



Information # 1

Participants & Due-Dates

Each country is allowed to nominate up to three teams for the race.

The National Aero Clubs or their Ballooning Federations must nominate the pilots **until June 30th, 2001** the latest.

We are ready to accept up to 25 teams for the race. If less than 25 official competitors should be nominated, spare places will be assigned to „Fiesta-Flyers“. The organizers have the right to accept or decline Fiesta-pilots.

Please use the attached form and return it to the Event director by surface-mail, telefax or e-mail. It is desired to communicate as much as possible using e-mail technology as this will significantly increase the speed of communication.

Entry Fee

The entry fee for each team is DM 1.000,- or 511 €, to be paid by sending a cheque to the German Balloon Federation Office, or transferring money to the bank account (Raiffeisenbank Fronhausen/Lahn, Account 10 13 440, Bank code BLZ 533 617 24) or by paying in cash during check-in.

Please note that accepted Fiesta pilots will have to pay an entry fee of 1.500,- DM, equal to 767 € per balloon.

... and what you get for it

- Lifting gas „hydrogen“
- Ballast sand
- 4 persons admission to Opening Ceremony
- 4 persons admission to Awards Ceremony
- more tickets available on request, though we may have to charge for them (info to follow)
- FAI diplomas for each team
- 2 sets of FAI medals (for Gold, Silver, Bronze)

Names and responsibilities

See attached document

Future correspondence: Markus Haggenev (Event Director)
Elisabethstrasse 7, 59320 Ennigerloh, Germany
Phone +49 (0) 2524 93 28 0 Fax +49 (0) 2524 93 28 80
E-Mail haggenev@stratos.de



Dates & Times

Friday, August 31	1100 – 1400	Check-In (Official Hotel)
	1600	General Briefing (Official Hotel)
	1930	Admission starts to Welcome Reception (Official Hotel)
	2000	Opening Ceremony (Official Hotel)
Saturday, Sept 1 st	1000	Briefing (Official Hotel)
	1200	Inflation begins (Launchfield)
	2000	Interim briefings on the launchfield (tent), if necessary. Launch period opens (Launchfield)
Monday/Tuesday	open	Launch window closes.
Friday, Sept 08 th	18000	Awards Ceremony (Official Hotel)

Location of Launch-site

The city of Warstein has been the launch-place for two previous Gordon Bennett Races. For further reference and ease of locating it please see the attached document „How to get there“. You may even see the satellite picture to get a better understanding of landscape and proximity in Europe.

Location of Official Hotel

It is our firm belief that the spirit of the Gordon Bennett Race lives mainly through the flying experience but also through the opportunities to meet and talk!. As such, the official hotel plays a vital role to achieve this goal.

As the „Warsteiner International Montgolfiade“ – a major hot air balloon event – will be run in parallel to the Gordon Bennett Race Week, the lodging situation is somewhat difficult. Also, lots of traffic are forecast in the city of Warstein, especially during the two weekends of our gasballoon event.

We have made big efforts to provide the best suitable location for the teams flying or visiting the Gordon Bennett Race. The „Welcome Hotel Hennesee Residenz“ is located within 15-20 minutes driving time from the launch field. It is a hotel big enough to accomodate most of us. One additional benefit is that it is situated south of Warstein and thereby avoids almost all of the dense traffic coming in from the North. It provides all the necessary rooms for meeting, relaxing, partying and enjoying. Therefore it has been chosen as Official Hotel and will also be the Competition Centre during the entire event.

If you do not want to make use from the official hotel arrangements, please refer to the Local Tourist Office for assistance. We will send you details upon request.



Accommodation procedures „Welcome Hotel Hennesee Residenz Meschede“

Please refer to the attached brochure for further details. It is absolutely essential to book your rooms using the prepared format. Return the form until June 30th, 2001.

Please note:

The hotel has agreed to accept room reservations from August 31st (or earlier) until September 3rd (monday) and for the following weekend. This is what we do recommend! In case we should take off as planned, i.e. on Saturday night (Sept 2nd), almost everybody starts retrieving on Sunday morning and therefore does not need that reservation from Sunday to Monday. The room may then be left/cancelled free of charge. That means, that the hotel will NOT charge for that night Sun/Mon despite the reservation and leaving one night early.

Only if a team cancels a reserved room prior to arrival or upon arrival a charge will apply.

We think that this is an extremely kind and fair offer and guarantees the crews a room until Monday with the option to leave on Sunday at no cost.

It is then arranged to leave excess-luggage in the hotel in a locked environment so that you do not need rooms to keep. You may re-check-in for the awards ceremony some days later.

In the unlikely event that the balloons have not taken off until Monday night (Sept 3rd), you may be asked to change the hotel into other locations that will be booked by the hotel for you. This is the one and only downside of our arrangement with a hotel that is otherwise completely booked and cannot hold rooms „just in case“ for free. The hotel already carries the risk for lost business from Sun/Mon. We think that the risk of moving on Monday night is ignorable.

