

## AGENDA ITEM 8.2

### REPORT OF THE CONTEST DIRECTOR

#### **V. EUROPEAN ADVANCED AEROBATIC CHAMPIONSHIPS Joensuu, Finland 20-28 July 2007**

**Matti Peura**



#### **Contest**

#### **Free Practice until 17<sup>th</sup> of July**

Approximately a week before the start of the competition a number of contestants arrived in Finland to practice for the event. The French team practiced at Savonlinna airport, and the German team practiced at Kitee airfield. Both fields are located within a 100 km distance from Joensuu.

All other teams practiced at Joensuu airport.

#### **Practices in EFJO Box between 18.-20. July**

All teams practiced in the EFJO Box between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of July.

#### **Registration, 20<sup>th</sup> of July**

Registrations for the event took place in the morning on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July. Altogether 10 countries and 34 pilots were registered to participate. Later the Russian team (3 pilots) withdrew their participation due to bureaucratic problems, which prevented their aircraft from leaving Russia.

Also, one pilot from the Finnish team was forced to withdraw due to medical reasons.

Thus 30 competitors from 9 countries were able to participate in the competition.



## **Opening Ceremony, 20<sup>th</sup> of July**

The opening ceremony took place at Joensuu's market square starting at 18.00. The event was open to public. The President of the Jury of the AEAC 2007, Mr. Lars-Göran Arvidsson, opened the Championships.

A flyover was performed by 3 float planes - as is fitting for a country of thousands of lakes.

The contestants marched from the square to a riverside restaurant, where the opening banquet was held. The menu was typical Finnish and the atmosphere was delightfully warm.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Contest Day, Q-program**

The first briefing took place at 08.30 in the briefing space, which had been organized in the old hangar. The contest director made the opening remarks. The President of the International Jury, Mr L.G. Arvidsson, and the Chief Judge, Mr. Graham Hill, as well as the Start Director, Mr. Kari Kemppi, and the weather man, Mr. Robin King, from the contest organization addressed the meeting.

The weather during the first contest day was excellent.

The first competition flight took off at 10.30.

Two program interruptions occurred due to technical reasons during the Q-flights. Based on the recommendation of the Technical Commission, the Jury allowed the two competitors to repeat the sequences without penalty.

Flying was continued after lunch, and the last flight was completed at 20.00. All the contestants flew the Q-program during the first day.

The three best pilots of the Q-program:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Pilot</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Known</b>	<b>pp%</b>
1	LTU	Eltonas Meleckis	Yak 55 M	1838.5475	74.13
2	FIN	Sami Kontio	Ultimate Dash 300	1828.3838	73.73
3	GBR	Alan Cassidy	E 300	1735.1697	69.97



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Contest Day, Free Program**

The morning briefing took place at 08.30. The weather continued to stay excellent.

Based on a lottery teams submitted their proposals for the figures for the first unknown program.

The Free program was completed during the second contest day.

The three best pilots of the Free Program:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Pilot</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>pp%</b>
1	FRA	Alexandre Leboulanger	Cap 231	2611.0500	76.80
2	FRA	Emmanuel Foulon	Cap 231	2607.4649	76.69
3	HUN	Tamas Illes	Edge 540T	2597.0630	76.38

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Contest Day, 1<sup>st</sup> Unknown Program**

The morning briefing commenced at 09.00. The weather continued to stay excellent.

Based on a lottery teams submitted their proposals for the figures for the second unknown program.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) conducted the testing of the competitors. Several competitors were tested based on a draw. All results were negative, and thus the contestants were clean athletes, who complied with the international doping agreements.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Unknown Program was completed entirely during the third day of competition.

The three best pilots of the 1<sup>st</sup> Unknown Program:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Pilot</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>pp%</b>
1	HUN	Tamas Illes	Edge 540T	2493.7091	73.78
2	FRA	Alexandre Leboulanger	Cap 231	2493.3161	73.77
3	LTU	Eltonas Meleckis	Yak 55	2474.8892	73.22

## **4<sup>th</sup> Contest Day**

Weather conditions deteriorated and a day off was scheduled. No flights took place.



### **5<sup>th</sup> Contest Day**

The morning was scheduled to be free of program. At 15.00 bus transportation took the contestants and the contest organization to a lakeside house located in beautiful countryside, where the county of Liperi hosted an evening party.

The weather turned out very favorable, being warm and completely calm.

We treated our guests to an evening in the Finnish idyll, celebrating on the lake shore with plenty of food and drink at hand. The guests also had the possibility to bathe in a normal as well as a smoke sauna accompanied by a refreshing dip in the lake.

One of the highlights of the evening was the arrival of two float planes, which then offered rides to the guests, so that they could marvel at the lake view from the air.

The official party ended at 21.00.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Contest Day, 2<sup>nd</sup> Unknown Program**

Against all forecasts the weather suddenly improved radically. The morning briefing started at 09.00 and the first flight took off at 10.00.

The flights for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Unknown program, and thus for the whole competition, were completed by 19.00.

