

AGENDA ITEM 8

REPORT OF THE SCORING TEAM

Jürgen Leukefeld & Silvia Thöle

XV. European Aerobatic Championships
Grenchen, Switzerland
29 August – 11 September 2006



The Office

We reached Grenchen Airport on early Tuesday, August 29th. Scoring office was located in crew-room of a local glider-club. This was the only office for the whole contest administration and was to be shared with contest staff and associated public traffic and partly members of the International Jury, who had a room reached by passing this combination office.

The office employed two big tables, accessible from both sides, two copy machines and desktop computer from the club, that provided Internet access.

Technical

- Organiser supported us with one Dell notebook of high quality which was used almost exclusively by the scoring team. Only during morning briefing and late evenings, this notebook was used by contest director, as it was the mobile computer among two. The other one was a tower-pc, used for administration purposes only. Printing was done on one of the copy machines via LAN.
- Optical reader had been brought to the contest by Graham Hill (Chief Judge), who picked it up from Mady Delcroix in France. It was reported, the interface had a poor or loose connection and didn't work. The reader's power supply was reported to be broken and didn't work as well. As far as I can recall, Graham said replacements would be delivered by mail. During the contest, nothing reached us.
- Scoresheets have been provided in sufficient amount. Graham brought them along with the reader.
- Radio link has not been supported.
- There was no intranet point for online publication of the results.
- Publication of results and programmes as necessary was done in paper form on information boards, one close to the scoring office and a second at the flightline.
- Working with the system, we discovered a new situation as up-to-date notebooks do not provide serial ports of their own. As the reader is designed to be connected to such - besides the other problems with the reader - it was not possible to connect it to the



supported notebook. There was no docking station or port replicator by which the connectivity might have been improved.

Work and Procedures

- Based on the hardware problems around the optical reader, we decided from the beginning to work without this. Even the chance to connect the reader to the power pc was useless, as this was used for several administration purposes. Scores have been entered to the computer manually.
- At the judge line, the Chief Judge introduced a new and powerful procedure for arbitrating the scoresheets which was a great help in dealing with the various kinds of zeroes (SZ, HZ, CHZ). Each scoresheet with an occurrence of any kind of zero was checked by Chief Judge Assistant Steven Green. If appropriate, the dedicated flight was observed on video. Scoresheets have been collected at the judge line and then brought to the scoring office to enter data to the computer.
- Traveling from airfield to judge line was done by private car and took about five minutes.
- Almost each time the data has been transferred to the computer, results have been calculated and printed to be published. Doing these jobs on the airfield was almost the time it took to do the next five flights.

In the evening, contest director transferred results as available to the contest homepage.

Problems

- Technical problems with optical reader have been mentioned. After the contest, the reader went to Hillerse, for repair of interface cable and power supply.
- Printing of the pattern on the scoresheets, done by the professional printshop, was doubtful. On some sheets, this pattern was partly missing. The alignment of that pattern, along with the paper format was various. This caused the marks printed from ACMS to individualize the scoresheets not to hit the expected place among the patterns. As the optical reader aligns itself by reading the pre-printed patterns close to the margin, this would have caused problems when reading the sheets. I experienced this on previous contests when operating the reader. The alignment procedure from the ACMS software was used in the beginning to do the first setup. As we didn't use the reader, we didn't correct each time we discovered misprintings. This is a problem we should solve for further competitions, by printing the whole pattern during individualizing the sheets from ACMS. Nowadays color printers can do this job easily. Along with this improvement we have to check for the closest distance a printer can print to the margin and compare with the distance the first element of the reading ruler is placed from the margin. This would prevent high printing costs for the scoresheets at the same moment.
- The missing serial port on the notebook was a real surprise and "aha-moment". We have to care for such ports when looking for computers, at least for the one to which the reader is connected.
- On one pilot it was impossible to enter scores to the computer, although all preparations to the flight (Free Programme) had been done properly. After having tried every solution



we (Steven Green and me) could imagine, next morning we contacted Michel Dupont via phone, to ask for help. Nathalie Brunet (video "girl") was helpful, working as interpreter explaining our problem to Michel. We sent him database of the contest attached to an email and some hours later, he came with a solution that did work fine. The "mistake" I did, was to try to fill in scores to a sequence for which - at that moment - no K-factors had been filled in. Filling in K-factors after once having tried to enter scores, does not work. Missing K-factors were resulting from late submitted Free Sequences.

Conclusion

- Although some of the expected hardware was missing, and/or was not working, scoring didn't suffer from this. As we had some delay in releasing the scoresheets from the judge line, it would have been impossible to establish a real online scoring as known from earlier contests, even if all the equipment would have been available. By the way, there have been almost no complaints from the participants. Only when scoresheets were under discussion and pilots had to wait two or more hours, they turned nervous. In one case, a pilot (Guido Giraud) had to wait until next day, but this was caused by a special database anomaly (s.o.).
- There have been no problems discovered in concern with changing over to FPS and using super family numbers.
- Although the Contest Director (Philipp Sprecher) and his staff had a lot of work, being only three persons to run the administration, we received every support we needed in short time.

Thanks to everybody who helped us doing this job.

Jürgen Leukefeld