway, the west and east positions were off the airfield in agricultural areas that had been cleared for the purpose, these positions required the use of mini- buses to get into position.

Whenever a position was selected after the morning briefings, the volunteers swiftly prepared the chosen position and the Chief Judges workstation and the individual judging positions were nearly always ready on arrival.

Each judging position consisted of two reclining easy chairs and an umbrella with guy ropes. Any malfunctions were dealt with promptly by the volunteers. The Chief Judges position consisted of three easy chairs, a tent on which sides could be removed according to requirements and tables for the video replay equipment. A constant supply of cool drinks and water was available as well as a high quality coffee vending machine, in all an excellent situation for the judges.

A lounge within the contest office was also allocated to the judges, this allowed the judges to remain in comfort while preparing to go out to the line and to relax after lunch, and the lounge was probably the coolest place on the airfield and welcome after the high temperatures on the judging line.

Video Crew & Equipment

The video equipment consisted of two professional quality cameras and two professional operators; every flight was recorded by both cameras in case of a malfunction. Needless to say the quality of the videos was absolutely excellent and all conferences were conducted with almost perfect information for the flight concerned. The Hungarian organisers must be congratulated on providing such a high quality service, which cannot be faulted. The cameraman was Bela Pongo d6@netra.hu and I would recommend his services to anyone organising a championship in the region.

Judging Volunteers

The Organisers had provided a crew of volunteers recruited apparently on the internet for the contest, these volunteers were exceptional, quite apart from setting up the judging positions they were ever-present to collect score sheets, ensure the judges had drinks, repair umbrellas and reclining chairs as required. I can still hear the voice of the young lady at our workstation asking, “Would you like a cappuccino, John?” I cannot over emphasise how these volunteers were appreciated, a fine group of young people who did a great job, once again the Hungarian organisers are to be congratulated.

Line Judges

Volunteers were also recruited as line judges; once again these volunteers were willing and enthusiastic. However having a group of enthusiastic and willing people doesn't necessarily make for perfect line judging, the main problem being that these volunteers had never been exposed to competition aerobatics before and therefore had difficulty in sometimes identifying the exact figure on which infringements of the performance zone had occurred. This in turn caused a number of complaints from pilots with box infringements when the data as listed at the Chief Judges Workstation did not tie-up with the forms submitted by the individual line judges. This was a pity as I am confident that the box infringements as recorded at the Chief Judges workstation were completely accurate, as the system that had been set up was inherently accurate as follows:

Line Judges were on independent radio frequencies and called outs as they occurred, these were only confirmed at the Chief Judges workstation, when both line judges independently called the infringement and these were also verified as being possible by the Chief Judge's assistant Laszlo Liskay and myself. Here Laszlo's ability to converse in Hungarian proved invaluable. So we had a situation where outs had been verified in effect three times, the fact that some of the line judges had written down the infringement against the wrong figure on their paperwork was not really relevant, but unfortunately pilots used this technicality to query box outs, sometimes successfully.

Inevitably if line judges are used who have not been exposed to aerobatics before, this type of occurrence will happen again, this should not be seen as a criticism of the volunteers concerned who worked very hard in difficult conditions and did their very best, but it is unreasonable to expect casual volunteers to be expected to follow complex sequences involved with aerobatics.

Recommendation

That CIVA refine the procedures for using line judges especially with regards to the method of reporting of infringements.

First let's consider the facts of what happens in practice. Line judges are placed at the corners of the performance zone at the intersection of the 50m buffer zone. Each position has a

sighting device, normally a vertical pole with lines attached lined up with the 50m buffer zone, to make sightings along these lines the judge has to very close to the ground. Typically the line judge's positions end up in awkward positions, in Hungary they were within agricultural areas where crops were being harvested, in close proximity trees, bushes and standing crops some nearly 2m high (this applied to the main judging position to the east as well). In addition to this the main activity within the performance zone relative to the line judges will be at something on average close to a forty-five degree angle from their main target area along the buffer zone at the edge of the performance zone. So it is unlikely that a corner judge will at all times be able to see the aircraft within the performance zone until it approaches the limits near to the appropriate line judges. In addition to this depending on which side of the performance zone the line judge is located, some would be using the B form and the others the C form.