The three best pilots of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Unknown Program:

Rank	Country	Pilot	Type	Unknown 2	pp%
1	FRA	Alexandre Leboulanger	Cap 231	2719.8744	77.71
2	FIN	Sami Kontio	Ultimate Dash 300	2513.4044	71.81
3	GBR	Alan Cassidy	E 300	2460.1261	70.29

### **7<sup>th</sup> Contest Day**

Day off – no flights. In the afternoon a visit to the Koli national park took place.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Contest Day, The Awards Ceremony**

Free program in the morning.

The awards ceremony commenced at 17.00 at the market square of Joensuu. The event was open to the public. The weather was once again in the organizers' favour and a rainy day turned into an evening of sunshine just before the beginning of the ceremony.



After the prize giving, Mr. L.G. Arvidsson, President of the International Jury declared the Championships finished.

The dinner party took place at a riverside restaurant, where also the diplomas were handed out. The atmosphere was delightfully warm and informal celebration lasted to the early hours of the morning.

### **Goals of the Contest Director – Successes and Failures**

As the contest director, I set the following goals for myself and the organization:

- Excellently organized championships
- Secure the finances of the organizer
- Support the status and the glamour of the Continental and the World Championships
- Wide spread media coverage and support for recreational flying

### **Excellently Organized Championships**

We did well in almost every aspect of the arrangements. Our biggest challenge was to ensure that the aerobatic box was properly marked since some of the markings were located in the midst of trees, of which some were over 100 ft tall. In co-operation with the landowners, several hectares of tree were cut down to provide adequate visibility of the markings. The box was praised by the competitors.

The accommodation, meals and transportation were also well received.

We would like to especially acknowledge the efforts of the Finnish Civil Aviation Authority as well as of Finavia, the enterprise responsible for maintaining airports in Finland. Without their willingness to co-operate and devotion towards aerobatics, these championships would have been impossible to organize.

In this case the authority's regulations and actions did not hinder the even flow of the competition. The internationally tightened security screening and other activities were tackled with the smooth co-operation between the authorities and the contest organization.

The biggest failure came in the form of maintaining the contest website, for which we lacked the necessary resources. In the future, contest organizations should focus more on this aspect of media coverage. Partially at fault was also the calculation of scores as e.g. FAI did not provide optical readers of the score sheets in due time, and thus the input of scores needed to be manually done.



### **Securing the Finances of the Organizer**

The bid to stage the European championships was first presented to the CIVA delegates two years before the event. This later proved to be very beneficial, but based on our experience, we would recommend submitting any bids as early as three years before the event.

An adequate preparation time will guarantee the championships the arrangements they deserve and that some of the financial burden may be carried by partners and sponsors.

It is also in the interest of FAI that the organizers do not face losses. FAI needs willing organizers in the future and negative financial results diminish the number of potential organizers.

From the competitors' perspective it is also important that the organizers have adequate time to seek and attain sponsorship, otherwise a substantial rise in registration fees is unavoidable in the future.

In this case the contest organizer managed to avoid losses, but this was only possible with the financial support of the sponsors and the profits from the air show, that was organized at the end of the championships.

### **Support the Status and Glamour of Continental and World Championships**

Sport aviation and aerobatics are in a constant battle with other sports for enthusiasts and sponsorship. Aerobatics is one of the few sports that still have the same glamour that aviation had 100 years ago.

This is an untapped resource that we in Finland managed to strengthen successfully.

This resource and quaintness should be utilized also by the FAI in the future. Our experience was that these values helped us gain positive publicity and also sympathy among our collaborators and the general public.

### **Wide Spread Media Coverage and Support for Recreational Flying**

Here we succeeded beyond all our expectations.

Sport aviation and especially aerobatics have never enjoyed such national media coverage in Finland as during the AEAC 2007.

During the championships we received air time on three TV channels and several radio channels. Also, over 30 newspaper stories were published in regional newspapers. Over the two years of preparations we received constant media attention.



This invaluable media coverage will benefit all recreational flying in Finland and aerobatics in particular. Media coverage will be a key factor also in future when seeking sponsorships.

Media coverage is something that the future contest organizations should strive for.

## Results

France won the team championship. The hosting nation, Finland, placed second and thus hauled in the very first championship medals of all time. Poland placed third.

### TOTAL SCORES; TEAMS

Rank	Country	Pilots	Total
1	FRA	Alexandre Leboulanger Jean-Emmanuel Antal Vincent Lefeuvre	22583.4201
2	FIN	Mikko Jägerholm Petteri Tarma Sami Kontio	20718.5333
3	POL	Radoslaw Rumszewicz Robert Kowalik Wojciech Krupa	20385.2456

Alexandre Leboulanger of France was crowned European Champion. The runner-up was Tamas Illes of Hungary, and Jean-Emmanuel Antal, also of France, placed third.

### Total Scores

Rank	Country	Pilot	Type	Total	pp%
1	FRA	Alexandre Leboulanger	Cap 231	7824.2405	76.11
2	HUN	Tamas Illes	Edge 540T	7491.4752	72.87
3	FRA	Jean-Emmanuel Antal	Cap 231	7431.8915	72.29

Complete results may be found in Appendix 1.



