

Report of the President of the International Jury at the WGAC/WAGAC 2022

2nd draft

The 24th WGAC and 12th WAGAC took place in Issoudun in the Centre region of France

The sport airfield is quite big and has hosted several IGC World Championships. The preparation went smoothly, and the spot was ready for the 1st arrival. The contact with the Contest Director was very good and he was very cooperative; it was interesting to work with someone who was well informed about FAI championship but had little knowledge about aerobatic; in order to learn he paid a small visit to the French National in 2021 and 2022, he knew the rules and came some new interesting ideas very well was very flexible.

We had 8 teams of judges (the 8th one was accepted because it was a mistake during the selection and the cost where splited between the organisers, the FFVP (Federation Française de Vol en Planeur) and CIVA. A 9th judge (Italian) wanted to come (completely at his own expense but didn't finally come because of the fatal accident which occurred in Italy 3 weeks prior the Championship (not during aerobatic, but during the landing procedure).

All official where accommodated in "l' Abbaye de la Prée" a middle-aged abbey rebuild 3 century ago after a fire; the site was 11km from the airfield in the middle of a parc, a very quiet location. It was quite romantic, BUT the Internet was very poor and the cellphone net quite weak and the rooms very simple with 3-4 of them being furnished with medical beds. The evening meals were excellent and variated.

17 pilots participated in the WGAC with 9 NAC (2 teams with 3 pilots, 3 with 2 pilots) so we had to apply the rules of teams with 2 pilots

27 pilots participated in the WAGAC with 10 NAC (4 teams of 3 pilots)

The total amount was much 12 pilots less than the preliminary entries, (the Italian team with draw after the fatal accident of Giacomo).

All communication with the pilots went through WhatsApp.

As everybody had arrived and registered on August 16 because of the weather forecast the General Briefing took place in the morning instead of the afternoon which was expected to be flyable. That gave what will be the signum of this championship: adapting to the weather situation. Most of the competition days had the same low clouds in the morning. During the TM meeting it was agreed to make an electronic drawing of lots except for the 1st programme.

About weather, the wind was measured by plane and the results calculated on the phone with a graphic based on the rules to assess if it is within the limit, BUT there was a major problem: from the beginning of the process to the publishing of the results it needed 40 minutes! After discussing with the Contest Director about the problem, they contacted regularly 3 nearby airfields Chateauroux, Romorantin and

a 3rd one who are about 30km away to anticipate any measurements. Luckily except twice the wind was steadily under 6 meters. But it could have been a serious problem! The method used as interesting it was with the presentation of the results is obviously not practical.

- - August 17: we had problems with the HMD and they decided to let some time for fixing the problem and begin the day only in the afternoon with the UNL flying first as they were a smaller group. The problem with the HMD occurred every day beginning with 6-10 units in the morning and finishing in the afternoon with in the best case 2-3 units !
- - August 18 : low cloud and rain (after 6 weeks of draught) we used the time to draw the figures for the 1st unknown I was a little stressed but prepared we shared the checking task within the members of the International Jury : Jurek being our "safety man", Pekka checked the legality of the figures and I followed the K in order to warn ahead of proposals the max.K possible left in order not to go over the max. for the sequence. It went really smoothly; in 20 minutes each drawing was completed except for the last one of UNL where there where some issues with repetition of previous programmes.
- Mid-afternoon ADV begun prog. 1 but didn't complete it until the 20th.
- - August 19: no flights
- - August 20: End of P1 ADV beginning of P2 UNL PB avec HMD
When P1 and P2 were completed in both category and results officials, an award ceremony for the CIVA medals was organised after the given flights. In my opinion it was quite a good idea the media were also more interested
- - August 24: End of P3 ADV - P4 UNL and ADV. In ADV we had a problem with 2 pilots flying twice the same day, and not only twice but the last one was the 4th or 5th to fly. In Glider there is no rules for such a case, the solution proposed was to switch 2 pilots from the same team. Everybody accepted without any discussion, and I thank the 2 Romanian pilots involved for their flexibility. It was the only day where we had real problem with the wind and the time taken for the measurements.
- The Contest Director wants to let P6 fly if the weather permit, but because of the lack of HMD some teams didn't want to fly, although the HMD if highly recommended is not mandatory. Finally, the weather made the decision, again low cloud.

The last but one day we had a difficult situation. Apparently during queuing for the lunch in front of the food truck Vladimir having been told to by-pass the queue went in front of some of the launch line team which claimed there were on the same team as they were responsible for the start. Vladimir responded that they are not the "same team" then began exchange of strong words following which Vladimir decided to pack all his belonging, with the remaining HMD, the video team, the HMD operator together with the all material wife and children, leaving Pik alone only with a secretary to deal with the papers and the competition without HMD and no video. The organisers asked the video team in charge of communication and social media to replace the missing video team. The organizer decided to run the Advanced without HMD. It proved challenging to control the entry altitude without HMD, the variation at times exceeded 50 m and the pilots were towed in a second time. In the evening Pik convinced Vladimir to stay as his assistant for the P6 Advanced. The HMD operator, HMD units and the Video operator did not return. He departed with the CZE judges right after the last flight. This HMD system is not reliable enough to be used in future contests if not significantly upgraded.

The prize giving ceremony was simple but completed according to the rules.

I am thanking CIVA to have trusted me in the position of President of the International Jury: I served the best I could for the interest of our sport.

I extend my thanks to the Organisers all the benevolent and mainly the Contest Director Brian Spreckley with who I had a really great pleasure to work with, he made a very good job although not from the seraglio to have run this championship in the best sporting spirit. I would like to pay a special tribute to Jean-Philippe Rogier, the site manager, who made since 3 years the most effort to make this championship possible in Issoudun and who despite of a serious illness was always on the deck (or unfortunately in the hospital) and I am sorry to announce that he passed away 2 weeks after the end of the championship.

My thanks also for the all the officials: the judges headed by Pik who did as usually a remarkable job and went out of the last day crisis with much effort and diplomacy. I just can regret that the judges where not taken care of as well as usual.

AND at last (but not at least...) I thanks my 2 colleagues from the International Jury, Pekka Havbrandt and Jurek Makula for their support, their wise counsels and work at the start place and judges position.

Before putting the final point to this report I would share with CIVA a thought: during the French National 2 months before the WGAC/WAGAC, I had a relax discussion with future Contest Director Brian Spreckley who was astonished that in CIVA it is possible to have a President of the Jury from the same country as the organisers; his remark astonished me but I gave several thoughts before and during the championship sometimes I felt caught between a rock and a hard place and had once to emphasise the difference between "Mady and the "President of the International Jury elected by CIVA". In my opinion it is an excellent idea to which CIVA should give a thought (and possibly the same for the Chief-Judge).

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