Now given that the volunteers manning these positions had never been exposed to competition aerobatics and sequence sheets in the first instance, it is hardly surprising that given their restricted view of the aircraft and the angle at which they are viewing, that they had difficulty in identifying the correct figure on which box infringements had occurred. It could be expected that only experienced aerobatic judges or pilots would be capable of identifying the correct figure in such a short space of time.

In Regulation 2.2.2.1. it is stated that ***“Line Judges should, if possible, be International”***. This in my opinion is totally unrealistic and has never in my long experience ever been achieved, the best we can ever expect if for a local organiser to use local judges or pilots, but mainly we have used inexperienced volunteers.

If we are to continue with line judging, the experience in Hungary will inevitably be repeated again, but by modifying the procedure slightly we ensure that queries on line judging paperwork cannot overrule a penalty imposed at the Chief Judges workstation. The procedure for reporting by radio and being verified as being realistic should remain unchanged, however line judges should in future be required to record each box out by the time it occurred rather by the figure in which it occurred, this would require the synchronisation of watches at the beginning of each day. A line judge would report out to the Chief Judge or his assistant, this would be noted both by time and by figure at the Chief Judges workstation. The line judge would simply write down an infringement and the time it occurred. For example Judge Alfa, out North, 11:45:15 at the Chief Judges workstation the out would have been noted both by figure and time and this submitted to the scoring office. Pilots would still be able to see that the infringements had in fact been reported by the line judges at a specific time and these had been recorded by the Chief Judge, but the possibility of querying the infringement on the grounds that it had not been verified as being in the correct figure would be removed. If this procedure is adopted we can continue to use volunteers to carry out line judge functions, without having pilots querying the penalties on technicalities.

The following wording needs to be added at the end of regulation 2.2.2.3:

“This record will consist either of a note against each figure on which the infringement

occurred or the time at which the infringement occurred, in both cases it will state which line was infringed. In order to facilitate this procedure watches will be synchronised at the briefing each day.”

Starting Procedure

Following the previous experience at the last WAAC, I insisted that flights only be released from the Judging Line, whilst this initially caused some minor delays until the system settled down, flights throughout most of the contest were released as soon as a competitor ended the sequence in the performance zone, in the vast majority of cases the next competitor was airborne before the previous competitor had landed.

As part of the starting procedure pilots were briefed that unless contact was made with the Chief Judge on the radio shortly after take-off, competitions flights were not to commence, failure to establish communication on the safety frequency would require the competitor to land. It was specifically briefed that failure to adhere to this procedure would lead to a competitor being disqualified from the programme.

Unfortunately this did occur in the Free Programme where a competitor failed to establish radio contact, the judging line switched to the reserve radio to no avail and then advised the Technical Committee to investigate once the competitor had landed, they established that the radio volume had been turned down and the pilot had not heard my communications, he apparently made no attempt to contact me, the pilot was duly disqualified.

The Q programme

The Q Programme commenced with the Judges in the western position, having got into position I asked the Contest Director by radio what the “Official Wind” was only to be told that there was no such thing as official wind in the CIVA Regulations section 6, but that the aircraft would enter from the South of the box, this was not possible as the Q Programme starts cross-box and would be either from the west or east. Finally I posed the right question and asked which form we should be using B or C and we then established what I would have referred to as the official wind (incorrectly as it turns out).

Reference to Section 6 of the Sporting Code following this communication in fact verifies the Contest Director’s statement that there is no mention of official wind or flight direction for that matter; this was probably omitted when the need for wind arrows was removed from the Sporting Code. Regulation 4.2.2.2.c) gives the maximum head wind, cross wind and tail wind components in relation to the main axis, and it is therefore assumed that someone will establish the direction of the main axis but nowhere is this stated.

Recommendation

That regulation 4.2.2.3. a) be reworded as follows:

“The Contest Director must provide the competitors, the Chief Judge, the Board of Judges and the International Jury **with the Official Wind Direction aligned to a performance zone axis (then referred to as the main axis) and thereafter** with half-hourly information on weather conditions and, at shorter intervals, on wind speed and direction at 500 m height if required to meteorological developments.”

Apart from some initial weather delays, the Q Programme progressed quickly.

