

**REPORT BY THE FAI JURY ON THE 2009 FAI WORLD AIR GAMES**  
**for Artistic Aerobatics (Class F6A), Aeromusicals (Class F6B) and Hand-Throw Gliders (Class F6D)**  
**Aeritalia Airfield, and Palaruffini, Milan, Italy. June 2009.**

**Overview**

This third edition of the World Air Games was organised and executed under the direction of the FAI, by the Italian the Local Organising Committee (LOC), and the Italian Aero Club and its various sections, from 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The aeromodelling classes, specially developed for the World Air Games concept, enjoyed a high profile, even if there were organizational shortcomings, political in-fighting, a shortage of funds, and behind-the-scenes power struggles.

**Pre-contest information**

General and specific information was communicated to participants via several bulletins, and athletes and officials were able to register on-line and execute accreditation prior to arriving in Italy. The CIAM Media Consultant helped all aeromodellers through this process.

**Accommodation and catering**

All aeromodelling athletes and supporters/helpers were accommodated in hotels in Milan, and transport was provided by the organizing committee by bus for those who did not arrive by car. Lunch and dinner was taken in the restaurant on site and were of high quality and quantity. Dinners were arranged on the evenings when there was F6B activity in the Palaruffini. Breakfast was served at the various hotels in the morning.

**Practice fields and competition sites**

The aeromodelling branch (FIAM) of the Italian Aero Club arranged for practice sites to be available to competitors within reasonable driving distances. The Artistic Aerobatics (F6A) and Hand-Throw Gliders (F6D) events were conducted in front of the stage centre area at the Aeritalia Airfield, to award maximum exposure to spectators and the media. Time and airspace was shared between the various air sports. Weather conditions for the F6D event unfortunately meant flying somewhat further from the grand stands, making visibility of the activity difficult. For the F6B Aeromusicals, the hall of Palaruffini proved perfectly adequate and popular with spectators and participants. Entry was free to spectators.

**Organisation and execution**

The championship was conducted in a very friendly, yet professional way. The contest directors and their personnel were always friendly and accommodating within the rules. Competitors were called in good time to occupy the ready boxes and for their flights. The published daily flying slots had to be changed on a few occasions, to mesh with other activities and available airspace. On a few occasions, the aeromodellers were denied access to off-load equipment close to the flightline, but this received prompt attention. Due to the number of other airports activities, the progress was sometimes halted. Other airports were viewed by aeromodellers but the activities not often understood, due to lack of commentary, and publicity.

**Communication and publicity**

A website was available, but scores for the aeromodelling events were often late in appearing. Most other communication was either by word of mouth, or through notices on the bulletin boards on site, and at the hotels. Local newspapers carried daily reports, and local and national television had regular bulletins. Even if there appeared to be a public relations campaign (a few posters and banners close to the airfield), the event suffered from public participation, with low numbers of spectators attending. The entry price of 20 Euros per person, also contributed to a low spectator count, many people viewing the activities from public roads in the vicinity of the aerodrome. The on-site public address system was put to good use, and the giant video screens brought the activities closer to the spectators. A wireless system on site provided free internet access, which proved popular with several teams who sent daily reports to their federations. At the Palaruffini, the contest director provided running commentary, and an electronic score board gave results within one minute after completion of flights, aiding to the spectator awareness of the exciting indoor activity.

**Conduct of jury and judges**

No protests were lodged, and a few informal queries were adequately dealt with. The jury members were well versed in the Sporting Code requirements and complemented each other in their different fields of expertise and experience. The jury members were always on-site and available to questions and queries at all times.

Judges were used on a rotational basis for F6A and F6B, with the FIAM supplying some timekeepers for F6D. Occasional checks were done to assess judges' performance.

**Award ceremonies, functions, closing banquet**

The impressive and entertaining opening ceremony was conducted in a Milan city square, but was long in duration, with limited seating. It lacked adequate communication, and participants endured long periods of inactivity. There were several televised speeches by city dignitaries, organizers, FAI and Aero Club officials, etc. The FAI anthem was played, and the FAI flag and other flags brought to the event by parachutists.

The awards ceremony took place on the airfield where the FAI medals and diplomas were awarded to the winners. This was followed by an on-field open air "banquet" which appeared to be disorganized and left some participants without food.

## **Conclusion**

It is the opinion of the FAI Jury that the 2009 FAI World Air Games was successful, even if there were organizational deficiencies. Participants generally understood the shared-time concept, but some still have to accept the fact that the WAG concept is principally to exhibit a wide variety of air sport activities that must be entertaining to spectators and media. Of course the athletes are central to the success of such an event, and future events will be able to build on the lessons learnt in Milan. The Local Organising Committee, the Aero Club of Italy, and the FIAM are to be congratulated for a successful event, for aeromodelling anyway. With restricted involvement, and a lack of funds, the officers and staff of the FIAM were able to ensure a viable event.

The three WAG aeromodelling classes need only small rule changes to enhance the concept of spectator and media appeal. The sub-committee chairpersons of some of the other traditional classes need to consider developing rules for events that may be added to future editions of the WAG.

The FAI Jury:      Bob SKINNER  
                              (South Africa, president of the CIAM)

Massimo SEMOLI  
(Italy, CIAM Secretary)

Guy REVEL  
(France/Czech Republic, CIAM Media Consultant)