## **Officials**

### **International Jury**

Arvidsson, Lars-Göran (SWE), Jury President  
Chomono, Robert (FRA)  
Kobrlé, Jiri (CZE)

### **Board of International Judges**

Hill, Graham (GBR), Chief Judge  
Assisted by  
Green, Steven (GBR)  
Nielsen, Owe (SWE)

Bartholdi, Timo (FIN)  
Dungan, Gregory (USA)  
Kotelnikov, Vladimir (RUS)  
Maxen, Jan (DEN)  
Schweiker, Wolfgang (GER)  
Talabos, Gabor (HUN)  
Zumaglino, Jean (FRA)

### **Technical Commission**

Walden, Olli (FIN), President

### **Scoring**

Leukefeld, Jürgen (GER)

### **Weather services**

King, Robin (FIN)

### **Start Director**

Kemppi, Kari (FIN)

## **Final Words**

To organize this kind of an event is a formidable task, and I'm very pleased that we have them now successfully behind us.

I wish to thank all the parties involved and especially those, who helped me during the contest, Mr. L-G. Arvidsson and Mr. Graham Hill among others. Their efforts and experience from prior contests played a great role in ensuring a smoothly run contest.

I wish to also thank our large Finnish supporting cast and especially Mr. Matti Mecklin, Chairman of the Aerobatic Club of Finland and Osmo Jalovaara, the Finnish delegate to



**CIVA 2007  
Vilnius, Lithuania**

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CIVA. Their vast and profound knowledge of sport aerobatics and aerobatic contests laid the foundation to organizing a successful contest.

I would also like to express my warmest appreciation to the important people of the organization, especially Mr. Marko Pesonen, Chairman of the Sport Aviation Centre of Eastern Finland, and Mr. Tero Sinkkonen, Managing Director of the Sport Aviation Centre of Eastern Finland, for the two years of hard work they put in to this project.

Finally, I wish to thank CIVA for giving me the historic opportunity to act as the contest director in the very first international aerobatic contest that has been organized in Finland.



## Appendix 1

### Official Results

#### Total Scores

Rank	Country	Pilot	Type	Total	pp%
1	FRA	Alexandre Leboulanger	Cap 231	7824.2405	76.11
2	HUN	Tamas Illes	Edge 540T	7491.4752	72.87
3	FRA	Jean-Emmanuel Antal	Cap 231	7431.8915	72.29
4	LTU	Eltonas Meleckis	Yak 55	7409.9775	72.08
5	FRA	Vincent Lefeuvre	Cap 231	7327.2881	71.28
6	GBR	Alan Cassidy	E 300	7240.4800	70.43
7	FIN	Mikko Jägerholm	Yak 55	7113.8542	69.20
8	FRA	Emmanuel Foulon	Cap 231	7071.2060	68.79
9	POL	Radoslaw Rumszewicz	Z 50LS	7034.2643	68.43
10	FIN	Sami Kontio	Ultimate Dash 300	6998.3573	68.08
11	FRA	Benedicte Blanchard	Cap 231	6975.3554	67.85
12	POL	Robert Kowalik	E 300	6832.8106	66.47
13	GBR	Julian Murfitt	E 230	6647.7157	64.67
14	GER	Bernhard Drummer	E 300L	6633.9110	64.53
15	FIN	Petteri Tarma	Cap 231	6606.3218	64.26
16	CZE	Jan Zival	Z 50L	6558.8028	63.80
17	CZE	Petr Kopfstein	Z 50L	6548.6056	63.70
18	POL	Wojciech Krupa	Z 50LS	6518.1707	63.41
19	HUN	Tamas Nadas	Z 50LS	6418.4691	62.44
20	IRL	David Bruton	E 200	6416.9155	62.42
21	CZE	Miroslav Szavsky	Z 50L	5987.9888	58.25
22	GER	Heiko Hornburg	E 300L	5976.5857	58.14
23	GER	Rainer Berndt	E 300L	5953.4371	57.91
24	HUN	Tamas Abranyi	Z 50LS	5881.6351	57.21
25	POL	Ireneusz Jesionek	E 300	5676.6915	55.22
26	CZE	Jaroslav Svoboda	Z 50L	5654.7517	55.01
27	GBR	Stephen Madle	E 230	5188.2153	50.47
28	POL	Artur Kielak	Z 50LS	5087.5478	49.49
29	LTU	Donaldas Bleifertas	Yak 55	4229.4208	41.14
30	FIN	Peter Simonsen	E 300L	3002.4269	29.21



### **TOTAL SCORES; TEAMS**

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4	HUN	Tamas Illes Tamas Nadas Tamas Abranyi	19791.5794
5	GBR	Alan Cassidy Julian Murfitt Stephen Madle	19076.4110
6	CZE	Jan Zival Petr Kopfstein Miroslav Sazavsky	19095.3972
7	GER	Bernhard Drummer Rainer Berndt Heiko Hornburg	18563.9338