Programmes 1 to 3

These programmes proceeded without incident or judging problems, apart from the need to disqualify one pilot who totally disregarded the briefed procedures with regards to establishing contact with the Judging Line and continued to complete his sequence without having establishing radio contact. The Technical Commission found that his radio was in working order, but with the volume turned down to minimum.

All the programmes were finished in their entirety and well within the scheduled time limits; this can be attributed both to minimal weather delays and the efficiency of the organisation.

Judging Performance

Judging performance was highly satisfactory with no massive differences in overall RI performance, seven of the judges overall RIs were with a range difference of just over 3. It is perhaps interesting to note that the judge with the best RI this being Michael Gallaway of the USA, was also the judge with the lowest average score range (see attached statistics). The trend of being quite critical had been noticed as the raw scores passed the Chief Judge's workstation and it is perhaps significant that this approach had the desired effect of ensuring the best results in ranking the pilots. The trend is further emphasised by the fact that Gallaway also had more PZs than any other judge; this combined with the lowest number of HZ to fitted value (4) and scores to HZ (2).

It can be concluded that maintaining concentration and being highly critical pays dividends in terms of judging performance, probably the experience and qualification of the assistant judge will also have an impact on the overall judging performance.

Finally it is worth recording the performance of veteran Judge Jean Zumaglini of France, who has indicated that this was probably his last International contest. Hopefully this will not be the case, as he has performed consistently well over a long period of time and this is recognised and appreciated by the CIVA Judging Sub-Committee.

Analysis of Judges Combined Anomalies

Sequences: Programme Q: Known Compulsory (ADV), Programme 1: Free Programme (ADV), Programme 2: Free Unknown #1 (ADV), Programme 3: Free Unknown #2

10th WAAC

Nyíregyháza Hungary
26 Jul. - 4 Aug 2012

10th WAAC Nyíregyháza Hungary 26 Jul. - 4 Aug 2012	USA Michael GALLAWAY	FRA Jean ZUMAGLINI	FRA Guy AUGER	LTU Violeta GEDMINAITTE	HUN Gábor TALABOS	FIN Timo BARTHOLDI	FIN Kimmo VIRTANEN	RUS Vladimir RAZHIN	GBR Nick BUCKENHAM	RSA Quirin HAWTHORNE								
All Judges	RI 10.66 [4]	RI 13.60 [4]	RI 13.76 [4]	RI 15.43 [4]	RI 15.99 [4]	RI 16.01 [4]	RI 17.24 [4]	RI 17.71 [4]	RI 20.71 [4]	RI 21.60 [4]								
Use of Marks:	No	%																
HZ - Hard Zeros	254	0.8	24	0.7	25	0.7	19	0.6	25	0.7	27	0.8	28	0.8	26	0.8	30	0.9
PZ - Perception Zeros	157	0.5	30	0.9	25	0.7	18	0.5	1	0.0	29	0.9	12	0.4	9	0.3	8	0.2
Marks from 0.0 to 6.5	8273	24.5	1175	34.8	737	21.8	546	16.2	549	16.3	814	24.1	1077	31.9	801	23.7	595	17.6
Marks from 7.0 to 10.0	25052	74.2	2145	63.6	2584	76.6	2790	82.7	2797	82.9	2504	74.2	2263	67.1	2538	75.2	2743	81.3
AV - averages	14	0.0	1	0.0	4	0.1	2	0.1	3	0.1	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Total marks ... (Photos/Judge)	33750	3375 ... (262)	3375 ... (262)	3375 ... (262)	3375 ... (262)	3375 ... (262)	3375 ... (262)	3375 ... (262)	3375 ... (262)	3375 ... (262)	3375 ... (262)	3375 ... (262)	3375 ... (262)	3375 ... (262)	3375 ... (262)	3375 ... (262)	3375 ... (262)	3375 ... (262)

Style Comparison:
Average and Style
of Judges Raw Marks
compared to normalised
all-Judges average
(Style = 2 x SD)

Vertical axis scale:
1 mark = 24mm
Raw Marks Factors:

