

AGENDA ITEM 8.3

REPORT OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

**13th World Glider Aerobatic Championships
10-19 July 2009**

Philippe K  chler, pik



Overview

At the 13th edition of the WGAC, 34 pilots from 11 countries participated on 4 different aircraft types. Besides the usual MDM-1 Fox, Swift S-1 and MDM-1 SOLO FOX there was the first appearance of the SZD-59.

The airfield of Hosin is located slightly north of the well known brewery city of Budweis.

The board of judges consisted of 7 CIVA-selected Judges:

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| • BINDER, Manfred | GER |
| • GAWE  KI, Jan | POL |
| • HAPPS, Dick | GBR |
| • HAU, Stephan | GER |
| • LAMBERT, Peter | AUT |
| • LOUVEL, Remy | FRA |
| • SALZINGER, Otto | AUT |

Scoring Office:

- | | |
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| – Martin G  tz | SUI |
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Preparation and Judges Selection

The selection of the judges was a quite difficult thing this year. The planning started with 7 CIVA-selected Judges, selected by the Judging Subcommittee, and 2 non-selected (or “invited”) judges on the board. This planning was quickly out of date when after the World Air Games, CIVA received the non-official information that Russian Judge would not come to Hosin. We did not receive an offer for a replacement nor did we receive an official explanation why the Russian judge withdrew.



Shortly before the event, we also received the withdrawal of the Hungarian judge, who was planned to be one of the two invited judges. The reason for this was funds were not available from the Hungarian Aero Club to sponsor the Judge's participation in WGAC.

The CIVA Judging Subcommittee in cooperation with the CIVA President and me by then had to find a solution to have the required minimum of judges at the line. The decision was to turn the remaining invited judge, Otto Salzinger, into an official CIVA judge.

In the months and weeks before the Championships I was contacted several times by the organizer regarding local problems at Hosin. One of them was the question regarding Line Judges. I agreed to omit them. The second problem was the height measuring device. The organizer at first was not able to pay for the Meierhofer System (MHMD). I insisted on having it at the line. The organizer did a very good job and found a sponsor who paid for the MHMD. The fairness and correctness of glider championships depends very much on having the HMD in service. I am therefore very happy that the system was in use. We definitely need to find a solution for the future on this issue.

Judges Preparation

One of my main goals for the event was to have a good preparation of the judges. This was planned and done with a theory lesson where the key points of judging were explained and refreshed. This was followed by training flights on the 9th and the 10th of July. After the flights, as a third component, we were watching videos to clarify the flights and figures in question. My personal feeling is this helped a lot to aim the optics of the board of judges.

Only thanks to the support from CIVA, in terms of money out of the Judging School fund for the additional nights and food of the judges was this possible at all. I clearly want to state, that the preparation days for the judges are very important and should be done and financed by CIVA on a regular basis at a championship. It helps a lot to increase the credibility and fairness of the board of judges.

At this point I also want to say thank you to all the pilots who participated in the training sessions for the judges. The pilots did a good job by including small errors in their flights, advised by me.

Contest Flights

During the official contest days, we could fly 5 out of the 6 programmes. The 6th programme was planned, as well as a freestyle competition, but the weather on the last 2 days did not permit it.

Support by the organizer was very personal and kind. The Judges and myself were supported by a nice team of helpers. A special thank you to Dana, Jana and the video man

Jan. You did a good job. Due to the support of these persons, the operation of the line was according to the rules and fluent and effective.

The board of judges used 2 out of the 3 available judges' positions. These 2 positions were probably the best equipped lines we ever had at a glider championships. A personal thank you, goes from my end to the organizer for having placed a coffee machine at the line(s).

Nearly after every block of flights, I called a video session to review figures in question at the briefing room. We even had the possibility to look at flights immediately at the line to clarify questions for the judges and to be prepared for reoccurrence of such situations. I am personally a bit disappointed that during these sessions, only in a few cases the judges were ready to adjust their given mark based on what they have seen on the video. I never overruled the board in my function as the chief judge. Every decision taken at the video session was by majority of the judges.

