

Jury report

F1D European Championships for Seniors and Juniors
Belgrade, Serbia, Aug. 9.–14. 2009

The 2009 F1D European Championships for Seniors and Juniors were organised by the Aeronautical Union of Serbia and Modelling Club "Modelar" from Belgrade as the executive organizer with Vojislav Stojkovic as Event Director. The event attracted 29 competitors from 10 nations in the senior category and 15 juniors out of five national teams. Seniors and juniors flew alongside within the 6 rounds.

SITE

For the second time Serbia was able to provide the big hall No. 1 of the Belgrade Fair. The huge building of the 60ties is an architectural concrete marvel in the shape of a lens, with a diameter of more than 100 meters. The flat centre of the ceiling offers a usable height of 27,5 meters; the construction pattern includes 5500 round windows to lighten the inside. This time, no cubicles had been provided for the teams around the flying field; tables and chairs of the teams were just separated by movable walls. A huge central construction for spotlights and loudspeakers had been removed in 2008 before the WCh of that year, making the big hall the best Cat.III-site known so far in Europe. It is available for indoor events always in August and will be venue for the international championships 2010 and 2011 as well. One drawback of the impressive building is the heat inside which may exceed the outside temperature. During the EuCh the sky was often overcast, reducing the heat inside. Little drifts remained and made steering necessary to prevent models from hang-ups, causing several ruined flights.

ORGANISATION

There were a Team Managers' meeting and a timekeepers' meeting, all of which attended by the Jury. The timekeepers were young, mainly students of the University, and very dedicated to their tasks. As had happened in 2008, during the Team Managers' Meeting incorrect steering and rule SC4 F1 3.4.7.b) has been discussed: "*Continued disregard of the timekeeper's warning will result in a terminated flight.*" The FAI Jury insisted again that it's not the timekeeper who may terminate the flight, leaving such a decision to the discretion of the Contest Director. However, the fears of incorrect steering occurred to be almost superfluous.

The measurement systems for checking of models and rubber weight were precise and enabled a good work flow.

SCHEDULE

To reduce influence of the sun, during the first two days the rounds started late with an official end of launching at 22.30 h. With respect of prize giving and banquet on the third day of competition, only the fifth round started at 10 h in the morning. This time, the early round showed only three seniors getting flights being counted for the final results, in line with competitors asserting a significant disadvantage of flying before afternoon. But a closer look at the scoring count for juniors plus seniors showed a more

even distribution: R1: 8, R2: 25, R3: 17, R4: 18, R5: 9, R6: 11. Because of an improving weather on day 1 there was an advantage for the late round, on day two the 2 rounds were the same and the earlier round of the last day showed only two counting flights less than the very last round. The numbers of scoring flights tend to reduce on the last day whatever time it is flown since competitors will try for that big flight at risk of hanging up.

PROTESTS

There was one protest, filed by the Team manager of France. It was directed against a disqualification of a flight performed by Didier Barberis (FRA). Competitors had claimed having seen him supporting his model after the launch, in order to avoid a stall. The Contest director – after hearing the appropriate Time keepers – decided to disqualify this special flight, despite the two officials didn't witness any support not covered by the rules. The Jury decided to uphold the protest.

BOARD AND LODGING

Most teams found accommodation in Hotel "N", place of the banquet as well. It offers value for money and very good breakfast as a start of the long days. Compared to 2008, lunch and dinner served in the provisional restaurant within the hall diminished in quality, and some competitors used the break between the rounds to visit a restaurant at the river Sava close by.

OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONY

A short opening ceremony took place outside the hall, with a group performing traditional Serbian dances. To avoid a prize giving in the dark, the closing ceremony took place within the hall; three trophies could be awarded, including a new one sponsored by the Serbian artist Miloslav Pavelka. It shows a nice model of the Belgrade Fair Hall top down, is donated by Vojislav Stojkovic on behalf of Aeronautical Union of Serbia and dedicated to the best Junior Team.

CONCLUSION

Thanks to good preparations and a good conduct of the competition the Serbian Aeroclub and its volunteers accomplished very good European Championships. CIAM owes to thank for a great event.

Gerhard Wöbbeking, GER, Jury President

Ian Kaynes, GBR, Jury Member

Srdjan Pelagić, SRB, Jury Member

Nov. 18th, 2009