**Report of the JURY PRESIDENT TO THE FAI**

**Northam, Western Australia, Australia**

**September 10, 2023**

**Event Details**

Name of Event: **2023 / 5th Women’s World Hot Air Balloon Championship**

Date of Event: September 1-9, 2023 Location: Northam, Western Australia, Australia

Organizing NAC: Air Sport Australia Confederation/ Australian Balloon Federation

Number of flights: 7 Number of tasks: 20

Number of Competitors: 30 Number of Disqualifications: 0

**Event Personnel**

Event Director: \_Gary Lacey (AUS) Deputy Event Director: Les Purfield (GBR)

Chief Scorer: Steve Ireland (AUS) Safety Officer(s): John Wallington(AUS)

Stewards: Garry Lockyer (CAN) & Hiromori Soejima (JPN)

Jury President: Debbra Spaeth (USA)

Jury Member: Hiromi Furukawa (JPN)

Jury Member: Ruth E. Wilson (AUS)

**Complaints and Protests**

Number of Complaints: 1 Number of Protests Submitted: 0

Number Protests Withdrawn: 0 Number Upheld: 0 Number Failed: 0

Amount of Protest Fees Retained: $0

Note:

1. There were no protests and thus, no protest fees collected.
2. Copy of the event results & Jury Report to the Event Director were sent to FAI by Gary Lacey, Event Director, on September 9, 2023.
3. A Performance Bond Release Report was sent to the CIA President on September 14, 2023. It is recommended that the entire amount of the Performance Bond be released to the Organizer.
4. There were zero No-Shows at the event.

Signed: Debbra Spaeth\_ Date: September 14, 2023

Debbra Spaeth (USA) Jury President

**General Comments:**

This event was run in accordance with the event rules as approved by CIA and published by the organizer.

The flying area around Northam, Western Australia was rolling hills with large paddocks of yellow canola fields, sheep, cattle, horses, and plenty of large landing areas.

There were 30 competitors from 14 nations.

Winning nations for the team ranking were:

1. Australia -Team Members: Nicola SCAIFE, Georgia CROFT, Josie WHITE, Alana KAHL, and Scarlett SAUNDERS. 614.1 average points per task
2. Great Britain Team Members: Stephanie HEMMINGS, Chloe HALLETT, and Lindsay MUIR. 590.0 average points per task.
3. Netherlands Team Members: Sanne HAARHUIS and Iris BROEDERS-VAN HAM. 534.4 average points per task.

Pilots on the Podium were:

1. Nicola SCAIFE - Australia 17,240 points
2. Stephanie HEMMINGS - Great Britain 13,799 points
3. Sanne HAARHUIS - Netherlands 13,592 points

**Specific observations and recommendations:**

The event organizer, Northam Ballooning Events, Inc. did a great job handling the invitations process and pre-event queries. Margie Putland is to be commended for her calm and steady handling of event details.

The venues for social events, general briefing and task briefings were appropriate for the size of the event.

The Northam Aero Club (NAC), headed by President Errol Croft and his team, were gracious hosts as this was the site for propane. But just as important, after AM & PM flights, the NAC team prepared hot breakfast and an evening BBQ for pilots and crews.

The event debriefing, hosted by the Jury President, was held at the Northam Aero Club after the final competition flight on Friday. There had been a suggestion for just an on-line debriefing due to time constraints, but in the end, both an in-person debriefing session and an on-line survey were offered. The detailed comments from the debriefing will be found in the full report that will be submitted separately.

The Social Media for the event was top shelf. The Northam website and Facebook page for the event were obviously used by the local citizens as they turned out to watch balloon launches from paddocks scattered around the countryside. The company handling media for Northam, Bright Communications, shared stories and photos with FAI Communications & CIA PMR. FAI Ballooning Facebook followers grew to from +100 in March 2023, to +500 after the Junior WHABC and to +800 after the Women’s WHABC.

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