

AGENDA ITEM 11.3

REPORT OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

26th World Aerobatic Championships
Foligno, Italy

August 31 – September 10, 2011

Graham Hill



The Opening Ceremony

The opening Ceremony, near the Judges and Officials Hotel comprised a speech by the Mayor a very short speech by myself and an official speech from Alan Cassidy to open the Championships.

The Opening Dinner

Drums are feature in many aspects of Foligno's entertainment both at Day and Night! (No they did not fall over!). Dinner was in a delightful courtyard with good food and wine.

Briefing and Seminar

Judges were asked to send their completed currency check to me before the start of WAC. I made an Excel spread sheet logging the incorrect answers, and we concentrated on these during the Currency check.

All judges were at the briefing. The briefing room was a partitioned section of the hotel reception area, and whilst not ideal was manageable. We used the PowerPoint presentation prepared mainly by Nick Buckenham and agreed by the JSC for the Seminar, as well as running through the currency paper that Nick and I originally prepared.

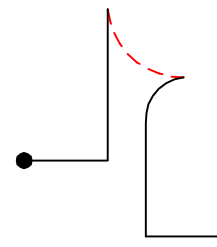
There were some questions that many got wrong, especially the following:

Q 7. In executing a roll on a 45° line, a pilot draws a line before the roll but omits the line after the roll. The judge should deduct 2 points. [True or False]

Answer 4 pts 6.7.1.6.d

Half the judges got this wrong and were reminded of this important rule.

Q14. During the tail slide shown the aircraft is 5° from the vertical during the vertical up and maintains this error during the slide. The fall through is the correct type, and the aircraft pendulums past the vertical by almost 90° followed by a second swing past the vertical by 15° after which a correct vertical down is established.



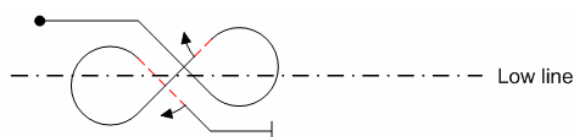
- a) Is this a canopy-down or canopy-up tail-slide?
b) What downgrades apply to the errors described?

Canopy down
5 pts *

The majority disagreed with the answer we provided on the basis that the rule is not clear, and made no deduction for the second swing through (*-1 for the up error -1 for the maintained error during the slide, and -3 for the 15 degree error on the second swing). We agreed that this needs clarification by the Judging/Rules sub committees.

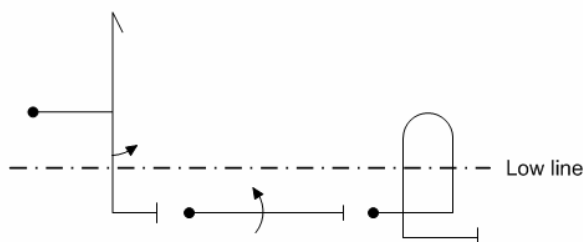
Q17 How many "Low's" you would give in each of the following three cases:

a)



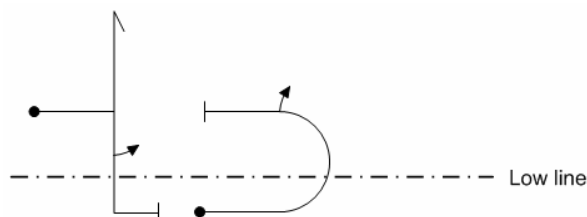
Answer: 3 lows

b)



Answer: 3 lows

c)



Answer: 1 low

More than half the judges failed to get all the three sub questions right. Time was spent underlining that it was only when the “low” line was breached on the down line that a penalty was incurred, and that any manoeuvre started and completed below the low line attracted another penalty. We reinforced the point that a manoeuvre started below the line but completed above it did not attract a penalty.

Judge Training flights

Flights were carried out by the two warm-up pilots Anton Berkutov and Francois Rallett, who deserve our thanks for their cooperation with this and their support as warm up pilots during the competition. These pilots flew the “Q” initially, plus some real and cheated flicks, following the discussion on PZ s at the Hotel. The second flight training session comprised two “free sequences” as well as more flick practice.

I believe the Seminar was very helpful in improving judges’ approach to marking rolling circles. In order to get better uniformity in the “Position” mark we asked and received their co operation in using the Near Near , Left Left etc. system.

We made no comment during any sequence as we did not want to move the goal posts during the programme. Generally most judges used this and there was a greater range of marks than normal. More work to be done in training.

(The PowerPoint is available from Nick Buckenham or myself)

Protests

There were no protests.

Some issues arose regarding the removal of an HZ for one pilot, but once explained, the enquirer was satisfied. Other issues concerning lows, safety and airmanship were discussed with pilots and managers and their responses mature and sensible.

Hotel: Reasonable, and staff very friendly and cooperative.

Food: Very Good.

Wi-Fi: Intermittent.

Transport: Once the problem of access to the hotel caused by road works and narrow streets was resolved and three mini buses allocated, the transport and timings worked reasonably well This was partly due to the appreciated assistance of John Gaillard who took on the responsibility of coordinating the transport to and from the judging line and Hotel The food at the airport was also good and varied.

