

REPORT ON THE 2024 FAI F4 SCALE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ploiești, România 10th – 17th August.

Preface:

The first indication that something was not as it used to be, came when we were informed that Ioana would leave her position as the CEO of the Modelling Federation on the 31st of August and we really felt sorry for losing her capacity, but since this would happen well after the Scale World at 10th to 17th of August and as such was of no concern as to the Scale Championship. In addition, she had just got a new helper/secretary, Ionut, who with a good grasp of English was an excellent choice.

Then the problems accelerated, Ioana's departure from the position was put forward and she would not be involved in the Scale World Championship, this left us with Ionut as the only person to contact, and he was trying to do his best, but too many things got lost as he did not have access to the setup done by Ioana. This made the contact and the assurance of things being produced and prepared almost impossible to check. Then just a week before the start of the Championship, we got the information that also Ionut resigned, and that resignation was valid from the date we got the information.

We all were left without a contact person in Romania, and we honestly travelled to Romania with great sceptics as to what would be there, and we were, as we expected coming to some setup that was only less than half done and at first no organisation committee was present. Some of the local people had started to set up tables in the hangar and The Romanian Judge for the Championship, Andrei Peitre together with Stefan Racasanu and Corneliu Mangalea all from Romania, started to get things fixed and it looked like something as a Championship setup, but a long way from what we were used to have.

Championship setup:

The missing contact from the Organisers gave CD Pål a lot of extra work, trying to get a setup that could be called a World Championship. The space originally set aside to be used for the models in the main hangar was far too small to cater for all the models. Pål had to have several negotiations with the Airport Manager resulted in doubling the available area to be used for the models. This was still to be rather crowded, but manageable. All involved Judges, Jury and Competitors did their best to help where needed.

In addition, since Ioana was lost, all her deals with the Airport, transportation of officials to and from the Hotel-Airfield and Banquet reservation had been cancelled and what we were left with, was no flight before 1130 each day, resulting in losing almost half a day of flying

each day. After some negotiation, again by CD Pål, we were allowed to start one day at 0800 and on the last two days at 1030. These changes just made it possible to complete three rounds in all classes.

Championship opening:

The opening ceremony was done by only taking care of the essentials as in the rulebook, there were no representative from Romanian Federation to present Romania as the host to the competitors and CD Pål then wished all welcome to Romania and gave a few words about the situation. Then the Jury president said a few words also about the situation and declared the Championship for open, the FAI Hymn was played and the FAI flag displayed. The whole seance took less than 5 minutes, but as said, covered the required parts.

Competition:

Even as the flying part had to wait until midday, which is rather unusual, we started the static judging with the models just outside the hangar and the Judges in the hangar opening, the heat and the sun quickly made this setup hopeless and it was decided to use the meeting room that was used as hangar for the F4B models as space there were enough to host both F4C and F4H static judging in addition to the F4B models and the room was air conditioned as such gave very good conditions for judging. F4B static would take place after the F4H static, as they shall be judged by the same static Judges and to the same standard as the F4H models.

CD Pål had arranged with Ioana, some time before the changing of position in the Romanian Modelling Federation was known, to bring the scoring secretariat, from the World Scale 2022 in Jarlsberg, with him to Romania, to be sure we had a scoring system we knew worked in tabulating the scores and could trusted. We did have a few Romanians that did a great job, I would say that the transport of models between the hangar and the runway was excellent performed this time, as it was done in 2016 by our friend Daniel Petcu ROU who never say no to be helping.

Our Romanian Jury Member Radu Zaharia, took care of the running of the F4B circuit and did a very good job there, even as he as a member of the FAI Jury, should not have been involved in running the Championship. But we had to use all available personnel to be able to get the Championship going.

Our other Jury member, Harald Simon GER, was asked by CD Pål Anthonisen if he could manage to check the RX setup on some of the models, Harald then checked the receiver part of the best 6 models in each class and a few randomly selected, this was done by taking a photo of the receiver and the setup around it in the model. This was then scrutinised by some of the experts present that knew these programable systems and could give an opinion on if legal or not. One model stood out and was given a closer look, the specification on that receiver showed according to the experts that it was not within what the rules allowed and it was DQ at the Championship, it was later decided by the CIAM Bureau that the rules was not specific enough to do the DQ and the model was reenlisted in the scoring of the class.

We got one complaint on flight manoeuvres that the Jury handled the wrong way in the overloaded situation. The complain was against the Judges scoring the competitor and not the model flying, the so called “Halo Factor” and the Jury wrongly adjusted the scoring on the manoeuvre and consequently this was corrected by the CIAM Bureau to the scores given by the Judges. The correct procedure would have been to call a Jury/Judges meeting to get the Judges to correct their scoring to the real manoeuvre being flown.

Closing of the Championship:

This was done in a similar manner as the opening was done, just to take care of the basic part as in the rules.

The prize giving was conducted for the three classes both individual and team, all got the FAI Medals and the Organisers Cups and the Trophies for the Winners, individual and team was presented. We do miss these Trophies, Individual and Team, for the F4B class as this class is back as a World Championship Class with refined rules to boost interest in the class.

Then the CD Pål gave his closing remarks, and the FAI Jury President closed the Championship. We were still missing any representative from the Organisers to give a statement.

Closing remarks:

Then instead of a Banquet, we had a sort of a Barbeque at the field. People had a good time, but this was not what they had paid for and it was far from the value of € 50,- paid in advance.

What really made it possible to have this Championship at all, was the involvement of Mr. Corneliu Mangalea, who was able to supply some money to be able to get the needed equipment to run the Championship, just a pity he was unable to stay and represent Romania during the Championship. One does hope that the FAI never will meet a similar situation again and that the organisers will be present and know what to do.

Narve L. Jensen
Jury President

Harald Simon
Jury Member

Radu Zaharia
Jury Member