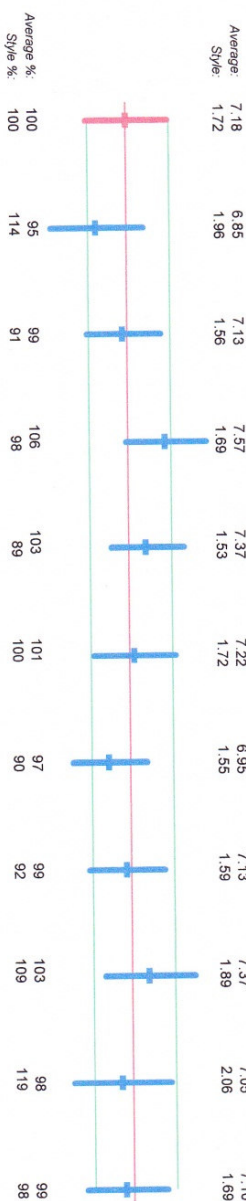


Figure anomalies

HZ to fitted value	57	0.2	4	6	5	3	7	5	6	7	5	5	9
Mark to confirmed HZ	51	0.2	2	7	8	4	6	5	5	5	5	5	4
PZ to confirmed HZ	10	0.0	4	-	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1
PZ to fitted value	104	0.3	20	18	12	1	19	7	5	5	6	11	
AV to confirmed HZ	2	0.0	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
AV to fitted value	12	0.0	1	4	-	3	1	-	-	1	1	1	
Lo to fitted value	467	1.4	36	61	35	50	40	43	34	63	39	66	
Hi to fitted value	179	0.5	9	29	8	26	10	11	26	8	39	13	
The 60% Rule	70	0.2	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	
Total figure anomalies	952		83	132	79	94	90	81	83	96	102	112	

Sequence anomalies

AUT Austria	3 Lo	2 Hi	1 Lo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BEL Belgium	0 Lo	1 Hi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

... see next page

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Sequence anomalies	USA	FRA	FRA	LTU	HUN	FIN	FIN	RUS	GBR	RSA
BLR Belarus	2 Lo 2 HI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CZE Czech Republic	1 Lo 4 HI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FRA France	15 Lo 14 HI	1 Lo	-	1 Lo 2 HI	-	4 HI	-	2 Lo	-	1 Lo
GBR Great Britain (UK)	5 Lo 4 HI	-	2 Lo	-	1 Lo	-	2 HI	-	2 Lo	-
GER Germany	6 Lo 4 HI	-	-	-	1 Lo	-	1 Lo 1 HI	-	1 Lo 2 HI	-
HUN Hungary	6 Lo 4 HI	1 Lo	-	-	1 Lo	-	1 Lo	-	3 Lo 1 HI	-
ITA Italy	3 Lo 1 HI	-	-	1 Lo	-	-	-	-	1 Lo	-
JAP Japan	3 Lo 3 HI	1 Lo	-	-	-	-	1 Lo 1 HI	-	-	-
POL Poland	3 Lo 2 HI	-	-	1 Lo	-	-	1 Lo 1 HI	-	-	-
LTU Lithuania	4 Lo 4 HI	1 Lo	-	1 Lo	-	-	-	-	-	-
POR Portugal	5 Lo 6 HI	-	-	1 HI	-	-	1 Lo 1 HI	-	-	1 Lo 1 HI
ROU Romania	5 Lo 7 HI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RSA South Africa	11 Lo 15 HI	2 Lo	-	1 HI	-	-	1 Lo	-	1 Lo 2 HI	-
RUS Russian Federation	21 Lo 12 HI	-	-	-	-	-	2 Lo 3 HI	-	1 Lo 1 HI	-
SUI Switzerland	1 Lo 0 HI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UKR Ukraine	2 Lo 7 HI	-	-	-	-	-	1 Lo 1 HI	-	-	-
USA United States	14 Lo 14 HI	-	2 Lo	-	2 Lo 1 HI	-	1 Lo 1 HI	-	3 Lo 1 HI	-
No Team	1 Lo 0 HI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total sequence anomalies	111 Lo 109 HI	7 Lo 8 HI	13 Lo 5 HI	11 Lo 9 HI	4 Lo 12 HI	14 Lo 9 HI	12 Lo 12 HI	10 Lo 16 HI	11 Lo 13 HI	15 Lo 11 HI



Calculations by: FairPlay (non-scoring C.I. + CHZ Summary)
Aerobatic Contest Results Organiser, Version 3.1 Build 11-09-12
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