

AGENDA ITEM 6.2

REPORT OF THE CONTEST DIRECTOR

XXIV. WORLD AEROBATIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Granada, Spain

24 June – 4 July 2007

Antonio Quintana



The XXIV FAI World Aerobatic Championships was organised by the Royal Spanish Aeronautical Federation with the collaboration of the Royal Aero Club of Spain. Besides the professional teams from the Spanish Aeronautical Federation and from the Royal Aeroclub of Spain, the Organization was helped by experienced volunteers from different parts of Spain and from other countries, who had collaborated in other championships; most of them coming from the Royal Aero Club of Burgos who had participated previously with the organization of the 2001 and 2005 championships. Together with all of them, we counted with the help of Mr. Luis Curiel, president of the Royal Aero Club of Granada, and also with the special collaboration of the military from Armilla Air Base, lead by Colonel Molina, head of the mentioned air base.

Contest

The XXIV FAI World Aerobatic Championships was held at the Air Base of Armilla, located in the outskirts of Granada, Spain. This air base has very good facilities, and this fact permitted us to place the box, its signals and the judges positions within the air base limits.

Pilots, members of the International Jury, and judges came from 13 different countries and 11 of these countries presented their pilots to compete at WAC 2007, so there were 50 pilots in total competing at the Championships. We would like to make special mention to the fact that Israel and Japan were present at the WAC 2007, as normally they do not take part in this kind of event.

Weather conditions were very good during the whole Championship, without any rain or storms. This fact allowed the normal development of the Championship, as well as the fulfilment of the schedule. Thanks to the collaboration of Spanish Army, we could enjoy of two training days (23rd and 24th of June) prior to the Championship. Q Programme was carried out on the 25th and 26th of June; the Free Programme on the 27th and 28th; the first Unknown Programme on the 29th and 30th; the Freestyle Programme on the 1st of July; and



the second Unknown Programme on the 3rd. The awarding and closing ceremony was held on the 4th of July.

On the 1st of July, apart from the Freestyle Programme, an air show was carried out with the participation of the different units of Spanish Airforce, counting with the presence of around 30.000 people as public.

The 2nd of July was given as a free day before starting the second Unknown Programme, so all the assistants to the WAC 2007 could visit the Alhambra in Granada.

The second Unknown Programme was supposed to be carried out between the 3rd and the 4th of July. Due to the quick sequence of flights, and as the Contest Director, I took the decision to finish the programme on the 3rd of July, because we had sufficient time for it.

As the second Unknown Programme was finished on the 3rd, the 4th of July was given as an additional free day until the Awarding and Closing Ceremony, which was celebrated with a dinner in the “Armas” Square.

As weather conditions were very good during the whole championship and the sequence of flights was quick, the competition was stopped between 2 and 5 pm in order to avoid the hottest hours of the day.

Judges positions were located to the east and west of the box for LGA flights. There was also one position located to the south of the box for LGB flights. The scoring wireless system was installed, although it did not work properly as we did not receive scoring sheets for the scanner. Finally, this problem was not of such importance as the scoring sheets from the judges were taken to the scoring office, where they were properly treated by Mr. Michel Dupont and Ms. Françoise Chomono.

The competition was developed efficiently thanks to the excellent job of the Board of Judges, headed by Mr. John Gaillard. I am grateful to all of them for their magnificent work as well as to the Line Judges and Starters. My special thanks to Mr. Michael Heuer, Mr. L.G. Arvidsson and Mr. Robert Chomono.

Besides the media producer sent by FAI for news coverage, the Organization also supplied TV coverage on Spanish TV, Telemadrid, Antena 3 and Canal Sur, broadcasting more than 30 minutes in key hours of audience. I would like to mention especially the images broadcasted for the closing of Spanish TV News.

Suggestions for Future Championships

According to the experience obtained during WAC 2007 of giving priority to the 4 minutes programme, carrying it out together with other displays (the Spanish Airforce, in this particular case), and regarding the success in the number of public coming to the championship, I consider that this should be repeated in the future.



The 4 minutes programme is, beyond a doubt, the most attractive programme for the public. The fact that it is independently scored from the rest of the programmes of the WAC, it is a good mean to attract sponsors, support and public.

During WAC 2007, most of the support obtained was based on the programme carried out on the 1st of July. Therefore, I propose to the CIVA to please take into consideration the fact of promoting the 4 minutes programme as an independent programme.

With that aim, we should even consider the fact of doing separate entry forms exclusively for the 4 minutes programme, instead of it being associated to a reduced number of pilots who participate in the WAC.

This fact will make easier the presence of prestigious pilots in either world or continental championships, who might not be sufficiently trained at that moment for “Aresti Programmes”, but who can be spectacular in 4 minutes Programme. The possibility of seeing a competition between the world champions in the 4 minutes Programme could be an attractive idea.

Conclusion

It has been a great honour for me, as Contest Director, to have been given the opportunity to collaborate with CIVA and FAI in the WAC 2007 and I would like to finish my report giving my special thanks to the Spanish Airforce for their collaboration, the sponsors and supporters, and the Royal Aero Club of Spain as well as to all the volunteers who collaborated to turn the WAC 2007 into reality.