The Box

Alignment posts to centre box



Aspect from the East position



West position and the trees *

There was much discussion before the event regarding the position of the box and the siting of the judges' positions. There was barely enough room to meet CIVA standards, and *trees on the West side of the area caused concern and required the box base height to be raised by 50metres.

The West and South judging positions were 150 metres from the box edge, and the South 240 metres.

The allocation of Judges stations was run by Jen Buckenham using the system operated at EAAC in Slovakia. A biscuit or sweet was selected by each judge with a letter or number underneath nominating the judging position they would occupy for the ensuing sequence.

(Photo Nick Buckenham)



Judging stations met the required standards except that the recliner chairs were too fragile and several broke during the contest. Cool drinks in the CJ tent and provision of coffee were regular and good.

Communications

UHF IACO radios (Motorola 340's) worked well, but the mobile phones provided did not always provide a usable signal.

VHF radios for communication with competitors had some problems re-charging, and on one occasion we had to use my own. There seemed to be a lack of understanding as to how to use the chargers. Nick resolved this.

On the 9th September, failure to detect wind change meant that having been asked to go to West position we had to go to the South, losing over an hours flying time.

Video

The video was operated by Javier Marqueries, who's operation was smooth and efficient (There was one instance where the camera broke down, details later in this report.) He was quick at running replays when requested. His assistance was much appreciated.

Scoring

Well what can I say? We are truly spoilt by having the quiet efficient services of Jurgen Leukefeld and Silvia Thoele. There were no major issues and any minor matters were quickly and easily resolved. Brilliant and a big "Thank you" to them both.



Judging

The panel of International Judges comprised Vladimir Kotelnikov, Gabor Talabos Snr, Mikhail Bezdenzhnykh, Timo Bartholdi, Violeta Gedminaite, Lyudmyla Zelenina, Michael

Galloway, John Gaillard, and Aldo Marengo.

Judging overall, was very good. Fairplay sorted out any anomalies. There were two Judges with consistently high RIs. One judges RI was impacted by missing one HZ on a single high K figure that put the RI at over 27 for the sequence, without which it would have been more reasonable.

The final RIs combining all the flights (except the 4 minute free) was as follows:

J1	J2	J3	J4	J5	J6	J7	J8	J9	J10
8.36	8.55	10.26	10.61	12.22	12.35	12.68	15.03	19.13	22.54

The “Q” was finished on 2nd Sept and the Free program finished on 3rd September.

On the 4th the first Free Unknown was interrupted by weather and not completed until of the 5th.

On 5th September, the video equipment failed and it was necessary to ask Michael Vaknin to land pending repair or a replacement. The replacement did not work and consequently we delayed flying till the afternoon. Moral: always have a spare or at least a reasonable HD hand held video recorder for such emergencies. We finished the 1st Free Unknown at 19.18.

The 6th was a day with very well organised tours to Assisi and a winery.

7th September: the intention was to try and finish the second Unknown by the end of the day. A technical problem with a Sukhoi delayed us, and a slow start due to another aircraft's engine fire on start up meant that the possibility of finishing by 19.10 (at which point the sun setting behind the hills made judging difficult) was unlikely as the launch rate was less than the 6 per hour required. This was further exacerbated by the fact the fire-damaged Sukhoi needed extensive repair and another Sukhoi would have to be found for the two affected pilots. The Jury required rightly that a sequence of manoeuvres would have to be flown by each pilot as an additional safety measure and this added to the time needed to complete Programme 3. This additional time meant that the possibility of finishing Programme 3 before 19.10 was remote, and the decision was taken that it was better to advise pilots that we would leave 7 flights till the following day so that uncertainty about flying that day was removed. Not all pilots were happy with this but as it turned out we would not have been able to complete that sequence before 19.10 by at least two flights.

Scribes

For Programme 1, some Judges needed scribes and there was no difficulty in finding them. They stayed for the Free Unknowns 1 & 2 and in spite of some language difficulties they performed well.

Programme 4

No scribes were needed although some came down on the line to watch.

Francois Rallet set the benchmark for Judges by acting a warm up pilot for this sequence.

Congratulations

I have to say that you cannot but call the event resounding success. However I am sure that the organisers would agree that beneath the apparently calm surface there was a lot of hard paddling!



Most of the minor difficulties (they never became major) derived from some difficulty in communication. These arose both from the promulgation of the days' agendas, and keeping interested parties informed if things went wrong.

The willingness of all concerned, particularly Dario Costa, Cristian Giorgetti Alessandro Moncada, Irene Pasini and Dante Taddei, was outstanding, and you cannot but congratulate them all on the completion of the flying issues as well as the cooperation of the mayoral facilities and sponsors.

My grateful thanks to all the judges, judge's assistants and the many scribes who helped us, who were always willing and cooperative. A very special thanks to Nick and Jen Buckenham who worked tirelessly throughout the event and Seminar. You'll never find better!

Graham Hill
2011 WAC Chief Judge