



CIMA REPORT TO THE FAI GENERAL CONFERENCE 2007

Microlight flying

As in the previous years, Microlight flying is still in increase all over the world. It is not possible to give an exact figure of how many microlight aeroplanes there are, but a fair guess would be close to 200 000. One can distinguish between pure leisure flying as with Paramotors (New Classes) that has become most popular for the younger generation and the microlight flying with either three-axis or weight-shift aeroplanes (Classic Classes), were, apart from pure leisure flying, flying as a mean of transportation also is a reality. Paramotor flying is cheap and therefore most suitable for young people. Three-axis and weight-shift are compared to normal category aeroplanes (Cessna, Pipers etc.) are also much cheaper and have therefore become an alternative for already established normal category-pilots.

In the United States a new class of aviation has been created, Light Sport Aviation (LSA) with a significantly less strict regulation than the normal category and therefore LSA is expected to appear in Europe in the near future, even if the regulations might be a bit different. When this happens it could be expected to have some influence on the number of people who will continue to fly the Classic Classes, as ELSA (European LSA) aeroplanes will be able to carry more weight, almost a necessity in the world of growing wealth and heavier pilots.

Paramotors, as I see it; will not be affected at all by this.

Among all these microlight pilots there is just a fraction that is participating in competitions and record settings and I assume this is the situation for most of the other commissions. How to increase that figure is a topic that I think could be worth discussing here at the General Conference.

CIMA Meeting

The international Microlight Commission held its annual meeting in Lausanne in November 2006.

Decisions taken by the CIMA plenum included:

The annual revision of the Sporting Code Section 10. Microlight flying is a relatively new sport and has not yet found its final form, why revisions are frequent.

The earlier bid from Czech Republic to hold the 2007 World Microlight Championship for “Classic Classes” (weight shift controlled and three-axis controlled microlights) in Usti nad Orlici was confirmed. Also that China would hold the 2007 World Microlight Championship in ChangPing, Beijing for “The New Classes” (paramotor and paratrikes).

2007 World Microlight Championships

The result from the 11th World Microlight Championship Classic Classes in Usti nad Orlici, Czech Republic

Gold medal WL1 Richard Rawes, United Kingdom

Gold medal WL2 Rob Grimwood/ Chris Saysell, United Kingdom

Gold medal AL1 Jan Luces, Czech Republic

Gold medal AL2 Paul Dewherst/ Francis Welsh

Team prize, Gold medal Czech Republic

The result from the 5th World, New Classes, Microlight Championship in ChangPing China

Gold medal PF1 (para-controlled foot-launched single-seater) Ramon Morillas, Spain

Gold medal PL1 (para-controlled trike single seater) Daniel Crespo Valdéz

Gold medal PF2 (para-controlled foot launched 2-seater) Jurgis Smarlovskis/Arturas, Smarlovskis Lithuania

Gold medal PL2 (para-controlled, landing gear, 2-seater) Nino Muelas/ Antonio Lope Morales, Spain

Gold medal PF1 Team, France

Gold medal PL Team, Spain

This year's competition in the Czech Republic was a great success with good weather, a lot of flying and interesting tasks. One of our main goals, to spread the world championships to other continents was fulfilled with the New Classes WMC in China. In China the weather was almost perfect, even though a bit hot. There were interesting tasks and the championship was a success as a whole, even though it was not without its difficulties at the beginning as this was the first international Microlight event for the Chinese and their perception of how it was to be run differed a bit from CIMA's. We strongly believe that this will encourage the microlight people in that region to arrange an Asian Championship in the future.

PF2 was a successful new class in China, while PL2 was not so successful in that it is not growing at all, but rather static at a minimal level. We hope this will change in the future and encourage those countries with many PL2's to participate in championships.

Future Championships

Poland has submitted a preliminary bid to hold EMC 2008 in both Classic Classes and New Classes. A statement of interest to hold the WMC 2009 was received from Poland (New Classes), Menorca Spain (New Classes), Lebanon (Classic Classes) and United Kingdom (Classic Classes). Decision for 2008 will be taken at the CIMA meeting in November

World Air Games

CIMA is prepared to contribute to the world Air Games. We are now in contact with the people in Turin who won the WAG for 2009 and discussing how our contribution to the games will be utilized in the best way. The WAG in itself will cause us to alter our sporting code, S10 and make room for the new tasks and a new scoring system and also to create rules for some of the tasks which have never been run before.

Finally, I take the opportunity to thank the Secretary General Max Bishop and his staff for their splendid work and not least, that they endure our shortcomings and laziness year out and year in, my apology.

Tomas Backman
President
Microlight Commission