

Report from the Scale Subcommittee on the year 2008.

The Scale subcommittee have at present 24 general members and all but one now have an E-mail address, which makes sending out information and discuss matters of interest much easier. We have had four circular letters discussing the future of the scale classes and some proposed rule changes resulting from the experiences at the latest World Championship. With the today's possibility to buy ready made parts, or more or less complete models and enter these into scale competition, our present rules are not up to the intention that was behind the rules when writing them. The Subcommittee have discussed some needed changes to the wording in the static rules and are unanimous in wanting to have these changes incooperated into the rules as soon as possible. These changes will move the burden of proof from the judges, who until now have had to prove that the competitor's declaration wasn't correct (an impossible task at a Championship), to the competitor that now will have to prove that the ready made parts used by him have been significantly modified to earn points on these parts.

We have had a World Championship in Wloclawek, Poland in both F4C and F4B even asking for F4B Juniors for the first time. Unfortunately only three nations entered juniors and the result was just an international scale competition for the juniors. The international entry or rather the overseas entry was disappointingly low, with only one full team from the USA and a lone competitor from South Africa. The organisation was very good and well above average, the competition itself went very well and was fair to all competitors. The organisation showed almost too good knowledge of CIAM rules and the particulars of Scale, some misunderstanding was soon corrected.

We had three protests during the competition, two from GBR and one from RUS, the protests varied from handling of transmitters, flight scoring and noise rules. The one on handling of the transmitters showed the need to have a specific rule in the scale section, and even as there was no breaking of rules, the protest showed a need for rules improvement. In the flight scoring protest, the judges accepted to make a correction to the scoring and the noise protest was based on a misunderstanding of the rules and was denied.

Since Scale is not having a Technical meeting until 2010, we have some important issues that need to be solved as soon as possible and to get these into the Sporting Code before the next World Championship. These proposals are to be considered to be clarifications and we ask the CIAM Bureau to accept these proposals to the 2009 plenary meeting for voting. As stated earlier, the subcommittee all voted unanimously for accepting these proposals.

We once again do hope that the changed schedule of meeting will give the Subcommittees proper more weight than the technical meeting held in conjunction with the Plenary. What we would like to see is that proposals on the agenda is presented at the plenary with reference to both what the Subcommittee voted and what the technical meeting feels about the proposals. This way the Subcommittee would carry more weight than at present where the Subcommittee might only make proposals and it is up to the technical meeting to get it through the plenary meeting. Very often the technical meeting is made up of people that represent their country but are not involved in the discussion of the rules before the meeting and thus does not know the background of the proposal.

On behalf of the Scale Subcommittee

Narve L. Jensen
Scale Chairman