Summary:

- Bookings via fax to the Hotel +49 291 2000 488.
- Use a separate booking form for the first and the second weekend.
- Form must hold all names for which you want to reserve rooms.
- Confirmation can be expected from the hotel within three working days.
- A credit card number is necessary.
- Rooms subject to availability.
- First come, first served!

Scoring / Measuring

The 45th Coupe will be a race without observers. There have been at length discussions about the use of GPS-loggers prior and after the 2001 Ballooning Commission Plenary session. Also, the experiences made during the 44th Coupe are encouraging. The FAI/CIA sees a huge potential to better promote the sport of ballooning and also reduce the cost for smaller races (in terms of numbers of competitors) by going along with this technology. A multi-national team has been set up to develop the GPS-logging technology so that it provides reliable data for the race. We appreciate the effort done by the members of that group and also for the CIA that decided to cover part of the cost for additional tracking equipment and operating personnel.



GPS-Logging policy

Each balloon will be equipped with a GPS, a transmitter and necessary batteries for a minimum of 100 hours. Information on weight and attachment etc of these units will follow. The GPS-data will be used to score the race. As a backup solution, landing certificates will be provided. During the flight, the GPS will provide position and altitude data that will be continuously transmitted to a ground station from where it will be displayed on the world-wide-web. The published data will only be the position and not the altitude. It will be a live-tracking exercise, no delay in publishing the data is planned. Even if the transmission part of that package should break down, the download of data out of the GPS after the race will work independantly.

The experiences that were made during the America's Challenge gasballoon race were extremely encouraging in terms of promoting the sport of gasballooning and raising an enormous interest not only by balloonists but also by the interest public.

We trust that all teams will see the benefit. As such the taking of the equipment is mandatory.

Rules & Regulations

These will be published latest 4 weeks prior to the race. The rules will be the „Gordon Bennett Model Event Rules GBMER“ that are used since many years with the following changes/modifications that were approved by the last CIA Plenary session.

Both, the GBMER and the approved modifications, have been published on the internet [see FAI/ballooning page(s)] and/or in the minutes of the Plenary session that were sent to all delegates some weeks ago.

The rules will also mention the documents that will be checked by us.

Please find following the summary:

- **GPS trackers** instead of observers: approved.
- **Live time reporting** but no altitude reporting: approved.
- **Barographs** must not be calibrated. In case of suspected altitude violations, barographs may be checked.
- We will **not perform conductivity tests** as part of the technical checking. Pilots must prove in writing that their balloon is positively approved by their authority to be inflated and flown with hydrogen.
- On **Air law** the rule now reads as follows:
Infringement of Aviation regulations are in the first instance a matter between the pilot and the Aviation Authorities. If the Director receives information from an Aviation Authority that air law may have been violated, he should investigate and take action as appropriate.



Remark: Available air space and potential problems created by violating air law has become an increasing threat to flying in Europe. The Directory strongly recommends that everybody adheres to these rules. It is currently not yet decided and may be put into place on short notice, what has been done already during the last Gordon Bennett Race in Germany, i.e. „Write each station, their frequency and time and kind of clearance granted on a blank piece of paper, put it into an envelope, seal it and give it closed to the Jury President. It will only be opened in cases of discussion with Aviation Authorities to investigate and avoid false accusations and/or to prove the pilots innocence. If nothing comes up, the envelopes will be given back to the pilot after the race.“

- **Open Countries:**

We want to avoid a last minute discussion about the countries that are open for the race. Also we intend to make the preparation for all teams easier that may require visa or other entry documents. The race is a race in the air, but also a team-effort on the ground and on European roads. Europe is a place on earth with many political changes in the recent past and also some safety challenges in certain areas. We therefore recommended to limit the number of countries that we will use as the competition area mainly for reasons of safety, or in order to avoid huge bureaucracy or because they may only be reached after having flown through or extremely close to closed countries. The CIA plenary approved this.

The competition area is Europe!

The following countries are excluded, i.e. no competition area are:

Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldavia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Croatia, Macedonia, Yugoslavia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Greece, Northafrica (which isn't Europe anyhow).

We appreciate your understanding that Europe for the time being has some limitations and we look forward to a more relaxed situation to come.

Insurance

We will issue a statement on the necessary insurance in our next information. You will have sufficient time to check or if necessary increase the coverage back home. As a back-up solution we will also be able to provide coverage during check-in for those of you that may find it difficult or impossible to obtain that insurance.

Any other questions?

- Need help? Equipment? Maps?

Please send them to the Event Director Mr. Markus Haggeneby only by either

Telefax +49 2524 93 28 80 or preferably
E-Mail haggeneby@stratos.de

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