The judges received after every programme their evaluation out of the proven and reliable ACRO Software used by the scoring office. I clearly want to state, that the statistics are meant for the judges and not for the pilots. In one case a pilot wanted to discuss the system, because he had the feeling that the system is wrong. He stated that he would be able to understand the calculations behind the FPS and therefore thinks, that there must be something wrong. In cooperation with the scoring office the pilot received the possibility to have a phone chat with Nick Buckenham. Nick explained to the pilot the maths done by the software. Many thanks to Nick to jump in and calm the situation. No problem could be found nor confirmed in the software.

Flight Safety

During Programme 5 one pilot exceeded clearly the limits of his aircraft during a pull-out of a figure. The incident was observed by the International Jury as well and they disqualified the pilot for this programme. In addition, in a personal chat was held with the pilot, and he proposed himself not to fly any further programmes. The disqualification was accepted by the pilot in question without opposition.

Summary

This was my first engagement as a chief judge on an international level. My main goal was to have fair and correct championships with an unbiased and acting after the rules board of judges. These goals have been reached for me in general. Only one judge showed up in the overall evaluation with a total of 5 HI's on his national pilots. The overall ranking indices were better than last year and I think that with the judges who worked at Hosin we go in the correct direction.

Nonetheless, staffing in glider championships is a major issue. As stated above, it was already a challenge to find enough qualified judges for this year's event. Starting from next year there will be, like in power, an event in Advanced. These 2 events, if they are held in

separate locations and in a narrow time frame, will be a big problem regarding staff. I therefore recommend to hold the Unlimited and the Advanced championships, at the same location. This would tremendously help the staff selection because the same board could be used for both events. And, last but not least, it would also help the organizer of the Advanced competition to be able to have an event which covers the expenses. It is important that we can get the Advanced championships going. Once they are established, it would be much easier for the organizer to find staff and sponsors and competitors.

On the other hand, the most important thing is new staff. Which means mainly, new judges. I therefore would personally support the idea of having judges schools for glider judges, organized by CIVA. In addition we need to develop a concept for the future on how to get new judges. This may even mean that CIVA has to cover the expenses of non-official judges (invited) as well, at least until the situation get better. We want to have good judges. Not only good judges, we want to have the best. This means possible investment on our end to get the candidates to the venues. Only training and guidance will lead us to the mentioned result.

A final word about stipends for judges. I do not think that CIVA makes a good cut with the current system of paying a flat rate to everyone. First of all, I think we should not pay anyone for his work. Instead we should pay the travel costs, because accommodation is free and covered by the organizer. I would appreciate having a system where the judges get money for their real travel expenses. In most of the cases, these expenses are way lower than what is paid by now as a flat rate. The system which was used by FAI for the World Air Games in Turin is a good base in my point of view and should be discussed at the plenary.

Proposal for rules change

As stated above, we looked at a lot of videos for confirmation of Hard Zeroes. A considerable part of the figures in question had to do with stalls in looping segments and in rolling turns. Most of the cases couldn't be resolved with a majority, because the fact of a stall is hardly visible on the video due to the resolution and shakiness of the recording. This and the fact that it was a reason for video several times because there was no conclusion at the line despite being a matter of fact, leads to the conclusion that it should be treated as a matter of perception instead of a matter of fact. This means, to change the rules so that a 0.0 replaces the Hard Zero as the mark for a stall in a looping segment or in a rolling turn. The affected rules in section 6 part 2 would be 6.7.2.1 and 6.8.3.7 b.

Personal Statement

For me it was a great pleasure and an honor to act as the chief judge. I had a lot of support from the local organizer. I want to send a big personal thank you to Ludek Kluger who acted as the "bitch for all". Really, this was stated on his name plate. Ludek has invested a lot of personal effort and time to realize championships with only about 6 months of preparation. Bravo! The second person that I want to mention is Tom Korinek, the contest director. Tom, I will always remember my first championship because of you and Ludek. Chapeau.



**CIVA 2009
Oshkosh, USA**

Finally, last but not least, another big thank you to Alena Kaftanova, my chief judge assistant. Alena jumped in to replace my mentor and planned assistant Helmut Stas, who died only a few days before the championships at Hosin.

Dedicated in commemoration to Helmut Stas,

Philippe K  chler

14 August 2009
Payerne, Switzerland